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**LET'S NOT GET ENTANGLED AGAIN... WITH DOCTRINES AND TRADITIONS.** For some time now, the Spirit of God has been urging Christians who are grounded in the truth, to *"...go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."* (Heb.6:1-2) When the Spirit urges, then He also leads us in the way that He points. When we read this verse, we cannot but wonder how it is possible to leave behind the familiar instruments that God has used to guide us and mature us in Christ. The answer may simply be that the Spirit is leading us to outgrow these things, for they are now part of our foundation; so our need is not to keep repeating them, but rather to move on to the next step. These were part of the glory of that day, but today, the Spirit is moving the sons into another glory. *"But we all with open face beholding as in a glass, (a mirror), the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even, as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (II Cor.4:18)

These things were as mirrors where we could behold His glory. They were as the voice of the prophets of the past, to point us in the right direction. But now, as the book of Hebrews tells us, *"God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past to the fathers by prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son..."* (Heb.1:1-2a) By His Spirit, the Lord moves us closer to seeing His face and knowing, (being), His glory. *"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* (II Cor.4:6) On this journey, we have many preachers, teachers and prophets, and they are vital to our growth in Christ, but as we mature, we are made able to hear the Son of God directly. And so the Spirit weans us from following these voices, unto trusting His voice from within; this is part of our overcoming. Every step of growth we take, is a step in overcoming. When we come into maturity, the teachers, preachers, writers, brethren and other voices we have depended upon, become the various witnesses who either confirm the Word we hear within, or cause us to listen again. The writers or speakers of today and from the past, the many books that we appreciate and enjoy, and even the Bible itself are necessary witnesses of the Word that the Lord speaks to us by the Spirit, and the works He performs in our lives, but they do not replace the Word we hear by the witness within ourselves.

**ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH THE LAW.** This journey is truly a testing of our faith and of our trust in God's Word. The doctrines of the past set us on the right track, so that we are now able to recognize His voice. They are like school books that were used to teach us, and to bring us to the knowledge of Christ. They have been Law to us, and as the law, they bring us to Christ. *"But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.** But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."* (Gal.3:22-24) We are learning to have faith in God. Each step that moves us on is always difficult. We feel insecure as it was when we left the structure of our mother church, or our mother assembly of saints. It is a step that shakes us until, through more shakings, we know that we are grounded on that solid Christ foundation. Yet when we think we have become a mature son of God, we find that we are still in school; and the schoolmaster always tests us until we pass and come to our final graduation. A dream I shared not long ago said just that. *"It was morning and I was ready to go to school. I hurried to the kitchen for breakfast, and in one corner I see my father seated by the counter. I was so very happy to see*

*him and went to sit by him. Not a word was spoken, but we sat, cheek to cheek, absorbing the love we felt for one another. Then I knew I had to hurry and get to school; I would be a little late, but because I had been with my father it was alright."* End of dream.

This dream reveals that even though we are finding a closer union with our Father, we still have more to learn. As our Father reveals His awesome love to us, we find great peace and joy flood our hearts, but these are only fleeting moments; we still need to continue our walk of learning. We have certainly gone through many stages of our growth, and now we are learning to let go of all the rules and props we had made for ourselves, and truly trust Him. These things are now part of our foundation, but they are not the building. In his dream, Jacob saw *"...a ladder set up on the earth, and the top reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed."* (Gen.28:12-13) The ladder that Jacob saw was the instrument that opened the way for the angels to go up and down with God's message to him. And the angels were the necessary messengers, but they meant nothing after God spoke, and even less when Jacob became heir of the land. It is the Word and what the Word produces in us that is the goal. So the things we clung to, to reach our maturity become our foundations, but we will find the Spirit moving us away from these, and replacing them with a higher and brighter light in the Lord.

