



September 2009

Newsletter

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

Brian Coatney has done it again!

Brian is a poet as well as a great writer. In his recent escapade he put together a volume containing his new poetry. "Roots Where the Water is" is just what is says--living water springing from His inspired poetry. The word "escapade" according to Webster means "adventurous action that runs counter to conventional conduct." That definition describes his poetry to a "t", profoundly non-conventional. **Have a look at it, and be blessed!**

May you be blessed by this volume of poetry, "*Roots Where the Water Is*," which follows several other volumes of poetry, the first being the collection of poems included in my first book on the Christian life, *Did You Ever Think of This?* and the second being *Seeds to the Wind*, a book of poems, which is bound as well as online. The third volume is a CD titled *Seeds to the Wind*, in which I read aloud with my friend, Sylvia Pearce, many of my favorites from the first two volumes, and she and I discuss the poems. Thanks to Sylvia and her husband Scott for producing this CD and for hosting my works online.

[Web News](#)

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Click to see his new book of poetry

[Roots where the Water is](#)



I hope all of you have met and known **Bill Bower**, our California friend of many years. He is too cool and too right on with the union message. Bill's pastor asked him to teach the Sunday morning message after teaching Sunday School... **You can hear his** wonderful union talk done at his church. He is the best, and you will certainly be blessed. Find it under **"VIDEO'S"** to your left, although it is only audio....Too bad, you ought to see his anointed face while he teaches.



I just wrote a new booklet called, **"There is NO such thing as an Independent-self"** (The article of the month), also I wrote another new booklet last month, **"What Every Wife Needs to Know"**. If you want copies of these booklets please contact me and I will send them to you. sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org

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News from our **"On The Road Again,"** trip

We will be leaving for Hilton Head at the end of September, and after that we will be posting our "on the road news." Stay tuned. If anyone want to get in touch with me please call my cell phone number 502-417-2110

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Events

There is going to be a week-end conference near Hopkinsville, Ky. at the Luttrull's house on September 19-21. Brenda and Ronnie, along with all of their children, will be hosting it. For info call: 270-475-9898

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It's time for Pawley's Princesses to gather together again. October 9 is when we will be conducting our semi-annual Woman's Retreat at [Pawley's Island](#). Click here for more info

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**ADULT
THREE DAY
WEEKEND
RETREAT
WITH
SYLVIA PEARCE
and
BURT ROSENBERG
OCT. 23,24 & 25, 2009**

The retreat will begin Friday evening for dinner and end Sunday after lunch. You may wish to plan extra days in the area to visit some of the sites. There are lots of hotels/motels to accommodate extra nights stay. You'll find many attractions in Philadelphia, or in Lancaster County where we live. One of our local favorites, Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, will be

showing "In The Beginning" from Jun. 13 to Oct. 17. www.sight-sound.com The Lancaster House Church

Daylesford Abbey

220 S. Valley Road

Paoli, PA 19301

PHONE: 610-647-2530

www.daylesford.org

[Click here for more info](#)

[Paoli, Pennsylvania](#)

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Sylvia and Jenny Fienning will be doing a woman's retreat in Stamford, Ct. on Oct. 30-Nov. 1. See more details in our next Newsletter.

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If anyone wants Scott and I to **come to your area**, just call us and we will put it on our calendar. Our number is 502-245-4581.

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**Global Sunday School live with Brian Coatney** will start up Sunday August 10th 2008 with a verse by verse study of Galatians. The method will be "chat-room" style participation for those who sign up and receive a logon. This is a discussion class for people we don't already know, where Brian will guide with comments on Galatians, and class members can share insights all throughout the 75 minute class that will take place at 10:30 AM (EST) each Sunday. Your assigned logon will ensure privacy, and classes will not be archived for public access. This is a live class for enjoying a time of fellowship and insight in the moment.

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## Letters

Dear Louise, I do keep you in my heart and prayers always...I are a dear and special friend. I just returned from 5 days in Louisville with Sylvia and Jenny, from Hilton Head. I bask in their love and enjoy every minute and glean so much Truth!!! I always come home with a special nugget and this time it is about the negative being the spring board to the positive. A slingshot has its negative force when you stretch it back toward you. When you release it, it goes forward and is the strength of the positive. So, our negatives are right and necessary. Our positives would not exist without them.. You are seeing that in "Sorrows." So glad you are being blessed by that book...

I love you, Margaret

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[Brian Coatney conducts a Global Sunday School class. This is from Karen Norris in his class.](#)

Hey Brian,

I was watching your video in the news letter and enjoyed it very much. You should have DVD's of these. In the video you mentioned that we sometimes get delivered even when we don't want to. Well guess what, this has happened to me. I don't know if I told you about this, but I used to smoke. I was a smoker for 24 years and was up to 2 packs a day.

One night while lying in bed talking to the Lord, He told me to quit. I didn't want to even though I would wheeze when I breathed. I told him, "Oh no, not the cigarettes!" You see, I enjoyed it (so I thought).

He then said, "Quit and I will heal the wheezing." So here I went for 2 weeks trying to quit, with no success. Finally I got up one night in the middle of the night and went to pray about it. I said in tears, "I can't do this. If you want me to quit, you have to do it because I can't. You will have to take away the desire to smoke."

He told me to lay down the pack. Then I heard the enemy say, "What will you do after you

eat? Everyone knows that's when a smoker wants a smoke." Immediately the Lord said, "Eat a life saver" (no pun intended). I went to the store and bought butter rum life savers.

The next morning I laid the pack on top of the frig. Every time I wanted a smoke, I talked to the lord and ate life savers. I would say, "Here we go again, Lord" and start singing "Jesus Loves Me," and then my mind would forget for awhile.

This went on all week. I noticed that when I got around the smell of smoke (around Wed.), it made me sick feeling. So I lit one and sure enough it made me sick. By Friday I was over it and have never wanted one since. That has been 8 years ago. The wheezing is also gone just like He promised. The point is I didn't want to quit, but the Lord wanted me to, the best quit smoking aid I have ever seen. It took a total of 5 days, and the habit was gone for good.

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Dear Sylvia,

Merrill Thompson introduced me to your writings which led me to your website and your book *The Treasures of Darkness*. I am actually in the middle of reading it right now. It is blessing me so much. I love your writing style and the revelations that you share. It is clear that you are a mighty woman of God!!

There is one idea you express in your book which I am having trouble understanding. It is the idea that Satan is "God's appointed messenger". I've heard this idea before and for some reason, it kinda scares me and confuses me. I know that only the Holy Spirit can really makes things revelation knowledge to me and I did go to the Lord with this question and confusion.

However, I would come to you as well and see if you would be willing to expound on this idea. Or perhaps point me in the direction of another source that expounds on it.

I understand God using evil for good, but the idea that Satan is God's messenger, I don't get. Does that mean then that God made Satan who He is?

Because I thought Satan became Satan by his own volition, by his desire to be like God. And so if God actually made Satan, then does that mean that God is both good and evil? I thought He was only good? Do you understand my

**confusion?**

**I would appreciate anything that you feel led to share with me that might help shed some light on this topic. However, no pressure, only if you feel led.**

**I look forward to your response!**

**Blessings,**

**K.**

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Dear K.

