

# The Liberating Secret Newsletter

April 2008

Volume 40

Called to bring:  
**The Whole Gospel to the Whole man to the whole World.**  
(All of Christ in, and manifesting as, all of redeemed humanity)

Welcome to April....it is beginning to look a little like spring! Just one more month and maybe we will see some flowers popping up. Spring reminds us of new beginnings, and new life. The Lord is always giving us outer pictures of inner realities. Jesus is our life, and He is new every day. I'm starting this month's Newsletter with a reminder of what is always good to remember...Jesus' Last Will and Testament.

## **The Last Will and Testament of Jesus Christ**

**I, Jesus Christ**, being of perfect mind, do make, publish, and declare my last will and testament through my servant and appointed executor, Paul. Upon my death I leave a complete and incorruptible inheritance. To Paul, I give the authority to interpret this last will. To the Holy Spirit, I give the authority to make known to you the mystery of this will, and to freely give this inheritance to you, that you will know upon believing my word of truth and my gospel of salvation, that you are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. To those who will receive, please remember: I paid a dear price to give you this inheritance and now I make you worthy to receive it. God the Father will give to you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in a full knowledge of Himself, and will enlighten the eyes of your heart so that you may know the hope of this calling, this invitation to my glorious Wedding Feast, and the riches of the glory of your inheritance. So drink deeply of the Water of life and eat of the everlasting Bread which is freely given, and boldly take what is rightfully yours as my Father's sons and my precious friends. You have all my love and all of Me,

Your ascended Lord and Savior,

**Jesus Christ**

(From: The Last Crusade)

A safe, free, mature son of God is a glorious being, and one that God Almighty destined to powerfully operate from the very throne of God. Here is a quote from Paul Billheimer's book, "*Destined for the Throne.*" But before you freak out over Paul's definition of the 'new man,' I want you to know that his book has been forwarded and highly endorsed by Billy Graham. I believe that he holds some Christian clout.

*'He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit' (I Corinthians 6:17). This union goes beyond a mere formal, functional, or idealistic harmony or rapport. It is an organic unity, and "organic relationship of personalities." Through the new birth we become bona fide generated sons of God (I John 3:2), "partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1:4) begotten by Him, impregnated with His 'genes,' called the seed ("sperma") of God (I John 5:1, 18 and I Peter 1:3,23), and bearing His heredity. Thus, through the new birth, and I speak reverently, we become the 'next of kin' to the Trinity, a kind of "extension" of the Godhead. That this group outranks all other orders of created beings is attested by Paul's dramatic questions in I Corinthians 6:2-3: "Don't you know that someday we Christians are going to judge and govern the world? Don't you realize that we Christians will judge and reward the very angels in heaven?" Here as a completely new, unique, and exclusive order of beings which may be called a "new species." There is nothing like it in all the kingdoms of infinity. This is the order of beings which God envisioned when He spoke the worlds into being. This is the order of beings which Paul called 'the new man' (Ephesians 2:15), the new humanity destined through the new birth to be the aristocracy of the universe. They form a new and exclusive royalty, a new ruling hierarchy who will also constitute the Bride, the Lamb's Wife. This order is divinely designated to be co-ruler, co-sovereign, co-administrator and a judicially equal partner to the throne by virtue of redemption and wedlock with the King of kings.*

*Nothing can ever dim the fact that infinity separates the Creator from the created. Christ is the eternally unique and only begotten Son, 'the brightness of {God's} glory, and the express image of his person.'" But from all eternity God purposed to have a family circle of his very own, not only created but also generated by His own life, incorporating His own seed, "sperma," "genes," or heredity. Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own (in a genetic sense), through what Christ would do for us' In order to obtain this personal, organic family relationship, God conceived the infinitely vast and infinitely wise plan of creation plus redemption through the new birth, in order to bring "many sons to glory."*

