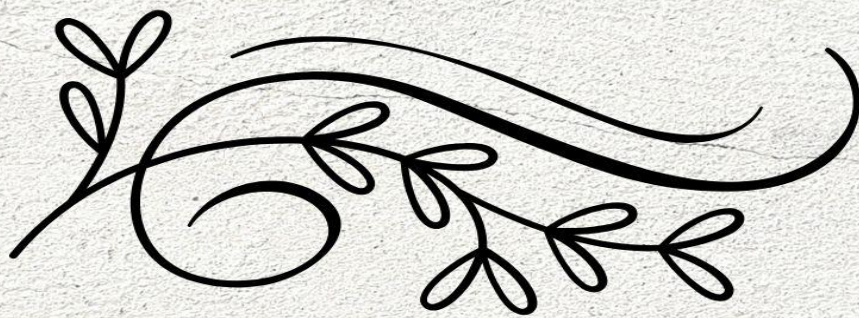


Abundant LIVING



I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly.

John 10:10b



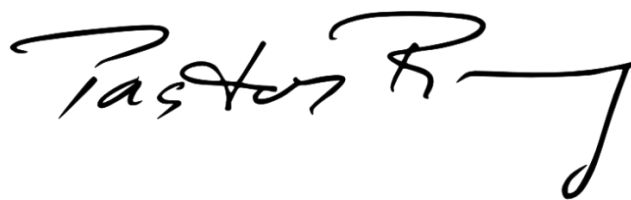
DR. RANDY BRODHAGEN

Abundant LIVING

Living the Abundant Life Through the Spirit

by

RANDY C. BRODHAGEN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor R. J." with a stylized flourish at the end.

ABUNDANT LIVING

THE SPIRIT IS MOVING

“Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?”
(Proverbs 20:6) *“Here I am, send me,”* Isaiah said. (Isaiah 6:8)

I always believe in being on the front of the wave, being on the cutting edge, to sharpen the spirit, and not allow myself to get dull. It happens. It can settle down. You can let everything in your life get boring. Marriages can start out flowing like a river coming out of the mountain, but as the years go on, it meanders like the Mississippi River. As long as we are moving, we are okay. We have to stir up the gift of God in yourselves, because sometimes things settle.

When everything is moving and life is flowing, out of our bellies flow Living Water by the Spirit of God. We want to allow the Spirit to move in us and to keep Him moving.

When Moses came off the mountain, the glory of God shone through his physical body, and the people could not stand to see the glory, so they told him to cover up. You could say, “I’m not going to cover up. I’ll let my light shine to the glory of God. I will let the glory in me come forth in Jesus’ name.”

BEING A PART OF A FRESH REFORMATION

There is a new reformation happening by the Spirit of God, and we are part of it. Wherever people are plugged into the Holy Spirit, they will be about this as well. You will see it more and more as people catch on, but there are some major changes that need to happen in the Body of Christ, beginning especially with the ministers and continuing on to the people.

“My people perish for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6) This passage goes on to say they do not want to get the knowledge. It has been the problem for centuries in the Church. When the Lord comes back, people will say, “Lord, Lord, didn’t we do this in Your name and that in Your name?” The Lord will say, *‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice*

lawlessness! (Romans 7:23) *"In vain they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."* (Matthew 15:9)

The Commandments of God were changed in the 300s AD by the pope and the Emperor Constantine. The seventh-day Sabbath was moved to the first day of the week, and is still in effect. People need the courage to stand up and keep it the way the Lord set it down as His holy day. He calls it "the Lord's Day." Why are people worshiping Him on Sunday, the wrong day? "Because everybody is doing it." However, it does not mean it is what the Lord says.

What does the Lord say now? He is cleaning up His Church. What does He want, and how does He want to do it? That is what we as believers in Jesus need to be concerned about. Ministers of God are expected to share the truth of the Lord Jesus. I was guilty in the past of not sharing certain truths until God showed me from His Word and by His Spirit that those things needed to be adjusted. They needed to be returned to the way God intended them. Romans 8.1 is *"We walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh."*

GOD WILL NOT HOLD BACK WHAT HE HAS GIVEN

Realize who you are in Christ Jesus, you are a whole new creation. The old is passed away, the new has come. You are not held back by anything in the spirit. The Lord has not only come within our hearts as we receive Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, but now we have the mind of Christ (1st Corinthians 2.16), and the will is still free to choose God or go to hell. You can choose. *"All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful"* as Christ Jesus has truly set us free. Why would you want to serve the devil when you are free from the devil? Think about it. How do you work the things in the Spirit that the Lord has given you?

