

## Mission of ONE

*Unleashing the Power of God in the Twenty-first Century*

### CHAPTER 6 – On the Creation of Righteousness

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.  
(John 3:6)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

Creation is a two step process: design and construction. In biblical terminology, God speaks the form/frame/structure and the Spirit fills/applies it to create a body. That which was formless is given structure, and that which was empty or void becomes filled or solid. The Genesis 1 description of the earth's creation follows this pattern, and the creation of the Mystical Body of Messiah God follows the same creation process flow - one body cell, spiritual temple rock or person at a time.

To understand the history and purpose of God's mission more clearly, one must remember that people witness the process of creating of the Body – Temple – Kingdom of God from the changing material perspectives of time and place on a physical earth. Though initiated by the ONE Creator who dwells in the perfect eternity of the Third Heaven, the body begins as moldable, changeable material like the potter's clay. Through a process of temporal trial and error as modified by faith and divine operation, the mystical Body takes a flawless, permanent shape within the spiritual realm of eternity impervious to the distortions of corruption. Most of this process interactively takes place in parallel dimensions - "concurrently" in temporal terms: what happens on earth affects what is formed in heaven. Of course, the reverse is also true: the temporal physical reality mirrors the eternal metaphysical reality.

Humans are unable to directly access information from the metaphysical realm by design, so we do not naturally perceive the whole picture. We require spiritual mediation or data input from the realm of eternity, and the problem has always been what sources of information can one trust. Without external proof discussion, the Bible is the ONE dependable source and transfer vehicle of metaphysical realm information through spiritual revelation. The reader can find many books discussing external proofs for the Bible as God's Word. This book presents unshakable internal ones that none can prove through personal application in real time living.

Furthermore, time and mortality distort the picture of what is going on. Apparent inconsistencies in the biblical narrative confuse clear philosophical or theological grasp of God's purpose because the continuous nature of this process occurs in disconnected dimensions. Even the language I must use to attempt an explaining clarification manifests its material and conceptual limitations. My hope is that a righteous spiritual reality will be formed within the decision-driven, creative personness of your mind and body out of the various pieces of the big picture – the physical analogies, word pictures and chains of reasoned thoughts and observations presented in these pages.

One of the foundational truths of human history is that power corrupts. People seek power to control their lives and satisfy their lusts. Control of life means the preservation of self, of one's identity and temporal existence on earth. It may include misconceived notions of eternal life, too. Humans are driven to seek power to live as they want to without answering to anything, anyone or any god. We will do almost anything, say almost anything and will almost anything in order to get control of, to get the power to make our lives the way we want them to be. Sometimes this grab for power is disguised in altruistic motives. Sometimes it is disguised to conform to socioculturally acceptable motives. Sometimes it is a worship of power for power's sake.

The only way to get close to the power of God is to give up the powers of this age – both spiritual

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and physical. I know from personal experience that even comprehending this statement is difficult. I have paid a high price to learn it. Perhaps you will need to do so, too. I hope not. Genuinely I would wish that my hard learned lessons might save you some pain, grief, disappointment and generally bitter, bitter sorrow, hopelessness and from the consuming desire to become nothing. God, for reasons of His own defined as love, would have it otherwise, and I share that with you now, but my words are useless unless you ask your Creator for help in understanding His ways.

### **Purposed Permission of Evil**

God created the materially temporal universe, our earth and all that is in it, including humans, so that evil could readily originate, exist and thrive under controllable circumstances. Apparently, righteousness may only be created from evil. People must commit, experience and reject evil in order to freely choose God's righteousness as an integral characteristic of eternal love. Love defined and/or expressed in any other way other than how God lives does not last. It never has and never will - not in this world or the next.

What is righteousness? It is God's nature or His way of thinking and doing anything - everything. Righteousness is the Creator's definition of love - the essential requirement for a joyful and productive eternity. God inhabits eternity, and He is the only ONE who knows how to live it. Any other way is hellishly unpleasant, destructive and rebellious. God defines goodness, and anything deviant from His goodness is sinful evil. How righteousness is expressed may vary a bit according to the medium of expression. The spiritual quality is constant but the behavioral expression may vary by position in time and sociocultural context on earth.

