

What is the Problem?

Being born into a fallen world, a world full of sin and turmoil, we are guaranteed to run into problems in our life. Jesus tells us that we are going to have tribulation in this world, **“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33 KJV)**. Jesus gives us a simple solution to solve all our problems. A solution that is so simple that we are easily confused by its simplicity. **“...in me ye might have peace” (John 16:33 KJV)**. In Him we may have peace. That is all there is to it, this is the simple solution to ALL our problems. If we are in Him we are no longer in ourselves. **“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Galatians 5: 16-17 KJV)**.

It is so simple!!!! In Him we will have peace. In our flesh we will have tribulation. It is black and white. We are either in our flesh, or in the Spirit. One leads to perfection, the other leads to destruction. So what should be the goal of Christians? What should be the goal of the church? Learn how to stay in the Spirit!!!! Learn how to stay “in Him.” Learn how to live in the perfect will of God. Learn how to stay in “true unity.” This is where the Lord has spoken to me and this is where God has directed my ministry, “Returning to Eden.” Helping people find the man waiting on the dock that gives out the boats freely. Helping people get out from under the cave and start experiencing the power of the presence of God. Helping people understand what it means to be under the Old Covenant (the law), or experiencing the New Covenant (taught by God).

To help my class determine if they are operating under the traditional thought process (Old Covenant), or the alternative thought process (New Covenant) I tell them to pay attention to the horse’s confidence level. To make it simple, I tell them to look at the horse’s head. The horse’s head is a good measure of how confident the horse is in its rider. If the horse is highly confident in the person, they will also have confidence in the jobs that the person expects the horse to perform. The level of confidence that the horse has in the person can be determined by the intensity of the job and consistency of the head. The same is true with our faith in God.

A horse operating in willing submission, with good communication, a solid foundation of maneuvers and a balanced life to direction ratio will have a high confidence level while performing a job, indicated by a low head set. A horse that is operating in unwilling submission, with a lack of communication, high self-preservation and an unbalanced life to direction ratio will have a low confidence level, indicated by a high head set. All we have to do is look at the horse’s head height. As the horse’s head begins to elevate while doing a job, he begins losing confidence in the person and in the job which the person puts him in. The longer the horse is ridden with a high head set the more confidence will be destroyed. The longer the horse is ridden with a low head set (often crowding the line of losing confidence, but not pushing it too far) the more confidence will be built.

This simple concept also lines up with Scripture and operating in the flesh and in the Spirit. **“Better is a handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of the spirit” (Ecclesiastes 4:6 KJV).** As I said earlier in the book, travail in Hebrew means toil, work severely, wearing effort, worry. Vexation in Hebrew means feeding upon, to graze, pasture. If we are experiencing travail in our life, we are no longer in the Spirit, but in our flesh. We are no longer in Christ (peace), but in the world (tribulation; **John 16:33**). When we are in the flesh, the flesh begins to “feed upon” our Spirit and weaken our faith in Christ. When we are in the Spirit, the Spirit begins to “feed upon” our flesh and strengthen our faith in Christ. As simple as our horse’s head giving us a measure of their confidence level, Paul gives us a measure of our faith level in God. In Galatians he gives us specific signs to help us determine if we are in the flesh or in the Spirit.

Here is a list of the works of the flesh, **“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21 KJV).**

Here is a list of the fruit of the Spirit, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5: 22-26 KJV).**

To break it down even further, I put into 2 columns the “fruit of the Spirit” and the “works of the flesh.” I will include what Paul (**1 Corinthians 13**) says love is (one of the fruits of the Spirit) and I will also include various translations of the original Greek words, along with the NIV translations.

