

## *Knowing GOD*

..... they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. (Jer 32:33,34 KJV)

“Come, let us turn back to the LORD: for He has torn us to pieces, but He will mend us and make us whole; He has chastened us, but He will heal our wounds. He will restore us to life after two days; He will cause us to ascend on the third day, and we shall live before His face. Then, we will fully know The Self Existent One as He is. If we fervently pursue Him as He rises like the Sun at the dawn of a New Day \_\_\_\_ becoming brighter as it reaches its zenith, He will shower light rays upon the earth; just as the later rain prepares the ground for planting, and the early rain matures the grain for harvest.” (Hosea 6:1-3 Paraphrased)

Lately, we have been considering the many backgrounds and centers of focus the modern church system has accepted as their primary purpose, which is foundational to each denomination’s doctrine, order of worship and service, hierarchy, church culture, etc. We have concluded that there has been much harm, even destruction, caused by these erroneous backgrounds and centers. As we have shared, some of these false backgrounds or centers of focus include: Salvation, Evangelism, Baptism, Holiness, Consecration, Spiritual Gifts, Apostolic Order, The Prophetic Movement, Marriage Counseling, Sonship, Discipleship, and a vast array of variations of these things, based on history, idealism, tradition, theory and imagination. All of these have a place in the plan and purpose of God, but they are not to become the “only” goal for the church. (It’s not surprising that each of these things can be supported by a multitude of verses from scripture that has been misinterpreted, taken out of context, reasoned, rationalized and distorted by carnal minds.)

What is the “True Center,” or “Primary Purpose?” We have come to understand that “God’s Eternal Purpose” is the background and center that we should be focusing on in our personal growth, development, and present level of maturity during this “Church Age.” As we look to His “Continuing Purpose,” we realize that He opens realms into which we ascend to higher dimensions of Spirit, requiring us to have a different “Center” and a greater “Purpose,” than what we are able to perceive in our present condition.

What we are experiencing in this present order is the beginning of the Seven Spirits of God, illuminating, (giving revelation), and leading and guiding us into all truth. We have experienced a measure of the preparations in the Outer Court, (Have come by the Way that He is.) And, we may, in differing degrees, have a vision of the Mercy Seat, (the Throne of Grace). We are now passing through the Veil of “Truth,” into the beginning of the Age to Come, (The Kingdom Age). One of the initial realities we face, in this Kingdom realm is, “There is another “Center” or “Primary Purpose” which we may or may not clearly see.” In a single word, the most elemental way to express this “other” center and purpose is, **“LIFE!”** It is in the elevated dimension of “Truth” that we receive a vision for the Eternal LIFE Dimensions that are little known or totally unknown to us now. It is also in this dimension that we will come to experience a greater fullness of many of our “first works,” (former

experiences) \_\_\_ up to and including the beginning of Pentecost. An attempt will not be made to explain this, for now, as it would require another lengthy document. It's difficult to adequately express the importance of realizing that we are just at the "beginning" of the end of all things, not fully developed and mature, but "pressing on" toward the Goal.

There seems to be a need to bring to our attention that: "In order for us to find a "Narrow Gate" and a "Straight Way" which will lead us into the "Eternal One," we must have eyes to see, and ears to hear the **Voice** that says, "O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.... Then He will give you rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground....." (Isa 30:19-21, part of 23)

What has been said so far, is just an introduction to what is necessary for us to understand, if we are fervently pursuing the "Eternal Self Existent One." If our concept of God is based on knowing Him by the things He has made, we will fall far short of the Glory He wishes to reveal through His sons.

Knowing Him by the natural creation, what we see with our eyes, smell with our nose, handle with our hands, hear with our ears and taste with our mouth is to know Him only as, "The Creator Who has subjected everything of His creation to vanity/futility, in hope \_\_\_ waiting for the manifestation of His sons." This limited knowledge of God as Creator is the result of natural wisdom that comes from the low orders of the earthy, sensual, (relating to the physical senses), and can degenerate into demonic wisdom, if the creation is worshipped instead of the Creator.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of **the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the **creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption** into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body." (Rom 8:18-23)

We have not become privileged to know creation according to God's original intent, form or purpose and we will not know creation in that way until all things become new; therefore, we are extremely limited in our knowledge of God, even as "Creator."