Righteousness does not naturally exist or arise in people. It is not built into the human condition: we must choose it in spite of ourselves. Within broad parameters, a righteous act of kindness might look a feel a little differently in different cultures or during a different point in human history. For instance, stealing is stealing, but what is defined as stealing in one society may not be so in another. However, God considers some legal forms of stealing as oppression that He will judge harshly.

An absolute standard or definition of righteousness exists in heaven, but on earth the divine expectations for humans has been a bit of a moving target through history and cultural context. A measure of variety exists in the human history of what God would accept as righteous behavior due to the operation of the creative process in both the metaphysical and physical realms. God revealed His definition of righteousness and the purpose for it through the covenant promises made with the Israelite patriarchs and prophets. Recorded in the Bible, God's covenants include behavior and attitude expectations, blessings and punishments, legal obligations and the way to achieve them. The covenants define the divine design. Their purpose is to birth a growing family kingdom of like-minded, like spirited, righteous immortal beings incapable of evil. The by product of this creative system will be the elimination of evil from earth and the physical universe.

Evil first arose in the metaphysical dimension with the rebellion of Satan and his angels. Their rebellion was permitted, and evil's continued practice on earth allowed in order to fulfill God's purpose. Humans were created in the temporally spiritual image and fleshly likeness of God so that they could learn from mistakes, from evil. Any consequences of their evil deeds and thoughts would be limited in scope of impact and time. Being mortal flesh, people can change their minds and undergo a new cycle of creative renewal expressed in the natural realm of the universe. A person can decide to choose good over evil, God's way of living and loving instead of one's own.

Through the covenant promises, God provided the mediating mechanism to enable something that humans are incapable of effecting on their own spiritual willpower or creative ability: an effective transformation towards the just goodness of righteousness. God's plan calls for transformed humans called saints to share His very nature of love, immortality, peace, joy, justice and omnipotence. Obviously, God cannot risk granting omnipotence to a potential doer or thinker of

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evil. His experience with the angels in the metaphysical realm led to the creation of people in the material realm where evil could be experienced and rejected.

With humans, identities can be co-created through a dynamic learning process and a change in power sourcing. Angels were manufactured beings designed to perform functional attributes of intelligent, self-directed task oriented behavior. Functionally determined identities become irreparably destroyed when the servomechanism no longer behaves according to its programmed design. Broken angels are worthless to God except to inflict evil upon humans so that people learn not to like any deviation from the Godly nature of love called righteousness. Angels can be shut down because they rely on an external power source. Sons of God by the resurrection cannot be shut down because they have become power sources; in Jesus' terminology, "From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

### What are Angels and Demons?

Angels are the created sons of God. They are called "sons" because God is their source, which is a father in the philosophical sense of things. The Creator made them to be messengers, intelligent servants to do His bidding, which includes looking out for the faithful disciples on earth. Unlike humans, God did not make them after His likeness and in His image, and while humans are formed from material dirt, angels were made from metaphysical substance. Angels were made with freedom of choice but not with the ability to innovate or create imaginative realities; therefore, angels could choose to rebel but nor repent or turn away from their rebellion. Once their circuits are shorted, they cannot be repaired.

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, who set its measurements? Since you know.

Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7)

He makes the winds His messengers, flaming fire His ministers. (Psalms 104:4)

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

For to which of the angels did He ever say,

"YOU ARE MY SON,  
TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"?

And again,

"I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM  
AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says,

"AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

And of the angels He says,

"WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS,

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AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." (Hebrews 1:1-7)

But to which of the angels has He ever said,  
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,  
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES  
A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrew 1:13-14)

Angels are powerful metaphysical creatures of extremely intelligent behavior or works and not of creative imagination and faith. Remember, the heavenly or metaphysical realm exists in parallel to the earthly or physical. Just as we do not perceive radio or cell phone waves, humans do not directly perceive the angelic realm unless permitted or enabled to do so through angelic mediation. Angels define who they are by their behavior. Each fallen angel or demon is characterized by a particular set of strengths and weaknesses, concentrations of life force power and expressions of evil. The force patterns of their sins or rebellious behaviors vibrate or manifest in their names. The following section of Ezekiel describes Lucifer at his creation, his fall and expulsion from God's throne (mountain) and ultimate fate of confinement to an abyss and eventual destruction:

Thus says the Lord GOD,

"You had the seal of perfection,  
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

"You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
Every precious stone was your covering:  
The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;  
The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;  
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;  
And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets,  
Was in you.  
On the day that you were created  
They were prepared.

