Our Life in Christ and the importance of God's word

Colossians 3:1-4

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

When we read this beautiful passage of scripture… it should speak volumes to us about the Christian life… and several things should jump out at us immediately… I am talking about those things are relevant to the way we think, the way we live, and what we hope for as Christians.

Paul is telling the Colossians and us that if you have been baptized into Christ and raised to walk in newness of life, your mind should be focused on the promises of God and not on earthly things. We should have a heavenly focus. Paul is telling us that we need to focus on Christ, his teachings and his example to us… and the promises of the Christian faith… and he is telling us that those things should guide all of our thoughts, actions, and words while we live on this earth.

Paul explains the idea of dying to sin and being raised to walk in newness of life in **Romans 6:1-10.** This passage wonderfully illustrates just that point when he says to the church of Christ in Rome:

"***1*** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ***2*** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ***3*** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ***4*** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ***5*** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ***6*** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ***7*** For he who has died has been freed from sin. ***8*** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ***9*** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ***10*** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God."

Paul tells us here about baptism…that it gets us into Christ… and how when we are raised from the baptismal waters we are raised to be dead to sin in our lives… because as it says "our old man was crucified" with Christ… this happens when we obey the commandment to be baptized and we are thus by this set free from sin to become the possession of Christ… we are seen as clean by God, washed through the blood of his Lamb, Jesus Christ, who was the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

So Paul through these two passages of scripture in **Colossians** and **Romans** tells us how to get into a life with Christ to be seen by God as sinless… to become an object of God's eternal grace… and he tells us what our life in Christ should consist of, how we should conduct ourselves…. So that we do not became an object of His wrath again. He tells us that by setting our thoughts on things above, and by dying to sin, we will enable ourselves to go about serving God and our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth…. Which is the reason why we have all of us been created.

The apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians from his state of imprisonment in Rome around 60 A.D. It is and obvious and one can plainly see from his writing that he had Christ first and foremost in his mind… he was not sitting in prison thinking about his plight personally he was writing to the various churches, encouraging them to continue in the teachings that they had brought "into Christ" with. Paul wrote 13 letters. One note about Paul… he was an expert

in the Law of Moses… he was taught at the feet of the great Gamaliel who was mentioned in the New Testament in the Book of Acts the 5th chapter as a great teacher of the Law. Paul had an expert understanding of the Levitical priesthood and how it had been replaced under the New Covenant. He knew the word of God well and how it could help him to live his life "in Christ". That is important to know about Paul and I want to come back to that as a secondary point in a moment.

Paul was a wonderful example of how the Christian's mind should function. He personally did not care what his circumstances were at anytime in his ministry as an apostle of Christ. Paul tells us in **Philippians 4:11-12**:

"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

Paul could be happy and content anywhere, even while imprisoned, because he knew that wherever he was… that was where the Lord wanted him to be. He knew what he needed to do and what was expected of him. He was expected to live his life in such a way so as to be an example to the world of what a life "in Christ" was like.

He knew that he had been called to serve Christ and that is what he did with all of his heart and soul. Paul told us in **Philippians 1:21** what this meant to him when he said:

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

His entire life was devoted to serving Christ, and in this passage in **Philippians** he was telling the Philippians that if God wanted him to go on living that that was fine with him, because it meant that he would have more time to serve the Lord's purposes for him on this earth. He was also telling them that if God wanted him to die and if that would serve the Lord's purposes, that was fine with him as well because he would gain the promises he held so dear… those of eternal life. So if he lived, that was great he could continue to serve the Lord, and if he died that was great, because he could go into the next life and see the Lord Jesus, which he counted as **<u>THE</u>** great reward… either way he couldn't lose.

This is so hard for those of us in the modern world to grasp, but there it is in scripture with Paul as our example. How many of us look at our lives like this? And more to the point, how many of us look at death like this?

When we are living our lives from the perspective that Paul took, we have nothing to fear from death… it has no power over us. As Christians we should look at death as merely a lifting of the veil… behind which we have been hidden all of our earthly lives.

In the book of Hebrews… we find there is one of the greatest chapters in the bible… and that is chapter 11 on faith. **Hebrews 11** is a short history lesson on people of the faith and it gives us a clear picture of many of the people in the bible that God considered to be faithful to Him… and He was faithful to them in return. Scripture tells us that He is faithful, even when we are not.

