

JACKIE CAPORASO
10552 SE 151ST STREET
SUMMERFIELD FL 34491
PH.352-288-5257
EMAIL- jackiecaporaso@gmail.com

HE THAT OVERCOMETH

No.286

A GARDEN OF PERFECT HARMONY

Jesus taught us to pray to our heavenly Father, *“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matt.6: 10) This was declaring that there would come a day of perfect harmony between earth and the Father's will.

During the seemingly short time that Adam and Eve were in Eden, they were in perfect harmony with the Father's will. The Hebrew word for Eden translates to “Delight.” Eden is a delightful place. I believe that the garden was actually a literal earthly garden, but above all, it is a dimension of life where man's soul and spirit dwell in harmony with the will of God. It is the garden within the spirit and soul of man in God's image.

The Lord God created the beautiful earth with all its magnificent rivers and mountains, its indescribable flora and fauna, all of it as an environment for the man after His image. As we mature in Christ and are able to understand more of the workings of God's creation, we come to know that the physical, natural, visible world that God created exists in spirit within each one of us.

The spirit realm within each of us is a world that totally reflects the environment where we dwell. *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made..”*(Rom.1:20a) Indeed God gave man dominion over his outer visible world and until man was cast out of the spirit realm (garden), he ruled his world by the voice of God. When he lost access to the realm of spirit, his carnal mind or the mind of the “outer” man, seized the dominion. The worlds that we live in now have been created

by man's own will and carnal, intellectual reasoning. Man has established his world according to his own desires. When he lost touch with the will of God, rebellion and violence showed up immediately, and harmony between man and his environment were gone. This is why Jesus taught us to pray that the kingdom of God in earth be again in harmony with the will of the Father in heaven.

As the Lord reveals Himself to us, our understanding broadens and we can see more and more clearly, who we have been without Him, who He is and who we are in Him. We understand that the heavens that rule the earth are not somewhere in space, but very much in our inner being. It is the spirit in man's inner being that rules not only his own life but also his world. Man without God was soon overwhelmed by the ruthless spirits of darkness, ruling powers that relentlessly assault his thoughts and dictate his actions.

Paul declares, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in HIGH PLACES (HEAVENLY PLACES).”* (Eph.6:12) This word HIGH is the same word that is translated “Heavenly” in *“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together (with Christ) in HEAVENLY PLACES.”* (Eph.1: 6)

THE THIEF AND ROBBER INVADED OUR GARDEN

Going back to the familiar story of the Garden of Eden, we recall that there were two trees and so

there were two manners of fruit or seeds. One of them was forbidden, nevertheless its presence among the trees was compelling. These trees were not just for shade or scenery, they were food for the soul. We know that the actual food we eat becomes part of our bodies. By the same token, the food that we partake of in our spirit, becomes part of our character as earthly human (soul) beings.

Jesus gave us a clue when He boldly declared, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you,, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (Jn.6: 53)* Jesus is the Tree of life. He is the Word of God and the source of eternal life.

The couple in Eden did not possess eternal life within their beings. Their eternal lives depended on the Word of God that came to their garden each day. *“And the Lord said, Behold the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and **live forever**. Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he came.” (Gen.3: 22-23)*

The tree of life is Christ. Its seed and fruit are the Word of God. The tree of knowledge of good and evil is the carnal mind; its seed and fruit feed man's ego and desire to be rich and famous in this life. Its fruit is the pride and arrogance of the serpent, and animosity against everything that is of God. The forbidden tree is death indeed.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil was so appealing to Eve that she could not refrain herself. She listened to the serpent as he hissed softly in her inner ear...you could be as God knowing good and evil! Her soul was lifted up and the idea of attaining knowledge and wisdom on her own became her greatest desire and goal in life.

She had no problem convincing her husband and the pair gave birth to a line of smart, shrewd, egotistic leaders to rule over the affairs of the people of this world. Through their own devices the world's systems were set in place. Thus the entire human race was deceived into thinking they were doing “good,” when indeed their good was the product of

their soulish desires. They had chosen the broad way that leads unto death. As time went on, the deception of thinking they were doing good continued to grow and to prevail. Humanity has been in captivity to the death of that tree ever since. The smarter man became in his own eyes, the more violence and death has been produced. It is a bottomless pit. Man had lost access to the realm of spirit and to the voice of God. All that dwell upon the earth had created gods in their own image, and so they crucified the Lord of glory.