I'm just back from doing a conference and found you wonderful e-mail. Your question is honest and I hope that I can answer it to your understanding. God, as you say is only good, and cannot even tempt anyone to evil (James 1:13), however God is also sovereign and can use evil for his purposes. He is as you know Lord of all his creation even in its fallen condition. I'm going to send you a booklet called "God means evil for good." If this does not answer your questions, then please let me know.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Yours in Christ,

Sylvia

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**Hi, Sylvia!**

**Thanks so much for your response and the document you shared with me. Your intro paragraph on the document really made sense and blessed me. However, the scriptures that you referenced and explained, still "scare" me a little. But that's ok, I know the Holy Spirit will make them come alive and make sense to me.**

**That being said, I do have one more question. Towards the end of your book that I read, "The Treasures of Darkness", you share the story of your mother and**

how she said when she got cancer that it's not the devil that gave her the cancer, but God gave her the cancer. I think that statement has been haunting me. Not in a bad way, it's just that I don't understand that concept yet. With all the healing that Jesus did on the earth, it seems to be sort of double-minded to believe that God heals people but He also makes people sick??

If there is anything that you feel led to share in response to my question, that would be great. I certainly don't want to take up too much of your time, though, so only if you have a moment. Or maybe the document that you already shared with me sort of answers this too?

Blessings,  
K.

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Dear K,

Thank you for your honest concern with what I believe is misunderstood. It may sound like I meant that God gave her the cancer, but I don't mean that. I was just quoting her statement. The way I see it, all disease is due to the fall of man and not directly God given, although, God uses everything the devil does and brings life out of it for other. The Bible talks like my mother did in Isa.53, It says that Jesus was "smitten of God." And in Act 4:25-28 Peter proclaims that it was God who anointed Herod, Pilate and the rest to do "what God's counsel determined to be done." And finally Jesus said, "The Father's cup," shall I not drink it? He didn't say the devil's cup although, it was the devil who put Jesus on the cross, but not apart from the Father's sovereign will. So, the devil can do nothing unless directed by the Lord himself. The book of Job brings that out—"God says to Job, "Have you considered my servant Job?" Satan didn't think of it, God drew his attention to Job.

Katarina, lots to think about, and I will be glad to answer any other questions. Thank you for e-mailing me.

Yours in Christ,

Sylvia

PS We see through evil to God's eternal purposes behind it. Whenever we look at it, and we do for awhile, it kills, however, faith sees through evil to God.

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Small Pearls

Pole Vaulting for Donuts

by Brian Coatney

Sunday evenings, Louie and I go to the jail for a Bible study, and currently we're in Romans, a book I've loved, respected, rent myself over, and generally found the epitome of God breathed logic. So how would we pursue chapter two—a pretty straight forward chapter about finger pointers needing to wake up to the other three pointing back at the one doing the condemning?

Suddenly I thought of how we once lived, thinking of life like a vending machine that we put our coins or bills into. We punch the letter and number combination of our desired product, listen for the hum of gears in motion, and watch for the package of little powdered donuts to detach and drop with a happy thump where we can reach in and get them.

Occasionally, we put our money in, and the donuts hang up. They don't drop even if we jar the machine, even if we shake the machine, even if we cuss and do more forceful things to the machine. We put our money in, and we don't get what we expected.

With life, the same has happened; we do the right things, and yet instead of the powdered donuts falling gently for us to enjoy, we get nothing of the kind. Instead, there are no donuts, or worse, instead of donuts, adversities swamp us—things like falling stocks, illness, people who step on us, etc. God doesn't comply with what we put into the machine. Hopefully, we learn by faith that God never meant for life to be coins for donuts; His idea is more like this: suffering opens up the possibility for glory. This is Romans 8.

But before we touch a little on suffering, let's think about expectations and the concept of law

that Paul presents in Romans 2. Paul makes it clear in all his writings that God never gave the law because He thought that we could keep it; on the contrary, He knew we couldn't, and He also knew that he created us as vessels and branches, which express the life of what they contain and are attached to.

Put another way, we're not originators. What's original about us is our faith, not that faith is original, but *our* faith is original, in that it is the precise expression of our indweller in the moment, in a way like no other; that is our originality. As to source, well, He's always the source of love and good living.

So if God knew we couldn't keep the law, and He didn't create us to be able to, why law? Law teaches us that we can't keep it. Until we concede to that, we're like pole vaulters who train to make record vaults over bars set remarkably high for humans. This view of setting the pole, though, doesn't correspond to the Bible. Imagine a pole vaulter who thinks the bar is 20 feet when in actuality the bar is 30 feet, or even up in the clouds. Our pole vaulter, we'll name him John, has a delusional notion of where the bar is.

The first thing God wants us to see is where the bar really is. If John sees the bar is 30 feet from the ground, he'll shrug and likely laugh, maybe say, "That's impossible!" Then imagine a pole vaulter, we'll call him Brian, a 60 year old, way too big guy, who isn't even trained, and wouldn't play a good game of Hop Scotch even. Now imagine that God, right in front of John, says, "Brian is going to vault over the bar that's impossibly out of reach, and Brian didn't even train to do it." What an offense this is to the vaulters who have trained so rigorously and who think, "Even if Brian were to vault over a bar set reasonably, he would have to train."

Then a miracle happens: The Holy Spirit vaults Brian right over that bar, not because he trained or worked, or because he deserved it but because the Christian life is one of miracles. This does not mean that the trained pole vaulter can't also get over the absurdly high bar; it simply means that he will need the same miracle that Brian needed. Therefore, our commonality isn't our training but our life in the supernatural, which is to say, our life in God, who causes us to walk continuously in miracles according to faith.

Law doesn't work by miracles. If we live by law, we look at what we think we can do and what others don't do, and we measure ourselves against them, condemning those who don't live up to what we live up to, which is to say, really, what we think we live up to. For it's the shock of all shocks to see that others' sins are no different from ours. God only gave the law as a mirror to reveal this to us so that we would find our fellowship with God, and thus with each

other.

This is lovely. Up there in the clouds, we fellowship together—not down on earth as pole vaulters who train to make jumps according to their own muscles and wills. Does this mean that we shouldn't train? If you are a pole vaulter, it's good to train, but the bar is infinitely different than we first conceived. What we have to vault over in life to see glory entails so much suffering, that finally we're not up for it. To get through life and not be bitter or resentful, but see God's glory, takes infinitely more than any resources we naturally have. God created things this way; the devil threw his blinding veil over this truth and became the founding father of the independent self viewpoint.