Hebrews 11 is not exhaustive on this subject by any means and the author even says that at the end of the chapter… that he could go on and on … but I would like to mention a few of the names here that this great chapter points out to us:

- We hear the name of **Abel**, and we think of someone who pleased God through the obedience of faith and he was slain out of jealousy because he was seen as righteous.
- We hear the name of **Enoch**, and know according to the scriptures that he pleased God… so great was his faith… and because of this he did not see death, he was taken up to

heaven to be with Lord without having to die

- We hear the name of **Noah** and we think of someone who feared the Lord and did what God said to do… he built an ark, exactly to the Lord's specifications, through which he and his family were saved from the great flood that destroyed creation… his faith, and his obedience were accorded to him as righteousness in God's sight
- We see the name of **Abraham**, who, when God asked him to sacrifice his only son, the son of the promise, would have done it had God not stopped his hand… that was how much he trusted the Lord and that great faith and trust were seen as righteousness in God's eyes
- We hear the name of **Sarah**, who at the age of 80 was able to give birth to Isaac… she was able to do this because of her faith in the Lord
- We hear the name of **Moses**, who forsook the riches of Egypt and the throne that would have been his in that earthly kingdom… the most powerful nation on earth at the time… to stand with God and His people against the captivity they were in, and to lead them to the promised land, and this was counted to him as righteousness by the Lord

I would like to ask you one question about all of these people… what did they have in common with one another… what was one thing that they all did to show their faith?

- They all believed in God,
- They trusted Him…
- And God accomplished great things through all of them.

But what is one other thing they did?

Now let me answer that question for you…they all obeyed God… they did what he said to do… to the letter… even if it meant giving up comfort, security, even unto death. And God counted that as **RIGHTEOUSNESS** when He looked at their lives.

The next chapter of Hebrews makes mention of all of these people as a group… and it calls them collectively …a great cloud of witnesses… and it is here that we take the rest of the lesson to be found in Hebrews chapter 11. Please turn with me in your bibles to **Hebrews 12:1** and let's read what it says:

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us…"

The author is telling us here that we need to consider the examples these people laid down for us to follow... that we need to look at their lives… these people of this "great cloud of witnesses" … that we need to emulate them… we need to pattern our lives after their faith… and their trust… and their obedience to God.

He is telling us that we need to do away with sin on our lives… set it aside… and that we need to endure… as they did…. no matter what the consequences. In the end of the verse the author states that this is a race that we are in… and it certainly is.

In **Revelation 2:10**… in the last part of the verse… Christ said to the church in Smyrna about the terrible persecution they were suffering:

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Be faithful until death… that requires commitment doesn't it? This is not something we just pay lip service to… we commit to it… for life… as a way of life… maybe even with our lives. Only those who endure and make it to the finish line will find the eternal promise of victory over death… through life in Christ.

As we read in **Hebrews chapter 11**… the chapter goes on to mention many other names… one of them was David the king of Israel and the same David we know as the Psalmist who was also a prophet… David… who the prophet Samuel introduced to us in **1 Samuel 13:14** as a man after God's own heart…

When thinking of David one cannot help but think of the book of Psalms… One of my favorite chapters in the book of Psalms is **Psalms 119**… it is the longest of the Psalms in that book and it certainly bears the marks of someone who loved the Lord with all his heart… like David did.

What does **Psalms 119** say about how we should feel about God's word? Let's read some of its passages:

Verses 1-3: "Blessed are they that are perfect in the way, who walk in the law of Jehovah. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, that seek him with the whole heart. Yea, they do no unrighteousness; they walk in his ways.

Verses 9-12: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD; Teach me Your statutes."

Verses 14-16: **"** I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word."

Verses 45 -48: "And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts. I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes."

Verse 72: **"**The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver."

Brothers and Sisters this is just a few of the many, many, many examples in **Psalms 119…** of the author saying to us that he **<u>LOVES THE WORD OF GOD and that it is worth more than any earthly riches and that it is important to our lives as a godly people</u>**! … That theme is there in almost every verse of the entire chapter.

Look again at **Verse 9…** it says that we can keep our way pure… keep our lives pure by living our lives according to the word of God. As Christians we are commanded to holiness, to purity… the Psalmist is telling us that having the word of God written on our hearts… can not only assist us with this but that it is a necessity to be able to live the way the Lord wants us to… as His children… His precious possessions.