*“And **all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him**, (the sophisticated, educated serpent turned dragon), whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb, **SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.**”(Rev.13:8)*

We see the mind of the serpent in Cain who killed his brother Abel. Cain was puffed up with pride for the beautiful works of his own hands. He had expected that God surely would be pleased with his plentiful, earthly sacrifice. He had labored to grow these vegetables and he knew in his mind that acceptance was a sure thing.

When he was rejected, he was greatly disappointed and outraged! He quickly rose up into a jealous rage and with deadly animosity, he killed his brother who was tender toward God's Spirit, and who offered a living sacrifice. Abel offered a lamb, a flesh and blood creature of God and not the product of his own labor. In type, He offered the Lamb of God and Abel was himself slain as a lamb.

Abel's blood, along with the blood of the slain prophets, cried out from the ground, until the Lamb of God Jesus was offered up once and for all. *“From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.” (Lk.11: 51)*

From the beginning, the warfare between the seed of the woman (earth) and the seed of the serpent (carnal mind) culminated violently and it seemed that the carnal mind always won. *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between*

thy seed and HER SEED; it shall bruise (crush) thy head, and thou shalt bruise HIS heel.” (Gen.3: 15)

Man has tried to return to the Garden by doing good, but the good of the tree of his knowledge still stems from the root of his carnal mind. With his “good” he could never defeat the strong man of his house. Paul declared, *“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do...O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom.7:19,24)*

The woman (earth/soul) continually strives to establish the good, but the evil seems to always get the upper hand. The problem is, the good that man does is the product of the wrong tree. The root of that tree is death and so is its fruit...even as Cain's offering, the “good” fruit is evil before God. The battle between the two seeds is relentless, and the seed of evil has been on the winning hand. It is an incessant and unyielding spiritual warfare.

Man was in need of a powerful “overcomer.” In spite of his earnest desire to do good and to find peace on earth, man has been barking up the wrong tree. Man has followed a religion of good works which also comes from the same tree. Without the true light, man stumbles in darkness and cannot find his way. Man has been relying upon his intellect and his learning power, only to find that at the end of the day, he is deeper in darkness than he had been in the beginning.

The Bible does not say that the tree of life was removed from the garden, only that the man was driven away from that place. Man lost access to the tree of Life (Christ), and to the garden (the realm of spirit). God has turned man to his own devices, making his own decisions about what is good or bad, right or wrong. This has resulted as a disaster for humanity.

Man has been reaping the fruit of his own knowledge, his own judgment, his own inventions, imaginations and conclusions. Higher learning has become the “sought after” prize for a good life, but as knowledge increased and man became smarter on their own, the spirit that deceived them in the begin-

ning has been gaining ground; the fruit of their great knowledge has become their destruction.

The prophet Daniel saw what would happen in our day. He saw that the temple of God (hearts of men) would suffer great abomination. He saw that during that time many would do wickedly against the covenant, (Christ). But he also saw something reassuring. *“But the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.”(Dan.11: 32-33)* He saw that the Lord would raise up another people in that day. A Deliverer!

Daniel saw the times of resurrection. *“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt...But thou O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” (Dan.12: 2,4)*

The Book that Daniel was ordered to seal until the time of the end, is not the Bible. Although it is mentioned in the Bible, the book where these things are written is the book of life. This book is within each one of His called out people. It is being opened today by the Lord as He reveals Himself from glory to glory and each is awakened to the truth within.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

As we move from glory to glory or we could say, from maturity to maturity in Christ, we begin to experience and understand the mystery that has been hid within. Paul speaks of the GLORY of this mystery. *“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the **glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you the hope of glory.**” (Col.1: 27)*

It is certain that we go through levels of spiritual understanding before we come to experience the revealing of this glorious One within us. Paul explains that He is a mystery among the Gentiles (the heathens). The Ephesians had raised an altar to THE

UNKNOWN GOD and when Paul saw it, he was quick to tell them that the true God was not worshipped in temples made with hands but that He is actually the One who gives them life. *“For in him WE live, and move, and have our being; as certain of your poets have said, For we are his offspring.”* (Acts 17:28)

This was addressed to a godless people, yet Paul was telling them that their lives issued from the life of God within them. All humanity is His workmanship. *“All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”* (Jn.1:3) He blew the breath of life into every man that has ever been born. There is only one source of life and it is God. Humanity has no life of itself. Men of science have tried to duplicate life, but could never produce it. All life comes from God and only from our God.

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (Jn.1:4) *“That was the true Light, which lighteth EVERY MAN THAT COMETH INTO THIS WORLD.”* (Vs.9) Christ is the TRUE light. He is pure with no lie or guile. Light is what makes manifest. It is what reveals the hidden works of darkness and it is within every man.