*Christ is the divine Prototype after which this new species is being made. They are to be exact copies of Him, true genotypes, as utterly like Him as it is possible for the finite to be like the Infinite. As sons of God, begotten by Him, incorporating into their fundamental being and nature the very "genes" of God, they rank above all other created beings and are elevated to the most sublime height possible short of becoming members of the Trinity itself. Although, Christ is the unique and only begotten Eternal Son, yet He does not retain His glory for Himself alone for He has declared, "The glory which thou gavest me, I have given them" (John 17:22). Therefore, the redeemed will share His glory, His rulership, and His dominion as truly responsible princes of the Realm."*

This is from What is Man? Commentary by SP

**See what you are in for at the May 15-18<sup>th</sup> conference?** Here is an e-mail I recently got from a unknown Web-site viewer, it reads:

*"The God Unlimited Enrichment Weekend sounds awesome and should have the Holy Spirit all over it. I'll be praying for the event, from the perspective of participation and for God's covering over all of you. The message is so good and so needed for this time I know lives will be changed.*

*Thank you for being a vessel our precious Jesus can use and for allowing His light and love*

radiate through you.  
Your Sister in Christ Jesus,  
Debi Mayes

I always say that if you come under the anointing of our May Conference that you will never be the same again. The Spirit moves in his quiet but mighty ways to enlighten, encourage, clarify, heal, and bless. And you will have the opportunity to minister to others as the Spirit leads. Come Join us for a fabulous time at our [God-Unlimited Enrichment Week-end](#) May 15-18. **Be Sure To RSVP soon.**

Dad and Dave are busy with their heads together trying to figure out where to put the tent this year seeing we now have a gazebo that could pose a problem. For more room, I think that they are going to build a stage behind the tent where the fountain now stands. That would make the podium to be over the existing fountain—Hey, maybe a metaphoric prophecy is in the makings. Anyway, you can see we are already excited, I hope that you will RSVP me soon. Also make your reservations with Norma Mouser: [norma@travelloptions.net](mailto:norma@travelloptions.net) .

**HELP WANTED** If anyone who is coming to our May meeting desires to help us by adding your special practical touch such as set-up, assisting Dave and Dad, book sales, food, or just to be available to us, please contact our meeting coordinator, Diane Gillooly, at: [diane@usif.biz](mailto:diane@usif.biz)

I must confess, I have never wanted to entice you to come to the May conference by dropping Nashville names before now, but this time I couldn't help it. [Ron Block](#), [Sierra Hull](#), [The Forbes Family](#), and maybe [Julie Lee](#) are all coming to our conference. Click on these different links and learn something about all these great Christian performers. They will all be at our May meeting, some of them are staying the whole time, and others are staying only until Saturday morning. OK, this is what happened, Ron, Sierra, and the Forbes family have at date somewhere else close to Louisville, so Ron ask me if they could all practice together at our house. Of course, I said, "YES." What an opportunity for us, and what an opportunity for them too. I think that it will be unforgettable for all included.

Also, check out our new web-site: [www.spiritbroadcasting.net](http://www.spiritbroadcasting.net). It has totally been refurbished, and it is so much easier to get around. I have most of the Liberating Secret radio programs, all the conferences, Bible Studies that Brian and I did, and Norman's stuff on the [radio archives](#), and lots to see in the [TV archives](#). I have some new video's of [Dan Stone](#) that will soon be on, provided

by our friends in Wilmington, NC, Marion Dixon. Also, we have a Fort Washington, Pa. video of Norman yet to go on, check it all out.

**Huge mistake:** The Liberating Secret Radio Program on Short-Wave is on **WWCR**, and not WWRB which was previously posted. The time is 5:30 PM Central Time (2230 UTC) on 7.465 kHz. Check here for the universal time chart: <http://www.spacearchive.info/utc.htm>

**Here are the new AM radio stations as well as the other ones we are one including Short-Wave:**

Programs Five Days a week

WYRM-1100 AM—Norfolk, Va. 8:00 AM

WNQM-1300-AM Nashville, Tn. at 2:30 PM

WLMR-1450 AM—Chattanooga, Tn. 7:30-8:00 AM

KXKS-1190 AM—Albuquerque, N.M.—3:00-3:30 PM

WIJD-1270AM—Mobile, Al.—12:00-12:30 PM

WNYV-1070-AM—Pensacola, Fl.—12:30-1:00 PM

WITK-1550 AM—Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pa.—4:00-4:30 PM

WSKY—1230 AM—Asheville, NC—6:00-6:30 PM

WFAM—1050 AM—Augusta, Ga. -5:50-6:00 PM

Short Wave—WWCR 5:30 Central Time (2230 UTC) on 7.465 kHz

BTW-21 TV Martinsville, Va.-Fri and Sun.