"You were the anointed cherub who covers,  
And I placed you there  
You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

"You were blameless in your ways  
From the day you were created  
Until unrighteousness was found in you.

"By the abundance of your trade  
You were internally filled with violence,  
And you sinned;  
Therefore I have cast you as profane  
From the mountain of God.

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And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub,  
From the midst of the stones of fire.

"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;  
You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor  
I cast you to the ground;  
I put you before kings,  
That they may see you.

"By the multitude of your iniquities,  
In the unrighteousness of your trade  
You profaned your sanctuaries.  
Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you;  
It has consumed you,  
And I have turned you to ashes on the earth  
In the eyes of all who see you.

"All who know you among the peoples  
Are appalled at you;  
You have become terrified  
And you will cease to be forever." (Ezekiel 28:12-19)

In the destruction of Satan and his demons, the metaphysical realm is cleansed of evil. Because human beings are mortal, our evil dies with us in this life. The evil deeds and thoughts and consequences of men and women do not affect the heavenly realm. Humanity in rebellion may succeed in destroying the earth, or perhaps damage the natural universe a bit, but it will all pass away with the end of time. During the Last Judgment, all those who were not born again by the Holy Spirit are resurrected to a short mortal existence for evaluation and sentencing. Those who have not learned to accept God's definition of love will be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20) Those who do are bodily transformed so that they may live forever in a new heaven and new earth constructed of metaphysical substance that will never choose to do or know evil. (Revelation 21)

## ONE World: Two Spirits

God spoke: the Spirit made it so. How did God speak? What did God speak? What Spirit created?

I do not know directly: we only have some brief labels of what was spoken. When God said what the Bible records as "Let there be light," I believe that all of the physical and metaphysical properties and laws of light were included in what God spoke because He had the whole creation in design form before the Spirit began the work of fulfilling the design with the physical universe by filling the void of the form or mold or by laying the flesh on the bones. When God spoke, His omnipotence obeyed across the entirety of all that there is at once including the metaphysical and physical realms or dimensions of the universe known philosophically as ultimate reality and temporal reality.

In God, the Word is at once both blueprint and structure, description and law, thought and action. God is totally congruent with no disconnections, inconsistencies, flaws or lies. Until some of the angels rebelled following Lucifer the Light Bringer turned Satan the Adversary, only the best was found anywhere, everywhere. As more completely discussed in **digital spirituality**, Satan short-circuited the sustaining power flow into the material creation or physical universe including earth. I

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can only speculate that it has something to do with the power transference from God's throne through the metaphysical realm populated by both good and evil angels, to the material reality of space-time on earth.

Because the Holy Spirit materially filled the void of God's design form physically expressed, God's creation of the earth with its temporal life forms was "very good." Until Adam and Eve's sin, there was no sin, evil or death. Note the properties of the Holy Spirit's creation work:

1. Created out of nothing in stages
2. Perfectly fulfilled God's design and purpose
3. Expressed or fashioned in the medium of physical matter, energy, space, time and laws
4. Judged "very good" by the Ruler
5. Provided a balanced environment of plants, myriads of living creatures and humans

While the Holy Spirit continues to interrupt and override the natural order material affairs as necessary to fulfill God's purpose and promises, another spirit, the breath of life or life force, sustains the physical universe. Here are some of its properties:

1. Re-creates or sustains existing matter and energy systems through biological, chemical, physical exchange and transformation cycles of life, restructure, renewal where nothing is added or lost, simply changed in form, composition, appearance or other material properties
2. Flawed fulfillment of God's purpose to sustain a living universe
3. A material spirit: operation limited to the physical universe and its border with the metaphysical; maximum impact limited to characteristics of temporal biological life
4. By nature a balanced mixture of light and darkness, positive and negative charges, right and left, on and off, good and evil, life and death
5. Cannot prevent the degradation, decline and destruction of the natural environment as a consequence of human sin and/or demonic depredation or dissipation of system energies

The above observations flow from a structured pattern of revealed spiritual properties with built-in expectations. Through the Holy Spirit, God establishes-creates perfect reality structures out of and parts of the material universe, including human societies. In accordance with the Second Law of Thermodynamics, all runs down under the sustaining operation of the life force. While individual physiochemical-nuclear equations evidence no measurable (at this time) net loss of matter or energy, the universe as a whole is slowing down as evidenced by the drop in the speed of light.

