

THE BELIEVERS

(1)

Message One

Disciples, Believers, Saints, and Christians

RA *Hymns*: 903, 904

Scripture Reading: Matt. 5:1; 28:19;
2 Cor. 6:14-16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Pet. 4:16

- Matt 5:1 And when He saw the crowds, He went up to the mountain. And after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.
- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 2 Cor 6:14 Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?
- 2 Cor 6:15 And what concord does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?
- 2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, even as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people."
- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
- 1 Pet 4:16 But if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name.

I. We are disciples of Christ, those who are following and learning Christ according to the reality that is in Jesus, which is the actual condition of the God-man living of Jesus recorded in the four Gospels; this is to experience Christ in His experiences so that we might become His organic reproduction and duplication for Him to have a corporate expression of Himself for His glory in the church and in the New Jerusalem—Matt. 5:1; 28:19; Eph. 4:20-24; 3:21; Isa. 43:7; Rev. 21:11:

- Matt 5:1 And when He saw the crowds, He went up to the mountain. And after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.
- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
- Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
- Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, / Whom I have created, formed, and even made for My glory.
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

- A. We are being disciplined from being a natural man to being a God-man, living the divine life by denying our natural life according to the model of Christ as the first God-man; this is to learn Christ and be taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus, to be renewed in the spirit of our mind by the word of God so that we may become a new and corporate God-man—Eph.

4:23; Deut. 17:18-20:

Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Deut 17:18 And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write out for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests.

Deut 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them,

Deut 17:20 So that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left; that he and his sons may extend their days over their kingdom in the midst of Israel.

1. “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free”—John 8:31-32, 36; 15:7.

John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

2. By the prayerful reading of the Scriptures and by having an ear to hear what the Spirit says to the churches through the ministry of the word, we are being disciplined by the Lord through being transformed by the renewing of our mind—Eph. 6:17-18; Rev. 2:7; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

3. For us to be renewed in our mind is to get rid of all the old concepts concerning the things of the human life through receiving the new thoughts of God by the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the enlightening of the Holy Spirit—Psa. 119:105, 130.

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet / And a light to my path.

Psa 119:130 The opening of Your words gives light, / Imparting understanding to the simple.

4. In order to be the Lord's disciples who are being saved in Christ Himself as life to reign in life over Satan, sin, and death, we must be reconstituted with the holy word of God so that we may be instructed, governed, ruled, and controlled by the word of God—Rom. 5:10, 17; Deut. 17:18-20; 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Deut 17:18 And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write out for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests.

Deut 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them,

Deut 17:20 So that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left; that he and his sons may extend their days over their kingdom in the midst of Israel.

2 Tim 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

- B. To learn Christ is for us to be replaced with Christ by eating Christ; the reality that is in Jesus (the God-man living of the individual Jesus) becomes the reality of the Body of Christ (the God-man living of the corporate Christ) by our eating Christ to enjoy Christ as our supplying, energizing, empowering, and enabling supply, so that we may choose and carry out the will of God for His glory in the church—John 6:57; Isa. 7:14-15; John 17:4; Heb. 5:8; Phil. 2:8; John 6:63; Jer. 15:16; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:5, 17; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 3:20-21.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and will bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel.

Isa 7:15 He will eat curds and honey until he knows how to refuse evil and choose good.

John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth, finishing the work which You have given Me to do.

Heb 5:8 Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Rom 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,

Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

- C. We are learning Christ by being awakened by Him morning by morning so that we can have the ear and tongue of an instructed one to sustain the weary with a word; as the Lord's disciples, His instructed ones, we should rely on Him, trust in His name, and not generate our own light—Isa. 50:4-5, 10-11.

Isa 50:4 The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.

Isa 50:5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; / And I was not rebellious, / Nor did I turn back.

Isa 50:10 Who among you fears Jehovah; / Who hears the voice of His servant; / Who walks in darkness / And has no light? / Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, / And rely on his God.

Isa 50:11 Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, / Who surround yourselves with firebrands, / Walk into the light of your fire / And into the firebrands which you have lit. / You will have this from My hand: / You will lie down in torment.

- D. We are learning Christ as the One who is meek and lowly in heart, as the One whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light, and as the One who gives us Himself as rest (perfect peace and full satisfaction) for our souls—Matt. 11:28-30.

Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- Matt 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
- E. We are learning Christ as our indwelling secret of sufficiency to express God's attributes in Christ's human virtues, living Him for His magnification in every kind of environment, situation, and circumstance—Phil. 4:5-13.
- Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.
- Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.
- Phil 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because now at length you have caused your thinking for me to blossom anew; for which matter you had indeed taken thought, but lacked opportunity.
- Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
- Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
- F. We are learning Christ as the One who desires mercy according to His loving and forgiving heart and His shepherding and seeking spirit—Matt. 9:12-13.
- Matt 9:12 Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.
- Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- G. The disciples who followed the Lord for three and a half years saw what He did, how He behaved, and how He spoke; the Spirit of life and of reality who was breathed into them (John 20:22) would guide them into all the reality of what they had observed of the Lord (16:13).
- John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- H. The Lord Jesus was a person living a human life in resurrection, not by Himself but by another source, that is, His Father; when we live in our humanity by another life, by the Christ who indwells us, this kind of living makes us the Lord's genuine disciples.
- I. The disciples of the Lord have the real presence of the Triune God as their exceeding joy to make them persons who are "Jesusly human," those who are sweet, charming, and attractive to those whom they contact, without any deception or hypocrisy—Matt. 1:23; Psa. 43:4; Rom. 14:17; Neh. 8:10; Phil. 1:25; 4:5, 8-9; 1 Tim. 4:15-16.
- Matt 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel" (which is translated, God with us).
- Psa 43:4 And I will go to the altar of God, / To God my exceeding joy; / And I will praise You with the harp, / O God, my God.
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- Neh 8:10 Then he said to them, Go your way; eat the fat, and drink the sweet wine, and send portions to him for whom nothing has been prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength.
- Phil 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith,
- Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.

- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.
- Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.
- 1 Tim 4:15 Practice these things; be in them, that your progress may be manifest to all.
- 1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things; for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.
- J. The followers of Christ were disciplined through Christ's human living on the earth, as the model of a God-man—living God by denying Himself in humanity (John 5:19, 30), revolutionizing their concept concerning man (Phil. 3:10; 1:21a).
- John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
- John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
- K. "I was in the recovery observing how Brother Watchman Nee acted for eighteen years. All that I observed in him became things disciplining me" (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1994-1997*, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," p. 76).

II. We are believers in Christ, those who have life and live by the faith of the Son of God; faith annuls us and causes us to live God, to express God, and to minister God into people—2 Cor. 6:14-16; Rom. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; Gal. 2:20:

- 2 Cor 6:14 Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?
- 2 Cor 6:15 And what concord does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?
- 2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, even as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people."
- Rom 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."
- Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- A. The believers in Christ (John 3:15-16) have been transferred from Adam into Christ (1 Cor. 15:22), they have been regenerated to be a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), they are united with Christ in His eternal life, and they are joined to Christ to be one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17):
- John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
- 1 Cor 15:22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.
- 2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
1. As believers in Christ, we have been generated twice; we were generated the first time to be the natural man, but one day we were regenerated to be born anew with the divine, eternal life—John 3:6-7.
- John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born anew.
2. Our second birth certificate of our spiritual birth is seen in Romans 8:16, which says that the Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God; our divine and mystical birth certificate is a double spirit, the Spirit with our spirit, which has become one spirit with the Lord.
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- B. When man hears Christ, knows Him, appreciates Him, and treasures Him, He causes faith to be generated in man, enabling man to believe in Him; thus, He becomes the faith in man by which man believes in Him—Heb. 12:2.
Heb 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.
- C. Faith comes out of the hearing of the word; when we hear Christ and contact Him as the living word of God in the written word of God, He becomes the applied word as the Spirit dispensed into us to be our faith; thus, God embodied in Christ and realized as the Spirit mingled with our spirit is faith—Rom. 10:17; John 1:1; 5:39-40; 6:63.
Rom 10:17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.
John 5:40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- D. The hearing of faith awakens our loving appreciation, and the more we love the Lord, the more faith operates to bring us into the riches, the profit, of the all-inclusive Spirit—Gal. 3:2, 5; 5:6.
Gal 3:2 This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?
Gal 3:5 He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?
Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything nor uncircumcision, but faith avails, operating through love.
- E. Romans 12:3 says, “Not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith”:
1. To think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think without a sober mind annuls the proper order of the Body life; God gave us the same faith in quality but not in quantity; the matter of quantity depends upon how we grow; if we grow today as the apostle Paul grew, the portion of faith we receive will be greatly enlarged.
2. How much faith God apportions to us depends upon our attitude; if we are not sober-minded (thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, not considering one another more excellent than ourselves, and thinking that we are something when we are nothing), God would not increase His apportioning of faith to us, and He probably would even decrease it—Phil. 2:2-3; Gal. 6:3; 1 Cor. 8:1-3.
Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
Phil 2:3 Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;
Gal 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
1 Cor 8:2 If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet come to know as he ought to know;
1 Cor 8:3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.
- F. We believers live by faith in the following relationships with Christ:

1. Christ is the vine, and we are His branches—John 15:1-8.
 - John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
 - John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it that it may bear more fruit.
 - John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
 - John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
 - John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
 - John 15:6 If one does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is dried up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
 - John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
 - John 15:8 In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so you will become My disciples.
2. Christ is the Head, and we are His members—1 Cor. 12:27.
 - 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
3. Christ is the breath of life, the water of life, and the bread of life, and we are His breathers, eaters, and drinkers—John 20:22; 4:10, 14; 7:37-39a; 6:35, 51-63, 68.
 - John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.
 - John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.
 - John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
 - John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
 - John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
 - John 7:39a But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; ...
 - John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
 - John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
 - John 6:52 The Jews then contended with one another, saying, How can this man give us His flesh to eat?
 - John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves.
 - John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.
 - John 6:55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
 - John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.
 - John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 - John 6:58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread shall live forever.
 - John 6:59 He said these things in a synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.
 - John 6:60 Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard this, said, This word is hard; who can hear it?
 - John 6:61 But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were murmuring about this, said to them, Does this stumble you?
 - John 6:62 Then what if you saw the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?
 - John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have

- spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- John 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life,
4. Christ is the Bridegroom, and we are His bride—3:29; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-9; 2 Cor. 11:2-3.
- John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.
- Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- 2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- 2 Cor 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.
5. Christ is the Father of the orphans, and we are the orphans who have become His children, enjoying His care and deliverance, which imply His rescue and saving every day—John 14:18; Psalms 68:5-6; Isaiah 9:6; 22:19-22; John 1:12-13; 14:10; Psalm 107:1-43; 110:4; Revelation 2:1, 7; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 5:10.
- John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
- Psalms 68:5 A Father to the orphans and a Judge for the widows / Is God in His holy habitation.
- Psalms 68:6 God causes the solitary to dwell in a household; / He brings the prisoners forth into prosperity; / But the rebellious dwell in a parched land.
- Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, / A Son is given to us; / And the government / Is upon His shoulder; / And His name will be called / Wonderful Counselor, / Mighty God, / Eternal Father, / Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 22:19 And I will drive you from your position, / And from your standing He will pull you down.
- Isaiah 22:20 And in that day / I will call to My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah,
- Isaiah 22:21 And I will clothe him with your tunic, / And I will strengthen him with your girding sash, / And I will put your dominion into his hand; / And he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem / And to the house of Judah.
- Isaiah 22:22 And I will set the key of the house of David upon his shoulder
- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
- John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.
- Psalms 107:1 Give thanks to Jehovah, for He is good, / For His lovingkindness is forever.
- Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of Jehovah say so, / Whom He redeemed from the hand of the adversary,
- Psalms 107:3 And gathered out of the lands, / From the east and from the west, / From the north and from the south.
- Psalms 107:4 They wandered in the wilderness, on the desert way; / They found no city of habitation.
- Psalms 107:5 Hungry and thirsty, / Their soul fainted within them.

Psa 107:6 Then they cried out to Jehovah in their trouble, / And He delivered them from their distresses.

Psa 107:7 And He led them on a straight way / That they might come to a city of habitation.

Psa 107:8 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His lovingkindness / And for His wondrous deeds to the children of men.

Psa 107:9 For He satisfies the thirsty soul, / And the famished soul He fills with good.

Psa 107:10 Some inhabited darkness and the shadow of death, / And were bound in affliction and irons,

Psa 107:11 Because they rebelled against the words of God / And spurned the counsel of the Most High;

Psa 107:12 Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; / They stumbled, and there was no one to help them.

Psa 107:13 Then they cried out to Jehovah in their trouble, / And He saved them from their distresses.

Psa 107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, / And He broke apart their bonds.

Psa 107:15 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His lovingkindness / And for His wondrous deeds to the children of men.

Psa 107:16 For He breaks down the doors of bronze / And cuts down the bars of iron.

Psa 107:17 Some were fools, because of their way of transgression; / And because of their iniquities, they were afflicted.

Psa 107:18 Their soul loathed all food, / And they drew near to the gates of death.

Psa 107:19 Then they cried out to Jehovah in their trouble, / And He saved them out of their distresses.

Psa 107:20 He sent forth His word and healed them, / And He delivered them from the pits of destruction .

Psa 107:21 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His lovingkindness / And for His wondrous deeds to the children of men.

Psa 107:22 And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving / And declare His doings in joyful song.