Public Access 98 TV Louisville, Ky. at 9:00 PM- Sun. Only

If anyone has friends or family in any of these areas, please contact them with the station information.

Please send me the news in your area to be posted in this Newsletter.  
[sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org](mailto:sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org)

**WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB-SITE: Whoever has not sent me their page, please do so.**

The Lord is always pressing us to advance our ministry. We are considering a new section on our site that offers ministry to the body of Christ. I have asked several to have their own page, offering themselves as counselors, prayer warriors, mentors, Spiritual advisors; etc. They will have their e-mail links, and any other links that they might have available. Already, I have gotten a response from 5, with 5 more to go. That will do for now, but we could rotate ministers maybe in a year. Several of you have responded to this request, one friend in England is already on the job composing her site-letter. As soon as our English link gets her page done, we will begin adding whoever else wants to be involved in World Ministry.

**I'm still looking for others, any takers?**

**What's New with Ricky Skaggs?** Check out this well deserved honor, I say deserved, because he does not covet honor from men, but from God...however, God has given him favor with man as well:

<http://www.countryhound.com/News/Article.aspx?p=1421&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Check out this video on GodTube,  
"Identity in Christ" Ron Block

[http://www.godtube.com/view\\_video.php?viewkey=3b03448cc52f2a89d52e](http://www.godtube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=3b03448cc52f2a89d52e)

## Quotes

"We are a race of Christ's" CS Lewis

"Dust and divinity, all it takes to make man" Oswald Chambers

"The life that Jesus lived, qualified him to die as he died." Ian Thomas

"Positional Theology isn't dispositional theology" Steve Pettit

Sins are forgivable, but sin (the nature) cannot be forgiven, it has to be put to death" Steve Pettit

"Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen."

"Faith builds Heaven in the midst of Hell's despair!"

"Fear is faith in reverse, and faith once aroused to believe the worst can be reversed to believe the opposite."

"The human mind despises mystery, yet we are surrounded by it naturally as well as spiritually. The mystery of the Christ, the divine one, joining Himself to our frail humanity stuns our reasoning mind, yet faith looks beyond what seems unreasonable and declares it to be fact."  
SP

"Faith is saying yes, when everything else is saying no. Faith is believing all things are possible in the midst of impossibilities. Faith sees the presence of light in darkness, and the presence of God in all. Faith gives inner substance to thing hoped for, and faith gives inner evidence to things not seen. Faith can truly move mountains, and it does." Sylvia Pearce

...thoughts and souls laid bare at the feet of the One who can turn all tomorrows into spring...

If God's gifts are our blessings, and the devil's assaults are also our blessings, what remains to harm or depress us? If good is good, and evil is equally good to the enlightened, then a realm of life is entered where we rejoice always, in everything give thanks, and in all things are more than conquerors. Norman Grubb

"The reason that the Apostles were given "tongues" at Pentecost was because their tongue had

to be the first member of their body that desperately needed cleaning." Joseph Prince

'With all sorts of doubts I am familiar, and the result of them is, has been, and will be, a widening of my heart and soul and mind to greater glories of the truth ... .. I cannot say I never doubt, nor until I hold the very heart of good as my very own in Him, can I wish not to doubt. *For doubt is the hammer that breaks the windows clouded with human fancies, and lets in the pure light.*' George MacDonald

Another great one from George MacDonald:

### **Kiss of the Spirit**

"While one is yet only in love, the real person lies covered with the rose leaves of a thousand sleepy-eyed dreams, and through them come to dreamer but the barest hints of the real person. A thousand fancies fly out, approach and cross, but never meet. The man and woman are pleased, not with each other, but each with the fancied other. The merest common likings are taken for signs of a wonderful sympathy, of a radical unity. But though at a hundred points their souls seem to touch, their contact points are the nearest brushings, as of insect antennae. The man, the real woman, is all the time asleep under the rose leaves. Happy is the rare fate of the true.....to wake and come forth and meet in the majesty of the truth, in the image of God, in their very being, in the power of that love which alone is being! They love, not this and that about each other, but each the very other. Where such love is, let the differences of taste, the unfitness of temperament, but what they may, the two must by and by be thoroughly one."

"The negative and positive relation we live daily causes us to emerge from beneath the rose leaves and penetrate each other so as to have really seen and be seen. It takes the negative to arouse each of us from our sleep.....But the miracle of love that comes to birth each time forgiveness appears is truly the kiss of the spirit."

## **Billy Graham on Bourbon Street**

In what might prove to be the crowning achievement of an illustrious career in ministry, the 87-year-old evangelist, Billy Graham shocked the 16,300 in attendance at the Celebration of Hope crusade in New Orleans Arena on Sunday Night. Touted in advance as possibly his last Evangelistic crusade, Graham invited the packed house of evangelical Christians and the hundreds of new converts to join him on the one mile walk from the arena to New Orleans' infamous Bourbon Street.

"While we have seen God do tremendous things here the past couple of Evenings, yes, it is true that a great healing and a great many salvations have occurred within the confines of this auditorium. Still yet, there lies a great mountain in this city which needs to be conquered."

Then taking from the Biblical Book of Joshua Chapter 14 he read, "I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the Day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day," his voice suddenly

sounding more forceful than during his 22 minute sermon.

"I last preached in the City of New Orleans in 1954 and I felt then that there was some unfinished business. Tonight, in what very well might be my last evangelistic service, I aim to finish that business and lead as many of you that would follow me to the multitude of lost souls that fill Bourbon Street tonight. That is my mountain! That is where we shall see the harvest!" said Graham as the stadium erupted in cheers that lasted the next several minutes.

Utilizing a waiting mobility scooter, the elder Graham joined his son, an heir to the ministry, Franklin across the Arena floor and through the opened doors leading towards the French Quarter. In a show of Solidarity and determination reminiscent of civil rights marches of the 1960's, nearly the entire capacity crowd joined in the 20 minute trek while singing, "When the Saints Go Marching In".

As the march crossed Canal Street and headed northward towards Bourbon Street, many onlookers stood in stunned silence as the massive crowd of people began singing in unison the Christian hymn, Amazing Grace. Upon entering the west end of Bourbon Street, Billy Graham was soon recognized by partiers.

Soon those joining in the march began to approach those partying on Bourbon Street with the Gospel message that they had heard preached just a half hour before. Graham himself joined with a group of local Street evangelists in ministering to a man who had survived Hurricane Katrina in the lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Within 30 minutes the entirety of Bourbon Street was packed with Christians and the once blaring music of nightclubs and strip joints had been replaced by weeping and worship as people poured out their drinks and sought prayer from the Christians who were now reaching out to them.

"I have never seen anything like this in my life," said 20 years New Orleans Police Department veteran, Tom Phillips. "This is unbelievable! We thought a riot was going to break out, but this looks more like a Revival than a riot!"

Two hours later, a glowing Graham sat back down on his scooter and smiled. "Now I know how the Apostle Paul must have felt at the end of his ministry. Do the work of an evangelist; make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course; I have kept the faith."

Hours later hundreds of Christians remained on the street ministering to the many people eagerly waiting to receive prayer and ministry. New Orleans will never be the same. And the press remained mute on this "news item?"

Did anyone see it on TV/hear it on radio/read it in the paper? Why, are we not surprised? Can't have THAT just prior to a major Election, now, can we? Well, just on a whim spread the news, anyway.