We are not leaving this earth until we are finished with what we are given to do. Many do not know that. They perish before the time. It is not that the Lord appoints a time for a person to die, but He knows when it will be. He knows when we are finished with what we are given to do. We need to know that because if we press beyond what we are given, it does not work well for us. I have seen it before. The Lord loves us more than we can ever imagine, but we need to be in the Father's will. As we have noted, Jesus never did anything or say anything that His Father did not give Him

to do or say. We cannot have just happy thoughts that are not the Lord's thoughts. If they are not His thoughts or His will, I do not want them. I need to do His will and not run around like a poor, miserable, wretched sinner, just barely making it in life when the Lord Jesus says, *"I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly,"* the whole thing. (John 10:10)

Everything the Father has for me is coming to me, and I will not get in the way of it by not believing Him, or by not knowing what is coming. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask."* (James 1:5) Ask, believing. The Lord will not hold it back from me. He will give me everything I need for life and godliness. He has already given it (2 Peter 1), and we are walking into it. He knows our beginning from our end. He knows everything that will happen before it happens. The devil does not know what will happen in the next word I speak. He does not know what it is. See, the Church is so ignorant of how the thief works, for he only does what he has learned. Counterfeit. He counterfeits the Father. But when the Lord comes on the scene, the thief has to flee in terror.

When you speak the name of Jesus, the power of heaven starts to move if you believe. It moves when you believe. It does not move when you are not believing. Through faith and patience, we inherit all the promises of God.

UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SPIRIT

Like everything else, you need to understand what the Lord says about the body. You are in a body. What is this body now that you are a born-again believer? You have been in your body for a while. Have you found that it does whatever it wants to do, just as the mind will do whatever it wants to do if you let it? Paul says, *"Daily, I have to die to self and bring this body under control."* Under control to what? To my new spirit that is alive to God. The body will follow the mind, and this is why renewing the mind with the Word of God is so important. (Romans 12:1) Daily, offer your body to the Lord as a living sacrifice. You are a walking and talking Jesus here in this earth because Jesus lives in you. *"It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20) *"I am crucified with Jesus."* Identify with His crucifixion, that your wants and desires of the flesh, of the body, are dead in Christ Jesus. You are alive in Him. This

body which used to serve self and the devil will now serve the Lord Jesus Christ every day. (Romans 12:1-2)

THE WORD SHOWS WHAT GOD WANTS

Our renewed minds by the Word of God know what is the good and pleasing and acceptable will of God. I can know His will, but I have heard some church-goers say, "I don't know what the Lord wants." Ask Him! Read the Word!

The Word of God tells us many things that the Lord wants, and it shows us what He does not want. When I was a little boy, I was always looking for what the Lord said was blessed and what He said was cursed. What is right before the Lord? What is wrong before the Lord? I wanted to know both because I wanted to stay away from what is not blessed and do what is right. That is why my whole life has been blessed. Everything I have set my hand to do has been blessed by the Lord, just like He promises.

Meditate day and night on His Word. He will cause you to be by the Living Waters, and nothing will dry up and come to nothing. Fruit will not fall off before the time, and everything will come to pass just the way the Lord said.

THE BLESSING PATH

People could say, "Well, what about all those hideous things that have happened to you?" I say that they are not from the Lord. I am on the blessing path. Those things are sent to knock me out of the blessing path. But as I keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, nothing in hell can take me off that path. I am in the Lord's hands. You are also if you learn it and know it. The promise for me is the same promise for you. Same Lord. Now it is just a matter of application. *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."* (Philippians 2:12) That means respect, honor, praise, and worship of the Lord, for it is He who is working in you. Thank God it is He working there, not the devil. The Lord is working in you, enabling you to will and to do his good pleasure. As Jesus said, *"Not my will, Father, but Your will be done."* It is the way it will be when you live your life that way. Everything the Lord wants in your life will happen and nothing in hell can stop it from happening. Temptations and trials and tests come daily because the thief wants us to step out of the divine nature and step into

the flesh. They come especially to those who resist steadfast in the faith. (1st Peter 5:8-9) The other ones the devil does not mess with. He already has them because they are living to satisfy themselves and their selfish desires and needs. They are in the world, and whatever feels good, they do.

