

# Knowing GOD

## Continued

The purpose of the previous document about KNOWING GOD was to re-introduce us to, and help us to fervently desire and press into knowing the ONE TRUE **GOD**, the **ETERNAL DIVINE** who is **SPIRIT**, the Self Existent One, living in the invisible dimension far above all heavens. He is the ONE who, before “Nothing” is **GOD** — “Unexpressed \_\_\_\_\_ outside of Himself.” That is, “Until the Voice of His Word, from out of His Firstborn Son, was first manifest and the heavens were created.”

In this document an attempt will be made to expand our consciousness and increase our understanding of the Divine, and help us to identify the “Personalities” whom we are being united with as a visible expression of our intimate “Union of LIFE,” in Christ.

“Christ is the visible representation of the invisible God, the Firstborn and Lord of all creation. For in Him was created the universe of things in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, thrones, dominions, principedoms, powers--all were created, and exist through and for Him. And **HE IS before all things and in and through Him the universe is a harmonious whole**. Moreover He is the Head of His Body, the Church. **He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead**, in order that He Himself may in all things occupy the foremost place. For it was the Father's gracious will that the whole of the divine perfections should dwell in Him.” (Col 1:15-19 WNT)

In the preceding verses, there is a wonderful truth revealed that a casual reader may miss. Although Paul gives strong emphasis to the fact that **Christ** is the visible representation of the invisible God, Firstborn and Lord of all creation, Creator of the universe, the Beginning and Firstborn from among the dead, the “**Personality**” who has given **Christ** the preeminence in these verses is the **FATHER**. This is clearly seen in verse nineteen, i.e., the whole of the divine perfections dwelling in Christ, according to the **Father's** gracious will.

Normally, when we think of “Personality” we think in comparative terms. Is the person “warm and loving” or “cold and hateful.” Is he “happy” and, “makes you smile” or “sad,” and “makes you solemn?” Is he “outgoing” or “withdrawn?” Often we think of “Personality” as someone who is a “celebrity.” That isn't what is meant in relation to the “Personality” who has given Christ the preeminence. What is intended here is to think of “Personality” as being relative to the nature and attributes that combine to identify and define the “Character,” or “Substance” of the Individual.

It is out of the reality of **Fatherhood** that every expression of the Invisible God is made manifest in and through Christ, the Firstborn and Lord of all creation. It is also through the reality of Fatherhood that we are blessed with every “spiritual blessing,” in Christ.

“Blessed is the **God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who did bless** us in every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, according as. **He, (the Father) did choose us** in him, (Christ), before the foundation of the world, for our being holy and unblemished before

Him, (the Father), in love, **having foreordained us** to the adoption of sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, (the Father), according to the good pleasure of His, (the Father's), will, to the praise of the glory of His, (the Father's) grace, in which **He, (the Father), did make us** accepted in the beloved,"(Christ) (Eph 1:3-6 YLT Paren. For emphasis)

Although many "Christians" believe the Word was made flesh to, "become sin for us, be crucified to save us from eternal torment, and then to go back into heaven for the purpose of building us a mansion where we can live in luxury when we die," nothing could be farther from the truth.

A portion of God's purpose for sending His Son is revealed just prior to Jesus giving His life for mankind, when he was being "examined" by Pilate. "Then Pilate said to Him, Are You really a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I might witness to the Truth. Everyone being of the Truth hears My voice." (Joh 18:37)

When we search out the words in scripture that speak of Jesus' relationship to the Father we find that nothing brings out the ire of religious leaders so much as when he identifies himself as the "Son of God," or being the One whom the **Father hath sent**. There were several times when he came to the brink of being stoned to death because he was not received as the "Personality" whom he really was. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." (Joh 1:11)

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that **God was his Father, making himself equal with God.** (Joh 5:18)

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do **in My Father's name, (nature and character)**, these testify of Me. "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **"My Father,** who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. "I and the Father are one." The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the **Father;** for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and **because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.**" (Joh 10:25-33)

In reading this paper, it should begin to dawn on us that, although the "Personality" being brought to our attention is the **"FATHER,"** it is impossible to separate the **FATHER** from the **SON**. It has already been established that the Father "sent" the Son but not as a "Separate Personality," to manifest his own, "self-life." Jesus came as the "express image" of the Father and is able to boldly declare, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." Presenting himself as being equal with God, even though he didn't "grasp" for equality, is not an affront to **GOD. "I and the Father are one."**

Although many "Christians" know that Christ is the **visible representation of the invisible God,** the **Firstborn** and Lord of all creation, it is a sad fact that most have not realized that Christ was not the first to be considered a "son." Not only was he not the first to be called a

son, he was not the first man or the first Adam. If this statement appears to be “baffling” or “totally wrong” it is because we have not understood “Fatherhood” or “Sonship” in the context of God’s Word.