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

By Leanne Payne

It is only by remembering that "Another lives in me" that we can die daily to that old, false, usurping self, and that we can continue to be

drawn further in and higher up into the life of God. To "practice the Presence" is to continually call to mind this great reality. Once again we see that the secret is incarnation. One dies to the old self and lives to the new by continuing to receive of the Other Life. Even our prayers, in true prayer, are really His prayers. He speaks to himself through us. And it is the same with all the virtues and all the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. All are equally derivative. We must never forget this, and we must always practice this Holy Presence, even though we can do it only for moments at a first. This really is the whole of Christianity. Christianity isn't a covenant or a law, but it is a life—it is Another Life being lived in and through us. Our human spirit, when in union with this Holy Other, the higher self. The "Practice of the Presence" leads to the knowledge of this higher self, and away from either the wrong kind of self-love or self-hatred. It is in this New Life that we find our souls as well as our spirits—indeed, the whole of our nature—raised. This is why we do not need to fear our intellects, our imaginations, our emotions, our intuitive beings, or our own bodies. We simply offer them wholly to God and find them revitalized and redirected. By the principle of the incarnation the Highest is transposed into the lowest, and man finds himself resurrected in every faculty of his being. This is the true, the whole self. Taken from: THE REAL PRESENCE IN THE WRITINGS OF C.S. LEWIS by Leanne Payne. This Site was created and is maintained by Esprit Systems, Inc

Jesus Wept

By Michael Daniel

Lazarus was gravely ill when Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus. Upon being informed of His friend's condition, Jesus makes a statement of certainty saying, "Lazarus will not die from this sickness, but through it God will be glorified so that the Son of God may be glorified." Jesus then does a very strange, and possibly in the eyes of many, a very cruel thing. He stayed where He was for two more days. He didn't rush to the aid of Lazarus nor to comfort his family and friends. Jesus kept still.

After the purposed delay Jesus announces that it is time to travel to Judea where Lazarus is entombed. His disciples' think He has lost His mind and comment that the Jews (i.e. the religious leaders) wanted to stone Him just a few days earlier. Jesus tells them that friend Lazarus has fallen asleep and that He is going to wake him up. He didn't seem to be worried about what men could do to Him. Confused about the comment that Lazarus was sleeping, the disciples said, "Lord if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Then Jesus spoke the bold and plain truth, "Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe." That must have really torn it with His followers. Egos were surely offended.

Upon His arrival Martha runs to Jesus saying, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus replies, "Your brother will rise again." When Mary came to Jesus she was not just crying, she was wailing, saying to Him also, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus therefore saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit, and was troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept.

Why? Jesus had said earlier that He was glad for the disciples' sake that He hadn't been there to heal Lazarus. He told the whole family of Lazarus that He was about to raise him from the dead, so why would He have been crying? The Jews were saying, "Behold how He loved him!" Others were saying, "Could not this man who opened the eyes of him who was blind, have kept this man also from dying?"

Was Jesus weeping because his friend was dead? The fact was that He was about to shock

Lazarus' entire family, all the friends and bystanders and the whole world by raising him from the dead. Something that had never been seen or heard of before and something that would most certainly bring great glory to God. So why was Jesus broken hearted to the point of tears at the death of Lazarus? He wasn't!

The heart and soul of Jesus was ripped apart, not because His dear friend was dead, but because the living, who had intimately known Him and witnessed all His works of power still doubted. Jesus' followers, his closest friends whom He considered family, did not have enough faith in Him to simply believe. The scourging Jesus endured; the crown of thorns rammed into His precious brow, and the spikes that pierced His hands and feet could not have been as agonizing to Him as the heart rending lack of faith that was displayed on that day.

Chest heaving; eyes blood red with tears in agonizing Spirit Jesus whispers, "Remove the stone." The sword of doubt was thrust even deeper as Martha utters, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days." As if almost begging to be trusted Jesus pleads, "Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

Then, with strength that is not of this world, Jesus cries out with a loud voice, "LAZARUS, COME FORTH!" Out of cold, damp darkness and into the Light of the Son, walked Lazarus still wrapped in grave clothes, but never more alive than at that very moment as Jesus cries, "Unbind him, and let him go!"

Jesus wept. Does He still?

Written February 27, 2008

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Quotes

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Freedom contains double possibilities. Life can go downward into lack and destruction, or upward into fullness and completion. We liberate mere possibility into manifested reality—How?—By the spoken word of faith, we bring mere possibility out of freedom unto actualized manifested reality. **Sylvia Pearce**

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

Frequent Trips through hell burns the ugly off, and that is why we are so beautiful. **Fran Giles**

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**

Justice demands the punishment of the sinner, but it may also accept the vicarious sacrifice of another as in the case of Christ. To deny the freeness of mercy is to annihilate it because it returns to a matter of debt and then it is no longer mercy. **Unknown**

Every negative has its hidden resolve in God, and faith is the key that makes manifest the negatives, hidden positive. **Sylvia Pearce**

Faith looks beyond the pain, wrapped in veil of time, and sees God's eternal purposes beyond it all. **Sylvia Pearce**

'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 McDonald**

C.S. Lewis once said that there are two equal and opposite errors that we can fall into regarding Satan and his demons. One is to act like they don't exist; the other is to be unduly and overly interested in them.

"True and perfect obedience is a virtue above all virtues...obedience has no cares; it lacks no blessing...When I give my will up to the care of my Lord and Master and have no will of my own, God must will for me; for if He were to neglect me, He would be neglecting himself. So it is with everything; where I do not chose for myself, God chooses for me. What will he choose

for me? That I shall not choose for myself.” **Meister Eckhart**

Meekness is not weakness but power under restraint, for we see ourselves as we really are, and see him as he really is.” **Fred Williams**

St. John of the Cross says: “(This wound is delectable (i.e. delicious).” John of the Cross goes on to say: “After the dark and painful night of the spirit there is...a divine awakening...the soul uses a similitude (i.e. an example) of one that awakens from his sleep, and says, ‘how gentle and loving is...thine awakening, O Word and Spouse, in the center and depth of my soul... wherein alone, secretly and in silence, Thou dwellest as it’s Lord. This divine awakening is an inspiration of the Word manifesting His dominion, His glory and His intimate sweetness.”

Faith builds Heaven in the midst of Hell’s despair!

"Good must be sucked out of the bitter root of seeming evil." **Brian Coatney**

"Life's disappointments are veiled love's appointments." From “Streams in the Desert”, Feb. 1st.

"Sometimes God calms the storms, and sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child."

The expression of true everlasting life procures itself contented as the vessel or container of Christ alone. **Jennifer Cormack**

In the pasture of the King, freely bloom two trees. One offers sacrificial unified life; the other cloaks itself in the good works of death. If the sheep of the pasture cannot produce their own righteousness, then conversely they cannot produce their own iniquity. Will you be so entwined by the false independence of goodness you fail to express the true liberty you possess? The only good and just King tarries for your reply. **Jennifer Cormack** Short Story Excerpt

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Poem of the Month

The Plan

Once there was an independent self,
or so supposed,

but twas deceit.
The Lord, He had a way
to wear us down
and bring defeat.
He called this heaven Law,
that where we looked,
we should obey.
Yet when we tried, we failed,
or changed the meaning
of the words that He would say
Clever minds can whittle
til the words of God
get lowered to our reach.
Honest seeking must concede,
between our ways and His
an endless breach.
Try as might or will,
we always only do
the opposite,
of what we think we can.
No resolutions to the law
can help us get the hang of it.
Should we try again?
We will until we gasp and die,
from effort all worn out.
Not I, but Christ, is heaven
and the end of what
the law was all about.
BC 5-27-05

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Prayer Request

Many of you have been praying for Dave Moss concerning the threat of a five year jail sentence. We are so thankful to Our God who always supplies every need. Dave is our invaluable computer/producer of TV and Radio/tech guy, and here is his testimony to how the Lord answered his need. We are so thankful, because it would be hard for him to continue producing radio and TV while he was in jail. Although, the last time he was in jail he keep things going by phone.

God's Promise Is Always True

Many of you were notified on Monday July 27th that I was in need of prayer.

This is a short description of what happened.