LEARN TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

But I live by the Lord's principles and promises. They come as I renew my mind. What does the Lord want? That means He rules in this life. *What do You want and how do You want to do it?* How would He share it with you? It will come like a thought. You will learn to hear His voice. You will learn to know what the good and acceptable and pleasing will of God is because your mind will start to be renewed by the Spirit of God who is in you. You are letting Him do it. You are not leaning to your own understanding. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways and he will direct your path."* (Proverbs 3:5-6) God is greater than anything you will ever face in this life. *"Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."* The Lord is greater than whatever the devil throws at you, whatever life throws at you, whatever the flesh tries to rise up in you. The thief is trying to resurrect the old self from the dead just like the Lord resurrected your spirit.

The gift of God is life in Christ Jesus. So when Jesus, God Himself, came to save us, He became like us in every way, except the Father was His daddy and His nature was not a sin nature. Sin means separation from the Lord, transgression of the law, lost forever. We are not ashamed of who we are in Christ Jesus. We are in this world, but we are not of it. We are alienated from it. We are basically pilgrims passing through on a mission from the Lord, about our Father's business, sharing the good news of the love of God with people.

OUR NEEDS ARE TAKEN CARE OF

The Lord takes care of us and all our needs, and all the promises of God are yes in Jesus. They enable us to participate in the divine nature. (2nd Peter 1)

No Christian should ever be about himself and his needs, but what are most of the prayers you hear? *Lord, take care of me, my mind, my body, my finances, my relationships.* Pathetic. Realize Jesus is our Source for all those things, and He has already given us everything we need for life and godliness. (2nd Peter 1:2-3) If we need wisdom and understanding, He has already given it. He says, *"Ask, seek, knock,"* receive it. Go up to the Lord's ATM in the name of Jesus, the password. All heaven's best is ours in Christ Jesus. No more religious begging and pleading with God to do something for us. Jesus already fulfilled it and it is ours in Him. I simply have to receive it. How do I receive it? By faith. Do not worry about what you will eat, drink, or wear (the bodily needs). Seek first the kingdom of God and all that will be added to you. In other words, be about the Father's business out the front door. He takes care of all yours through the back door. *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."*

He even takes care of the birds and the flowers. *"Are you not of more value than all of them?"* (Matthew 6) People's emphasis is always on the body: how they look, how they feel.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT COMES FORTH

We terrorize the terrorists, but it is not by emotion. I do not run my life on emotion. I run my life by the principles and promises of the Lord. The real you and me is now spirit, born of heaven. I am not just a mere man anymore. Paul asked, *"Are you thinking and living and believing like mere men?"* You are not that anymore. You are a man or woman of God. You are a child of the Most High. *"Be therefore, imitators of the Lord."* You have everything of the Lord in you to do everything that Jesus did as He walked the earth. You will do them if you are in the Spirit of God because you will keep the commandments of God. If you are attached to Jesus, He is the vine, you are the branches, and the fruit supernaturally comes out. The love, the joy, the peace. That is not just emotion. It is spiritual love, joy, peace (eternal).

It comes out of the spirit into the physical realm or manifests into the world. (Hebrews 11) We are to be living in the spirit, not in the flesh, tending to the physical desires. The Father knows that whatever the body needs, He will give it accordingly.

SANCTIFICATION BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

This body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit (1st Corinthians 6), for our spirits have been born again of God's Spirit. We are one in Spirit, just as in the Body of Christ, we are one with all believers and saints—past, present, and future. One in Christ Jesus in spirit. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”* (John 1:12)

However, we are not yet one in the unity of the faith. (Ephesians 4) That is part of what the Lord is doing in the new reformation. The majority of those who go to church are not saved. They are worshiping idols. If you hail anybody but Jesus, you will not be with the Lord. That is a fact.

Many church-goers are not filled with the Holy Spirit. They do not speak in tongues, cast out devils, or lay hands on the sick. They do not believe in those things, and there is no power.

Jesus is coming for a holy Bride, not one with sin in the camp, running rampant. Where is there talk about repentance anymore, about changing your ways? The Lord that we serve is a God of hope. There is no hope for a person who wants to willfully, knowingly continue to practice sin, thinking that “once saved, always saved,” and thinking that the Lord “knows my heart.”

People do not know their own hearts, that is the problem, but God knows the heart. How can you, being a holy, blood-washed Christian, continue to willfully, knowingly, go against the Lord and think you are okay? There is great deception going on today. The devil, if he cannot blind people's minds, keeps them away from being born again and saved in Jesus, from being received in the love of God. Then he tries to neutralize those who are born again and make them of no effect in their walk with the Lord.