Time is itself malleable and relative, so that there are no ultimate reality absolutes in the physical universe. Within the bounds of any specific locus in space-time functionally operational constants abound providing the basis for scientific theory and independently repeatable and verifiable experimentation as a method of research. A possible spiritual explanation for the material universe's life force leak is the set of operational energy demands made on the system by Satan's hidden Kingdom of Demon-invested Darkness.

In other words, if God did not intervene to add power to the physical universe it would self-destruct due to the devil's dependency on external power sources. By design, angels are messengers, agents of effecting God's will through the exercise of His power. They are like intelligent lenses of focused purpose. As a twisted transfer agents, fallen angels are cut off from direct access to God and the power of the Holy Spirit, so they must steal, tap into the universes systemic power systems. They seek to steal the highest levels of energy, which is the life force that provides the medium for material spirituality and biological life. As a last resort or in order to perform "miracles" of what appear to be temporary suspensions of natural law, I think that demons can also tap into and/or influence-increase electromagnetic energy fields.

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When the omnipotent Holy Spirit is present and operational, the breath of life force resonates with God's purpose and good things happen: Godly miracles, healing (biological or spiritual) of people or anything in nature, art and inspiration and groups of people will experience positive social cohesion. Positive social cohesion exhibits the physical expression of spiritual principles through constructive behavioral patterns of life-oriented actions and positive emotions. Throughout the course of human history, God's Spirit created new social organizations or entities and inspired individuals and nations to conform to God's ways or purposes for a measure of time. Any student of human experience notes the pattern of a person's, society's or civilization's cyclical ebbs and flows, rises and declines.

Whenever the Holy Spirit is particularly active and present in a person's or nation's life, a new spiritual high point is evident, usually soon made the more obvious by a quick return to human nature's more typical behavior of rebellious self-gratification and consuming ruin. This phenomenon has been experienced in almost every person's life to one modest degree or another. One of the more famous sections of Scripture in this regard concerns Moses and the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. The Bible records a heavy concentration of divine miraculous interventions followed by incomprehensible human revolt, disobedience and rejection of God's desires, commands and chosen human servants.

The temporary interjections or activities of the Holy Spirit in human affairs is often described as, "God's Spirit" was "with" him or her, such as with King Saul. Once the person rejected God's purposes or disobeyed a clear command, the "Spirit left him." Typically, this kind of human relationship with God was based on a perceived immediate need and/or desired reward or benefit that opened the door for God to work through the external material agency of human behavior instead of through the metaphysical behavioral agency such as angelic delivery of messages, blessings, miraculous interventions and judgments.

External behavioral partnership of God with a person or a group of persons was always conditional, as in physical blessings and cursing as direct and indirect consequential rewards for human deeds according to the measure of goodness or evil in those works of fleshly will, motive and action. In contrast, internally structured relationships between humans and the Holy Spirit are always unconditional and eternal due to the essential nature of the spiritual transformation process often referred to as a new birth. In these cases, the Bible never describes the Holy Spirit as "departing" or "taken away." Rather the internal indwelling of God's Spirit engages metrics of personal surrender and spiritual transformation, which are discussed in greater detail in the next chapter.

### **ONE Covenant Blueprint Expressed in Two Fulfillments**

Genesis covenant quotes

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done – on earth as it is in heaven.

There is only ONE God, and there is only ONE master covenant. The master, all-inclusive covenant between God and all of the families of humanity is with Abraham, the Father of the Faithful. He is the first mediator, his birthright descendants – Israel and Israel's eternal king Yeshua/Jesus are the mediators of this covenant. God's heavenly promises and purposes expressed to Abraham, his descendants, Israel and to those who follow Jesus are immutable, sure and eternal, though they are manifested differently in the physical and metaphysical realms of reality. Ultimate reality ignores time: it transcends and supersedes it. A promise or proclamation made in heaven is binding on heaven and earth, but what humans might binding earth is limited to the passing temporal reality of time and place on earth. A contract on earth is only as good as its enforceability. As the old saying goes, "You can't get blood out of a turnip."

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A covenant is a contract. The God of Israel is the Creator and only God who has made a binding covenant with humanity that rests on His own performance. Secondary aspects of the covenant, the covenant within the covenant, do depend on human performance in regards to benefits or consequences on earth during the ages of peoples' material existence on earth. Therefore, I begin with the ONE covenant set of promises made to Abraham and explore its many dimensions of fulfillment.

