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LETTER L-68

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SAVED TO THE UTTERMOST [TO THE GREATEST OF HIGHEST DEGREE]

THE SON IS PISEN AND IS ARISING AGAIN- "But unto you that fear My name, shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." (Mal.4:2a) This Sun of righteousness is not the literal ball of heat and energy that gives light and life to the earth; this Sun is the Son, the living Word, who arises in the hearts of those who fear Him; those who know His name, His nature, and are in awe of Him. His name speaks of His nature, His holiness, His justice, His purity, His righteousness. Little by little, He is enlightening our consciousness and transforming our minds. We have all been deceived by the serpent's constant lies, (carnal mind), the manipulator of the written Word of God, turning the truth into a lie, and promoting a counterfeit form of worship. This counterfeiter, leads and trains the soul into ritualistic, ceremonial forms of worship, that give a feeling of satisfaction to the soul, but keeps it alienated from the true God. The serpent spirit rules our carnal minds, and keeps us in bondage to its forms of worship and works of self-righteousness. We have been kept feeling guilty under the law of Moses, the law of sin and death, by this clever serpent who even manages to change the Gospel, or good news of the kingdom, into a set of laws that the natural man cannot keep. Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves, but He also gave us His Holy Spirit to accomplish the task. He said, "Ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (Jn.16:33) This means, "Be brave, you can go through it all, because the same overcoming Spirit will be within you. We now overcome all things and keep the Law by the power of His Spirit within.

CONFLICTING VERSES- Because of our limited understanding, many verses of scriptures in the Bible seem to be conflicting. Most of us have been taught, and we have read in the Bible that salvation is the free gift of God, "by grace are you saved, through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." (Eph. 1:8) But the apostle Paul wrote, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," (Phil.2:12), Why would we need to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling if it is a free gift? A key word in this verse is "our own" salvation. Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, therefore, salvation is universal, yet individually, there is a further work to be accomplished. Paul knew he was "saved," and because he was saved, he desired to know more of Christ, and to attain unto His resurrection. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." (Phil.3:10-11) He knew that God's free salvation quickened, made alive his spirit, and now the door was open for him to face his own soul, and work out his full salvation. The quickening of our spirit opens the door to the saving of our soul and the redemption of our body.

The gift of salvation raises our spirit out of death, but our soul who is bound to the flesh, remains in darkness and needs to be saved. Jesus brought our spirits out of death, that through the Spirit, we could work out our own salvation. Our soul is our consciousness, our minds, our personal identity which daily, must learn to submit to the Spirit. Paul knew that he was alive in spirit, yet he was still looking for more, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus...For our conversation, (citizenship), is in heaven from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned unto his glorious body, according to the

working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Phil.3:14,20-21) Paul explains that beyond the free salvation of our spirits, there is still a working whereby the Spirit subdues the soul, as we yield ourselves to the truth and follow Him. Paul let go of all that he had learned at the feet of Gamaliel, in order to attain to the resurrection of Jesus, that is the resurrection of spirit, soul and body. A problem arises when one makes no distinction between soul and spirit; the two are not the same, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb.4:12) The spirit connects us to God, the soul connects us to the earth. The "working" is to turn the soul away from the earth and unto the Spirit. The perfection of God's new creation, is done when the soul and spirit are in perfect union with each other and with God. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul and body be preserved blameless, unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thess.5:23)

ALIVE AGAIN! In Eden, Adam was innocent and God warned him of a specific danger. God said to him, you can freely eat of all the trees, but not of this one, because if you do, you will surely die. The penalty of trespassing God's law is death, thus Adam died. God's Word is His law, Adam had no recourse. When God gave the Law to Moses, He established an order of daily blood sacrifices. The bulls, goats and doves that were offered on the altar of burnt offerings, were payments for the penalty of the Law, but these offerings had to be repeated daily. Symbolically, the bulls and goats and doves, represent the beastly natures of the Adam man, being slain as a daily sacrifice. Then Jesus came as the pure, defenseless Lamb of God, sinless, without spots or blemishes. Jesus came, not only as the sacrifice, but also as the Sacrificator or High Priest of an eternal priesthood.