In Christ Jesus, He made you perfect. This work of the Holy Spirit in you daily is called sanctification. *“The Lord is working in you, enabling you to will and to do His good pleasure.”* If there is something out of line, the Lord is faithful and just to forgive you. (John 1:9) When you are faithful to acknowledge your sin to Him, He forgives you and cleanses you from all unrighteousness. The Lord wants you not to sin anymore, nor do your own will, which is the devil's will. God wants you to do His will, and by His grace, He enables you to do it. It is His grace that enables you not to sin.

By grace we are saved, followed by the works the Lord gives us to do. (Ephesians 2:10), *"We are his good workmanship,"* created by the Lord to do good faith works that He has prepared for us to do. Who is doing those works? *"To them who believe, the works I do, you will do. And greater works than these you will do."* (John 14:12) *"Because I am going to the Father, I am sending My Spirit, and My Spirit is here."*

There is much ignorance about being filled with the Holy Spirit, and many think that when they receive Jesus they receive the Holy Spirit. Read Acts, chapter eight. At that time many people had repented and believed on the Lord Jesus through Philip. They were born again and water baptized. Then the believers called for Peter and John to come down and fill them with the Holy Spirit. This was a separate act. It is the power for ministry, and it is the power for life.

MY BODY IS NOT MY OWN

This body has to be brought under control daily, just like the mind needs to be renewed by the Word of God daily to walk in the Spirit. That does not mean my body is not saved, and my mind is not saved. No, I have the mind of Christ, and I am the temple of the Holy Spirit. (First Corinthians 6) Therefore, I will serve the Lord with my spirit, my mind, my body, which belong to Him. My body is not my own. You have heard out there, "My body is my own, and I will do what I want with it." This is in direct opposition to what the Lord says about it. If you are an unbeliever, and you destroy the temple of God, it is still His.

The Lord's principles are sure, whether we believe Him or not. He will do whatever He is going to do. He will destroy evil. If people willfully, knowingly want to oppose Him, He laughs from the heavens at it. (Psalm 2:4) His will is going to be done on earth as it is in heaven, whether people want or like it or not. *"Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."* Great will be the fall. (Luke 10:18) Jesus said, *"I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning."*

It is not enough to be willing, you have to be obedient. In Christ Jesus, I can do all things that the Lord wants.

HOW ARE WE TO BE LIVING TODAY?

The curse is removed from the body and the mind, and the spirit is raised from the dead. It is God's Spirit in us. We are one with Him. *"Christ in us, the hope of glory,"* Hallelujah. It is so simple, and it falls into place so well. The Lord is not complicated, but man makes things complicated. The devil makes it complicated. He does not want people getting this, because if you get this, you will walk the earth like Jesus did. Jesus is our example of how we are to be living today. It is the real "Me Too" movement. The Lord is working it in us, to us, and through us. We are His good workmanship. Do not compete or compare with anybody, because nobody can compete or compare with the Lord, and He is in you. You do not need to look for self-worth or self-anything. You are not improving your self-image. You die to self-image. How do you take care of your reputation? You do not, because you have none. You are dead.

"The life I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God." (Galatians 2:20) This is the same guy, by the way, who wrote "We are not under the law of God anymore," but people do not understand it. They just read the words. Just like they read the word "Sabbath." All the holy days were called sabbaths, but there is a Seventh-day Sabbath that is in the moral code, which was eternal (before the fall of man) and is observed in Isaiah, chapter 66. If people would read Isaiah 66, they would see that in the new heaven and the new earth, from one seventh day Sabbath to the next, people will come to worship the Lord, worship Him in the beauty of His holiness. That is not simply referring to going to church.

The Sabbath is a 24 hour period to the Lord. See our books entitled, *The Everlasting Gospel* and *Creation Sabbath* online @glorytoGod.org, and another book *The Real Lord of Job*. Job represents the church of today. The book does away with the false teaching in the churches about who the Lord is. Job said, *"I heard about You with the hearing of the ear, but now I know who You are, and I repent."* (I change what I believe in.) It is what has to happen, and people have to have the spiritual fortitude and courage to make the change.

CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH?