There are a few who may read this and say, “We don’t like to read scripture verses from Young’s Literal Translation, or Weymouth’s New Testament Translation, etc. Well, sometimes, it helps to read various translations in order to get a better understanding of what the “original language” is saying to us. (Not the original “Greek, Aramaic or the Hebrew” languages, rather, \_\_\_ the “Voice of God” by the “Spirit.”)

Matthew’s Gospel begins with the genealogy of “**Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:** (Mat 1:1) This is actually a confirmation of the “son” who was born to fulfill what he answered Pilate when he was asked, “Are you really a king?” The genealogy recorded in Matthew begins by tracing his “earthly ancestry” back to King **David**, who was promised that he, (David), would forever have a descendant to sit on his throne. Jesus identified with his “father” David and David, in this verse, is directly linked to the “fatherhood” of Abraham. Jesus also said, “Before Abraham was, I AM.”

"Surely You are not greater than **our father Abraham, who died?** The prophets died too; **whom do You make Yourself out to be?**" Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; **it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God';** and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. "**Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day,** and he saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was born, I am.**" Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. (Joh 8:53-59)

QIt is interesting to note that, continuing from Matthew 1:1, the emphasis changes from “sonship” to “fatherhood.” This change of emphasis begins with verse two where it is recorded that Abraham was **the father** of Isaac, and continues the record of the “fathers” through verse sixteen and concluding with, “**Joseph’s father, Jacob.**” Following this lengthy list of descendants we read, “Now **the birth** of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together **she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.**” (Mat 1:18) But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "**Joseph, son of David,** do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for **the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.** "She will **bear a son;** and you shall call His name **Jesus,** (Lit. “The LORD is Salvation”), for He will save His people from their sins." (Mat 1:20-21)

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME **IMMANUEL,**" which translated means, "GOD WITH US." (Mat 1:22-23)

When we read that Mary was, “**found to be with child by the Holy Spirit,**” does that mean that the Holy Spirit is the Father of Jesus? NO! The Holy Spirit is the one who brought the

Seed, the Word of God, from the Father of Spirits, and “planted” it into Mary’s womb. The Holy Spirit does not share in this dimension of “Fatherhood,” by dispensing his own seed. He is acting as the King’s “Eunuch.”

Now, wait a minute! This is all too confusing. Matthew 1:1, says that David is Abraham’s son. Wasn’t his father Jesse? Then we read that Joseph, who is “*supposed*” to be the father of Jesus, has two fathers, Jacob, and David. When we turn to the genealogy recorded in Luke, we find Jesus’ ancestry starting with Joseph \_\_\_\_ who is said to be the son of Eli, not Jacob, and not David \_\_\_\_ and that Jesus is really “Christ the Lord.” How many names and fathers can these people have? One time Jesus is saying to the religious folk that their father is Abraham, then he’s the Devil, then David, then God is your Father. Who can we believe if we can’t believe Jesus?

“When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was *supposed*, **the son of Joseph**, the son of **Eli**,” (Luk 3:23) In the ensuing verses we see the emphasis is on “the son,” rather than on “the father,” as was noted in Matthew. The third chapter ends with, “the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, **the son of Adam, the son of God.**” (Luk 3:38)

However, this is not where the “genealogy” of Jesus “begins” in Luke’s Gospel. Luke was inspired to pen his record after Jesus was about thirty years of age. The most significant verses, concerning the “genealogy” of Jesus, in the third chapter of Luke, are twenty-one and twenty-two. “Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, **heaven** was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and **a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.**”

Are all these “distinctions” a contradiction in God’s Word? Not at all! What it tells us, is: “Sonship” is not limited to one “realm,” and “Fatherhood is not limited to one “dimension.”