At every step of the way, God has given us the liberty to either go on with Him, or remain where we are spiritually. The choice is up to us. God's predestination is based on His foreknowledge of what our choice is to be. He knows what we will choose to do even before we do. Nevertheless, we ourselves, are not sure what we will choose; for us, it is always a walk of faith. Abraham did not know where he was going to go next, or what he was going to do; he walked by faith. To the natural man, this is "scary," but it is what God requires of us. This is where trust comes in; will we trust ourselves and walk according to what our doctrines have taught us is right, or will we now trust God and follow Him by the Spirit? Jacob was called a "supplanter," and he took the rap for his actions; he walked the walk set before him. Are we willing to pay the price of being labeled "deceivers" by those we love, but who cannot comprehend our stand?

**ENTANGLED AGAIN IN WORKS OF THE FLESH.** Today, there are strong winds blowing, strong movements which God is using to bring about His plan in the land. Many of God's people have been waiting on God for the time of restoration; they are anxious to start "doing something for God and country." This is empowering wolves in sheep clothing, who come in the name of the Lord, and use the many means of communications available to urge the saints to join in with them in their scheme to prevail against evil. I am sure that God has a purpose for them too, but by the same token, the sons of God who have followed the Lamb, need to be encouraged to keep their eye upon Jesus only. Be aware and watchful, but do not get entangled in their political schemes and actions. That which may be right for some, may not be where the Lord is leading us. Some of these loud voices can be very convincing, and many of our brethren may feel compelled to follow them, but most are of these are zealots, led by their carnal minds and by the appetites of the flesh for power. There are many people doing good things in this world, and some are called to play a part in politics, and are very good at it. But sons, although they may be interested in world's events, are called to follow God's Holy Spirit. Jesus faced His greatest test as He came to the cross. He could have easily called on legions of angels to deliver Him from His executors, but He waited on the Father, and yielded Himself to the death of the cross; He is our example. Recently, I dreamt, *"I lived on a great estate with others. In the far backyard was a place like a picnic area. A man was at the grill. He was grilling loads of bacon. It smelled so enticing and looked done just right. He was grilling for a crowd. I knew I could not eat any of it, but as I looked at the nice lean, crispy slices, my mouth watered for even a small taste. But I could not even have a tiny morsel. That was it."* These tempters are not far from us, they are even in our spiritual backyards. The

flesh man loves to do something powerful in the name of the Lord. But just as in the dream, we need to resist the mouth-watering aroma of the bacon. We cannot even get involved in a small way with those who endeavor to fix the affairs of men by power rather than by the Spirit of God . Bacon is pig's meat, it comes from an earthy and filthy source. The Lord is good to keep His Word before us. We are not called to make a move yet. We are not going to repair that which God has thrown down. When the time is at hand, we will know it and not fail, for our God is leading us. Let us trust Him all the way. This is our acid test.

**GOD SAID JOB WAS PERFECT**...but his friends and his wife said he was being punished because he was self righteous. Yet in his heart, Job knew that he was being tested. *"But he knoweth the way that I take; when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*(Job 23:10) When we read the story of Job, we find that in the eyes of his friends, Job was judged far from perfect. Nevertheless, God, with no hesitation, declared to Satan, and to all others, *"Hath thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?"*(Job 1:8). That should have settled the matter for all, but they could not understand that it was because he was perfect that he was sorely tested. As God's sons of this hour, we are aware, as Job we had enjoyed the goodness of God, but suddenly we are being tested in totally unexpected ways. In Job's understanding, what was happening was totally baffling and demoralizing. How could a man who had trusted God and turned away from evil, experience such terrible tragedies, and God not intervene? God's people today may be asking the same questions. Many of the sons who have followed God's Spirit, are caught up in physical and mental battles that are changing their lives, and testing them to the nth degree. Job's situation is a perfect type of where we are finding ourselves as we reach the time of our maturity in Christ. God is using Satan, to test our mettle, (courage, fortitude and faith). And not only are the sons of God being tested, but the entire creation as well. This time of great testing, or great tribulation, is preceding a totally new age in God's economy. The dream God gave me about building cranes, bulldozers, dump trucks and huge building machines tearing down the land as far as I could see, and then restoring it into a new vast, peaceful Edenic park, is in process now.