How many of us love God's word? **In looking at Psalms 119 the Psalmist said he did!** So many people in the world today think that reading the bible and knowing what the bible says is just ridiculous… it makes you a "bible thumper", and it shows that you are "carrying this religion thing too far", it makes you a religious nut in the eyes of the world… and many in this world even deny it's divine authority…

Well, the author of **Psalms 119**… set a perfect example for us in scripture of what we should think. He loved God's word with all of his being! Shouldn't we?

It does not matter what the world says about it, shouldn't we love God's word with all of our being?

What does **Hebrews 4:12** tell us the word is?

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The Hebrews author is telling us it powerful and it is living… it is vital to us and to our spiritual health, it helps us sort out how we need to live as Christians… it shows us how to examine ourselves all the way to the core of our being… so as to make our hearts wholly right and acceptable to the Lord for His service… it is God's guide to us to help us make it through this life and to find salvation in the next life.

It is not a dead book of stories written by good men as some would claim… it is a living and powerful thing… full of God's power…and if we love it… and study it… and let it come into our hearts… it will live in us.

What does **Ephesians 6:17** say the word is?

"And take the helmet of salvation, and <u>the sword of the Spirit</u>, **which is the word of God**…"

Brothers and sisters… the word is our defense against this world and all of its evils… it is the sword of God's Holy Spirit… who defends us and strengthens us in time of trouble.

This may be rather glib… but would you bring a knife to a gunfight? Especially if you knew the other side was loaded up and aiming at you? I have news for you… they are! And a child of God… without the word of God written on his or her heart… is like that person showing up to that gunfight… with a knife… they are going to lose every time.

So I ask you again… What does it matter if the world says we are nuts for loving God's word and living by it? If we are truly living a life "in Christ"… then we have been called out of the world… we have been called to be strangers to the world. Didn't our mothers and fathers teach us to never take advice from strangers? Our heavenly Father is telling us the same thing when He tells us through the word not to love the ways of the world. The world is supposed to be strange to us… not something we are familiar with, we are to be strangers to it, and pilgrims in it… just passing through.

Turn with me to **1 John 2:15-17** which says:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Brothers and Sisters… we are not supposed to walk in the ways of the world or to listen to its wisdom.

The book of **Proverbs** is also known as the Book of Wisdom. But it is not the book of worldly wisdom… no… it is the book of Heavenly wisdom… wisdom that is from God.

Here are some things that the book of Proverbs says about wisdom… and keep in mind when the author speaks here about wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, he is talking about God's revealed word… the scriptures… the wisdom held there, the knowledge held there, the understanding to be gained from there.

Turn with me to these passages:

- **Proverbs 15:33** tells us: "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.

- **Proverbs 2:6** tells us: "For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

- **Proverbs 13:13-14** tells us: "He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.

What are all of these verses in Proverbs telling us? They are telling us that we need to love God's word… that we need to humble ourselves before God and learn His word to us… that it will give us the keys to life… here on this earth… and the keys to knowing how to live our lives… in order to have life after we pass from this earth!

The book of Proverbs is filled with many, many more sayings about wisdom… you could literally read them and meditate on them for hours and days at a time… but the whole point I am trying to make here… is that we need heavenly wisdom… not worldly wisdom… for a life in Christ… and that only comes through the word of God.

Earlier in this sermon I was talking about Paul and I was using him as an example of someone who knew what life in Christ was all about. Paul knew that God's word is supposed to govern our lives as Christians and provide us with the guidance we so desperately need … he knew the word of God inside and out… he knew that it would provide the guidance we need… if we love it and will learn what it says… and we will do this… we must do this… if we are truly walking in the way that is prescribed by Paul, when he mentions "Christ, who is our life".

Most of us get this intellectually, but how many of us let it… **REALLY PERMEATE INTO OUR LIVES?**

One more thing about loving the word of God… in the Gospel of John we are told that Christ is the Word. Turn with me to the **Gospel of John Chapter One** and lets read a few verses starting at **verse 1 and continuing to verse 4**:

"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 through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Now let's read on in **verse 14**:

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Folks what is this passage telling us? Who did God send to earth to dwell among us? He sent His only begotten son Jesus Christ… that's who! And the gospel writer is telling us that the only begotten son of the Father… Jesus Christ was also God …and is also the **WORD OF GOD**

Christ is the message to us… He is the perfect example for us. His doctrine, which is laid down for us throughout the New Testament by the apostles and divinely inspired writers… is what we are to live our lives by, it is the standard to which everything in our lives must be held.

