

Flames of Faith Ascending Prayers



Greetings and Blessings to each of you in Jesus Name.

I like this picture. It reminds me that most of the time we only see what appears most visible and fail so much of the time to consider what is actually just below the surface. Isn't it those little hidden things that sometimes move us along in a certain direction but then oftentimes keep us from seeing the whole picture?

By this picture, we can understand in a small way what the Holy Spirit means when He says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but, all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." - Hebrews 4:13.

Nothing is hidden from the Lord. In fact the scripture just before reminds us that "the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of the heart" - Hebrews 4:12.

Who but the Lord is able to see the thoughts and intentions of our hearts?

It is interesting that He is able to divide the soul from the spirit, the joints from the marrow, and then tells us He is also able to discern (separate) the thoughts from the intentions of the heart. Our hearts. Yours and mine.

Those are the things that are hidden below the surface in each of us.

Considering it is a fact that God alone can discern the inner workings of a man or woman's thoughts and heart, is it no wonder that He exhorts us (which means He gives us His earnest advice) when He says in Proverbs 3:5-8, **“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thy own understanding...In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths...Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil...it shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.”**

LEAN NOT TO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING and BE NOT WISE IN THINE OWN EYES.

I am fairly certain this is wise advice since only the Lord can see those hidden things. We would save ourselves much distress if we followed these Words of the Lord. It is very easy to **misunderstand** something when we lean to our **own understanding**.

For example: If one were to say to you that you are being led by a **“vain” imagination**, you would need to make sure that you are understanding the context of the word “vain” in this statement. **In this context “vain” means an unnecessary and/or useless way of thinking. Something that is not of the truth. Scripturally we call this a “vain imagination.”**

If a person were to lean to their own understanding instead of the interpretation of the Word...they might be inclined to misconstrue **“vain”** as it is described by the famous singer Carly Simon who sang the song **“Your so Vain” (I bet you think this song is about you!)**

There is a big difference between human understanding and spiritual discernment of God's word. God desires that we would not lean to our own understanding and that we would cease to be wise in our own eyes.

If we instead **“acknowledge Him in all our ways...He will direct our paths.”** He can see what we cannot and He alone can discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Let's stop leaning on our own understanding and start trusting His ability to see what we can't.

Once again we have the wonderful promise of **Jeremiah 33:3...Call upon Me and I will answer, I will show you great and mighty things that you know not.”**

~ Jewells ~





The Mystery of God...The Body of Christ

[1 Cor. 2:7,8] But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

[Eph 3:3,4] How that by revelation he made known unto me the **mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery** of Christ)

[Rom 16:25] Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery**, which was kept secret since the world began,

[Col 4:3] Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the **mystery** of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

[Eph 5:32] This is a great **mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

[Col 1:26,27] Even the **mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

While the New Testament speaks of several different mysteries, there is one that stands out in greatness of importance. It is revealed to us by the apostle Paul, and contains **the details of God's grand redemptive plan**. I say the *details* of the plan, because redemption in general is a theme that pervades the whole Bible.

So what exactly was the mystery?

That God would send a Messiah to save His people Israel was not a mystery. Neither was it a mystery that Gentiles would be saved. For example, [Isa 42:6] *'I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;'*. It was even revealed that the Messiah would be a suffering servant in Isaiah 53. **What was the great mystery?**

What was hidden in the secret counsels of the Almighty was this: that **an entirely new creation**, made up of a diverse assortment of people including both Jews and Gentiles, **possessing incredible spiritual riches** (Eph 3:8), **would come into existence**.