Christ was slain from the foundation of the world and has been a hidden mystery. He was with them in the wilderness, He was in the Law of Moses and He was the Rock that gave them life (water). But after Jesus came, died and was resurrected, this same Seed of life that was in the Law of Moses, became the new life with the power of “resurrection.”

He is the hope of glory for every man. Through faith, He is the “resurrection” and the only way out of the labyrinth of death. As John wrote, He is the Light in every man that has come into the world. He is the Seed planted within our earth, but as a Seed, He must be nourished to grow and be raised up to new life. Just like a seed planted in the earth must overcome all the obstacles that are ever present in the soil, so Christ must overcome all the enemies in the way.

When my husband once planted tomatoes and peppers in his little patch of garden, he had to keep the

nematodes (worms with a mouth on both ends) from eating the roots and kill the life of the plant. Too much or too little water can also kill the plants, as well as many other enemies that lurk in the soil and in the air. And so it is for the Seed of Christ within us. He must overcome His enemies in our soil (body and mind) that resist him constantly, before He can break through and display His glory in us.

HOW LONG WILL EVIL TRIUMPH?

Up to the time when Jesus came, the Seed of Christ in every man was as a Lamb slain. Jesus told a man, *“I was in prison and you did not visit Me.”* All had sinned and come short of the glory of God. There was not one man who was able to crush the head of the serpent and his seed (devil). The Lord told Isaiah that he looked and there was no man that listened to His Word. There were none righteous in Zion or in Jerusalem (His church) *“Behold they are all vanity; their works are nothing; their molten images (imagination) are wind and confusion.”* (Isa.41:29)

There was no hope for anyone in the world, until Jesus came to earth. No matter how much a man yearned for the peace and delight of the garden of his inner being, he found no way to enter therein. He could not overcome his fears and anxieties. He had lost access to the tree of life and was locked into a labyrinth of death. Eternal life was not ever in any man's sight. Jesus is the only man who came into the world as a sinless Lamb. He is the only One who was able to overcome the strong man and death in a body of flesh, through the Spirit of holiness that dwelled in Him.

The Lord God sent many prophets with His Word of Light, but none listened to their voices. They even threw the prophets in dungeons or pits; they tortured them and killed them. When Jesus sent His own disciples with the Word of life, they cast them to the wild beasts and tortured them and killed them as well. It goes without saying what they did to the Son.

Jesus spoke of all this in the parable of the householder who planted a vineyard and let it out to husbandmen while he went to a far country. When the time of harvest was near, he sent his servants to the

husbandmen to receive its fruits. But one by one, his servants were beaten, killed and stoned. He sent many servants and they all suffered the same fate. *“But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, they will reverence my son.”* (Matt.21: 37)

But instead they plotted among themselves and killed the son so they could seize his inheritance. The battle between the seeds kept on raging and the serpent or strong man of the house always won. They coveted the inheritance just as the serpent lusts after all that belongs to Christ. He avidly yearns to rule the world forever.

No man could overcome the power of death that is in the carnal man. John heard the cries of the saints, *“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held; and they cried with a loud voice saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”* (Rev.6: 9-10) Lord, we are all ready for the end of this death. Only the SINLESS LAMB of God began and finished that work.

JESUS THE CONQUEROR

The Lord God loves His creation and is not willing that any of it perish. *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance.”* (II Pet.3:9) And so God devised a sure plan and from the beginning He ordained His own Son to be the Savior of the world.

In His human body, Jesus Christ was not of the seed of Adam; He was of the Seed of Abraham. Abraham was a man of faith who obeyed God. He had proven his faith many times, but on the day that he held the knife to slay his only son Isaac, He proved His perfect trust in his God and he received the ultimate promise of a heavenly Seed who would bless all the nations of the earth. *“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”* (Gen.23: 18) Paul explains, *“By faith Abraham, when he was*

called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”(Heb.11: 8) *“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called.”* (Heb.11:17)

*“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made, He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, **And to thy seed, which is Christ.**”* (Gal.3: 16) Christ in you, the hope of glory is the **promised Seed that will bless all the nations of the earth.**

To reach the place of blessing all the nations of the earth, that precious promised seed had to journey through the wilderness of life in a special called out people who would bring it up to the time of Mary and Joseph. Through the power of God's Holy Spirit, that Seed impregnated the young virgin who gave birth to the boy Jesus.