Chosen Abraham believes, Isaac submits, Jacob chooses the promises, Joseph surrenders to serve, and the twelve tribes biologically multiply.

### **Covenant Terms – the Promises and Conditions**

Human beings cannot create heavenly covenants binding God or any spirit being. We can only acknowledge participation of existing covenants. Rituals on earth do not bind God to people but people to God teaching people what to expect from God, and exercise in faith. Conditional promises and unconditional promises relate to who is the actor, the mover the enabler of the covenant: God is always unconditional, human conditional as to whether want the temporal/eternal blessings or not

### **Covenant Law – Blessing and Cursing**

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Only the degree of penalty is affected by ignorance. Paul in Romans, "even the nations when they do the law in ignorance are blessed, disobey are cursed.

Learning vehicle that permits a measure of foolishness rebellion or ignorant experience within the limits to material reality, time space and matter.

### **Spirits – the Forces of Formation**

Natural law/spirit works – physical laws of energy and matter ecology, genetics

Heavenly law/spirit works – metaphysical realities impacted, created that show up on earth

Human manipulation – intervention potential within the temporal realm is how humans are in God's image as creators/decision makers/innovators/artists difference between humans and animals, God and angels within their respective realms.

Wu wei, go with the flow – conform to use, bend work with these forces do not oppose or cursed – environment or eternal life.

Concepts of Fate arose due to ignorance of God's will and laws, seemed capricious, unknowable, but cannot be changed or defeated, influenced to a small degree but not thwarted.

Key reason for spiritual mediation, Jesus as a Mediator in heaven who can today change realities, fates, states of being in heaven that can impact what happens on earth.

### **Nations/Kingdoms/Churches – the Social Body Forms Created**

Human acknowledgment, recognition, public enrollment in divine covenants. Humble personal search for blessings – love, and social recognition, too. A form of education that impacts moral dynamics, psychosocial interactions. Community participation/support in the decision made by individuals.

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### **ONE Mediator: Two Realms of Reality Joined in ONE Body**

Importance of Jesus as heaven on earth, only Mediator that could change matters in heaven from what he said and did on earth. Importance in the divine dimension of fully God (aspect of His Identity from birth in the flesh) and fully human.

### **ONE Covenant – ONE Body**

### **ONE Savior: Son of Man & Son of God**

### **Mortal Death: the Mediating Event for Mankind & Messiah**

### **The New Covenant**

He who believes in Him (the Son) is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

The spiritual Body of Christ is created by the birthing presence of the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit. God as the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the flesh of those who repent in faith. Born of the Holy Spirit, Yeshua is Savior/Salvation, the eternal name of the Son, who came in and bearing the name of His Father. With His arrival, each believer becomes a living stone of a spiritual temple, a single unit member of the Body.

The indwelling of the Spirit of God with the spirit of man results in a duality of identity-nature within one bodily being. Saul/Paul described this phenomenon as the introduction of the new man of Messiah/Christ whose arrival makes "old" the spirit of man identity acquired in birth - the only "I", ego, identity, most experience prior to conversion. Because the Sinai Covenant with Israel is external and pertaining to the old man, it also becomes old. It must be so by definition and by reality in its deathly condemnation of the sinful old, or natural man who is by nature hostile and

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unlike God.

But God's covenant promise also becomes new because of its organic fulfillment in the birth of the new man. This New Covenant, which expresses God's nature of pure love and total goodness, conforms the willing of mankind to Himself in unity. It is actualized and present through the indwelling Spirit, who is the LORD and yet is now also the new identity ("man") of the believer.

...I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah...I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD, ' for they shall all know Me...for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. (Jeremiah 31:31,33-34)

With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the perfection of God comes to dwell in man as the living fulfillment of the Promise. He is the one and same God who created by covenant the natural nation of Israel at Sinai and who also is even now creating by the same covenant Promise the spiritual People of God.

It is this intrapersonal change which makes God's one covenant new. God has not changed: it is man who must change in order to live. The spirit of man must witness through subjection to God's Spirit by the body's surrender to the lordship of God through Salvation, Yeshua/Jesus. As the temple of the Holy Spirit, the believer's body becomes holy - not to be defiled physically or spiritually. It is within this context that morals, ethics, and ritual should be discussed and established towards a worship in spirit and truth.