I get letters, you know, that say, "Mother Mary comforts me." I am sorry, it is not Mother Mary comforting me or you. She is sitting in Paradise with the Lord. She is not ruling in the heavens. She is not the mother of God,

she is the mother of Jesus, the man, as he walked the earth. Her cross, her assignment, was to bear Jesus, and we have assignments from the Lord just like Mary, Moses, or Isaiah. We need to be about our Father's business since we are born again (1st Thessalonians 4:1-8), living to please God. *"Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God."* (1st Thessalonians 4:1) These are not dead works (religious works). All belief systems try to please the gods, and so they do all kinds of sacrifices. They offer babies as sacrifices.

In the 1200's there were monks who whipped themselves, trying to beat their bodies into submission, but that is not pleasing the Lord. The fire of Gehenna (commonly called hell) is really the holding place for those who die apart from the Lord. Paradise is the place where believers go. The dead cannot be born again and cannot be saved. Jesus, after his death, went down and preached the gospel to those who had died after Adam sinned. Everyone there was given opportunity to be saved. That is the Lord we love and serve. He finishes everything. He is the author and finisher of our faith. The good work He began in me, He is faithful to perfect and complete (spirit, mind, body).

I will finish and receive the crown of life if I do not give it up along the way, I want the knowledge of the Lord. I want the truth.

"Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified (holy), that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter, no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit." (1st Thessalonians 4:1-8)

He will enable you to work out your own salvation. Do not put yourself in harm's way. Fear and worry are sin that take you right out of the will of

God, and they will stop your miracle. They will work against everything that the Lord has. That is why the devil sends it. What are you doing? If you are not trusting the Lord, He is saying, *"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"* (Numbers 23:19)

THE LORD GOD'S PLANS AND PROVISIONS

The fear of the Lord (reverence, honor, and worship of God) is coming back. Many people sitting in church treat Him as common, and that is why they do not see any miracles. That is why they do not see any power. That is why their life is dull and boring. Life is not about riches and fame, fortune, long life and health, yet that is what folks are seeking. The Lord is not a Sugar Daddy in the sky who will wave His wand and make all the good things happen for you. He is certainly not overlooking people's transgressions when they call themselves Christians but are compromised. When you are compromised, the thief can do what he did with Job and take everything, including your salvation, if you willfully, knowingly continue to go against God.

What are the Lord's plans for us? He wants and knows the plans He has for us. Plans for good, not for evil. Plans to prosper, to give hope and a future. Understand this, nobody can take your salvation. No devil, not life, nobody out there. They will try to get you to give it up. "Give up Jesus or die," but the martyrs of old loved not their lives to the death. They would not give up what was theirs.

Having had an issue with pain or sorrow in your life is all part of the curse. There was no pain or sorrow before Adam and Eve went against the Lord. But Jesus bore our pain and sorrow on the cross, and the power of it is broken off our lives. Pain in the body or in the mind tries to come. The body says something is wrong, but people do not look at pain like that. They think, *I don't want it*, and the devil knows that, and tries to torment many. The pain says there is something wrong in the body or in the mind (depression, anxiety). It causes trauma, and it needs to be dealt with. The Lord has a provision for everything that we will ever face in this life. He has given us a provision, and He will never leave us or forsake us. He loves us with an everlasting love that never changes. *"Therefore, we can boldly say 'the Lord is my Helper.' I will not fear what man shall do."*

LOCK DOWN YOUR FAITH

Many people think the Lord is just messing around with them, like in a chess game with the devil. Not true! They need to know the truth about who the Lord of Job really is, and how in the end, Job was blessed beyond measure. What is intended for evil, the Lord intends for good, and He has given us everything that we need for life and godliness to see us through. Strength sufficient for the day. He has given us patience. People want instant relief, you know (no pain). They do not want to worry about things.

“A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways and cannot expect to receive anything from the Lord.” (James 1:8) James was talking to the believers. Yes, believers expect to receive, but they may be double-minded, thinking maybe God will, maybe He won't. They wonder why He hasn't done this by now. We have to root down and lock down our faith in God! *“Has he not said it? Will he not do it?”* However long it takes does not matter. He says He is doing it. Faith says He is doing it, even though I do not yet see it, because the body is all about what you see. Look in the mirror as a born again believer and you do not look different. As a believer you do not walk by sight, you walk by faith in God. That gives you peace, even when there is no rhyme or reason for peace. *“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.”* In other words, why should you have peace while problems are going on all around you? You have peace and you have joy because they are from the Lord in you Who is greater. (1st Thessalonians)

What will happen with the spiritual body the Lord has for us? I am not in that spiritual body right now, I am in a physical body that is not under the curse because of Jesus. I need to understand that. Some have been taught that when you get older, things break down. That does not have to be the case. Guaranteed, if you are believing that, it will be the case. If I am worrying or am fearful, that can affect my body. *“Since you then be risen with Christ, set your mind (your heart) on things above.”* (Colossians 3:1-2) If your heart and mind is with the Lord, you will not enter into worry or fear.

“Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is willing and the flesh is weak.” The Lord told me to alter that expression with, “There is no weakness in my body if I follow my spirit.”

There is no place or power in my body unless I allow it. What about, “I can’t handle this food or that food.” All food is sanctified in Christ Jesus except, as Paul would say, food offered to idols. In their day they would offer food to the idols. What man does to appease the gods!

LIFE AND HEALTH FLOW THROUGH BELIEVERS

Fear gripped the whole world a few years ago. In seven days, the world was shut down through fear of contagion. Understand this, the law of life and health is flowing through a born again believer, and the law of sickness and death has no place or power. The curse is removed. In the 1800s a missionary in Africa was ministering to the people there. He was being moved from the area because of an outbreak of a highly contagious plague. The missionary said, “Let me show you something.” He told them to take a sample of a deceased person's blood and put it on a microscope slide followed by a sample of his blood on the slide. What was in him destroyed what was in the person who had died of the plague. Supernatural. The law of life and health was flowing. Jesus touched the leper and said, “Be healed.”

We do not need to be afraid about anything. We need to be under the blood of Jesus. When you go outside of the blood of Jesus through worry and fear, or through eating wrong, there are things out there that will harm you. I used to eat shrimp and all that other seafood all the time. Why would I pray over it? Because the largest shrimp grow where the sewage hits the sea. The bottom feeders eat the garbage, and then we eat them.

I can also choose whether I am going to have something grilled or deep fat fried. There are choices, body choices. But have no worry and fear when reactions are happening. David said, “My bones rotted within me when I covered my sin.” Blood problems can start to happen. Cancers or arthritis can occur when there is unforgiveness. That is not for you to go out and say, “You have arthritis. Then you must have unforgiveness in your heart towards somebody.” Those diseases are intended to kill, steal, and destroy. Many of them are flat out attacks of the devil to kill people. It is not the Lord sending it to teach you a lesson as is falsely taught in some places.

The Lord wants us healthy and whole, with an abundant life so we can finish everything He has given us to do, not be taken out before the time. You may be in the perfect will of God and an attack comes to steal, kill and destroy. Other things happen because you have guilt in your heart or there is inordinate love, promiscuity, or perversion. Have you ever wondered why certain, basically incurable, diseases (as far as the world is concerned) are out there? What population do they happen with? Lifestyles make a difference. Now, can the Lord heal anything? Absolutely. The lepers were healed by the Lord Jesus. The Spirit of God overrides what is going on in the natural, like that missionary in Africa. It is a true story. Lies do not make truth happen. They create false beliefs and false thoughts.

Worry will kill you. It will affect your heart. It will affect your digestive tract. Fear will create torment, but God's perfect love casts out all fear. You are not under the curse anymore. None of it has a right to stay on your body, your mind, or your spirit. Your spirit is perfect. It is holy. Therefore get your mind and body operating by your spirit. The Lord does not talk to your mind, He talks to your spirit. Then it comes into the mind and understanding directs the body.

BE NOT DECEIVED

Sexual sin is directed against one's body, and everything you stand for and are. You are perverting the Lord's holy temple and the person you are doing it with. 1st Corinthians 6 says, "*Do not be deceived.*" People say, "Well, I'm a Christian, but a little wine, you know, Paul recommended a little wine to Timothy, you know, for his ailments. Note, a little wine. Not every night to help you to sleep. The Lord gives His beloved peaceful sleep. There is no getting around it. *"Wine is a mocker and beer is a brawler."* (Proverbs 20:1) It is a snake that will bite you and eventually take you out.

The Lord has given many natural things to help you clear the body. Prune juice. You can take too many vitamins, supplementing yourself right out of the health zone because one thing affects another. There is a balance between salt and water in your body. The Lord made us so amazingly, and He has given many of these insights to the medical profession.