This new creation is described as being in a living, organic union with the resurrected and glorified Lord Jesus Christ. It is called 'the Body of Christ', or the 'Bride of Christ', or 'the Church'. **It is not an organization, but an organism**. The Lord Jesus is the head of this unique organism: [Eph 5:23b] *'Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body'*. [1 Cor. 12:27] *'Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.'*

The rules for joining organizations are pretty well defined, but **how does one join an organization?**

The New Testament says that members enter the Body by a supernatural operation -- by being baptized or immersed into it by the Holy Spirit. (The Greek 'baptizo' means to immerse.) [Gal 3:27] *'For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.'*

This baptism into Christ is not a ceremony involving water (though that should follow), but a work of the Holy Spirit at the instant one is **regenerated** by faith in the Lord Jesus. **It is a supernatural uniting of the believer with the glorified Christ and His body**. It is the work of God from start to finish, but accompanied by faith on our part. [1 Cor. 12:13] *'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 been all made to drink into one Spirit.'*

This placing of the believer into the Body results in what the apostle Paul meant by the phrase **'in Christ'**. Someone has counted over 150 times in his epistles where he used that terminology to describe the exalted position belonging to Christians. We are wholly **identified** with the Lord Jesus. **It is a glorious event in the life of a believer when it sinks into his heart and mind what it means to be 'in Christ'!** For me personally, it was a **life-transforming experience**.

The other facet of the great mystery of redemption is this: the Lord Jesus Christ takes up permanent residence in the Christian the moment that he trusts the Savior. [Col 1:27] *'To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.'* Isn't that an awesome assertion? The Lord God Almighty, Creator of the heaven and the earth, the great, eternal I AM, indwells each believer! [Rom 8:9] *'But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his**'.*



The union is complete: Christ in the believer, and the believer in Christ. Someone has given a crude analogy that, while imperfect, might help illustrate. Consider a bottle in the ocean -- the ocean water is in the bottle, and the bottle is in the ocean. The Lord Jesus alluded to this mutual indwelling just before He was crucified. He said: [John 15:4-5] *'Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing'*.

Note that to realize the full value of this union, we must 'abide' in the Lord. 'Abide' means to dwell or remain; **we are to always be in conscious union with the Lord Jesus**. I referred above to the Church as a new creation. Actually, in the mystery **there are two new creations: the individual believer and the Church**.

The believer is born spiritually and becomes a new creation when he is baptized into Christ [2 Cor. 5:17] *'Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new'*. (The King James version says 'new creature', but 'new creation' is more accurate.)

The mystical Body of Christ was created at Pentecost [Acts 2:1-4a] *'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**...'*

Any reference to 'church' in the Old Testament economy, as in Acts 7:38, implies an assembly of people, not the body of Christ. The word 'church' can also refer to an assembly in the NT, as in Paul's letters to the churches, but the new creation is *the* 'Church' with a capital 'C'; the Body of Christ and the espoused Bride of Christ: [2 Cor. 11:2b] *'I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ'*.

This Body includes all regenerated Christians from Pentecost to the event described in [1 Th. 4:16-17] *'For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord'*. The coming of the Groom for His espoused Bride! **The greatest marriage ceremony in the history of the universe!**

That is the mystery hidden from past ages -- an entirely new organism with the Living Lord Jesus as the head, composed of diverse members each indwelt by the Spirit of Christ.

The key to this incredible work of redemption -- the event that opened the windows of Heaven and enabled the outpouring of God's grace upon the human race -- is THE CROSS.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

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WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER
THAT I WILL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST
John 4:14



On whom I shall ponder...

The Lord chastens those whom He loves; and a rebellious heart poisons one's spirit.
It is better to endure a lifetime of correction from the Lord, than to spend just one day in hell.

To resist His compassion is to lay the foundation that builds up the walls of separation.
“If only for a drop of water!” cried the rich man to Lazarus; but none was given to this dried
vexed soul.

Stretch forth thine hand and be healed; stretch forth thine heart and watch it grow.
Stretch forth thine faith and in this you will know; to stretch forth thy love will bring joy to
the soul.

Purpose about you the fatness of a plentiful heart; compass about you His joy in the midst of
untold pain.

Yes our Father knows heartache and pain, when He lifted up His Son who was slain.

Better is he who gives his life for another; O how better is a reward unto to thee,
For Your life that was freely given, and a ransom was paid for me.
Help me dear Lord, to always remember just how much each of us cost,
And to never lose thought that you sacrificed yourself, for even the lost.