Psa 107:23 Those who go down to the sea in ships, / Conducting business on the mighty waters,

Psa 107:24 These see Jehovah's doings / And His wondrous deeds in the deep.

Psa 107:25 For He commanded and raised up a storm wind, / And it lifted up the waves of the sea.

Psa 107:26 They mounted up to the heavens; they went down to the depths; / Their soul melted in the calamity.

Psa 107:27 They reeled and staggered like a drunken man, / And all their skill was swallowed up.

Psa 107:28 Then they cried out to Jehovah in their trouble, / And He brought them out of their distresses.

Psa 107:29 He made the storm be still, / And the waves of the sea were calm;

Psa 107:30 And they rejoiced that they were quiet, / And He brought them to the haven they desired.

Psa 107:31 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His lovingkindness / And for His wondrous deeds to the children of men.

Psa 107:32 And let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people / And praise Him in the assembly of the elders.

Psa 107:33 He turns rivers into a wilderness, / And springs of water into thirsty ground;

Psa 107:34 Fruitful land into a salt flat, / Because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it.

Psa 107:35 He turns a wilderness into a pool of water, / And a dry land into springs of water.

Psa 107:36 And He makes the hungry dwell there, / That they may prepare a city of habitation

Psa 107:37 And sow fields and plant vineyards / And get a fruitful yield.

Psa 107:38 He also blesses them, and they are multiplied greatly; / And He does not let their cattle decrease.

Psa 107:39 When they are diminished and bowed down / Through oppression, trouble, and

- sorrow,
- Psa 107:40 He pours contempt on princes, / And makes them wander in a pathless waste.
- Psa 107:41 But He raises the needy man high above affliction / And makes his families like flocks.
- Psa 107:42 The upright see it and rejoice; / And all iniquity stops its mouth.
- Psa 107:43 Who is wise? Then let him observe these things / And consider the lovingkindness of Jehovah.
- Psa 110:4 Jehovah has sworn, / And He will not change: / You are a Priest forever / According to the order of Melchizedek.
- Rev 2:1 To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
6. Christ is our Physician, and we are His patients, enjoying Him as our Healer to be our forgiveness, enjoyment, joy, satisfaction, and freedom—Exo. 15:23-26; Mark 2:1—3:6.
- Exo 15:23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore its name was called Marah.
- Exo 15:24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?
- Exo 15:25 And he cried out to Jehovah, and Jehovah showed him a tree; and he cast it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there He tested them.
- Exo 15:26 And He said, If you will listen carefully to the voice of Jehovah your God and do what is right in His eyes and give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I am Jehovah who heals you.
- Mark 2:1 And He entered again into Capernaum after a few days, and it was heard that He was at home.
- Mark 2:2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even at the door. And He spoke to them the word.
- Mark 2:3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men.
- Mark 2:4 And being unable to bring him to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof where He was. And when they had dug through, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying.
- Mark 2:5 And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, Child, your sins are forgiven.
- Mark 2:6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,
- Mark 2:7 Why is this man speaking this way? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except One, God?
- Mark 2:8 And immediately Jesus, knowing fully in His spirit that they were reasoning this way within themselves, said to them, Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?
- Mark 2:9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Rise and take up your mat and walk?
- Mark 2:10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth—He said to the paralytic,
- Mark 2:11 To you I say, Rise, take up your mat and go to your house.
- Mark 2:12 And he rose and immediately took up the mat and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, We have never seen anything like this!
- Mark 2:13 And He went out again beside the sea. And all the crowd came to Him, and He taught them.
- Mark 2:14 And as He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office,

- and He said to him, Follow Me. And he rose and followed Him.
- Mark 2:15 And as He reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining together with Jesus and His disciples, for there were many, and they were following Him.
- Mark 2:16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, seeing that He ate with sinners and tax collectors, said to His disciples, Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?
- Mark 2:17 And when Jesus heard this, He said to them, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- Mark 2:18 And the disciples of John and the Pharisees were fasting. And they came and said to Him, Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?
- Mark 2:19 And Jesus said to them, The sons of the bridechamber cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? For as long a time as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast.
- Mark 2:20 But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.
- Mark 2:21 No one sews a patch of unfulled cloth on an old garment; otherwise, that which fills it up pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.
- Mark 2:22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the wineskins, and the wine is ruined as well as the wineskins; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins.
- Mark 2:23 And He passed through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to go along, picking the ears of grain.
- Mark 2:24 And the Pharisees said to Him, Look! Why are they doing on the Sabbath what is not lawful?
- Mark 2:25 And He said to them, Have you never read what David did when he had need and became hungry, he and those with him;
- Mark 2:26 How he entered into the house of God during the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he gave also to those who were with him?
- Mark 2:27 And He said to them, The Sabbath came into being for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
- Mark 2:28 So then the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.
- Mark 3:1 And He entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there who had a withered hand.
- Mark 3:2 And they were watching Him closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.
- Mark 3:3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, Rise and stand in the midst.
- Mark 3:4 And He said to them, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill? But they remained silent.
- Mark 3:5 And looking around at them with anger and being greatly grieved with the hardness of their heart, He said to the man, Stretch out your hand. And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.
- Mark 3:6 And the Pharisees went out and immediately took counsel with the Herodians against Him as to how they might destroy Him.
7. Christ is the light of the world, and we are His followers so that we may have the light of life and be His diffuser to spread the divine light—John 8:12; Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:12-16; 1 John 1:5, 7, 9; Rev. 21:23.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- Matt 5:14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.
- Matt 5:15 Nor do men light a lamp and place it under the bushel, but on the lampstand; and it shines to all who are in the house.
- Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your