It cost our elder brother, Billy Graham, more than any of us know to make that effort. The least we can do is publicize it. **JESUS IS LORD!!**

## Letters

Hi Sylvia!

I'm hoping this finds you well. I always feel the need to say 'don't feel the need to respond'...I know you get many emails, phone calls, etc....so just know I don't expect...well anything. You have given your whole life for others. You have no idea how much the internet has continued to be my source of 'union' knowledge and learning. Thank you, thank you and thank you!!!

Sylvia, there's so many things I want to tell you as I'm sure everyone feels that way. I've had many 'dark treasures' and am truly blessed by each and every one...painful as they were. I'm sending my Mom your book, along with everyone else in our family! There were 6 kids, 5 now. My parents lost their only son to Aids 6 years ago My family is very close but I yearn for them to learn the truth as I have.

I mainly just wanted to thank you Sylvia. I have gotten to know you through your ministry on the internet. I have listened to you and everyone else I could get my hands on. I actually have to quite listening so I can go to work! Isn't that amazing!

I don't know your health status right now but I wanted you to know you, your family and your ministry are always part of my prayers each day. Sylvia, it was so neat. Friday night I took my best friend with me(who is 'considering' Jesus...long story) to hear Ron Block at The Good Cup. When Ron sang his 'holding on to Jesus' song he mentioned your name and the phone call. I feel like I already have a new family.

I thank him for you and know that the message is the most important truth I've ever found.

I am believing and will be seeing you in May.

In Him,  
Nashville radio listener



Dear Mrs. Pearce,  
I heard your wonderful program tonight on WWCR (Shortwave). Thanks for your teaching.  
Bless you for being on the air.  
Sincerely Mr. Mark Roudybush



Hi Sylvia,  
Thank you so much for your continued ministry over the radio and website. I'm always looking for ways to share this new realization of "Christ in you" and you are by far the best resource I've encountered thus far!  
In His Love,  
Mike



Dear Sylvia:

I feel as though I already know you and indeed I do....a fellow sister-in-Christ. I am sending

this just to say thank you! I have listened and watched everything I can get my hands on and I'm just scratching the surface. I have lavished the food from 'What is man', "One God" and numerous talks, etc... I can't get enough and also know that the Source will never end. I've never been here before. I will get all the books, readings etc...in due time.

I wanted you to know you are blessing people through your website in Morganfield, KY, in San Diego, CA and it will only grow! I mention it to them and the Spirit moves in good time. Praise God!

As you say, may God richly bless you! I'll see you on Tuesday.

Suzy Hall

Check out [Charlee and Scott Pullon](#), our missionaries in Central America. Here is their report. Also check out [Candy Reiger](#)'s video, she is our missionary in Haiti.

## Poems of the Month

### Easter Daffodils

The daffodils are so daffodilly,  
densely clustered with their yellow—  
brightly rich, not a pale specter,  
alarmingly true and pointed—

pin wheels in circumference,  
each with a horn protruding,  
a band of celebrators this Easter,  
crying out Christ's resurrection.

Surely in a universe this dark with sin,  
once destroyed by angels fallen,  
then by Adam's brutal choice,

the ordinary yellow citizens of spring,  
thronging in the plain dirt of a garden,  
cousins to the sun's tint beaming down,  
implacably point to Christ the Lord,

risen both body and spirit,  
to gather us with Him  
in all that the rupture of death means,

when sung by multitudes of daffodils

in spring's healing reminder.

BC/3-23-08

## Spring

Welcome spring like no other,  
this time not with glazed eyes,  
or ears lost to songs exhilaratingly sung from  
the nipples of green  
on winter-worn limbs,  
melodies once not quickened.

No, this spring is ascended  
above the wicked words against the self,  
the fierce accusation—the condemnation  
telling the most horrible strife,  
and leaving the "I" shamed and defeated,  
a sewage of drooped gardens  
and desecrated virginity.

All of the evils of others are forgotten,  
the evils of self equally so,  
though world, flesh, and devil still work.