Fruit of the Spirit (New Covenant)

Love (Agape-love feast):

- Patient
- Kind
- Rejoices in the truth
- Always protects
- Always trusts
- Always hopes
- Always perseveres

Joy

- Cheerfulness
- Calm delight

Peace

- Quietness
- Rest
- Set at one again

Longsuffering

Works of the flesh (Old Covenant)

What love isn’t:

- Envious
- Boastful
- Delight in evil
- Proud
- Rude
- Self-seeking
- Easily angered
- Keeps records of wrong

Adultery

(To look at a woman lustfully,
Matthew 5:28)

Sexual immorality

Fornication

Impurity

Uncleanness

Longevity
Forbearance
Fortitude
Gentleness
Kindness
Moral excellence
Goodness
Virtue
Beneficence
Faith
Assurance
Belief
Fidelity
Meekness
Humility
Temperance
Self-control
(Especially continence)

Physically or morally
Debauchery
Lasciviousness
Filthy
Wantonness
Idolatry
Image worship
Witchcraft
Magic
Hatred
Hostility
Variance
Quarrel
Wrangling
Contention
Debate
Strife
Discord
Emulations
Jealousy
Fervent mind
Wrath
Fits of rage
Fierceness
Indignation
Strife
Selfish ambitions
Contentious
Seditions
Dissensions
Disunion
Division
Heresies
Factions
Disunion
Envy
Ill will
Spite
Jealousy
Murders
(Angry with your brother, **Matt 5:22**)
Drunkenness
Reveling
Orgies
Carousal (as if letting loose)
Rioting

Maybe I am just young and ignorant of the ways of the world and the interpretations I have received from Scripture. However, it seems extremely simple to me and it appeared to be simple for the early disciples. Paul pretty well summed it all up, **“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16 KJV)**. Reading down through these columns, it is hard to imagine experiencing any problems while being in the Spirit. I cannot think of any problem we will have in this world, which cannot be linked back to living in the flesh instead of in the Spirit. This is how Paul learned to find contentment in any situation, **“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation” (Philippians 4:12)**. Because no matter what the situation, when we are in the Spirit we are content, **“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace” (John 16:33)**. When we are in the Spirit of the living God **“Death has been swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54)**, everything that is not pure and perfect leading to absolute peace and joy is swallowed up in the presence of God.

Testing our faith in God is as easy as looking at our horse’s head height to measure their confidence level. All we have to do is look at these 2 columns and figure out which side we are in. It is all or nothing. You are either in the flesh or in the Spirit, **“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other” (Galatians 5:17 KJV)**. As we go down the list in the 2 columns, if we are experiencing anything in the flesh column, we are no longer in the Spirit. The *cause* of every problem in our life lies with whether we are in the flesh, or in the Spirit. Everything else is a *symptom* to the *cause* of the problem. I firmly believe that this is why Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, to give us eternal life and to get to the *cause* of the problem while we’re here on earth, instead of treating *symptoms*. When we read through the books of the New Testament keep in mind the *cause* of the problems and the *symptoms* of the problems. In every book the symptoms can be traced back to being in the flesh (Old Covenant/under the law) and the solution lies with staying in the Spirit (New Covenant/freedom in Christ)

Walk in the Spirit

I think a common misconception of people in the church is that they do not understand what it means to be “in” the Spirit and “in” the flesh. They say, “We have the Holy Spirit living in us and He never leaves.” I will not go in too deep “preaching” on doctrine, because this is where Satan wants us, focusing on where there may be a possible disagreement, instead of where we agree. Like I said before, I have observed more division between God’s children “talking” about the Holy Spirit than anything else. This is a no-brainer, people! God did not send the Holy Spirit so we could talk about Him. He sent the Holy Spirit so we could experience Him! This is the best defense that Satan has against God’s children, keeping us trying to understand God through head knowledge, instead of being transformed by opening our heart and experiencing Him.