Christ tell us this plainly in **John 12:48 -49** where he says:

"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father

Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak."

Christ is saying here that those who reject Him and those who reject the Word… **WILL BE JUDGED BY THE WORD ON THE LAST DAY**…

If you don't accept it as your standard now, you will HAVE accept on the last day because it will be applied to you… you will be measured by it no matter what…you won't have a choice. If the Word is the standard by which we are going to be judged in the end shouldn't we know what it says… what it teaches… intimately?

We now know from John's Gospel… as we saw earlier… that Christ is the Word… My friends that means if you don't love the Word and all of the truth in it… every last word of it…or if you pervert it or ignore it… add to it… take away from it… any of it… **YOU DON"T LOVE CHRIST**...

Turn with me again to **Philippians.** Let's look at **Philippians 4:13.** Here the apostle Paul tells us:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

The Apostle Paul is telling us here that through Christ we can do anything that we need to do in our lives… we can face any hardship… look at the early church and the way it was persecuted… look at Paul and the way he was persecuted... they all could not have stood up to that if Christ had not been the Rock that they based their lives on, if they had not put their faith in Him and lived acknowledging Him as their Lord and Master… they could not have done it.

If they could stand up to persecution and death the way they did… living their lives in Christ trusting Him and His Lordship over them… how much more can we stand up to life's everyday troubles? We are not facing death and homelessness and prison for our faith… for THE faith. We need to hear this… and internalize it and live our lives by it. If we do this… if we truly put our faith in Him and live the way He has told us we should… Christ will strengthen us so that we can handle anything on this earth with Christian grace and dignity.

If you doubt that then listen to the words of Paul in **2 Timothy 4:6-8**:

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

Brothers and Sisters that is Paul telling Timothy that his life is just about over… he knows he is going to die a violent death. There is dignity in those words… dignity that that is only made possible through faith in Christ, exemplified by his life lived in Christ, and ending with a hope of heaven and a crown of life… a victor's crown.

Now let me close with this final point. Paul was a wonderful pattern for us for a life in Christ… and he tells us this in his letter to the Philippians. Please take note…Paul is not glorifying himself… for remember he told us earlier "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"… he was not saying he was perfect and he certainly admitted that he was a sinner… as are we all… everyone of us… no, Paul is glorifying the Lord who gave him the strength for his life… and he knew full well that without the Lord… his life would have been worthless. The Lord gave Paul the strength to be a pattern for us that he might be an example to all of us throughout the ages as to how Christ wants us to live.

Turn with me to **Philippians 4:4-9** and let's read his divinely inspired words to the saints… the church of Christ at Philippi:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ***5*** Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ***6*** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ***7*** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ***8*** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, 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. ***9*** The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Look at what Paul is saying to us here:

- He tells us to rejoice and he does it twice… we should rejoice. Christ is our risen Lord and nothing on earth can truly affect us when we keep ourselves unto Him as our Lord. We need to let our gentleness as Christians be seen by all and felt by all around us… that is a commandment, and one of the aspects of the fruit of the Spirit that we should have in our hearts as Christians.

- Paul tells is that the Lord is at hand… meaning He is near! He is not far away. He is reigning in heaven at the Father’s right hand of power and watching out for us in everything we do… when we trust Him with our lives as our Lord.

- Paul tells us to bring everything to God in prayer and to not be anxious for anything… he tells us to supplicate ourselves… as in bowing down humbly before the throne of the King. God will deliver whatever we need according to His divine wisdom when we ask in His precious Son’s name. So we should have no fear in this life.

- He tells us to give thanks to God for everything we have… because he gave it all to us… right down to our very lives and every material and spiritual blessing that graces our existence. God is the giver of all good things. He deserves all of the thanksgiving we can muster.

- Paul tells us that if we will pray and give thanks and supplicate ourselves that we can have the peace of God…which passes all understanding. Paul knew this well… he had peace while facing death by beheading… truly this is a peace, which could only come from God! The world in its darkness has no idea of what peace like that is… but you and I can as Christians who live our lives in Christ… as objects of God’s eternal grace and not as objects of His eternal wrath.