But they have met their due death in me,  
in whom Christ's death has sprung  
from cold stone and pallid corpse of a person,  
to a bulb of the new creation—

then the green stem,  
followed by blooms of all colors,  
a ride into the clouds  
to sit with Christ the King.

Eagles and doves fly everywhere,  
with wings under which I ride  
in the heavenly currents of Today,  
as I hear His voice.

BC/3-26-09



## Other Poetry by Brian Coatney

If you want to read great poetry, check out this link below. It has 17 new poems inspired by the Holy Spirit and overflowing with Brian's own creative style.

[17 Poems by Brian Coatney](#)

## Prayer Request

**Paul E. Billheimer said in his book "Destined for the Throne,"** "A program of prayer without faith is powerless. The missing element that is necessary to energize prevailing prayer that binds and cast out Satan is triumphant faith. And the missing element that is necessary to energize triumphant faith is praise—perpetual, purposeful, aggressive praise. Praise is the highest form of prayer because it combines petition with faith. Praise is the spark plug of faith. It is the one thing needed to get faith airborne, enabling it to soar above the deadly miasma of doubt. Praise is the detergent which purifies faith and purges doubt from the heart. The secret of answered prayer is faith without doubt (Mark 11:23). And the secret of faith without doubt is praise, triumphant praise, continuous praise, praise that is a way of life. This is the solution to the problem of a living faith and successful prayer.

The secret of success in overcoming Satan and qualifying for the throne is a massive program of effective prayer. The secret of effective prayer is a massive program of praise."

**All prayer request sent to the Liberating Secret web-site will be send to Art and Fran Giles, our newly appointed Christ, Our Life Ministries intercessors. E-mail them at:**

[deepwaters@roadrunner.com](mailto:deepwaters@roadrunner.com)

## Words of Faith

"Say unto your mountain, be thou removed, whatsoever you say, you will have."

**Mark 11:22-24**

My good friend Kathryn Magnotto said, "Prophecy is fulfilled by the words spoken over it."

**Need produces desire;**

Your need is your personal mountain...Try to fix it and die, but speak to it and you, **unlike** Moses at his rock of frustration, will have a promise land experience.

**Desire produces faith;**

"The pain of staying the same has to be greater than the fear of change"

Pain puts passion in us and stimulates faith, otherwise we are left in our pain and we die again.

**Faith quenches the pain of desire (I need, I need);**

We leap from our soul feelings, and our logical understanding, and speak the truth over the situation. (In Christ, I have, I have, I have.....)

**Laboring Faith is transformed in triumphant faith by continual praise, soon we "laugh at the impossible and shouts, IT SHALL BE DONE." (SP)**

"The reason that the Apostles were given "tongues" at Pentecost was because their tongue had to be the first member of their body that desperately needed cleansing." Joseph Prince

A heavenly language cleanses our tongue to speak truth, but when we know truth (One with it, or Him), we can speak it in a our own language which then becomes heavenly words, heavenly peace, and a heavenly experience...

If you want to read a profound booklet, read:

**"The Cross in the Heart of God," by Alan M. Parker.**

[http://theliberatingsecret.org/reading\\_room/parker/pdf/cross%20in%20heart\\_of\\_god.pdf](http://theliberatingsecret.org/reading_room/parker/pdf/cross%20in%20heart_of_god.pdf)

**This Month's Article:**

**Commendation and Condemnation: Evil Twins**

**Brian Coatney**

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We're accustomed to praising people or blaming them, seeing people as just people and ourselves as just ourselves: we're all about being human. Christians celebrate the incarnation of Christ, and this is right, for the mystery is that Christ, equal with God in eternity, became flesh and blood. Where would we be if He hadn't? So we have every good reason to celebrate our humanity, since the Son of God Himself took on humanity and even now reigns as a glorified, ascended man.