Carry me O God; carry me to the Sanctuary of Your habitation,
Robe me in Your fine linens, in the brilliance of Your royal vestures.
Let me embrace Your blood-stained under-garments that were made shame for me.
Place Your coverings to cover my soul; embrace me forever, never let me go.
Amen.

Given to Gary Romele

By the Holy Spirit

July 2016

The Berean

Church of the Great God

Luke 12:2-3

(2) For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. (3) Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the house-tops. *KJV*

"CBS Radio Mystery Theater" once presented the story of a prosperous and respected college professor. He was married and the father of two children about to enter college, and he lived in an upscale, wooded, suburban neighborhood. To others, he seemed to "have it all." Inside, however, he felt cheated, conspired against, and held back by superiors who did not realize his value to the university. He especially believed he was underpaid for his many contributions to the university's reputation.

In emotional turmoil one day, he decided to leave the office early, go home, and think things through. Upon arriving home and discovering that his wife had gone shopping, he left his car in the garage and started to stroll through the neighborhood to a nearby wood. Before he left the house, though, he took the garbage to the curb because his wife had failed to take it out and the refuse truck was in the neighborhood.

Unknown to him, in another part of town at the same time, a bank had been robbed. The thieves made their escape with the loot, but the police were in hot pursuit. They were so close that the thieves decided they should get rid of the stolen goods. Pulling into the professor's neighborhood, the thieves deposited the money bag in his neighbor's garbage container. From his hidden position in the woods, the professor watched the thieves speed away. But before long, his curiosity drove him to inspect the contents of the mysterious bag. He casually retrieved the bag and took it inside.

When he opened it, he discovered \$80,000 in cash!

The perfect crime! he thought. *Now I have the money I deserve! And nobody is hurt—the bank's money is insured, isn't it? The thieves dumped the money into the neighbor's garbage, so if they get caught and confess, the focus will be on the neighbors, not me. If the police question me, I can just conveniently remember it was garbage collection day.*

The author of the radio drama understood these principles. Before the story concluded, the professor's wife had been murdered and his best friend wounded. His own mind snapped from the stress of the ordeal. His children, burdened with a name stained by the crime, had to go on with their lives without their parents and without a college education.

What [Jesus](#) said and the radio program dramatized is that the effects of our sins will eventually show. This process contains the power to reach out and multiply its potential for damage by involving others who may be innocent of the [sin](#) that began it.

We do not sin in a vacuum; no man is an island for good or bad. [God](#) wants to cover sin, but if no other way will produce [repentance](#), He will bring it out into the full light for all to see.

We are living organisms, interacting and having an impact upon other living organisms. Why are we so indifferent to the effects of our behavior? Should not [God's Spirit](#) lead us to strive to produce positive fruits? Could we be grieving His Spirit by resisting its prodding?

~ **John W. Ritenbaugh** ~
The Berean

Acts 17:10-11





THE PAST ... THE PRESENT ... THE FUTURE

THE PAST. WHO DOES NOT HAVE ONE?

I WOULD SAY WE ALL CARRY REGRETS, BURDENS,
WE ALL CARRY SOMETHING.

NOW YES, THERE IS JOY IN THE PAST ALSO, MUCH JOY.
WE SHOULD ALWAYS LOOK TO THOSE THINGS,
AS LONG AS THEY ARE GOOD, THEY ARE TRUE.

WE CANNOT LOOK BACK AT A SIN WITH JOY
AND IF YOU DO YOU NEED TO CHECK YOURSELF
BEFORE YOU WRECK YOURSELF.

BE THANKFUL TO OUR LORD FOR THOSE PAST TREASURES,
THOSE PAST MOMENTS OF JOY ALWAYS,

BUT YET WE MUST REMEMBER THE REGRETS,
THE FAILURES, THE MISSTEPS THAT BROUGHT US TO OUR LORD,
THAT CAUSED US TO REPENT.

FOR I WOULD BELIEVE WITHOUT THOSE MISSTEPS
WE MAY NOT HAVE TURNED TO OUR LORD WITHOUT THAT DESPERATION.