	good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.
Phil 2:12	So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
Phil 2:13	For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.
Phil 2:14	Do all things without murmurings and reasonings
Phil 2:15	That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,
Phil 2:16	Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.
1 John 1:5	And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
1 John 1:7	But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
1 John 1:9	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Rev 21:23	And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

III. We are saints of God, those who have been separated and made holy unto God—Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2, 30; cf. Num. 6:1-9:

- Rom 1:7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, the called saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
- 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- Num 6:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 6:2 Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, When a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazarite, to separate himself to Jehovah,
- Num 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink, nor shall he drink any juice of grapes, nor eat fresh or dried grapes.
- Num 6:4 All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grape vine, from the seeds even to the skin.
- Num 6:5 All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall pass over his head. He shall be holy until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to Jehovah; he shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow long.
- Num 6:6 All the days that he separates himself to Jehovah he shall not come near a dead person.
- Num 6:7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father or for his mother, for his brother or for his sister, when they die, because his separation to God is upon his head.
- Num 6:8 All the days of his separation he is holy to Jehovah.
- Num 6:9 And if anyone dies very suddenly beside him so that he defiles the head of his separation, then he shall shave his head on the day he becomes clean; on the seventh day shall he shave it.
- A. We have been sanctified with His redeeming blood positionally—Heb. 13:12.
Heb 13:12 Therefore also Jesus, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.
- B. We are being sanctified with His holy nature dispositionally—2 Thes. 2:13; Heb. 2:10-11; 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26; 1 Thes. 5:23-24.
2 Thes 2:13 But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,
Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

- Heb 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,
- 1 Cor 6:11 And these things were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- 1 Thes 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Thes 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.

IV. We are Christians, Christ-men, those who are one with Christ, having Christ as our bountifully supplying contents in an organic union with Him to live Him for His magnification in our daily life—Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 4:7; Phil. 1:19-21a:

- Acts 11:26 And when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it happened with them that for a whole year they were gathered in the church and taught a considerable number and that the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
- Acts 26:28 And Agrippa replied to Paul, By so little are you trying to persuade me to become a Christian?
- 1 Pet 4:16 But if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
- A. The goal of being a Christian and the destiny that God has ordained for us in His economy is for us to walk by the Spirit in order to live Christ for God's glory, His expression—Gal. 2:20; 5:16, 25; 6:17; Isa. 43:7; 1 Cor. 6:20; 10:31.
 - Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 - Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.
 - Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
 - Gal 6:17 Henceforth let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the brands of Jesus.
 - Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, / Whom I have created, formed, and even made for My glory.
 - 1 Cor 6:20 For you have been bought with a price. So then glorify God in your body.
 - 1 Cor 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- B. Every Christian on this earth has a special journey that the Lord has assigned to him as a functioning member of Christ for the building up of His Body; he has to take the journey himself; no one else can replace him, nor can he replace anyone else—Acts 13:22, 25, 36; 20:24; 1 Cor. 9:24; 12:14-22; 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
 - Acts 13:22 And when He had deposed him, He raised up David for them as king, to whom also He testified and said, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man according to My heart, who will do all My will.
 - Acts 13:25 Now as John was completing his course, he said, What do you suppose that I am? I am not the Christ. But behold, One is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.
 - Acts 13:36 Now David, having served his own generation by the counsel of God, did indeed fall asleep and was buried with his fathers and saw corruption;
 - Acts 20:24 But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.
 - 1 Cor 9:24 Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the

prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold.

1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but many.

1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.

1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body.

1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?

1 Cor 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.

1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?

1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.

1 Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.