Jesus: The son of man, the Word made flesh, the second man, the last Adam, the son of David, and He is the Son of God, The Son of Promise, the Messiah, Immanuel, King of kings and Lord of lords and \_\_\_\_ as the prophet Isaiah prophesied by the Spirit of Christ that was in him \_\_\_\_ “For unto us **a child is born**, unto us **a Son is given**: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” (Isa 9:6-7 Caps. Changed for Emphasis)

It is important that we be able to distinguish between **Christ’s Sonship** and the **sonship of the first man**. The first son, who is the first Adam is, “of the earth, earthy and “in part.” This Adam was “God-made” not “Begotten of God.” The **Only Begotten Son**, who is the “Fullness of Sonship” is from heaven, heavenly, and “complete.” “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.” (1Co 15:45-48)

This truth can be seen, in type, by reading the account of Abram/Abraham's life. His first "son" was from "Abram's" relationship with Hagar, Sari's Egyptian handmaiden, who we find in Paul's letter to the Galatians to be a "type" of Mt. Sinai in Arabia who relates to the Jerusalem of that day.

Ishmael was Abram's "natural" son and was loved by his father. It was his father's desire to give him his inheritance; however, Ishmael was not the Son of Promise, the "supernatural son"

---

that was Isaac, Abraham's "firstborn." Isaac was not the result of having intimacy with the woman in "bondage;" rather, He was the result of God's grace, the offspring of Sarah, the "free woman" and was made heir and given the portion of the "Firstborn" who would receive the "fullness" of what had been promised to Abraham. "But **he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.**" (Gal 4:23)

Ishmael was cast out of his father's house, along with Hagar, when his true nature was revealed, and he was observed mocking Isaac. Later, he married an Egyptian woman, i.e., of the same lineage and household as his **mother**. Isaac was presented with a bride from his **father's** ancestral descent. Can we see how Ishmael represents the man of the earth, the earthy "first man" after the flesh who became a living soul, and Isaac is a type of the "second man" from heaven who is the "Life-giving Spirit" who was given the preeminence?

Although the first and second sons are both men, both are sons and both are "Adam," they are not "equals" because of the dimension from whence they were conceived and the nature and character they expressed by their lives. Our **nature** is determined by our "birth" and our **character** is developed by our "LIFE."

The same truths apply to those who say, "We are all God's children, and He loves us all the same." These are folk who are living in the vanity of their own thinking and have no understanding of the difference between "natural" and "spiritual."

While it is true that **GOD** is the God of the spirits of all flesh, it is also true that the spirit of the first Adam was marred beyond being the image of **the DIVINE**, when he was lowered into the earthy realm as a result of his disobedience. He took upon himself a new nature, of a lower order, and was severed from the relationship he had with God, as "Father." We too, were born into this earthy realm bearing the nature of the "fallen" and our only way back to the Father is through Jesus Christ.

This is our journey, our "quest" if you please: "To return to the land of our nativity, into the Father who bore us in His bosom before the foundation of the world. Image is only restored when we have been "born again," that is, "born from above," and have received the Father's nature through His Living and Abiding Word.

John understood "Fatherhood" through his unique relationship with our Lord and spoke by the Spirit in a dimension above the earthy. Read again these words of inspiration: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. **In him was life**; and the life was the light of men." (Joh 1:1-4)

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But **as many as received him**, to them **gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of **the only begotten of the Father**,) full of grace and truth.” (Joh 1:11-14) “No man hath seen God at any time; the **only begotten Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” (Joh 1:18)

Verses twelve and thirteen of John 1 are very “compressed.” Weymouth has translated these verses: “But all **who have received Him**, to them--that is, to **those who trust in His name**--He has given the **privilege of becoming children of God**; **who were begotten** as such not by human descent, nor through an impulse of their own nature, nor through the will of a human father, but **from God**.” (Joh 1:12-13)

The word translated “**power**” in the NASB and “**privilege**” in WNT, is Strong’s G1849, “**exousia**” which also conveys the truth of “authority, ability, freedom,” etc.. One of the definitions given by Thayer is, “The **power of rule or government** (the power of one whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed.)” This speaks of “Kingdom Power” which reveals a new dimension to what it means to “**trust in His name**,” (Nature and Character).

We have now moved from emphasis on **The Father**, and **The Son** to a dimension of “**Sonship**” which includes the “**children who are becoming sons**.” This brings us to the reality of the “Pattern Son” revealing the truth that those whom the Father has given him are born into the “**God Family**” and of His household, who can now relate to **GOD** as **their Father**. This will be the emphasis of the next paper in this series, as we continue this “quest,” and we “follow on to know the **LORD**.”

(To be Continued)