The young boy grew to full maturity in favor with God and men. It was at the baptism of John that His true Father revealed Himself audibly, *“Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.”* (Acts 13: 33) Jesus had reached the full maturity of the Christ. The acid test was still in front of Him: would the Christ overcome death itself?

Indeed, through the power of the Spirit of Holiness, Jesus overcame the world and death itself in His mortal body. Jesus died, but did not see corruption. It was because of His death and resurrection that the same overcoming Spirit was sent to each and all who are His called out people among the nations. *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”* (Rom.8: 11)

Later Jesus said, *“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer (be very courageous) I have overcome the world.”* (Jn.16: 33b) Through the power of His Holy Spirit, Jesus transfers His overcoming Seed to each believer.

As this Seed grows and matures within earthen

vessels, death will be conquered first in His firstfruits, then in each man in his own order. *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But EVERY MAN IN HIS OWN ORDER: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”* (I Cor.15:22-23)

Since His resurrection, the Lord has been building the church (woman in the earth) who will storm and overthrow the gates of hell. *“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*(Matt.16: 18b) The gates of hell are the prison doors that keep man in the realm of suffering and death.

Just as the Father revealed the Christ to Peter *“flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”*(Matt.16:17b) so He is revealing the Christ within each one of us. This Christ (Spirit) is the Rock upon which the church (body) is being built to day. We are that church and the Rock is the Christ who is being revealed within us.

VISITATION TO HIS CHURCH

Having endowed His church with His overcoming Spirit, the resurrected Lord Jesus had very direct and poignant words for her. Although His letters were sent to the seven churches that existed at that time, they are directed to His entire called out people throughout the centuries. We know this because when He appeared to His servant John, He stood in the midst of the golden candlesticks and the golden candlesticks represent the seven (complete) church.

“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.” (Rev.1: 12-13)

We cannot see Him with our natural vision, but He is very real when we look with the eyes of the Spirit. The garment to the foot, and the golden girdle speak of His position as our great High Priest, reminding us that His church is a nation of kings and priests unto God. She is the one who stands be-

fore the people for God. Our Lord Jesus Christ is no longer the Lamb that stood in the garment of His humiliation (his flesh and blood body); our Lord has now many crowns and many functions in the midst of His church.

He introduces Himself, *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death.”* (Rev.1:18) No one else in heaven or in earth possesses such credentials. Our Lord died as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world, but He will never die again!! He is alive forever more! And He is imparting this same life to His church as He stands in the midst of each one of His beloved.

OVERCOMING WITH EPHESUS

It was five months ago that the Lord gave me a dream that melted my heart. I shared it in full in a previous study but without going through all the details, *“I was walking alone on a long long lonely journey. At one point I realized that someone had been holding my hand and never let go. I could feel the love of that man for me and although I kept walking, I stood very still. Then the time came when He brought me face to face with Him and intensely looked at me as He tenderly said, “I love you!”*

My heart pounded and I was flooded with love for that man so I told him without hesitation, ‘I am free!’ Indeed, I was free to marry Him. I had left all that is attached to man's organized religious ways. I thought He would quickly answer, “Marry Me,” but He did not reply as I thought He would. Instead He held me there and waited for me until I told Him from the depth of my heart, “And I love you too!”

It has been five months since He gave me this dream and as I write now, I realize that the message that He sent to the church at Ephesus was very much the same as the dream. *“I love you, but I want you to love me too!”* This was a call to “First Love.”

The letters are sent to the “angels” of the churches, denoting that their message is sent through the

Spirit to the spirit, and not to the natural understanding. Angels are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation. The message to the churches cannot be discerned by the natural understanding so it is sent to the angels or by the Spirit only.

The church at Ephesus was deep in the Word. Paul had nurtured and prayed much over them. Indeed, through Paul's teachings, we as well, have been nurtured and very much prayed over. Paul's great desire was that they might move in *"the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him."* (Eph.1:17b) He prayed ardently that the eyes of their understanding may be enlightened..that they could see in the Spirit and know Christ as He is.

This is the first church that the resurrected Lord visits and His message to them is very much the message that we need to hear by the Spirit today. Note the tenderness as He introduces Himself, *"These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks."* (Rev.2:1b)

He is re-assuring her that He is strong in her midst and that he holds her stars (angels) in His right Hand. This tells us that He is in charge of the Word that is ministered to us by the Spirit. We will not be deceived.

"The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches." (Rev.1:20b) They are the ministering spirits that open our understanding to wisdom and knowledge of Him. They are the spirits that communicate to our conscious mind and who bring clarity to that which is invisible and real. They are in His hand. They will not deceive us nor send us fake messages.