“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.” Your spirit is perfect. Therefore, you have to bring every thought captive to the mind of Christ. (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5)

There is an expression in Christian circles: “When all else fails, pray.” I am astounded. No, it is, *“If any is in trouble, let him pray.”* It does not say go to option A, B, C, D. It says go to the Lord and make sure you are guarding your thoughts and spirit, and are not out of the will of God. The thief could cause some real havoc and harm. *“Whatever things are true, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.”* (Philippians 4:8) *“Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith.”* (Hebrews 12:2) Stay in the spirit. *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (Romans 12:21)

TAKE AUTHORITY AND DOMINION

Let's thwart the plan of the devil to interfere in marriage, health, or finances. Let's thwart it (bury it, do away with it, kill it, destroy it). *“No weapon formed against you shall prosper. And every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me.”* (Isaiah 54:17) Take authority and dominion, not entertain it, for with the Lord all things are possible. He is changing us into His image. We are changed and we are changing. The Lord has made us holy, and He is making us holy every day, keeping us in that holiness. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit.

So with your understanding, say, “My anger does not accomplish the purpose of God.” (James 1) What will my anger do? It will make me crazy. Who is angry all the time? The devil is burning from within. He hates, and he is driven. In addition, unforgiveness drives people, and consumes them.

The devil tries to take down the mind, a defense system. In Christ Jesus, no evil can touch us unless the defense system is down. Who is my Defender, my Protector? The Lord is. If I am outside of the will of God by not believing Him, having fear and worry, I can say all day “I believe the Lord.” However, if I am in that, I am not believing Him. The sooner I

recognize it, the better. Thank God for people that will see it and tell you that you are not believing Him.

Get back and believe in the Lord. Do not condemn yourself, just get back. Ask forgiveness. *Father, forgive me.* Back into the power does not take long. Oppressed? Unplug for a few moments and Jesus can plug you back in. Do you understand what was done to you and what was said? Jesus took it all at the cross. We have no excuse anymore. I don't want to live in excuse, I want to live in blessing. Bring this body under subjection to the spirit with "*It is written,*" and "Lord, what do you want? How do you want to do it?" Those two questions bring me right into His Lordship. One, I am acknowledging Jesus' Lordship over my life – spirit, mind, body, finances, relationships, health, everything. Two, His wisdom and understanding about what He wants me to do or not do, and how to do it depending on what it is. Some things He does not want us to go there, meaning it is none of our business. Have you thought that everything is your business? Only what the Lord gives you. No more, no less.

PERSECUTION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

Many people do well to realize they are not here to save the world. Jesus already did. You are here to do what the Lord has given you to do. No more, no less. Namely, bring the good news of Jesus and the love of God to people so they can be born again. Next, live the life and example of love and the Lord's goodness. Be like Jesus walking around the earth. "*It is no longer you who lives, but Christ who lives in you. You are crucified with Christ.*" You are dead. In water baptism, you were buried with Jesus, and up came the new resurrected life in the power of the Spirit. You can and must want everything the Lord wants you to do or not do. He will show you the difference. Some people in church think they are suffering for Christ, but they are suffering sickness and disease. Nowhere in the Bible does it say you suffer sickness and disease for the Lord. Real suffering for Christ is for your faith in Jesus, and persecution is what it is about. See the book entitled *Glory Crown* on the website which deals with Paul's thorn and suffering for Christ.

Persecution will increase as the days are at hand. The more you are operating in the divineness of Christ, and showing forth the glory of God, the more persecution will come because the darkness does not like the

light. When you are shining bright, the world will hate you. It will try to get rid of you. It will try to ruin everything about you as it did to Jesus. Jesus says not to be bothered when it happens to you because it is not happening to you. (Matthew 10) He says, *"It is happening to Me."* That means that people are seeing Jesus in you. It is not you thinking you are "God's gift." You always thank the Lord when somebody says, "You think you are God's gift." I answer, "You recognized it!" I am. It is not me thinking about me. It is that the Lord gives gifts to His people, and I am one of them. (Ephesians 4) You are God's gift too. Now live like it.

Some people may not physically beat you up, and they are not necessarily abusing you with words, but their selfishness and control does. It tries to make others do what they want them to do. That is damned living. That is how it will end up. If they say, "I have hell on earth," I say, "You're right. It has begun now. Just waiting for what will come."

Is that what you want? Or would you like some peace and joy and some contentment in your life, something of value? Money comes and it goes. Many people have much money, but they have no friends. And the ones they have are not friends. They just come around when they want something. Job lost all his friends and family. Even his wife told him, "Why don't you give up your God and die?"

I heard the following true story: A woman packed her bags. They were there in the foyer when her husband came home. He said, "Oh, we are going on a trip." She said, "No, I'm going. You are not." That was it. "I did not buy into this," she said. (He had just lost all his stocks, and things had gone down the tube. Therefore, she would not be able to live in the style she was "accustomed to.")