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. And if Christ is in you, though your body is dead because of sin, yet the Spirit (cap. mine) is alive because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. (Romans 8:6-12)

...but you have received a spirit of adoption, as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. (Romans 8:15-17)

...because I live, you shall live also. In that day, you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. (John 14:19-20)

I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me. (John 17:20-21)

This spiritual change is real. It is not imaginary, but it is neither naturally perceived by the five senses, emotional feelings, nor even by logic and philosophical exercise.

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The process of conversion is one of spiritual death chosen now in faith - as opposed to waiting for the certain end of mortality without any true hope for another plane of existence in God. Its perception is spiritual, caused by the Holy Spirit's nearness or indwelling.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. (1Corinthians 2:14)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

God's gift is eternal life. It is not the location of where eternal life is spent - with Him in heaven or apart from Him in hell. Man is a mortal being or soul. He is physical, suffering an end of existence and consciousness due to the separation of body and spirit of man at death - neither is functionally complete without the other.

The wages of sin is mortality in death, not immortality spent in painful torture due to a tainted soul. Yes, there will be a judgment and the fiery sentence of death painful to those deserving, but God is just and merciful, not capricious, malicious, and vindictive.

Each person earns his sorrows and sufferings of sin brought about by his own actions, by the cumulative effects of his own society or by the imposition of the evils of a foreign culture.

God does not punish man because He likes to. It is because His merciful being gives Him no other choice. God has revealed that life is only worth living His way. Even for the short space of mortal life, man was created with the conscious and creative benefits of limited Godly image, albeit soon distorted by a corrupt world.

Only in possessing His nature will the mortal sons put on an immortality to inherit an eternity full of merciful love, creative joy, and dynamic peace. Any other existence prolonged forever is torture and alien to God's greatness and compassion. Separated from God, man rebels by choice and by nature from His way. The personal definition or formation of an individual's rebellious ego is self-created by the manner of one's deviance (by his works) from God's law or word.

This is sin. The consequences of sin come automatically without specific and personal intervention by God, but He does intervene to deliver. God permits trials and sins, but He desires salvation, as proved by His fleshly coming and suffering so that all might live as He does - forever in joyous creative love. Though seemingly unfair and perhaps unkind, a difficult and mortal existence is the only way for man to learn how to receive the grace of Godly change in human identity-nature for life.

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)

Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth, those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, and those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. (John 5:28-29)

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed, This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:5-6)

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And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. . . And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

'For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evil doer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,' says the LORD of hosts, 'so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall, And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of you feet on the day which I am preparing,' says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 4:1-3)

**All men are mortal and must die.** The old man will die for his sins regardless of God's intervention. The question is whether there is alive in each of us a new man, God-Yeshua, who has proven His ability to overcome death in a bodily resurrection to life eternal.

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. (Romans 8:11)

Apparently, Scripture indicates that the old man shall rise in the judgment condemned to a fiery death, but the new has inherited life eternal prior to the judgment thereby escaping such a sentence. Because the believer is already one with the Father in the Son by the Spirit, God will not judge Himself. He is obviously acceptable to Himself, and so all that repent and believe shall live in Him, now and forever.

**Godly repentance** is the choice of the human spirit to yield its bodily members to God's will and lordship by a turning away from an imperfect will driven by and sourced in selfish preservation.

**Divine faith** is the focused reality created and held in the mind, a union of the natural brain and human spirit, by the nearness and/or indwelling presence of God's Spirit.

A mortal repentance and faith can occur in the human being without God's involvement. This characteristic of man occurs in human societies and natural religions as well as in the Godly one. Man has the capacity to, and frequently does, create god in his own image. Many people consciously and unconsciously change their lives to conform to a new or different will or ideology apart from themselves in belief that it is the truth, "the way life is", or to their advantage. Advantage is linked to self-advancement or enhancement built on the foundation of self-preservation.

The human capacity for faith and creation of alternate realities continues in men and women even after conversion because the old man does not die until the mortal body dies. This means that even true believers in God and His Messiah distort the true Light image of God to one degree or another in accordance with what he or she thinks is right. This is the primary purpose for the written law or word: it stands as an external witness against our own concepts of God. The Scripture acts as a molding force to shatter our false idols of God and reality. Out of this destruction of the old identity and concepts of reality or faith, comes the birth of the new, the rising of the Holy Spirit to create and conform a new image or vision of faith in God's being.