My ex-wife was threatening to have me arrested and put in jail for 5 years if I didn't pay her the \$2,330.00 in back child support that I owed her. The debt was incurred from when we were first divorced and through my stupidity I didn't pay my child support as I should have. I spent 6 months in jail for not being the responsible parent that I should have been.

Since my release I had been paying my child support plus paying on the back support. So for 3 years I have been paying my ex-wife virtually all of my weekly earnings, just keeping enough to live on for myself. Since I had been out of jail for over 2 years, and if I still owed her over \$1000.00, the state of Kentucky sees that as a class D felony which carries a minimum sentence of 5 years in prison.

Now during this 3 year period I was totaling beholding to her. If there were any repairs to her house I had to take care of it If there was anything that she wanted or needed I had to comply under the threat of prison if I didn't. I even had to help remodel 2 bathrooms in her house and spend money out of my pocket to have new drywall hung in one of the bathrooms. None of this was deducted off what I owed her.

Over a year ago I met a wonderful woman and we are now talking about marriage. My ex, seeing that she was going to loose her control over me and also seeing that once I was remarried our son Curtis was probably going to come live with me, decided to try and break up my happy world. She figured if I was in prison Nancy would leave me and she would continue on with her controlling life. She knew that in order to look like the victim she would

have to give me at least 30 days to pay off the remainder of the debt. When she notified me of my time limit the Lord told me right then that He would provide the money by July 31st. I told her then that God said that He was taking care of it. I also told her what a great testament it would be when He did.

For 3 weeks I told no one about any of this except Nancy my girlfriend. She didn't see how God was going to take care of this and was starting to plan her life for the next 5 years while she waited for me to get out of prison. I also told her what a great testament it would be when God did follow through with his promise to me.

The last weekend in July, 6 days from the deadline, our entire family went down to Taylorsville Lake for a family weekend celebrating my niece Katie's 16th birthday. While talking with my son at breakfast my ex-wife's name came up. I felt the Holy Spirit just fall all over me and I knew that it was time to share with my family what was going on. We all immediately went to the Lord in prayed and praise. What a wonderful Spirit filled weekend we had.

Monday after we returned from the lake Mom sent out the e-mail request for prayer. Well let me tell you God always makes good on His promises and when He does it is glorious. I started getting calls for new computer work. Checks started coming in the mail from companies that owed me money for previous work that I had done. Some people even sent in donations to the ministry in my name.

On Friday July 31st I handed my ex-wife a money order for the full amount of \$2,330.00. Her jaw dropped to the floor. I reminded her of what God had told me to tell her. She said yes she should have more faith in God. I told her not more but all faith in God. Bring everything to the Lord from the smallest thing to what seems to be the insurmountable.

My girlfriend Nancy has now gained a new understanding of my faith and who God really is. This whole incident has really cemented our relationship with each other. I love her with all my heart.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, love and financial support.
My God is an awesome God.

Love to you all.

Dave

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This Month's Article

There is NO such thing as an Independent-Self...

By Sylvia Pearce

Who would ever consider these things? Even if someone would consider it, who would believe it anyway? Our spiritual leaders and teachers don't tell us these truths. Why isn't anyone saying it, and why won't we Christian believe it? "Saying, what? And believing what"? Why aren't we saying and believing that there is no such thing as an independent-human self? If we would dare to truly understand our human selves maybe there wouldn't be so many weary and defeated Christians. And maybe, just maybe we would be free. Hey, the word, FREE certainly is an overused word these days, but I am compelled to use it anyway.

FREE, YES, "FREE INDEED"!

Aren't we all really longing to be free? Free from what? Free from the chains of us trying to fix, change, improve, keep, protect, and save ourselves from doing evil. Haven't we all given it our best shot? If you haven't given it your best try, then maybe you should keep on trying. That's right; keep on trying until you can't anymore. But, how many more times do you need to go around before you finally get it? Don't you understand that doing good by self effort is an expression of Satan? "What? Now wait a minute!" I told you that you wouldn't believe it.

Most Christians believe that we are independently just ourselves, with some outside help influencing us from Jesus walking beside us? Don't we basically

believe that we are living our own lives, doing our best to maintain some kind of happiness and contentment by keeping and maintaining ourselves in good standing with God? Don't we think that it is through our good moral behavior, along with continual self improvement, self-achieving, and self-motivated self-effort that will hit the spot with God? Anyway, wouldn't we all be sinful lazy bums if we didn't hold on to ourselves and try as hard as we can to do our best?

Listen to this News flash! The human being has always been expressing the life of another, and NEVER, NEVER had a life of its own. Or, to say it another way, we humans are not independent beings....We are helpless expressions of someone else and we always have been our whole life. The human self has never been filled with itself alone, expressing just itself! This is the biggest lie in the whole universe, and what the bible calls, "the mystery of iniquity".

Wow! That is food for thought.

Paul proclaimed oneness with Christ to every young fellowship that he fathered all through-out the middle east and as far west as Rome. Jesus also prayed for the "body of Christ" to know oneness in His intercessory prayer in John 17:20-23. Hey, Jesus always gets His prayers answered. But why would it take so long for Jesus' prayer to unfold in time? I think it is because the Father has designed it to be now in our time that His people would know and operate in oneness with the Son, and as true sons of God. Oneness with Christ is the answer to the problem of independent-self. Operating in independence is the root sin, dysfunction and misuse of God's people. And oneness with Christ is the antidote, the right use, and proper function of the family of God.

Another time Jesus said "if any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple, and whosoever shall save his own life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it"? Do we even hear

what Jesus is saying?

Losing and finding? Hum...It seems to me that what we lose is the delusion of an independent human self with a life of its own. And the life we find is the fullness of our union with Christ. Seems to me that Paul summed it up by saying that “he suffered the lose of all things, that he might win Christ.” (Phil 3:8).

Why don't we hear these truths? Is it basically because they have been lost in the actives of Christianity? Isn't this the truth of the gospel that Paul preached in the first century to the hungry sinners? And didn't they respond in faith which birthed Christianity in the first place?

What has happen to the gospel of oneness with Christ? Somehow the age-old trick of “diversion” and “preoccupation with self-improvement” which Satan has used for eons, has worked. Yet, doesn't the church sing, “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand” as well as, “ON Christ Alone”. Yep, we sing these songs alright, but do we really believe what we are singing? I hardly think so.

We all falsely think that God needs our help, or maybe we think that we can give him permission to help us become better. Both these foolish statements are gross misnomers. The sin and pride of the world is: “I am sufficiently able, so I really don't need God.” While the sin and pride of the Christian is: “I'll give Christ permission to help me be sufficiently good enough, and advance His kingdom by my own efforts.”

Ok, are you beginning to get the point?

The human being is a derivative dependent slave to the one who indwells us, or owns us. The bible tells us so: We are called “slaves of sin” before we were saved, and now through the Cross of Christ, we are “slaves of righteousness” (Rom. 6:17-18), but never free to just do our own thing....It says

that we are either “vessels of wrath” before we were saved and now we are “vessels of mercy,” (Rom. 9:22-23) but always just a vessel and never the content...We are called “branches” of the true vine which is Christ, but we were “branches” of the false vine Satan before we were saved, but never anything but a branch that can do nothing apart from its source, the vine (John 15:1-5).... We are called temples of the Holy Spirit,(I Cor. 6:19-20), but when unsaved we were temples of Satan (John 8:44), but always just the temple not the god in the temple....We are called wives of our old husband, but now through the Cross we are wives of our new husband Christ (Rom. 7:1-4).