A story in the Bible comes to mind. It was when there was war between Syria and Israel. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah went to see Ahab the king of Israel who had already devised a plan to take back Ramoth-Gilead from the Syrians. The king of Israel had gathered his own prophets, about four hundred of them, and they told him to go up and take the city.

But Jehoshaphat was doubtful and asked, *"Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might inquire of him?"* (I Kgs.22:7) So they finally said that there was one but he was but he was in the prison. So after the prophets of Baal had demonstrated how King Ahab should go up and take the city, Micah, God's only true prophet was brought in and said that if they went up, the entire army of Israel would be scattered like sheep without a shepherd. Of course Ahab called this warning evil.

At that point we are shown what is taking place in the spirit realm. The Lord calls for a spirit to go and totally deceive Ahab that he might go up with the troops and be killed on the same day. *"And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him."*(I Kgs.22:21)

When one turns from the truth, God will send a deceiving spirit. *"..because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."* (II Thes.2:10b-11)

But His true church loves the truth and because of it, He holds the messengers in His right Hand. They deliver words of power and of victory to us. They come to remind us to be strong in Him and in the power of His might. For He is He that overcometh in the midst of us.

THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE

In His message to the church at Ephesus, the Lord begins by approving her for all that she is doing right. She has followed Him and separated herself from all those who call themselves apostles and are liars. *"And I know you are enduring patiently and are bearing up for My name's sake, and you have not fainted or become exhausted or grown weary."* (Rev.2:3 Ampl.)

Indeed, when it seems that we are spinning our wheels, we are learning patience and keeping strong in the faith. This is all good in His eyes. But the next verse reveals what still stands between us and our full union with Him who is the tree of Life. *"Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."* (vs.4) Each one

has an idea of what our 'first love' is, but it is only as we move into more maturity that we are able to comprehend what the Lord really means by 'first love.' Our first love is for the Father who sheds His love and grace throughout our lives. Our first love is the Word that He speaks tenderly within our hearts each day and through every trial.

Our first love is the comfort to know that He is in charge of our lives. Our first love is to desire perfect union with His thoughts and his ways. Our first love is what is being restored in us now. In the dream I finally said what He wanted to hear: *"And I love you too!"*

I remember when He first called me to Himself. I was afraid that He would ask me to do things that I did not want to do or could not do. I was not ready to change my way of living, and I feared that I would have to. Indeed, His presence in my life changed everything, but first He brought me to the place where I really wanted to change my ways. Indeed there is a price to pay to follow Him, but we find that He makes it all possible. *"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me... for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matt.11: 29a,30)

OUR RETURN TO FIRST LOVE

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." (Rev.2: 7)

The need for us at this time is to return to our "first love." This happens when our obedience to His voice is no longer motivated by fear of the consequences but by our love for all that He is. The first and great commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. This means to love Him more than our selves; to love Him so much that we want to always please Him. This takes a change of heart and only God can do this.

So how is He bringing us to this love? We cannot will ourselves to do this. With Paul we can only cry out, "Oh wretched one that I am!" How can I ever love you Lord as you love me? The answer may be

very simple.

As a child, I was very blessed with an earthly father who loved me with a pure love. As a result, I also loved him dearly. I loved him even more because my mother divorced him and I could seldom be with him. So I really longed for him. For me, to disobey him was not a matter fearing to be punished, it was a matter of being afraid to hurt him. I loved him so much because I could feel his love for me. I desired to be with him, because I knew he enjoyed when I was with him and we shared thoughts together. This indeed is the key to our "first love."

It is as our heavenly Father reveals Himself to us in the Son, that we begin to know His great love for us. We have been missing Him in our lives for so long and now that we feel His love, we are drawn closer to Him. One of the tools of the carnal evil one is to pile guilt and condemnation on us, so that we cannot feel the love of our Father. Or else the enemy keeps us believing doctrines of fear of hell and death so that we keep thinking we are never good enough to come to our Father. One of the most difficult thing to overcome is accepting God's love for us, thinking we do not deserve it. We see him as the unbending judge and disciplinarian ready to punish us. Yet the Son of God revealed Him as our loving Father.

To return to our first love, we must first open our hearts to receive His love. This will break down the heart of stone and give us a tender heart of flesh for the truth of our God.

The sublime reward for this love is the access to the tree of life which is still in the same garden of God. It is still in that secret place within our spirit. Its leaves are for our healing and the healing of the nations. Its fruit is eternal life in the earth as well as in the heavens. *"He that overcometh (Christ in you) shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."* (Rev.21:7)

Father, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*