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Without at least the presence near and around us of God's Holy Spirit, the natural man cannot even rightly understand the written Word or Law of God. He may understand snatches of it as they pertain to preconceived ideas or to a welcome new philosophy, but his grasp will be distorted and non-regenerative.

For this reason, the Holy Spirit of the Father came in the flesh of the Son to reveal to mankind what was not plain about God as written in the law, history, prophecy, and praise of Israel.

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld, and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life - and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1John 1:1-3)

From the nature of man we learn that a person is a union of spirit and body. The Son came to reveal the Father in His fleshly body. When the Holy Spirit of God dwelt in a separate - albeit mortal - body, the one God was revealed in two "persons" or personalities.

This was only possible in the natural world where beginnings can occur. In the eternal realm of heaven God could never change or grow in the sense with which we are familiar due to the nature of eternity. Even the Son (who once never was from the perspective of the phenomenal world of history) now cycles and inhabits eternity as the "alpha and the omega", the beginning and the end. This is timelessness from the perspective of time.

The Holy Spirit's coming in the baby's body born of a virgin maid was but the first step of the Godly presence and witness to man. The Son and the Father knew that people would require a permanent witness in the flesh to lead them. The Holy Spirit provides that witness to the lost. (S)he is the way of regeneration to those who awake to the mortal reality of their existence.

The coming of the Holy Spirit is ongoing proof of the resurrection. The enemies of faith have consistently tried to undermine any proofs of the resurrection. That is the reason why history is full of fabricated stories (describing how Jesus and His followers faked the resurrection) spread to weaken Yeshua's witness from the grave.

Such tales were circulated by the priests (Matthew 28:11-15) in the apostles' day; in recent history the professional religionists of doubt have been joined in this game by learned scholars and the entertainment industry.

Yet, it is through the sacrificial death of the Son that the solution came. By participating in the Messiah's death through repentance, faith, and baptism, a mortal sinner enters the promise of a new spiritual reality. Into the temple of his/her body will come to dwell the same Holy Spirit, which once was manifested fully and undiluted in the body of the mediator, Yeshua/Jesus, who was both Son of Man and Son of God.

The miracle of the coming of Messiah made it possible for all men to experience the indwelling of the one and same Spirit, His Spirit, which He received from the Father. The Spirit alive in the body of the believer thereby testifies now and always of Yeshua/Jesus' resurrection from the dead long ago. Therefore, He is not dead, but risen in us, His Body.

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be

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also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. (Romans 6:3-9).

The problem is that this theory is not a commonly experienced reality. Charismatic believers will point to emotional or real "signs" of the Spirit's presence in the form of "divine" tongues and ecstasy. That such manifestations are not unique to the Christian experience or that they may be found in the behavior of both true and false prophets in biblical and ancient extra-biblical records is conveniently overlooked.

Nonetheless, only the indwelling of the Holy Spirit can place the divine reality of eternity within the bodily members of a believer. Moreover, even when the Spirit is present, the deceitful and continuing existence within the true believer of his/her mortal ego (the old man in Saul/Paul's writings), makes necessary the continued study of and meditation on the written Word or Spirit of God. To this second witness, I insist on adding the third witness of the collective Body of fellowship in the Spirit.

A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed. (Deuteronomy 19:15)

Even though the reception of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the written word may bring any mortal man salvation, it does not guarantee growth towards perfection of understanding, wisdom, and love. No one must needs have a mortal guide into life eternal. No believer requires the acceptance of another man to inherit life from God; however, we are perfected in grace and knowledge through properly honest and open fellowship founded on mutual forgiveness in Christ.

And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. (1John 2:27)

Here we have a statement concerning independence of judgment within the context of a full letter written to promote fellowship. Although each converted person is one of many members making up the Body of Christ, none is to ultimately teach or judge another. It is God working through the entirety of the living fellowship body, as well as through the written word and the Holy Spirit within, Who teaches and convicts our hearts of sin in order to lead us into changing growth by first dying and then living in Messiah.

Mankind is equal before God, both sinner and saint. Each either possesses the potential or already is an adopted son of God. The adopted sons have the same legal rights to inheritance as the only begotten Son, except that He has preeminence because He is the way for us to inherit.