Now, look at all these examples of what the human being really is and you will see the secret of human dependency and the lie of human independence. OK, we see it, but I will tell you another secret...”It will cost you everything to really know it in your spirit as a living reality.” God has to prove to us by the process of hard knocks and heart breaking exposure, that WE REALLY CAN’T DO ANYTHING apart from Christ.

Since most Christians are living from a sense of a false independent-self, we certainly wouldn’t want to give that self up too easily. But think about it, it is the only self that we have ever known. Yet Jesus demands surrender, in Matthew 16:25 when He said, “whosoever shall save his own life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it”? What life is Jesus talking about? It must be a independent life of our own in which we falsely call “my own life”.

Think about it, God alone is the only independent person in the whole universe. He depends on no one and nothing. He is the only self-sufficient, self-generating, autonomous person that there is. Wait a minute, how can we call God a person? Didn’t God say to Moses at the burning bush, “I AM that I AM”. “I am” is first person present tense, or being. That is personhood. Therefore only God is the one independent person in the whole universe (Isa.45:5-7). That makes man, angels, even devils as well as all created beings and things

dependent on the Creator. All creation is created to derive its life from the Creator, so all creation depends on and derives its very existence on the one independent person in the universe that is God Almighty, Himself.

Why is creation trying to be independent and self-sufficiently self-generating? Isn't that rebellion against God? Yes it is. Satan was the first sinner and cosmic criminal who rebelled and declared himself to be independent and self-sufficiently able to just be his own evil self. The bible tells us in Isa. 14:12 that Satan said in his heart, "I will be like the most High God." Wasn't he saying "I will be independent, all powerful, and sufficient in myself, just like God, and I will be Lord of my own kingdom and my kingdom will be greater than God's. Wow, I bet you never thought of it like that!

OK, since God is the only independent person in the universe, then Satan must be self-deceived. And the light that was in him must have imploded inwardly into darkness, and as the bible says, "how great is that darkness" (Matthew 6:23). Do you remember his created name was "Lucifer" which means "light bearer". A light bearer is like a lamp, or expresser, bearing the light of God, but Lucifer pridefully said, "no thank, I won't bear your light, God, I will be my own light." That is how he became Satan and the "Prince of Darkness."

Now what does Satan have to do with mankind? Well, we all know that through the fall mankind rebelled against God's word and fell right into the hands of Satan who owned us (Heb. 2:15) until we were redeemed by our faithful God. However, while we were in Satan's hands he brain washed us into believing that we were independent-selves like him. What? He deceived us into believing that we too are independent beings who live life by our own power and sufficiency. Gosh, I thought we were supposed to be responsible human beings? Maybe, we've had it all wrong. Hey, we can't trust in ourselves to be sufficient and responsible, Paul warns against that in I1 Cor. 3:5 when he said, "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." Maybe we should look at responsible another way, maybe it is, MY-

RESPONSE-TO-HIS-ABILITY. See how if we look at it that way we are not trusting in ourselves, but our faith is now placed in God who has the ability, sufficiency, power, and wisdom to live His life through us?

Jesus told the woman at the well that there was a well that could spring up unto “everlasting life”. Where was this well? It certainly wasn’t the “fountain of youth” that Ponce de Leon was looking for. It must be an everlasting inner well of living water that is in us Christians who simply put our trust in Christ (John 7:38). If we already have this well in us, why don’t we draw from it for our sufficiency? Well, here we go again....It is because we falsely think that we are independent-selves, with a life of our own. No wonder we Christians are so defeated and powerless, we are drawing from the wrong well. We are trying to derive life from our vessel selves instead of Christ, whom the bible says, is our life (Col. 3:4).

Jesus knew this secret and powerfully walked in it all of his life. “Of my own self, I can do nothing” (John 5:19 & 30); “I live by the Father” (John 6:57); “I have not spoken of myself” (John 12:49); and “I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwells in me, He does the works” (John 14:10). Jesus didn’t have his own life (John 6:57); works (John 14:10); words (John 12:49-50); glory (John 8:50); teaching (John 7:16); will (John 6:38); name (John 5:43); and witness (John 5:31-33). Jesus always functioned in union with His Father and never functioned independently.

Since we all know that Jesus never sinned, and then what would have been his sin, that is, if he had of sinned? Wouldn’t it have been walking in rebellious independence, thinking he could have his own life, his own power, his own sufficiency, his own works, his own glory, his own teaching, his own will, and his own words?

He would have played right into Satan’s hands if he had trusted in himself in any way. His trust was completely in His Father who did the works through him. John 14:10 says, “I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. The words that I

“speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwells in me, he does the works” He never sinned simply because he never acted independently from His Father.

Boy, I think that we Christians have a lot to learn about independent-self. We need our minds renewed to the truth (Rom. 12:2). The first thing we need to know is that INDEPENDENT-SELF IS Satan disguised as us. It is the same rebellious religious spirit that the bible calls “the spirit of error,” the spirit that we all inherited through Adam at the fall. The bible says that “Mr. Sin entered into the world and death came because of sin, therefore death passed upon all men, for all have sinned” (Rom. 5:12).

Interesting, the bible scholars say that the word “SIN” in Romans 5:12 is a noun, or a person. Why hello, Mr. Satan, you are really Mr. Sin, and you entered mankind through deceit. Even Ephesians 2:1-3 tells us that before we were saved we all had a spirit in us, namely, “the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience, the prince of the power of the air.”

WOW! WHO KNEW! I told you that this was hard to believe; however, the first century Christians didn’t have trouble believing it, they knew it to be fact. It is only us educated, sophisticated, prim and proper folks who can’t believe it. Ask, anyone in a third world country if they had Satan in them before they were saved? They would tell you. Yet, we in this culture are so wise in our own understanding, that we have become fools.

I’m not sure if anyone can really understand your union with Christ, if we can’t believe that first Satan lived in us (Eph. 2:1-3). Our humanity was grossly misused as Satan’s “slaves” before you were redeemed and enslaved by Christ, the Lover of your soul (Rom 6: 18-19).

So now where are we? Christ living His own everlasting life in me as if it were me. Hum! Christ AS ME! Well, that ought to get some hair raising reactions.

Not Christ and a big performing independent me, but Christ in union with me forming “Christ AS ME”. Wow! That is scary! Yes, it would be scary if I depended on me, but I’m trusting Christ to be the real me! Doesn’t Colossians 1:27 say it, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Yes, but “in you” isn’t as scary as “as you.” If you are reading “Christ in you” (Col. 1:27) from a separated consciousness, then there would be room for a performing ME. But, if you are reading “Christ in you” from a union consciousness, then you would see that it doesn’t mean Christ and a performing me, it means that there is no independent me at all, it is Christ in union with me, forming Christ as me.

Then what part does the human play? Good question. All created forms were created to contain and express the Creator. We human beings are God’s crowning creation with royal capacities such as choice or, free will. Free choice, but ironically when once the decision is made, then our will is mysteriously bound up to the thing that we have chosen (Rom. 6:16). So, we are free, but bound as soon as we choose. Once we decide to accept Christ, then Christ binds us up with Himself, and as the bible says, we are made “slaves of righteousness” (Rom. 6:18).