IF we are going to learn to "know **GOD**," we are going to have to rely totally upon the Spirit of **GOD** to draw us into **HIM**. "For who among men knows man, except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, "God, no one knows \_\_\_ except the Spirit of God." " Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (1Co 2:11-13, Paraphrased, omitting certain

words.)

Searching the Scriptures to find ETERNAL LIFE is a futile effort, as we know from Jesus' exhortation to the Jews who persecuted him for healing a man on the Sabbath, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life." (John 5:39-40)

However, we can be guided by the Spirit, through the Scriptures, to see "words" that testify about Him. It is a personal matter, how God reveals himself to us, so instruction on "how to find God" or, "Know God" is a big waste of time. A starting place may be suggested, such as, "Begin at the beginning," but that's the best anyone can offer.

The following is a personal perspective and should not be viewed as, "A Doctrine of **GOD**." GOD, as we know Him is Infinite and cannot be limited by our revelation or understanding, and cannot be known in His Fullness, while we are still in our earthly tent. Until we have put off corruption and put on incorruption, everything we receive passes through the underdeveloped parts of our inner man, (our soul), before being expressed. In the process of our growing up into all things, in Christ, even the most basic elements of truth are tainted and imperfect, i.e., "We know in part:"

"In the beginning \_\_\_ **GOD!**"..... If we continue reading the opening verse of the Bible, we see that, He introduces Himself as Creator of heaven and earth; however, that is where we come into the process of measured time, thus becoming limited in our knowledge of **GOD**. What do we know of **GOD** \_\_\_ THE **ETERNAL ONE**?

Oh!, Good Grief, that's all so complicated. What makes the difference? Who really cares? Well, actually, anyone who understands that we have been made in His image and likeness, that He has known us from the foundation of the world, and that He has predestined and purposed for us to be part of **His Oneness** \_\_\_ **now**, and in the world to come! We need to know.

We have all heard, "Before **anything** \_\_\_ there was God." Another, and possibly more accurate way of saying this would be, "**Before Nothing** there **is GOD!**" **Before Nothing**: He is the Self Existent **ONE**, the "ETERNAL DIVINE" who **IS!** He is the **Unknown Absolute**, outside of HIMSELF. He is ALL-IN-ALL, yet Unexpressed. **GOD** is a **TOTAL MYSTERY**, hidden/shrouded in darkness. Although darkness surrounds Him, He is the FULLNESS of LIGHT and no darkness can be seen in Him. All of **GOD** is SPIRIT, which is **His Substance**. He is SPIRIT AGGREGATE, a fusion of elements of His Nature and Character including Mercy, Kindness, Gentleness, Justice, Truth, Meekness, etc. which are, The **Glorious LIFE HE IS**.

Aggregate = A mass of distinctly individual elements/personalities, gathered into, (or considered as), a total which is uniquely **ONE**.

In the dimension in which our earthly tent is currently "pitched," we define "Substance" as the real or essential part or element of anything; essence, reality or basic matter, but, what is "Spirit Substance?" Feeble as this attempt may be, please allow a bit of liberty in trying to enable us to understand the "**LIVING GOD**."

Usually, we recognize "substance" as "matter" that is visible, and has measurable dimensions,

i.e., length, breadth, height and depth. It has measurable weight, takes up space, and endures for a determinate period of time. In the **ETERNAL ONE**, “Substance” consists of an entirely different matter, “**SPIRIT.**” **GOD** is invisible, has immeasurable dimensions, immeasurable “weight,” fills **ALL** space, and has no beginning or end of time. **ETERNAL LIFE** is the **MASS** which is **UNIQUELY ONE SUBSTANCE**.

Every term that has been used to define **GOD** as being “**ONE** before NOTHING,” whether it is Eternal One, Glorious Life, Light, Love, Mass, Living God, Spirit, Mystery, etc., may be summed up in the word “**DIVINITY.**” This may seem insignificant but becomes important if we are to distinguish between **DIVINE “GOD,”** and **SOVEREIGN “GOD.”** It is not being suggested that there are TWO GODS, and hopefully, enough consideration will be given to make that fact known and understood in a clear way. What needs to be seen is that, “Everything outside of **GOD** has had its origin in the **DIVINE**, before ever being expressed by or through the SOVEREIGN.” Although there is absolutely no “separation” between **DIVINE** and **SOVEREIGN**, there are “distinctions.”