- Paul concludes with a very important point… he is telling us where we should keep our minds and our thoughts. We need to keep our minds on things that are true, noble just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, praiseworthy… he commands us to meditate on these things. What does meditate mean? The dictionary says it means “to contemplate or to reflect on at length”… meaning to keep in the forefront of one’s mind. Brother’s and Sisters we need to keep the things of God and His divinely inspired word to us in the front of our minds… always… we need to never let them go from our thoughts. Paul knew that if we did this… and this is why he made it a command… that Satan could never have a foothold in our minds or our hearts… because God would always have the possession of our thoughts… and that is important for keeping our lives… in Christ.

- Paul then tells the Philippians that all of the… “things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.” Paul is telling us, and the Philippians that he was a godly pattern for their lives in Christ… a godly pattern for them to follow… in everything he taught them… in everything they heard come out of him… and in every action they saw him perform. He is affirming for us the divine inspiration of his teachings and his life, and telling the Philippians… all these things do. He tells them again and is telling us now… that if they will do this… these things he has said to do… that they and we can have the peace of God in their lives… and we will be living our lives in Christ.

Is your life a confusing mess… if it is then God is not in it… or at the very least He is not in it to the degree that He should be in it… because God is not the author of confusion… Satan is… and that is how he pulls our focus from where it should be… on our life in Christ. The scriptures tell us plainly in **1 Corinthians 14:33** that:

"… for God is not a God of confusion, but of peace."

If confusion is not of God… then obviously it is of this world… and that means it is of our adversary Satan in origin.

If you would have the peace of God which passes all understanding… the wonderful peace that is promised to faithful children of God… then you must make a decision.

That decision entails taking your life and turning it over to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It entails repenting of your sins and doing away with the "old man of sin" that we spoke of in the beginning of the lesson. It entails obeying the Lord and entering into the waters of baptism to be immersed with Christ into His death… for the remission of sins… to come into His possession thus making Him your Lord… your Master… your King. It also entails walking from that time forward as an obedient Christian and growing in the Word.

The bible tells us you cannot enter into the kingdom of God except through the Son.

Jesus told us in **John 14:6**:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

And then Christ told us in **John 3:5** that:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Jesus tells us that unless one is baptized… into Him… immersed in water… for the remission of sins… and to come into His possession… he cannot be saved.

I want to stress here that I am talking about the baptism found in the New Testament… and commanded by the Lord… not the baptism that it so often found in the denominational world… of the sprinkling of infants… which is found nowhere in the bible.

I am also not talking about the baptism that some denominations say is only to express your faith outwardly. They believe that baptism is not necessary for the remission of sins… that you already have that when you repent… denying that the remission of your sins takes place in the baptismal waters as the bible tells us it does… they believe that baptism is an option, not a necessity. By saying all of that they deny the power of the blood of Christ, which was shed for our sins… in order to wash us clean from sin's stain… and they ignore the command of God's word which tells us that we are baptized for the remission of sins and to be saved.

No, I am talking about the baptism COMMANDED by Christ… it is not an option… I am speaking of the baptism in which immersion takes place for the remission of sins… **<u>you can have that no other way</u>**… you have to be immersed, buried with Him in the water…

I am talking about the baptism that puts you into contact with the precious blood of Jesus Christ and puts you into His possession… the baptism that puts you into His death and from which you are raised to walk in newness of life with Him having the Lordship over your life… the baptism that allows God to see you as clean… and the book of Acts tells us that God will add you to the church of His precious Son Jesus Christ. That is the baptism of the New Testament as given to

us by Christ and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

If you are not a child of God… I would urge you with all diligence… listen to what the Word of God says and do what the Lord has commanded… repent and be baptized.

You can have all of the peace and power that Paul talked about if you will become a faithful child of God. You can't have that peace and never will have that power until you make that decision. You cannot have God's grace… it does not exist for those who have not obeyed Him, if you have not obeyed God you are an object of His wrath, not His grace. You also cannot have the promise and realized hope of eternal life after passing from this earth if you do not obey the Lord's command.

It really is that simple… If you would make that decision…

Likewise if you are a child of God and have been unfaithful… then put that aside now…and turn back to the Lord… He is looking for you… don't disappoint Him.