Sometimes in life, it is "Jesus Christ, and beans and rice." You know beans and rice are a whole protein. *"Then we will eat the fat of the land."* The fat of the land in Isaiah, chapter two, means you will be eating the best of the best in your life when you have faith and trust in the Lord and obey what He says.

ENJOY YOUR LIFE IN JESUS

When I was a little guy, I used to go to the show. What day? Every Saturday in the summer I would be in the theater because they had

matinees and they would run the movies all day long. And the temperature was cool. I told my workout friend that I used to go to the show and to the bowling alley in the summer when I was a child because it was cool. I said, "Now I come to exercise, and it is really cool in here." He just looked at me and laughed. We have fun. You need to have fun in your life, friends. A body that is having fun, enjoying life, *"laughter doeth good like a medicine,"* has no cares, no worries, no fears.

I am not saying there are no responsibilities for the people who are trespassing and messing up other people's property. The majority of them are by choice. Not all of them. It is by choice. Many times people have what they have. They will even refuse items you give them because they do not like it. They do not want it. They want something else.

If you are not enjoying your life as a Christian, that is an enemy alert. There is something wrong with your life. You are not attached to Jesus, quite frankly. A person can have all hell going on around and still be in the love of God, the peace and the joy, and be about the Father's business. And be at peace with others. *"As much as lies within you live peaceably with people."* You do not have to fight them.

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

People are usually not spiritual. And you are judging them. As you judge out, some measure comes back to you. I do not want anything coming back that is not good. Love, respect, honor, and live the life worthy of the grace of God that has been given you. Do-gooders have a form of godliness, but they do what they think is godly or good, not even consulting the Lord about what He wants, and they just go out and do what they think. Peter asked, *"How many times should we forgive somebody? Seven?"* He thought that was an awesome amount. (You could forgive seven times in a matter of an hour. And that is on a good day, especially if you have the attitude that the whole world is against you.)

To say, "I am not worthy," is a slap in the Lord's face. Jesus' Blood made us worthy as He is worthy. I was not worthy, but He made me worthy. Am I going to say that the Blood given was in vain and of no effect to change my life? Did Jesus take away all my sin? *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have*

believed in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 25:17) But the church continues to be sin conscious, unworthy conscious.

OUR CHANGED NATURE

“Holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14) Do I determine if I am holy? No, who made me holy? Jesus made me holy. I did not do it, I cannot. “Religion” is like working my way back to You, Lord. Dead works. Jesus is saying, *“In vain you do worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. You honor Me with your lips, but your hearts are far from Me.”* Where is the heart? Jesus' heart. Did He judge you and me? No, what judged us? The law. It was made ineffective by us, because of our sin nature, and we could not keep it.

The law is amazingly wonderful, the law of God. It shows us how to love the Lord, how to love our neighbor as ourselves, but we could not do it because our nature was not changed. In Christ Jesus, the Lord demands the change. *“You will know them by their fruit,”* He says. A bad tree (one that is not attached to the Lord) cannot bear good fruit. Only good fruit comes through a person who is attached to the Lord. If we do bad things, there is some bad fruit that needs to be taken off, and the Lord prunes us with His Word. He doesn't teach us to stay out of the street by backing over us with a car. He is just, He is righteous, He is true, He is good. His mercy and faithfulness endure forever. He is happy and joyful while he is doing all these amazingly wonderful things for people.

FOR THE JOY

Jesus endured the contradiction of the cross. He was innocent, and He took our lack of innocence on Himself for the joy that was set before Him. For us He joyfully submitted to the will of God on the cross while ministering to others the whole time. Yes, you have heard man's church version. Oh, all the suffering. If you look closely at the account, Jesus was having a marvelous time on the cross. One, He was taking away the sin of the whole world, accomplishing the Father's purpose. Two, He told his mom, “Here's your son.” Jesus was taking care of all the loose ends, and He had relationship with the guy on his left who became born again. *“Today you will be with me in Paradise”* because he believed on Jesus. Then He said, *“It is finished.”*

Wow, there is something about completion. When you know that you have run the race, you fought the good fight of faith, you finished the course, and now there remains the crown laid up for you. The rewards. You will be rewarded for the good when you obeyed the Lord. There are no rewards on everything else. But there are rewards. You and I are an offering to the Lord daily, and I offer a sacrifice of praise too.