

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

Foundational Concepts

Core Group Training

(Part 3)

IV. THE ETERNAL & ABUNDANT BLESSINGS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD & SAVIOR

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 For as many as are the **PROMISES OF GOD**, in Him (*i.e.*: “*in Christ*”) they are **YES**; therefore also through **CHRIST** is our **Amen** to the **glory of God through us**. (also see John 10:10)

EPHESIANS 3:13-21 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. (14) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, (15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, (16) that He would grant you, **according to the riches of His glory**, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your **hearts through faith**; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the **breadth and length and height and depth**, (19) and to **know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge**, that you may be **filled up to all the fullness of God**. (20) **NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY BEYOND ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKS WITHIN US**, (21) to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, that person is a **NEW CREATION**; all the old things have passed away; behold, [**ONLY**] **New Things** have come.

JOHN 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who HEARS My word, AND BELIEVES Him who sent Me, HAS Eternal Life**, and will **NEVER, no ... NEVER** come into judgment, but **HAS PASSED** out of death into **LIFE**.” [*(Jesus said this)*]

EPHESIANS 2:8-10 For by **GRACE** you have been **SAVED** through **FAITH**; and that (“*that salvation is..*”) not of yourselves, it is the (**FREE**) **GIFT** of God; (9) **NOT** as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are His **WORKMANSHIP**, **created** in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would **WALK** in them. (**GRACE** = “un-earnable favor” → cannot earn this “gift” ... one can **ONLY** receive it...)

ROMANS 3:19-26 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become **ACCOUNTABLE** to God; (20) because **by the works of the Law NO flesh will be JUSTIFIED** in His sight; for **through the Law comes the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN**. (21) But now apart from the Law, the righteousness of God has been manifested (**revealed**), being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets (*i.e.*: *The Whole Old Testament Scriptures*), (22) even the righteousness of God **THROUGH FAITH** in Jesus Christ for all those **who believe**; for there is **NO** distinction; (23) for **ALL** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) being **justified as a (FREE) gift by His GRACE** through the **REDEMPTION** which is in Christ Jesus; (25) whom God **displayed PUBLICLY** as a **PROPITIATION** (*i.e.*: *atonement sacrifice for God’s Holy Wrath*) in **HIS BLOOD THROUGH FAITH**. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; (26) for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, **SO THAT HE WOULD BE JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER OF THE ONE WHO HAS FAITH IN JESUS**.

ROMANS 8:31-39 What then shall we say to these things? **IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO IS AGAINST US?** (32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him **FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?** (33) Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? **God is the one who justifies**; (34) who is the one who condemns? **Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us**. (35) **WHO WILL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST?** Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) Just as it is written, “**FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED**.” (37) **BUT IN ALL THESE THINGS WE OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US**. (38) **FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, (39) NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD**.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 I can **DO** all things through **CHRIST** who strengthens me.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7 For God has **NOT** given us a **spirit of fear**, but of **POWER** and of **LOVE** and of a **SOUND MIND**.

1 JOHN 4:4 You are from God, little children, and **HAVE OVERCOME THEM**; because **GREATER IS HE WHO IS IN YOU THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD**.

V. OUR MESSIAH'S DEMANDS ON HIS DISCIPLES (HIS HIGH CALLING OF US):

Although we have Great Promises FREELY Given to us... to us who are actually Born-Again, Disciples of Jesus Christ... such as → Eternal LIFE, Abundant LIFE, Justification (as if we never sinned), Christ's Righteousness Imputed to our Account, Forgiveness of all of our Sin and Sins (past, present, and future)... fully paid for, etc. We have also been BOUGHT with a PRICE, the Precious and HOLY Blood of our Messiah... we are fully OWNED by HIM as well... therefore He has every right to DEMAND of US what He wants. Just as SIN, Selfishness, the WORLD, the FLESH and the DEVIL all had DEMANDS on US when we were OUTSIDE of CHRIST, before we were saved. Before we were Born-Again, we were SLAVES of SIN, the WORLD, the FLESH (our old sinful nature), and of the DEVIL (Satan and his demonic hosts... their belief systems, morals, their way of life, their ways of thinking, their attitudes, etc...). But now that we are in CHRIST, we have switched kingdoms, allegiances and alliances, and are now under the KINGLY RULE of KING JESUS CHRIST (Yahshua h'Mashiach) our Jewish/Israeli Messiah, God's Messiah, the LORD, KING, GOD, and Savior of our lives. He is now our New Master, He is the HEAD of our LIVES and the ONE we must Obey, Follow, Learn from, Serve, Know, Love, and LIVE FOR... forever and ever (see Romans 6 for more details). We are to NO longer live for ourselves... BUT for Him, His Word, and His Mission. We cannot separate "Saving Faith", that kind of Faith/Truth we must exercise in our Savior and LORD for our Salvation & Eternal LIFE, forgiveness of sins, etc... from this kind of surrender and trust in Christ that HE demands of His Disciples / His Followers. So, let's look the following:

MARK 8:34-38 And JESUS summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he **MUST DENY HIMSELF**, and **TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME**. (35) For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but **WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE AND THE GOSPEL'S** will save it. (36) For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? (37) "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (38) For **WHOEVER IS ASHAMED OF ME AND MY WORDS** in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be **ashamed** of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (so Jesus tied full surrender to Him ... to The Mission of the Spread of the Gospel... and to God's Word) (also see parallel passages in Matthew 16:24-28 & Luke 9:23-26 → Luke adds "daily" for denying ourselves and carrying OUR own cross... it is a "daily" exercise of surrender and trust in Him)

LUKE 14:26-33 (*Jesus said...*) ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not **HATE** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, **YES, EVEN HIS OWN LIFE ALSO**, he **CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE**. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me **CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE**. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has **CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE**.

(Jesus **DEMANDS ABSOLUTE, COMPLETE, AND FULL SURRENDER**, devotion, dedication, submission, commitment, to the point that any other kind of "love" we may have toward others, our own life, and things... pale in comparison... and even the "things we own", must be fully surrendered to Him ... so that He is the real owner, and we are just humble servants, humble stewards of His possessions (our time usage, our talents/skills/giftedness, our treasures, our hobbies, our interests... all surrendered to Him for His usage and glory))

ROMANS 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies **A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE**, acceptable to God, which is your (*normal*) **spiritual service of worship**. (2) And **DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, SO THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT**.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **KEEP SEEKING THE THINGS ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS, SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD**. (2) **Set your mind on the things above, NOT on the things that are on earth**. (3) **BECAUSE** you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, **WHO IS OUR LIFE**, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

(→ we are no longer to be seeking the "things" of this world (fame, fortune, a "NAME for ourselves", comfort, security, approval of others and from others, to "fit in", finding our identity in what we do or have or in our hobbies and/or interests, etc... but we are to be fully seeking Godly "things" in Christ... because CHRIST IS OUR LIFE... HE is the REASON we are LIVING... and HE is the Reason for our LIFE... HE is who we are to be LIVING For...)

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15 For the **LOVE OF CHRIST CONTROLS** us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore **ALL DIED**; (15) and He died for all, **SO THAT THEY WHO LIVE MIGHT NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR HIM WHO DIED AND ROSE AGAIN ON THEIR BEHALF**.

EPHESIANS 5:15-17 Therefore be **careful** how you walk, not as unwise men but as **wise**, (16) making the **most of your time**, because the days are evil. (17) So then **do not be foolish**, but understand what the **will** of the LORD is.

COLOSSIANS 4:5 Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

For more on our humble, servant-hearted obedience toward Christ: Read Luke 17:5-10 & 22:25-27