WE MAY NOT HAVE BELIEVED ,TRUSTED IN HIM.

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE PRESENT ...

THE FACT THAT JESUS LIVES IN US
THROUGH THE COMFORTER , THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLING,
GODS LOVE IN YOU,
IN THE DEEPEST PART OF OUR BEINGS.
HE KNOWS EVERY BIT, EVERY THOUGHT WE HAVE.

HIS SPIRIT DWELLS IN HOLINESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, TRUTH.
THE LIVING WORD OF OUR LORD, MANNA FROM HEAVEN.
SO WE MUST KEEP OURSELVES,
WE MUST TAKE EACH STEP CAREFULLY,
CAUTIOUSLY WITH THE LORD AS OUR GUIDE,

LEADING US INTO A FUTURE OF HOPE. A FUTURE OF LOVE.
A FUTURE WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR CHRIST JESUS.

WHICH NOW WE MUST LOOK TO THAT FUTURE.
THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR LORD CHRIST JESUS,
WITH HIS LOVE, HIS MERCY, HIS GRACE TOWARD ONE ANOTHER.

WE MUST FIND OUR STRENGTH IN JESUS, NOTHING ELSE.
SEEK HIM, TRUST HIM, BELIEVE UPON HIM.
OUR LORD WILL NOT FAIL YOU.

DON'T LET YOUR FUTURE BE DESTROYED BY YOUR PAST.
BUT LET YOUR PRESENT BELIEFS LOVE, TRUST, BELIEVE
IN THE SALVATION OF OUR LORD CHRIST JESUS.

BRINGING YOU THE BRIGHTEST FUTURE EVER.
AMEN

**Given to Brother Craig by the Holy Spirit
April 17, 2016**



PROSE ...by mark bruno

Only By Spirit

Do you perceive the light,
the brightness that gave you sight?
Has it dimmed to a glow?
Do you or anyone know?
You search the day and find the night
Setting things straight, setting things right.

My faith is not in question see.
My interpretation of scripture may be.
Do I see what I want to?
Is my heart assuming what's true?
Dare I do, to turn a brother from my whims to another?

If that be so then GOD can take me.
If it not, please set me free.
Take this weary soul and clean.
Take this my thoughts unseen.
Stand me up and push me forward, purge my insecurities.
Give me no doubt I serve you my Father.
The rest please, don't bother.



Written by Mark Bruno 2015



Truth: Glimpses of Christ in the Hebrew word “truth”

Within Scripture there are gems that point to Christ. One of them is the Hebrew word translated into English as **“truth” or “faithfulness.”** In the New Testament, Jesus presents Himself as **“the Truth”** (John 14:6). That is one of His names when He returns (Revelation 19:11).

The Hebrew word for “truth” (emet) is composed of three Hebrew letters (we use 4 English letters to transliterate the three Hebrew letters). The first letter in **“emet”** is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (**aleph**). The last letter in **“emet”** is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet (**tav**). The middle letter in **“emet”** is the 13th letter (**mem**) of the 22 letter Hebrew alphabet. Interestingly, however, **it is precisely the middle sound** of the 25 sounds in the Hebrew alphabet according to the Brown, Drivers, and Briggs lexicon, because three letters, all after the letter **“mem”** have two sounds each (“pey” has either a “p” or a “ph” sound, “shin” has either an “s” or a “sh” sound, and **“tav”** has either a “t” or a “th” sound). Several Jewish sites also note that **“mem” in “emet” represents the middle letter of the Hebrew alphabet.**

Now for Christians, one of the names for Jesus is the **“Alpha and the Omega”** (Revelation 1:8; 22:13); that is, **He is the first letter and the last letter of the Greek alphabet. If we were to translate this name back to Hebrew, we would say that He is the “Aleph and Tav,” which happen to be the first and last letters of our word “emet,” the Hebrew word for “truth.”** He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end of the alphabet and of all things. **The word “amet” (truth) incorporates this all-encompassing aspect of Jesus for us.**

But what about the middle letter of “emet, “mem”? **“Mem”** is the first letter of the Hebrew word we know as **“Messiah.”** Even some Jewish writers have seen the letter **“mem”** as representing the Messiah, although not all Jewish sources agree on this.