Jesus fed 5,000 people in **John 6** and the next day the crowd followed Him to the other side of the shore. Jesus began to speak to them concerning the *flesh* and the *Spirit* and how we are to feed our Spirit and they could not comprehend Jesus’ teachings through head knowledge. They began to murmur among themselves and Jesus said, **“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life” (John 6:63)**. He also went on to say, **“This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has**

enabled him” (John 6:65). The crowd did not understand the words that Jesus spoke and many left, **“From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him” (John 6:66).** It does not exactly say how many people left, but it does say that the people from the **“crowd” (John 6:22)** of 5,000 followed Him to the other side of the lake. After speaking on the *flesh* and the *Spirit*, He was left with only 12 disciples.

Twelve disciples that *also* didn't have a clue what He was talking about. They were just as confused as the people that left. What was the reason that they stayed? They believed Jesus had the words of eternal life and that He was the Son of God, **“You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:68-69).** These 12 disciples abandoned everything they owned to follow Jesus and spent more time than anybody following and learning from Him. They were hungry and looking to Jesus and they were still lost. This tells us it is ok to be confused, to keep seeking Jesus for the answers, and to not settle for head knowledge. Everything will make sense when the Holy Spirit comes (**Acts 1 and 2**). What else can we learn from the disciples?

Well, 11 of the same men (Judas betrayed Jesus) diligently followed Jesus up until the time of His crucifixion. Then what happened? They remembered His teaching and continued doing the will of God? NO, they lost hope, denied knowing Jesus (Peter) and returned to their old lives. These 12 men that walked and talked with Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, Jesus' own disciples forgot everything that He had told them, when He left. What does this tell us? The importance of the Holy Spirit! If Jesus' own disciples couldn't do it without the help and power of the Holy Spirit, what makes us think we can? If you are unsure about doctrine do not fall under the Old Covenant and *only* have man tell you what you should think. Be like the early disciples. It is ok to be confused. This is exactly where God wants us, HUNGRY and looking to Him to feed us. This is why Jesus chose the disciples He did. They were ignorant men that wanted to know the truth. He could teach them. This is an awesome place to be. EVERY time I have been hungry and have desperately pressed into the presence of God trying to find the truth, God has opened up the heavens. Believe that He has the “words of eternal life” and let HIM be your teacher.

Jesus told the Pharisees, **“For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth” (John 9:39-41).**

I will only point out one thing and give a few scriptures for you to think about. If the Holy Spirit is always in us and He never leaves, then why do we sin? Why don't we always display “the fruits of the Spirit?” Why do we sometimes display “the works of the flesh?” The reason is it is our choice. We *choose* to be “in” the Spirit or “in” the flesh. **“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16 KJV).** We have a new man (Spirit) living inside us and we have an old man (flesh). See: **Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:15; Ephesians 4:24; Luke 5:36-39.** We are born into this world twice, once in the flesh and the other in the Spirit (see: **John 3; 1 Corinthians 15:39-50**).

This is the mystery (**Mark 4:11; Romans 11:25, 16:25; 1 Corinthians 2:7, 15:51; Ephesians 1:9, 3:3, 3:4, 3:9, 6:19; Colossians 1:26-28, 2:2**) that we will never comprehend in the flesh. It is only by revelation and the power of the Holy Spirit, that we will be able to “see” in a new light, **“the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned” (Matthew 4:16)**. If we could have understood it in the flesh by having someone talk to us, and understood it through head knowledge, then it would have made sense to the crowd that Jesus fed in **John 6** and there would be no division between Christian churches, because there is NO division in the Spirit, only in the flesh.

Cause of the Problem

What is.....?

An incredible gift if you have it,
A terrible curse if you lose it,
Blind men can see through a new one.
However, you can't buy a new one at Wal-Mart,
But someone can give you theirs.

I wrote this riddle for my class and gave them a demonstration to help them see the importance of the 2 thought processes. For the demonstration I had a student stand in the middle of the arena and I told them to look at the wall. Only think about the wall, try to get to the wall, and do not think about anything else. I told them to close their eyes and put their hands behind their back. I then tied a rope around their waist and told them to accomplish their goal (getting to the wall). They began to walk to the wall and when they hit the end of the rope they stopped. I then asked them “What is the problem?”