I think it is good, however, to examine just how Jesus said that His humanity worked. A rich, young ruler came to Jesus and addressed Him as "Good Master,"

to which Jesus replied, "Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God" (Luke 18:19). Jesus had picked up the self righteousness of the ruler, who projected it therefore onto Jesus, as if men are just men who do good things. Nothing could have struck Jesus as more heretical, for He emphasized in talking about Himself that He lived from His Father abiding in Him and did only the works He saw His Father doing.

The reason for this is that Jesus knew that God created humanity in the first place to contain and express the indwelling life of God. I like to say that God created us powerless! Unfortunately, many consider powerlessness the province of a percentage of society given to addiction. If one is an addict, one must come to understand powerlessness as the first step toward recovery. Although this is true, the larger picture is that God created all of humanity powerless even before the Fall of Adam and Eve, and in heaven, we will be powerless for eternity. Powerlessness is not a principle that applies only to addicts; it applies to every human for all time. Jesus knew this, and so He lived as powerless in His humanity, depending every moment on the life of His father in Him to will and work.

We do, however, need to look at powerlessness both as it applies to those in sin and to those living free from sin before the Fall (and then later to those living free from sin under the New Covenant because of Christ's keeping power). As I said, God created us to be powerless, so Adam's sin did not change God's plan. Sin only meant that our powerlessness put us under the dominion of Satan, whereas before the Fall, we lived by God's glorious power; for before Adam and Eve fell, they lived as vessels containing and expressing the power of God. They were filled with and radiated God's glory, and God did not give them life; He was their life. They lived as branches of His tree; they lived as the conjugal, human other to His divine life; they lived as the human temples of His Spirit; they lived as the embodiment of His headship. Nothing could be plainer than that all power was vested in God and that He created Humanity to join with it in a glorious union of the human and divine. Never would the creature be God, and never would God be a creature, but we would know ourselves as conscious, sentient beings expressing a life not our own.

So powerlessness began before the Fall and certainly continued after the Fall: the only change in that came from the fact of God's glory departing from man and Satan's power entering into man, enslaving man. Vitally, we need to know that sin is not primarily a deed, and sin is not primarily a nature or principle deriving from ourselves: sin is fundamentally a person whose nature is self-for-

self because as the highest of the angels, he, Lucifer, led a rebellion and wanted to be like God. Satan, therefore, is one who lives in human vessels too, when fallen, and we're all born fallen as Romans 5 tells us. This is why Jesus had to be born of a virgin-so that He would not be born just another minion of Satan, already indwelt by the spirit of error from birth (Eph. 2:1-3).

Here, therefore is the point: Paul reveals to us in Romans 6 that we are either slaves of sin or slaves of righteousness, but always slaves. I like to say that God gives us a multiple choice question with two answers to choose from. Either we choose to be slaves of sin or slaves of righteousness. Not liking these answers, we politic for a third option, "I want to be my own boss." Over and over we have tried to pencil in this third option, when the Scriptures never offer it. The "be my own boss" option really comes from the devil, who continues in this deception himself that such is possible.

This brings us to the point about powerlessness in a sin condition, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and therefore to talk about addiction as something that a minority of people worse off than others falls into is ludicrous. We were all slaves of sin as unbelievers, and as believers, where we have not lived from the Spirit, Mr. Sin has held our members in bondage. The great deception in society comes from viewing only some people as addicts, whereas we are all hopelessly enslaved by sin when not walking in the Spirit.

This has everything to do with why Jesus asked the ruler, "Why callest thou me good?" Jesus knew that to commend or condemn people for their deeds, as if people originate their own deeds, misses completely the very fabric of our humanity: God created us to contain and express Him, and in the Fall, Satan took over the indwelling rights of our humanity, so that we began to do his lusts (John 8:44; 2 Tim. 2:26). God's plan to save us, therefore, had to include expelling the false indweller and restoring His glorious presence in us.

God knew, though, that we could never see how He did this without first encountering the law, for the deception that we do our own good or evil runs so deeply in us that He had to first get us to the point of admitting that we broke His laws. So He gave us laws.