This seems like a contradiction or oxymoron, and I believe that it is and isn’t at the same time. Now, I bet your mind is totally twisted. Well, paradoxes often do seem like contradiction. Jesus often spoke in riddles like that to the Pharisees’, “Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man, and if I judge my judgment is true” (John 8:15-16). Which is it Jesus, do you judge or not? Really, He doesn’t judge, and He also does judge, so both are true and it is not a contraction at all.

Now back to our original point, is there free will? Yes, God created out of Himself free sons with the capacity to refuse and reject Him (Rom. 3:9-18) which of course we all did. Or, accept Him, as the redeemed have (John 1:12). So humanity’s one function is to simply receive and walk in, by faith, either Christ, or Satan.

The Apostle Paul was a union man, not western union, or electrical union, but union with Christ, union man. Paul's message was about being one with Christ. He says that you were one with Christ in His death, and in his burial (Rom. 6:4), he says that you were raised with Christ and now seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). Therefore, you are one with the Christ of history who is now the Lord of Lord's in a glorified universal sense, then the conclusion must be, as the bible says (I Cor. 6:17: Eph. 5:30), that He is one with you right now in your history. Living, being, walking, and speaking, in you as you.

Wait a minute, are you saying that we, Christians are Christ? No, no, we never become Him; He is uniquely the second person of the trinity. However, He unifies His self to us, and as it were becomes us, or should I say, expresses Himself as us. However, we never become Him. NEVER, NEVER! That would be taking His place which Satan tried to do at his fall (Isa. 14 & Ezek. 28). So, Christ joins Himself to us, and becomes what we are, expressing Himself as us... What a privilege to contain and express the Lord of Lord's, and King of King's... We the little king, He the preeminent King, we the little Lord, He the preeminent Lord. Isn't it great to be redeemed humanity!

This is too much to take in. Well then, the next question that must follow is, "How, and do we sin?" Yes, we can sin, but it is far less than we think. But let me answer that question with a question, who or what is the root of sin? Here we go again, "Mr. independent-self." If we think that we are not dead as the Apostle Paul declares in Col. 3:3, and we then think that we live our own life with our own understanding, and our own sufficiency's, then when the devil shouts at us as he waves the law in our face, we respond by saying, "I will try to do good, I will keep myself from sin, I will be like the most high God and not sin." We have just signed our death sentence. That kind of response comes from the false idea that we are independent-selves with our own abilities to keep ourselves. What a lie we all fall for. As soon as we say we won't do something, then sin has dominion over us. If we say, it is impossible for me to keep myself nor can I help God keep me, then I am free to recognize that I am

“dead to sin” (Rom. 6:2) as well as recognize that the Spirit is in control of my fleshly members. His keeping power in me is quite adequately sufficient for my keeping, thank you.

The bible says that “the power of sin is the law” (I Cor. 56:15). The outer law implies that we can respond to the law by our own flesh and should sufficiently be able to do it. What a catchy trick! That is impossible seeing that our flesh is powerless to perform godliness or holiness. But if we don’t know our human helplessness we fall for the trick in defeat every time. Christ did not come to do away with the outer law; He came to fulfill it inwardly in Himself. And now He has come to fulfill it inwardly in us as our law keeper. If we know that we are dead in Christ, then there is no self to respond to the outer law, and Christ fulfills it naturally and spontaneously as us.

Are we saying that we can’t sin? No, never, Christ could have sinned, he had to fulfill righteous perfectly without sin which he did. The bible wouldn’t say that He was without sin if it were impossible for him to sin. If it were possible for our elder brother Jesus to have sinned, but didn’t, then it is possible for us to sin too, but glory be, that also means that it is possible for us not to sin too. When we know and understand the no-independent-self truth, then we know that we live by the sinless One within (Christ) who fulfills all righteousness in us.

Does that mean that we can call all that we do or say Christ? Yes and no. Yes, it is Christ living as you, but be honest, if you slip and manifest sin, say so, and don’t call it Christ, that would be blasphemy. Instead, praise God for the cleansing blood, and get up and keep on believing.

Satan’s quest is to make us think that we are independent-beings apart from Christ. That is a lie, no, he is the deceived one who believes that lie, and his only quest is to try to make us believe it too. If we fall for his lie of independence and forget who we are joined to Christ, you better believe that you can sin. But thanks be to God, as we walk in the light, the blood cleanses

us from all sin (I John 1:7).

However, as I eluded before, we sin “far less then we think” we do. How can I say that when most think that we sin all the time? I believe that we Christians don’t know the difference between sin and temptation and therefore take all kinds of false guilt for temptation. Temptation says, “I want to do it,” while sin says, I will do it”. Even Jesus did not want to go to the Cross, and that wasn’t sin, was it? I decided not to call anything sin, except for the obvious of course, unless the Holy Spirit convicted me. That was pretty bold, but it got me off of confessing temptation as sin and freed me from false guilt.

Let us look at the Apostle Paul’s dilemma in Roman 7. First let us get one thing clear, too many people think that Paul wasn’t a Christian when he wrestled with his problem of coveting in Rom. 7. Although, he sounds like most of us Christian who don’t know who we really are, and don’t understand that there is no such thing as an independent-self. Paul has tormented because he thought that he could overcome sin, by trying hard to do good. But the more he tried the more he failed which left him in a worse state that ever before.

Paul was a saved Christian who struggle with trying to keep the outer law just like we Christians do. And the reason that I know that he was not unsaved, is because Paul writes his own personal bio in Philippians 3:1-9 and as you can see, he is talking about his unsaved days. This is what he proclaims in verse 5-6, “circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touch the righteousness which is in the law, **BLAMELESS**”. He confesses that he keep the law perfectly before he was a Christian, therefore this disproves any talk about Paul being unsaved and struggling with the law as in the Romans 7.

I like that, because I can identify with the great Apostle and I believe that he is identifying with me. We all struggle trying to be good and failing a lot of the

times. Now what was Paul's discovery in Romans 7? Why, here we go again, he discovered that trying to do good by self-effort only made him sin more, then at his breaking point the Holy Spirit revealed to him, that he was not even doing the sinning. It was another power doing the sinning (Rom. 7:17). He discovered that it was not flesh doing the sinning either. Then who was it? Oh my, I think the real culprit is being discovered. It was Satan, Mr. Independent-self who was deceiving him and making him believe that he needed to be strong enough to overcome his own temptations of lust.

So the real culprit was Satan, but there was even more discovery for Paul. He discovered that the human being was totally helpless to deliver itself (7:24); totally unable to help God deliver it; totally helpless to have enough will-power to change itself (7:18); and even totally helpless to have enough choosing power to choose his way out of this whirl wind dilemma. He discovered that the human is a neutral vessel and not the producer of good or evil (7:17-18). Christ, Mr. Righteousness produces the good that we do, (Gal. 2:20) and Mr. Sin produces the evil that we do, (Rom. 7:17&19). Therefore, the human vessel cannot produce anything of its own, but expresses the spirit that indwells it, or temporarily falsely takes possession of it, in the case of sin.

Did we get that? Or do you realize that there are not any problems that we might have as Christians that cannot be solved by the truth of No-Independent-Self? We are not independent like we think we are, and like the devil tell us. We are dependent beings joined to Christ, spirit to Spirit. He is our life, not a part of our life, NO; He IS our very essence and life.