“TRINITY” is a word that has purposely been avoided as a way of “defining **GOD**” in this document because of the many perversions, distortions, arguments, imaginations, misrepresentation, etc., that have been part of the modern church’s theologies, philosophies, ideologies, and absurdities. Nevertheless, we are still maintaining the reality that **DIVINITY** is the undivided unity, harmonious existence and absolute ONENESS of FATHER, WORD, and HOLY SPIRIT. **DIVINITY** has no LACK and, if there were One of these Three missing from the GODHEAD, **DIVINE** could not exist.

The question may be asked, “What are some of the “distinctions” between **DIVINITY** and **SOVEREIGNTY**? The following comparisons indicate some of the diversities and distinctions, although they are not intended to be anything more than a way to view the complex relationship of the **FATHER, WORD,** and **HOLY SPIRIT Ruling** as **ONE** in the **DIVINE** aspect, and how each of the Three, **FATHER, SON,** and **HOLY SPIRIT** are interdependently exercising their **SOVEREIGNTY** in the dimensions where they Reign.

Also, there is “undivided interaction” that allows for many of these attributes to be combined or overlapped because of the limitless power, presence and knowledge which the “Three” agree on and share as **ONE**.

<b>DIVINITY</b>	<b>&amp;</b>	<b>SOVEREIGNTY</b>
<b>SUBSTANCE</b>		<b>ESSENCE</b>
<b>CHARACTER</b>		<b>NATURE</b>
<b>WILL</b>		<b>DESIRE</b>
<b>UNCHANGEABLE</b>		<b>CHANGEABLE</b>
<b>ABSOLUTE</b>		<b>I AM THAT I AM</b>
<b>LIKENESS</b>		<b>IMAGE</b>
<b>CREATE</b>		<b>FORM</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>		<b>PLAN</b>
<b>REALITY</b>		<b>RELATIVITY</b>

*DIVINE PREROGATIVE**SOVEREIGN CHOICE*

Does it really help us to read these things? How will any of this help us in our transition through God's processings, until we are transformed and become the fullness of His image and likeness? These are valid questions that can only be answered satisfactorily if we realize that "Image and Likeness" are not of the natural, earthy, physical, fleshly realm.

Perhaps this would be a good time to shift our focus from the Eternal Dimension to the "Creation" dimension. However, let's try to begin in the Heart of the Creator to get a view of creation from a "Heavenly perspective."

Many of us have viewed creation from the opening verse in Genesis which says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This tells us something about His WORKS but leaves us to wonder about His WAYS. How did **GOD** determine heaven's form? What is heaven's Substance? Only **GOD** can reveal the answers to these kinds of questions and, for us to try to answer them would no doubt incur a rebuke similar to what Job's friends experienced.

"Then Elihu continued and said, "Wait for me a little, and I will show you That there is yet more to be said in God's behalf. "I will fetch my knowledge from afar, And I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. "For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you. (Job 36:1-4)

It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because **you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.**" (Job 42:7)

The Book of Job is considered by some to be the earliest of the Books of the Bible and is a valuable resource for "information" that can lead to insight into **GOD'S** ways. Job was considered "blameless and upright," (perfect/complete), in his generation. The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." (Job 1:8)

Job's knowledge of **GOD** was gained through his relationship with the Creator and is good for our instruction, even though Job became aware of his own limitations and realized that he didn't **understand** everything he **thought he knew**. Excerpts from Job are being included, although it would be even better if we would take some time to read the whole Book.

"He it is Who spreads out the northern skies over emptiness and hangs the earth upon or over nothing. He holds the waters bound in His clouds [which otherwise would spill on earth all at once], and the cloud is not rent under them. He covers the face of His throne and spreads over it His cloud. He has placed an enclosing limit [the horizon] upon the waters at the boundary between light and darkness. The pillars of the heavens tremble and are astonished at His rebuke. He stills or stirs up the sea by His power, and by His understanding He smites proud Rahab. By His breath the heavens are garnished; His hand pierced the [swiftly] fleeing serpent. **Yet these are but [a small part of His doings] the outskirts of His ways or the mere fringes of His force, the faintest whisper of His**

**voice!** Who dares contemplate or who can understand the thunders of His full, magnificent power?" (Job 26:7-14)

"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, "Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me! "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, (Job 38:1-4 Paren. added for clarity)

"Then Job answered the LORD and said, "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. "Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more." (Job 40:3-5)

"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" "Therefore **I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.**" 'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.' "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;" (Job 42:3-5).