They usually said, “I have a rope tied around my waist.” I reminded them that they can only think about the wall and asked them again, “What is the problem?” They then said, “I cannot get to the wall.” I then told them to open their eyes and tell me what the problem is. Once their eyes were open and they looked down “seeing the resistance” they could then describe the resistance. I had them tell me what color the rope was, what kind of knot I used to tie the rope to their waist, and I had them tell me how they would untie the rope. After this step, I told them to untie the rope without using their hands. They obviously could not untie the rope without using their hands and they stood there helpless. I then told them to go ahead and untie the rope and walk to the wall. They were then able to walk to the wall with no resistance.

The wall symbolizes accomplishing the job. The rope is resistance in accomplishing the job: disobedience, self-preservation, lack of communication (problems of the traditional thought process). Opening their eyes symbolizes a new approach to accomplishing the job: eliminate the resistance (the alternative thought process). Their hands symbolize the valuable tools to be able to remove the resistance (willing submission, good communication, driving factors). Then they are able to teach the horse how to do the job (foundation of maneuvers, balance the life to direction ratio).

- 1) Intensity of Job
- 2) Energy level of horse
- 3) Patience of person

2) A **balanced** life to direction ratio

Remember the 3 stages of training a horse:

- 1) Setting a foundation
- 2) Using jobs to build the foundation
- 3) Using foundation to do a job

***Fewer Problems and No Resistance**

because the horse wants to do the job and understands how to do it.

The next time you are experiencing a problem in your life, stop and think which side you are on: Job Completion or True Unity? When you have a problem, do you try to figure out how to fix the problem on your own (self-preservation)? Do you go to someone else to have them tell you what you need to do to fix the problem (Old Covenant)? Do you go to church and have someone tell you about God (Old Covenant)? Do you open up your Bible and quickly read Scripture, trying to find some direction (foundation of maneuvers)? Do you try listening to sermons about the Holy Spirit and the word of God and how important they are in your life (direction and life)? Do you find yourself wanting someone to tell you, what they think you should do to fix the problem? Well, some of the things I have mentioned can have positive results in your life. However, they all have the potential of having negative results, by not eliminating the resistance.

If you have tried the things I have just mentioned in the first column and they have not worked, or you think there might be more to life, try jumping over to the other column. It is awesome! Try serving the God of Elijah!!! Believe that we serve a real and living God who can come down and manifest His presence in our lives. Fall down on your knees and give God everything that you have (willing submission). Pour your heart out to God and worship Him with all of your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30)**. Humble yourself before the Maker of the universe and praise Him for His infinite wisdom and undying love for you. Get with a group of people that desperately want to hear from God and believe in the New Covenant, that we can come boldly to the throne of God and enter into the Holy of Holies, **“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19-22)**. Get with a group of people and come expecting, come hungry, come thirsty, come desperate, **“Then Jesus declared, I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35)**. **“Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psalm 107:8-9)**.

Once you have willingly submitted your life to God, He will start communicating with you using your driving factors. You will start to feel the presence of God. You will “feel” the *comfort* of the Holy Spirit and will experience the *companionship* of your heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit will start to wipe away your *self-preservation* (flesh) and you will gain *confidence* (faith) in a living God, one that we can see, feel, and experience. Your *energy* (motivation and determination) will be driven by the Spirit and you will want to go further into the presence of God. You will become hungry and thirsty for more and will *want* to do the will of God. You will begin to build on your *foundation of maneuvers* (receiving revelations) and you will automatically balance your *life to direction ratio*. Because the Holy Spirit always speaks truth, bringing life to the Scripture, giving us meat so we can grow. You will eliminate the resistance in your life and you will begin to experience perfection in Christ Jesus.