Did you ever hear any other news that is so wonderful? If you still want to try it on your own, you can go ahead and try, but I promise you, you will not be free until you take a leap of faith and believe Jesus is your very life and the true you. Jesus so often identified Himself with His body, yet we find it so hard to identify ourselves as Him (Acts 9:4; Luke 10:16). It is hard because we still have independent separate thinking and somehow we judge ourselves in some

unworthy manner. Oh, how much our minds have fallen into satanic thinking and need to be renewed to the truth (Rom. 12:2). We have too long believed the lie, yet the truth seems a million miles away.

What truth? We are the bodily forms of Jesus, or Christ in bodily form (Eph. 1:22-23 & Col. 1:18). Yet most of us act as if we are a body operating separate from the head. No, no the truth is that we are members of His body of His flesh and of His bones” and “the two become one flesh” (Eph 5:30-31) or one person, so we are joined to Him as one being. He is the vine and we are the branch, but I like to say that we are the branch form of the vine. We have exchanged lives with Christ. He was made sin on our behalf, in order for us to be made His righteousness (II Cor. 5:21). We are joined to Christ, our spirit joined to His Spirit and we are one. Only Jesus is Creator and God, yet I, the created form, have inherited His very nature, and now we are joined together in a union relationship.

Christ overcomes my temptations, He resists the devil when He torments me, He is the glory in my sufferings, He is my peace when trials come, He is my victory when I feel defeated, He is my love, when I can't love. He is our wisdom (I Cor. 30); He is my keeper (Jude 1:24; 1 Peter 1:5); He is the bishop of my soul (1 Peter 2:25); He is my victory over the power of sin (Rom. 6:2;14); He is my victory over the torment of trying to keep the law (Rom. 8:2); He is my health; He is my faith, and faithfulness (Gal. 2:20b; Gal 5:22); He is my indwelling life, and nature (2 Peter 1:4); He is my true identity (Gal 2:20); and Christ is the real me, for it is not I that lives, but it is Christ that lives AS me (Gal. 2:20).

Now do you think that you will always feel like you have Christ living as you? Not at all! We have all of Him by faith, not always by feelings, and not always by appearances, but by an affirmation of faith that boldly declares, we have Him all, and as we drive our stake of faith, God makes it more real to us every day.

Since Christ is our all, then what about me, the human me, that is? The answer

is the same, we have never been independent-selves, we were joined to Satan in our unsaved days, and now through the cross we are joined to Christ, but never, ever been independent-selves. We humans are dependent derivative beings without our own life. If we falsely believe that we have our own life, we will think that we can respond to outer law, we will be defeated because it is impossible to try to live the Christian life. When we live by our own efforts “sin is present with us” (Rom. 7: 21), and failure is around the corner.

Will Satan ever stop lying to us about independent-self? No, that is his job. The more he attacks and tempts us the more we are pushed into faith, and the more we are pushed into faith, the more we are fixed in the truth, and when truth has done its perfect work then our believing dissolves into Spirit knowing or oneness (James 1:2-4). I Peter says in 4:10 that, “The God of all grace, who has called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered awhile, make you perfect, established, strengthened, settle you.”

Can we accept our humanity even though we don't always see the manifestation and outer evidence of Christ living His Life? Yes, as we put our total faith in “Christ, our life” (Col. 3:4) and stand there by faith, the Spirit will put to death any thing that is manifesting that is not Him (Rom. 8:13). Don't try to change your behavior! That is the Holy Spirit's job. Take it that Satan is out and has no rights to your fleshly members (Gal. 5:24) and fight the good fight of faith (2 Tim. 4:7). Seeing that our flesh is really an instrument of God's righteousness (Rom. 6:13).

Romans 8:1-4 tells it all, “There is therefore NOW no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

These last paragraphs are some quotes from a 16th century Englishman, William Law. Law speaks to all as a writer of almost unique force, penetration, and insight. This segment is taken from his well known treatise called, “An Address to the Clergy.”

“Now if without Him we can do nothing, then all the love that a man can possibly have for Christ must be from the power and life of Christ in him, and from such a love, so begotten, man has the Father and the Son dwelling and making Their abode in him. What higher proof or fuller certainty can there be that the whole work of redemption in the soul of man is and can be nothing else but the inward, continual, immediate operation of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rising up again their own first life in the soul, to which our first father died? “

However, “The root of a dark fire-life within us, which is of the nature of hell, with all its elements of selfishness, envy, pride, and wrath, must be in some sort discovered to us, and felt by us, before we can enough groan under the weight of our disorder. Repentance is but a kind of table-talk, till we see so much of the deformity of our inward nature as to be in some degree frightened and terrified at the sight of it. There must be some kind of earthquake within us something that must rend and shake us to the bottom before we can be enough sensible either of the state of death we are in or enough desirous of that Saviour, Who alone can raise us from it. A plausible form of an outward life, that has only learned rules and modes of religion by use and custom, often keeps the soul fro some time at ease, though all its inward root and ground of sin has never been shaken or molested, though it has never tasted the bitter waters of repentance and has only known the want of a Saviour by hearsay. But things cannot pass thus: sooner or later repentance must have a broken and a contrite heart; we must with our blessed Lord go over the

brook of Cedron, and with Him sweat great drops of sorrow before He can say for us, as He said for Himself: "It is finished."

Independent "Self is the root, the tree, and the branches of all the evils of our fallen state. We are without God, because we are in the life of self. Self-love, self-esteem, and self-seeking are the very essence and life of pride; and the devil, the first father of pride, is never absent from them nor without power in them. To die to these essential properties of self is to make the devil depart from us. But as soon as we would have self-abilities have a share in our good works, the satanic spirit of pride is in union with us, and we are working for the maintenance of self-love, self-esteem, and self-seeking.

All the vices of fallen angels and men have their birth and power in the pride of self, or I may better say, in the atheism and idolatry of self; for self is both atheist and idolater. It is atheist because it has rejected God; it is an idolater because it is its own idol. On the other hand, all the virtues of heavenly life are the virtues of humility. Not a joy, or glory, or praise in Heaven but is what is through humility. It is humility alone that makes the impassable gulf between Heaven and hell. No angels in Heaven but because humility is in all their breath; no devils in hell but because the fire of pride is their whole fire of life.

Pride and humility are the two master-powers, the two kingdoms in strife for the eternal possession of man....Satan, which is the same thing as self-exaltation, became the strong man that kept possession of the house till a stronger than he should come upon him. This is the full-born natural self that must be pulled out of the heart and totally denied, or there can be no disciple of Christ; which only says this plain truth, the apostate, self-idolatrous nature of the old man must be put off, or there can be no new creature in Christ."

“What is it that above all other things strengthen and exalts the life of (independent) self and makes it the master and governor of all the powers of the heart and soul? It is the fancied riches: the glitter of genius, and flights of imagination, the glory of learning, and the self conceited strength of natural reason. These are the strong holds of fallen nature, the master of pride’s temple in the heart of man, and which as so many priests, keep up the daily worship of idol-self....”