When we come to the measure of growth and development where we begin to see and hear **GOD'S Voice**, with the eyes and ears of the Inner \_\_ New Creation Man, we will not need to be convinced that we are without knowledge and can only know the deep things of **GOD** by His Spirit, who reigns within. We need to come to Him and be taught by Him, to begin to perceive His Eternal Purpose.

"Now it will come about that **In the last days** The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; **That He may teach us concerning His ways** And that we may walk in His paths." **For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.** (Isa 2:2-3) Note: We know this is not speaking of the "Dirt Dimension" or "Earthly Realm."

"Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth. "Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As the droplets on the fresh grass And as the showers on the herb. "For I proclaim the name of the LORD; (The Self Existent One) Ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; (According to His unchanging Law) A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He." (Deu 32:1-4 Paren. added for emphasis)

From man's perspective we know that **GOD** has set the principle of, first the natural and then the spiritual. So also it is written, "The **first MAN, Adam, BECAME** A LIVING SOUL." The **last Adam became** a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The **first man is from the earth**, earthy; the **second man is from heaven**. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (1Co 15:45-49) Notice that the "**last Adam** is not called the "**last MAN**"; rather, he is called the "**second man**."

What follows might be a little difficult to "follow" because it's very difficult to express some of

the things that are declared, but not fully understood, i.e., “things too wonderful for me, which I did not know,” as Job so aptly testifies. Some of the wording may be less familiar to us and not what we are used to, but, it’s sometimes helpful to present a fresh view by using different phraseology that may help us to better know and understand.

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God**; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For **He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.**” (Col 1:9-17)

Within **DIVINITY** there is what may be described as, “The Womb of Creation,” or what we call “**GOD’S WILL**.” Out of “**GOD’S WILL**” Creation was released, (birthed if you please), through His “**DESIRE**.” However, before His Desire could be expressed there had to be agreement within the **LIFE that HE IS**, as to **WHO** would become the FIRST EXPRESSION of the “**LOVE that GOD IS**,” knowing that it would require “**HUMILITY**” to create all things visible and invisible. Because of the ABSOLUTENESS of **GOD**, anything that would come out from **GOD** would be diminished or “lowered.” **GOD** would not suffer loss but whatever was created would be of a “lesser substance” than what **HE IS**. This “Humility” or humbling of Himself may be called, “The ETERNAL CROSS PRINCIPLE.” This Humility is the initial manifestation of the “**SOVEREIGNTY**” of **GOD**, which is wrought by the **HOLY SPIRIT**, through the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding. By this action the **Lamb** was slain from the foundation of the world.

We sometimes relate the beginning of creation to, “Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. (Gen 1:3-5) Have we taken time to consider that **GOD** was not marking off a twenty-four hour period in these verses? Not until we read, “Then God said, “**Let there be lights** in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and **let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years**; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens **to give light on the earth**”; and it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and **to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness**; and God saw that it was good.” (Gen 1:14-18)

The first expression of the **WORD** of **GOD** was not **LIGHT**, it was The **VOICE** of **HIS WORD**, coming from **THE LIFE THAT HE IS**, by the **ACTION** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**. The **HEAVENS** and all Life in the heavens were created before anything, other than the **SON of GOD** Who was the “**FIRSTBORN**” of ALL creation.

"The LORD, (The Self Existent One), has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty reigns over all. Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who **perform by His Word, Obeying the voice of His Word!** Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, **doing His will.** Bless the LORD, all you works of His, In all places of His dominion; Bless the LORD, O my soul!" (Psa 103:19-22 Paraphrased) "The **LORD** by **wisdom founded** the earth, By **understanding** He **established** the heavens." (Pro 3:19)

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; **So will My word** be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, **Without accomplishing what I desire,** And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." (Isa 55:8-11)

There is no plausible way to bring this to a fitting conclusion because we are being pressed into the "Continuing Purpose of God" that has no End. In closing, consider the words of Paul, who experienced things that could not be spoken, from realms we have not known.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight, (understanding), **He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise," (Eph 1:3-13)  
(to be continued....)