Before looking at the law, let's ask what the law is all about. God Himself does not live by law. One member of the Trinity never says to another, "What shall We do? Let's pull a law book off the shelf and see what We should be doing." This is ridiculous to think. God's nature is self-for-others: He has made the eternal

choice to be love. God is love. Therefore, He doesn't live by law but by His nature. We, on the other hand, as creatures, and fallen ones, were born with the deception from the indwelling spirit of error that we can do our own good or do our own evil. We either commend or condemn ourselves and view others likewise, commending those we esteem and condemning those that we disapprove of. We don't come into the world thinking that we break God's laws and need a savior to keep us from going into eternity, separated from God. Though the Bible warns of this destiny for the unbelieving, and asserts that many take this path, these warnings go disregarded as hysteria and unworthy of a loving God, despite the unmistakable, plain word of the Scriptures.

God's first order then was to convince us that we have not and cannot keep His laws: we cannot generate a life like His by imitation. Thankfully, many do come to see, through the Bible and the Spirit, that they have sinned and need a savior. They accept Christ's atonement and know that their sins are forgiven. This is unspeakably wonderful.

What would you say, though, if I said that being a forgiven sinner is not enough? If we only know life as forgiven sinners, we express thanks that our past is forgiven and heaven awaits us in the future. But we're left to try to be like Christ in the present, with a never-ending sin consciousness that leaves us always feeling like we never measure up as the dirty saints we think we are. We falsely take Romans 7 as Paul's testimony of what our life must be until we receive new bodies in the resurrection.

Paul's point is quite different from this! After establishing justification by faith in the early chapters of Romans, Paul moves to how God removed the spirit of error from us and came to dwell in us again. I have given detailed exposition of this many places elsewhere, and so I will only briefly say here that God made Christ Jesus to be our old man-the human self with Satan in it as boss over us in our unredeemed state. This does not mean that Jesus ever sinned; it means that on the Cross, God made Him to be sin (2 Cor. 5:21). Further, God put us into the body of Christ (Romans 6 and Galatians 2:20) so that we were crucified, buried, and raised with Christ. So the completion of the Gospel simply put is this: we are the human containers, and by the Cross, Satan goes out, and Christ comes in.

The fact that Christ is in the heart of the Christian is not new news. Every Christian knows that "Jesus is in my heart." The newness of the Gospel, when we see it, is that God put us in a union with Christ whereby the two are one and we stop living by asking for God to help us as if we are living independent lives and

need some help now and then. My friend, Sylvia Pearce, puts this extremely well in her chart presentation that details in picture form, with commentary, how we falsely see ourselves at each stage up to the point where we truly do see our union with Christ. In her pictures she shows how we start out at birth seeing ourselves as just ourselves. Then as Christians we see Christ in us but only as a wee, little influence on our otherwise big, big view of ourselves as humans who get on with some help from Christ.

The Gospel, however, is all about a total Christ in a total human, as my old mentor, Norman Grubb, used to say. We don't live by help but by "Christ who is our life" (Col. 3:4). This puts our humanity back into the focus that God intended, but notice how different the focus is from where we started as deceived human beings, commending or condemning the human self as the originator of good or evil. Yes, we do good or evil in a secondary sense, for we live by faith, and so we end up agreeing on a master, either sin or righteousness, which means either the spirit of error or the Holy Spirit.

I recently read a letter from a dear brother who commended a fellow Christian for many good works and by implication took shame for his own deficient works. What he wrote amounted to seeing good people and bad people, or good people and not so good people. The emphasis smacked of works, works, works, either good or bad that we do. This saddened me to read, but I have had my own deceived history of seeing myself and others that way. That is why I have lived for years now by what I call my "Keeper's Creed." I say when tempted, "God, You and I know that I will do that sin unless You keep me, and thank You that You are keeping me!"

As you can see, powerlessness is the principle we lived by when not Christians. It is also the principle we live by as Christians. Adam and Eve lived by it both before the Fall and after it. Christians will live powerless in heaven for eternity with God as their power. Without the complete unveiling of the deception that leaves a person calling self and others good or bad, one can only go on either commending or condemning, and both are evil twins.

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