In **Hebrews 10:10-22** Paul points out 3 very major points in the New Covenant. First, we become “sanctified” (Strong’s – to make Holy, purify or concentrate) through the blood of Jesus, **“...we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:10 KJV)**. Once we are sanctified, we are perfected through Christ, **“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14 KJV)**. The first step removes our *self-preservation* by giving us *comfort* and *companionship* through the blood of Jesus. Second, the Holy Ghost will be our witness (Strong’s – testify) and He will put His laws in our minds and in our hearts and He will remember our sins no more, **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 10:16-17 KJV)**. The second step transforms us through His *comfort and companionship* and “fruits of the Spirit” and builds on our *foundation of maneuvers/* revelations. Third, we will have boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Hebrews 10:19 KJV)**. After coming out of the Holy of Holies we will have a perfectly balanced *life to direction ratio*.

I believe so strongly that this is all God wants from us. He wants us to come to Him as little children, desperately wanting to be held by our Father. God wants so badly to hold and comfort His children. **“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing” (Matthew 23:37)**.

There may be many things in this book that you do not agree with, that is ok, if we would only agree on this last verse. If we could only come into agreement that we are “willing” to let God gather us under His wing and submit our lives to Him (willing submission). God wants to gather His children together and love on us, teach us and take away all our suffering and give us total peace and joy in Him. I believe that God wants to take us to Eden. Christ died to remove our sin. All we have to do is willingly submit every area of our life and we can enter in, enter into the presence of the living God. I so desperately want to serve the God of the universe and be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ and learn from the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I desperately want to know the truth. If there are some things that do not line up with what the Lord has showed you, then *please* help me find the truth.

However, let's not fall under the Old Covenant. Under the Old Covenant there was disunion. There were debates, quarrels, factions, quick tempers, and fits of rage. There were people that were so passionate about doing what they thought was the will of God, that they crucified the Son of God! As result of being in the flesh trying to do the will of God, they were blind to God's will and went directly against it. It does not work to try to solve disunion in the flesh. Because when we are in the flesh we are drawn to quarrels and debates. We focus on where we are disunited instead of focusing on unity. This is exactly where Satan wants us. There will never be unity with God's children until we all learn to live in the Spirit and not the flesh.

Let's not fall into Satan's trap. Let's not become confused by the simplicity. All we have to do is get into the presence of God and He will transform our disunited minds into like minds. All we have to agree on is Jesus Christ died for our sins and that He sent the Holy Spirit to teach, comfort and council us, **"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you"** (John 14:26). I so desperately want to find people that want to know the truth, people that are willing to come boldly to the throne like the early disciples did, **"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"** (Hebrews 4:16 KJV), people that are willing to come together in one accord (Acts 2:1; **Philippians 2:1-2**) and experience God's power in their lives. God did not change from the early disciples' time, **"For there is no respect of persons with God"** (Romans 2:11), only the people that are serving Him have changed.

I am far from perfection in any area of my life. I am often a total wreck and a very poor example of Christ. However, I do know one thing. I am transformed when I am in the presence of God. It is like I am two separate people. When I am running around in the flesh, I become a person that I do not like and I know that my heavenly Father is not too pleased. However, after spending time in the presence of God, I become overflowing with God's love and the fruits of the Spirit become manifested in my life. It is awesome! Scripture says **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another"** (Hebrews 10:25) and **"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them"** (Matthew 18:20).

I am so excited about my calling. I am so excited about the ministry that I am called to do. I am called to get people together that want to know God and help them step into the presence of God and be taught by Him. What a job, huh? I am a vessel for God. This is where it gets good. In order for a vessel to do any good, it has to be full. In order for God to reach people through me, He has to first fill me up. This book is the start of my ministry. I pray that after reading this book, you have a desire to know more about God. If there is anything I can do to help you, let me know. It is fun to be filled to the top of overflowing. If God can use me to be a vessel for you, then I am more than willing. I am looking forward to the day when I can talk about God all day, every day. It will then be much easier to stay in the Spirit instead of falling into the flesh. I am looking for people that are hungry to know God and I am excited to be the vessel.