God is Spirit, and the only possible way to communicate with Him is by the Spirit. In Jesus, we have a Mediator, an Intercessor who enables us to communicate with our Father. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (I Tim.2:5) In Eden, Adam was alive; He was spirit and he could hear God. When he died, his spirit fell into the tenebrous land of death, the earth, where God formed a body for him, blew breath into his nostrils and he became a living soul with an earthen body. Howbeit, this man's life, while very interesting, is only temporal, and his knowledge is limited to things pertaining to this creation. God said through Isaiah, "Cease ye from man whose breath is in his nostrils." (Isa.2:22) Wycliffe translates it, "And so have you no more to do with man who is not worth anything more, than the breath from his own nostrils."

Through Jesus' salvation, life and light return to our spirit and our soul, and our standard for evaluating the things of this life begins to change. How precious this is! A way to progress and grow unto a new kind of being in Christ is open. When the Holy Spirit rose within us, the seed of a perfect new man was sown, and the process of growth began. This miracle first happened in the virgin womb of Mary, and has been repeated in the womb of a church made virgin ever since. When Gabriel announced to Mary that she shall bear a son. she quickly replied, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Lk.1:34) The birth of Jesus did not come from man, and neither is the birthing of the Christ creation that is formed in the virgin church. It does not happen because of man's knowledge or wisdom. It does not come from keeping traditions or laws; it is an act of God. Our souls are cleansed and made virgins by the Spirit, then the virgin church receives the Seed of the living Word that forms the new life within.

The Angel explained to Mary, "... The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Lk.1:35) And Mary believed, and so do we believe that one in the same likeness as this firstborn Son of God, will also be born out of the virgin church of which we are a part.

Mary's response to the Angel was an act of faith, and so it is for us. By faith, our spirits are made alive. and the plowing of the field of our heart and soul begins. Then by faith we receive the seed of the Word through the evangelists, preachers and teachers, and we are prepared to hear His voice and follow Him. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom.10:17) Even with little faith, when we respond to His voice, Jesus shines the light of His Spirit into our darkness. Then His Spirit leads us to do the things that are well pleasing in God's sight. This is a learning of obedience for our reborn spirit, and a huge turn around for our self-righteous and ego-centered soul. To do this work, the events of our daily lives become God's tools to train us, mold us to His will.

THE FIRST MAN ADAM WAS MADE A LIVING SQUL- "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak and he will shew you things to come." (Jn.16:12-13) Jesus yearned to explain deep things to His disciples, but they could not understand them with their natural minds. This is the same today; we comprehend only a portion of what we hear by the Spirit, and therefore most of what we know is information and not revelation. Information or knowledge, on their own, have no power to renew our souls, (our minds). Paul teaches, "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Rom.12:2) It is when our minds hear by the Spirit, rather than by the world's teaching, that we are slowly changed or transformed.

To really get a hold of this, we need to be clear as to who we are in the first Adam, and who we are becoming through Christ. "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." (I Cor.15:45) That new man is a brand new creation. It is not the old Adam revived; it is a new creature formed in the image of Christ. The old Adam is dead on the cross, and we are dead with him. The new, last Adam, (for there will be no other after this one), has already come into being. The firstborn is Jesus glorified, and His many brethren who will soon be made manifest. When Adam was created, in the garden, he was spirit and his spirit, in communication with God, was the source of his life. He also had a soul, for he had his own name, his identity: he was created in God's image. Howbeit, his soul was in perfect union with his spirit. It was his soul that the serpent called upon; it was his "self" or "ego" that became the culprit. It was his soul who sinned and ate of the fruit that would make her independent from the spirit and from God. Eve, the woman, is the perfect type of the soul.