So, what we have in the Hebrew word meaning “truth” is “the Alpha and the Omega” with the Messiah in the middle, an amazing correlation to Jesus. He is the first and the last of all speech. He spoke the worlds into existence and He will speak their end. But between the beginning and the end, He comes to be our Messiah. And He is the truth which the Hebrew word “emet” describes.

And there is more. The first word in the Hebrew Bible that begins with the letter “aleph” is the Hebrew word “Elohim” in Genesis 1:1, the word meaning “God.”



The first word in the Hebrew Bible that begins with “tav” is the Hebrew word **“tohu”** in Genesis 1:2 that we translate as **“formless.”** This word is translated into Greek in the Septuagint with the Greek word **“aoratos,”** a word we translate in Colossians 1:15 and in 1 Timothy 1:7 as **“invisible”** in reference to God.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is the invisible King of Kings and Lord of Lords (1 Timothy 6:16), who took on Himself the form of a slave in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:7). As Irenaeus states in the 2nd century, Christ is “the invisible becoming visible” (Against Heresies, Bk 3, Ch 16).

The first word in the Hebrew Bible that begins with **“mem”** is the Hebrew word **“m’rachephet”** found in **Genesis 1:2** that we translate as **“hovered” or “moved.”** This word is found only once more in the entire Old Testament, but this time without the **“mem”** prefix (Deuteronomy 32:11). Here it appears in the great **Song of Moses.** This song leads us directly to the Messiah (Compare the climatic verse of this song, Deuteronomy 32:43 with Romans 15:10, Hebrews 1:6, Revelation 16:5-6, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, Romans 3:25, 1 John 2:2). The word here in this song carries forth the idea of the protecting, guarding, and loving care of God for Israel.

Each of these three words in Genesis 1:1-2 has Messianic overtones. Jesus is God. Jesus is the invisible One who became visible for us, the formless God who took on form, the One who is everywhere present in the universe through all time and space and yet appeared incarnate in a physical body restricted by both time and space. Jesus is the One who desires to tenderly care for us.

The image of hovering over, for Christians, cannot help but remind us of Jesus’ words when He came to Jerusalem, longing to brood over His people, but they would not have Him (Matthew 23:37).

And there is more. The **first three words in the Hebrew Bible in Genesis 1:1**, the words we translate **“In the beginning God,”** end respectively in the Hebrew letters; **“tav,” “aleph,” and “mem.”**

The last three Hebrew words of the creation account in Genesis 2:3 end respectively with the letters “aleph,” “mem,” and “tav.” Thus, the three letters that spell “truth” open and close the creation account.

The Scripture's opening account is bookended by **truth**, and for believers in Jesus that **truth is Jesus. Jesus is the creator of all things. He is not only the speaker of the word, but he is the word that was spoken. He is the truth through whom all things were made.**

Normally, I am not one to focus on obscurities in the Biblical text because **the coming judgment will be based on what is plainly revealed: whether we have faith in God, whether we love one another, whether we keep ourselves unspotted from the world.**

We need nothing obscure to please our God. I often say that **our problem is not with the obscure truths, but with the ones we know and do not do.**

Further, I think a focus on ever searching for hidden truths in Scripture can become a tool of the devil to keep us from practicing the truths that we all know we should be doing; namely loving God and loving each other in deed and truth.

Yet, at the risk of sending someone off in some mad hunt to uncover hidden messages in Scripture, I wanted to share this tidbit from Scripture, as being a beautiful picture in one word **of Jesus, our Alpha and Omega, our Messiah, the Creator, the Truth.**



I found this in some old articles that I had saved long ago. I don't know who wrote it but God knows and I thank the Lord for the Word of Truth contained herein --- Jewells.



God Bless You!



and I mean that !