And so, as God's mature sons, our understanding of these things is being opened, and our lives are changing. We have not come to this place by any works or efforts of our own and we do not boast of ourselves, but we do boast of the Spirit of Jesus, who has faithfully taught us and trained us and stayed close to us all the way through our growing pains. Through many afflictions, our souls, (consciousness), are finding a new direction in life. Our affections and desires are turned toward things above, and to the One who has faithfully and consistently brought us back to the straight and narrow path. Our Father uses the events and circumstances of our daily lives to teach us the ways of the Spirit. Today, more than ever, the events and circumstances going on in our world are the best tools ever to teach us and test us. Will we be carried away by them? Will we join in with those who take the world's affairs in their own hands, or will we stay the course and walk with God's Spirit? As we behold Him through these tests, we are being changed from glory to glory. Through the daily hearing and following the Spirit, or Word made flesh in us, we have become mature sons. The apostle John tells us that when we receive Him who is the Word made flesh, we receive power to become sons of God. This is what this journey has been, and is all about, "becoming sons of God". *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become sons of God, even to them who believe in his name."* (Jn.1:12)

As we believe Him, who is the Word, our Father treats us as sons, and disciplines us through hardships, *"...Despise thou not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"* (Heb.12:5-7) The closer we come to perfection as sons, the greater the chastening and the testing. Job was not tested to reveal his "wickedness," Job was tested to reveal the strength of his faith. By His Word made flesh, God rebuilds and

makes new and greater. He told Jeremiah, *"See, I have this day set thee over the nations, and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build and to plant."* (Jer. 1:10) This was the power of God's Word through His prophets, but now He is speaking through the Son in us. *"God who at sundry times and in divers manners, spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."* (Heb.1:1-2)

Indeed, our God is not silent. He is speaking to the sons and through the sons. He is explaining and revealing His plan as it unfurls in our daily lives and in the world. The time to deliver the nations is soon to begin in the earth. The time of the thousand years of ruling and reigning with Christ is the next event in God's economy. Now, we are witnessing the destruction of man's systems of governing and ruling the nations, but soon we will see the restoration of God and His glory flooding the earth as the waters cover the sea. God's witnesses who were slain in the streets of the city, are arising; the first resurrection, (the appearing of Jesus in the saints) is stirring. The priests and kings, (sons), are taking their place. *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison."* (Rev:20:6-7) Verse seven clearly reveals that the rising of Christ in the sons had enchained Satan, to cast him and his cohorts into prison, (the pits of hell), while the people turn back to their true God. After that time, there will be one more great testing, when through Christ, all will reject Satan's rule and God will be all in all.

And so, the time of our waiting and witnessing is soon expiring, man's systems of ruling are crashing down. Soon, we will enter the time of the ruling of Christ in His priests and kings who are trained and ready. A mighty restoration is coming, but be aware at this time, that many false prophets and imitators of Christ are on the loose. Sons of God will not take things into their own hands, but as they have learned the discipline and obedience to the Spirit, they will continue to follow Him. The old Adam nature of man is led by the carnal mind which is at enmity against God. In other words it is led by Satan. This mind uses many disguises to deceive and lure the saints, and its preferred disguise is that of pious, righteous, religious personality, alluring and compelling, even magnetic and able to persuade the people to follow after them. But the sons will not be fooled, although they could be, Jesus said, *"If it were possible."* And it is not possible because the sons know the Father and the Father knows them intimately. And one more thing of great importance is that the sons are the heirs of the world. Their hearts are no longer the hearts of faithful servants, who are serving their Master's possessions; now they are joint-heirs with the Master and heirs of the world along with Him and they are serving their own possessions.

What should we do to become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ? Walk by faith, continue in the faith, for this inheritance was given to Abraham because He believed God even unto the death of his own son. *"For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect."* (Rom.4:13-14) The Pharisees that Jesus faced were enforcers of the law and of their traditions. In Christ, we are heirs of the promise as we let go of our works of righteousness, and of the laws that we make for ourselves. *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame..."* (Heb.12:2)

**QUOTE: TO LOVE GOD IS TO LOVE THE THINGS GOD LOVES.**

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*