When Adam fell, his spirit went into darkness and his soul followed the ways of the serpent. The soul, was created to be the reflection of the spirit, but when she sinned, the spirit was no longer her covering, and both went into the realm of death; the Adam man and his wife were given a covering of earth. The Adam man had become a "living soul" whose life is the breath out of his own nostrils. Adam is a man living by the power of his soul, and energized by the imaginations of the mind of his flesh, the carnal mind. Adam's spirit that at one time heard the voice of God, was now in the darkness of death. His soul took over the role of the spirit and became his source of light. The soul, dominated by the strong appetites of the "flesh," and with the cravings of many other spirits, (voices) became the ruler of man's mind. Thus, Adam is a "living soul," attracted and attached to the world, and guided by the power of the soul. Adam had been given dominion over the world, but now the world had dominion over the man Adam; his soul was submitted to the wiles and wisdom of the cunning serpent. The world was now under Satan's dominion and violence took over the world. "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh..." (Gen.6:3) "The earth was also corrupt before God and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth" (Vs.11-12) Then, God found Noah and gave man a

new start. But Noah was still a soul man, and his generations continued to live by the power of the soul, controlled by the flesh mind. Through Moses, God gave man a new guide, a new light, a new direction--the Law. But the flesh mind could never abide by it.

Paul rightly says, "For to be carnally minded, is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because, the carnal mind, (mind of the flesh), is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom.8:6-7) Enmity is a condition of hostility, hatred, ill-will, animosity, malice. This is why when one mentions Jesus Christ to someone whose mind is of the world, quickly the enmity within them rises up, and they change the subject.

The soul is the mind, the consciousness; it is also the emotion center of a person. The identity is revealed in the face, and the emotions are reflected in the movements of the face, especially the eyes. By self-control, man can hide much of what goes on in his soul. Although others have noted the same concept, it was Shakespeare who said, "The eyes are the widow of the soul." Indeed, our eyes reveal much of what we feel within, even when our words try to hide it. It is almost impossible to keep our eyes from tearing up when our soul is grieved, hurt or troubled. By the same token, our eyes will fire up when anger stirs our soul, and they will smile when joy, peace and love rise up within.

THE LAST ADAM WAS MADE A QUICKENING SPIRIT- In the garden, Adam had not yet eaten of the tree of life, thus he did not possess eternal life...he was not yet sealed in the spirit, and he could fall. He fell...hard. The light of his spirit went out, and he fell in gross darkness. His soul had made a deal with the serpent, "the prince of the power of the air," and that "prince," gave power to the soul of man. The soul was now enslaved by the demands of the flesh and the flesh was a beastly taskmaster; it kept dying day by day. When the flesh dies, it goes to the grave, and the soul goes to Sheol, which the KJV of the Bible translates "Hell." Sheol is not the inferno of Dante's imagination; it is the underworld, the abode of the dead.

When Jesus came, He declared, "...I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die; believest thou this?" (Jn.11:25-26) Believest thou this? Jesus was calling for faith to arise. As Christians, we believe that Jesus rose from the dead and that we were raised with Him; this is faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen." (Heb.11:1) Think about that! The invisible things of spirit, become real because we believe that they truly are. Unreasonable fear and anxiety work by the same principle in the opposite; when we fear that something will happen, we reap the results of that fear in our lives. There is a fear that produces caution, but most fear comes from spirits, thoughts, of darkness, through our imaginations. Job said, "For the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me; and that which I was afraid of has come unto me." (Job 3:25)

But in Christ, we are people of the Light and we believe. We see beyond the things of earth, we regain the dominion that was lost in the first Adam, we belong to the heavens and the earth, and as mature sons of God, we inherit the Son's nature and likeness, and we inherit all things. We become a new creation after the image of the LAST ADAM. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." (II Cor.5:17) We have not only been saved, we have been made new. This is salvation to the uttermost! This is the love of God that reaches up to the highest star, and down to the lowest hell! Thank you Father for your unspeakable gift!

Because He is love, Angèle Caporaso (Jackie)