“Wherever pride is, there the devil is riding in his first fiery chariot; and wherever wrath is, there he has his first murdering sword at work. What is it the fallen wants to be redeemed from, but pride and wrath, envy and covetousness?” “These tempers constitute that, which whether you call it self or Satan in him, the meaning is the same. Now, suppose man not fallen into this self-Satan, and then there could be no more war or fighting in him that there was in the “Word made man”, in our flesh. Or, suppose him redeemed from his fallen nature by a new birth of the Lamb of God born in his soul.

Love, goodness, and communication of good are the immutable glories and perfections of the divine nature, and nothing can have union with God but which partakes of this goodness. The Love that brought forth the existence of all things changes not through the fall of its creatures, but is continually at work to bring back all fallen nature and creature to their first state of goodness. All that passes for a time between God and His fallen creature is but one and the same thing, working for one and the same end; and though His is called wrath, it is all, from the beginning to the end nothing but the work of the first creating love, and means nothing else, does nothing else but those works of purifying fire which must and alone can burn away all that dark evil which separates the creature from its first created union with God. God’s Providence, from the Fall to the

restitution of all things, is doing the same thing as when He said to the dark chaos of fallen nature, "Let there be light;" He still says and will continue saying the same thing, till there is no evil of darkness left in all that is nature and creature. God creating, God illuminating, God sanctifying, God threatening and punishing, God forgiving and redeeming, is but one and the same essential, immutable, never-ceasing working of the "divine nature"...

Trust the Wisdom of the Father, trust the redeeming work of the Son, and trust the sanctifying and glorifying work of the Holy Spirit! AMEN!

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Q & A

Q: Dear Sylvia,

Why did God make man?

A: Dear Dutch,

God didn't just think of us in a nanosecond and flashed us into being. He created man because like us he wanted to reproduce himself. God is a family man. He wanted a vast number of sons just like himself. God is nothing but love, but just think of it, if he didn't create us, who would he love. He himself is a trinity just because of that fact. The Father loves the Son who loves the Holy Spirit. Each loving each other and giving each other the honor and praise. But the triune God is a universal Spirit, which needs created forms just like Himself to express his love nature through. God can't be his unconditional love through nature or even the animal world. Spirit needs an image to live in and express His personhood through. Did you ever think of that? God actually needs you. He can't be known in his universe except by objectifying himself through you and through me.

But why did God create man? Man is God's top creation made in his very own image. Now what you see now is not his image. For what you see now is fallen mortal flesh, which is just that, temporal. He created us to be immortal eternal beings, created to be just like him. Scott has a son, Danny. Danny can never become Scott, but in a since Scott can become Danny because Danny is made in Scott's image, from his seed. In Christ, we are like that. We never become God, but through Christ, God becomes us.

Now God knew that the fall would steal away that first image and form in us a satanic nature. This we know because "Jesus was slain before the foundations of the world." But why did God create man if he knew that he would fall? It has to do with consciousness or what we know as fact and what we operate from. Adam and Eve had an embryonic consciousness. They were hardly conscious of anything. Just like little babies. Without opposites no one is conscious. God had to exercise their royal capacity, choice. Choice means that what we choose, we unite with and operate from. That is the purpose of two trees. One representing Christ, (The Tree of Life.) And the other representing Satan (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil). Both were tree's of knowledge or consciousness. God knew that the only way for his kids to have a maturely operating consciousness was for them to of eat of the tree of the knowledge of a striving self, and be stolen away by Satan. Then in the fullness of time when we were conditioned enough by the consequences of our striving-self-life and sin, we, by grace, would come to him for the fullness of the restoration and regeneration that is in Christ. Then being conformed by the Cross to be transformed into His immortal new creations and then finally to be put back into Adam's first glorious image.

Now, with the experiential wisdom of God's opposite, and (Satan) branded into our conscious by the fall, we would never choose our own way again, but willingly for eternity surrender as a love slave to Him, becoming his safe son. But full of the knowledge of what it means to be a wrong son of wrath, and willingly replacing it for the knowledge of what it means to be a right son of mercy. Then we are safe to run his universe. What does that mean? I don't know, I John says, that "Now are we the sons of God, but it does not yet appear what we shall be." I don't know, but so far it has been exciting, so I promise you, you won't be sitting on a cloud with a harp.

Does that answer your question? Or maybe begin to.

Let me know.

LOVE

SYLVIA

Q....Towards the end of your book that I read, "The Treasures of Darkness", you share the story of your mother and how she said when she got cancer that it's not the devil that gave her the cancer, but God gave her the cancer. I think that statement has been haunting me. Not in a bad way, it's just that I don't understand that concept yet. With all the healing that Jesus did on the earth, it seems to be sort of double-minded to believe that God heals people but He also makes people sick??

A.... Thank you for your honest concern with what I believe is misunderstood. It may sound like I meant that God gave her the cancer, but I don't mean that. I was just quoting her statement. The way I see it, is all disease is due to the fall of man and not directly God given, although, God uses everything the devil does and brings life out of it for other. The Bible talks like my mother did in Isa.53, It says that Jesus was "smitten of God." And in Act 4:25-28 Peter proclaims that it was God who anointed Herod, Pilate and the rest to do "what God's counsel determined to be done." And finally Jesus said, "The Father's cup," shall I not drink it? He didn't say the devil's cup although, it was the devil who put Jesus on the cross, but not apart from the Father's sovereign will. So, the devil can do nothing unless directed by the Lord himself. The book of Job brings that out—"God says to Job, "Have you considered my servant Job?" Satan didn't think of it, God drew his attention to Job.

Katarina, lots to think about, and I will be glad to answer any other questions.

Thank you for e-mailing me.

Yours in Christ,

Sylvia

PS We see through evil to God's eternal purposes behind it. Whenever we look at it, and we do for awhile, it kills, however, faith sees through evil to God.

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Web News

The **May 09 Conference** is finally out for viewing, check it out on www.spiritbroadcasting.net

If you are a number person, here it goes: we have had 36,000 people viewing us since we've started hosting our video's on <http://cross.tv>

New Series on Spirit Broadcasting www.spiritbroadcasting.net

Christ our Life Scriptural Basis is a 37 program series in which I have been compelled by the Spirit for some time, to do. Most of the commentary has been written by me, with some special quotes by Norman Grubb. Drink deep with the Spirit, and be further filled with Spirit understanding.

If you would ever like to have a Bible study in your home, but feel inadequate to be the teacher. This series is for you. These programs are 30 minutes apiece in which your guest can view, along with a written commentary provided for each program. Your inadequacy will soon prove to be the negative by which the Spirit's uses to prove to you that He will use you to proclaim these precious truths to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Someone once said to me, "If the church gets a hold of this, we could change the world." I believe that is true. So come join me and discover what my technician, Dave Moss thinks is the most complete comprehensive series ever. He said it put the whole picture together for him.

We will pray that you will be blessed, and set free from any shadowy places not yet light by the Spirit of God.

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TV & Radio

Would you like **radio in your area?** Please contact Margaret Lester at marlester@comcast.net for more information.

Here are the new AM radio stations as well as the other ones we are on 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 5:30-6:00PM Central Time (2230-2300 UTC on 5.070 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.

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Video's and Audio

Bill Bower's Union message given at his church in Pasadena, Ca.---it's audio

<http://www.gatheringplace.us/messages.php>

Brian Coatney's video's

[# 1](#)

[# 2](#)

Norman Grubb's video Independent-Self

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[#2](#)

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Norman Grubb's No-

(Audio)

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