The genealogical difference between the only begotten Son and the adopted sons is that we were not mortally born with the Holy Spirit, or eternity, indwelling us. Yeshua/Jesus was so born being immortality in the flesh, the Light in a clay lamp, the Spirit in an earthy stone temple. By His grace, man may acquire this divine nature by miraculous repentance and faith.

All are born composed of human spirit and fleshly body. This is the natural heritage from Adam. The spirit of man is an indivisible admixture of good and evil. On the other hand, God's Holy Spirit is purely good. The flesh is a source of weakness. Both the spirit of man (personal identity) and body are sources of temptation and sin through their desperate desire for self-preservation.

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Death occurs when this spirit is separated from the body. Man does not possess immortality. We are born mortal souls who can "put on immortality" through faith in the only mediator between God and man, Jesus/Yeshua. Apparently, the spirit of man has no consciousness independent from the body, for the dead know nothing in the grave:

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)

LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the extent of my days, let me know how transient I am. Behold, Thou hast made my days a handbreadth, and my lifetime as nothing in Thy sight, surely every man at his best is a mere breath. (Psalms 39:4-5)

Man in his pomp, yet without understanding, is like the beasts that perish. (Psalms 49:20)

This perishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. (1Corinthians 15:53)

Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. (Psalms 146:3-4)

To inherit immortality, we must become part of the immortal and resurrected body of the Savior, for "*we shall be saved by His life*" (Romans 5:10). In so doing the believer also becomes one in fellowship with the other saints. In order to inherit eternal life (salvation), we must become one body spiritually. Therein, the believer actually participates in both being the agency of and the receiver of Godly benefits or blessings.

Collectively, all mortal bodies in which the Holy Spirit dwells, constitute the corporate Body of the Messiah. We are that Body in two mysterious manners. Firstly, we become the living, fleshly instruments (like the hands, feet, mouths of Romans 12:4-8 and 1Corinthians 12:12-13) through whom the Son does the works of God. They are His because they are powered by God through the mediation of the Holy Spirit of both Father and Son; and secondly, as the Messiah's Wife.

This second analogy where the wife's body is symbolically identified as actually being her husband's flesh, is quoted in the following Scriptures:

But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. (1Corinthians 11:3)

So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:28-32)

The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does" (1Corinthians 7:4)

Peter repeats Paul's analogy and compares the Body made of many members with the Temple made of many stones. (See 1Corinthians 6:12-20 and Ephesians 2:18-22.) Both are the dwelling places of the Holy Spirit.

Just as the Holy Spirit anciently dwelt in the bodily form of Messiah, born both Son of God and Son of Man, so wherever the Holy Spirit dwells today becomes part of the Body of God the Son.

Since the same Spirit dwelt in the Tabernacle and Temple of Israel, the Body of Messiah is also a

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Temple. Jesus/Yeshua the Rock of Matthew 16:18 is the cornerstone; we are smaller stones of the same material as Jesus and the prophets, Peter and the other apostles (I Peter 1:23, 2:2-5). He is the only mediator and High Priest: His glorious presence in us permits no other priest to enter. The believer has become holy in Him.

But will God indeed dwell with mankind on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee; how much less this house which I have built . . . Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house, and the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house. (2Chronicles 6:18, 7:1)

By God's grace and presence, each believer has miraculously become an individual temple, which itself combines with the rest of all believers past and present to compose the Temple of God. Therefore, mankind is commanded to "*be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*" (Matthew 5:48)

The Bible explains this as being pure in thought and behavior so as not to defile God's new temple of our bodies (1Corinthians 6:19-20). Believers are instructed to "flee immorality" (v. 18 above) considering their old natural bodies and egos to be

dead to immorality, impurity, [unlawful] passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come. (Colossians 3:5-6).

Not only was moral purity enjoined, but physical sanctification was as well. The faithful lived as isolated islands amidst a sea of unbelief. This fact is the necessitating reason for several discussions in Paul's letters concerning the believer's relationship to or participation in certain social customs of the secular, Hellenic-Roman world of his day.

In fulfillment of Jesus' prayer for His disciples to be in the world but not of it, Paul/Saul adapted the traditions and ritual separation of Israel (an entire society under God) to the situation of individual Christians, who lived as minority members in a culture alien to the Hebrew God. This is why every day concerns such as civil law, clothing, foods, and cleanliness appear juxtaposed to some of the deepest spiritual expositions of the New Testament.