



**THE MAN,
THE ORIGINAL
AND THE COPIES**
(The Spiritual History of Man)

TOMI AKALA

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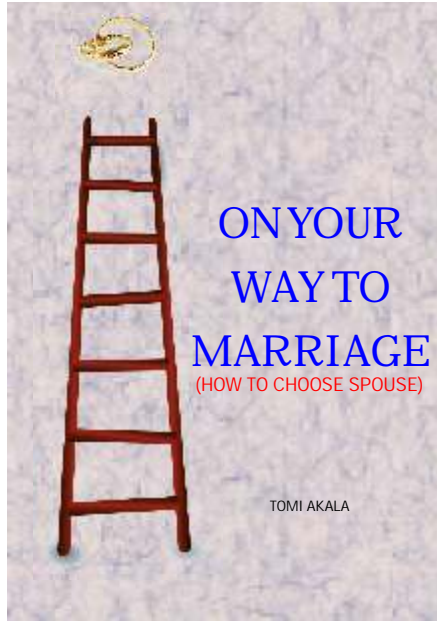
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THE MAN, THE ORIGINAL AND THE
COPIES
(HOW TO CHOOSE SPOUSE)

By

Tomi Akala

REASON FOR WRITING

I write the words of this book as I feel a divine compulsion to do so.

This is not an academic exercise. This is not an academic exercise. This is not an academic exercise.

PURPOSE OF WRITING

This book has been written to stir man up towards his Maker by the way of setting up reflections from above and from below right in front of man in order to give man a vision of the Perfect Man.

PART A
THE MAN

THE MAN

Adam is the first earthman. He was made by God in such a state that he was possessed of the glories of perfect sinlessness, of unadulterated purity, of guaranteed regular Deity visitation and of the irreplaceable power to clearly hear God. And though he was earthly, the Adam was a divine creature because he was made after the similitude of God. And like Job said, the eternal was deposited in him and the Almighty Spirit Himself animated (caused and sustained) the being of the Adam (Job 32:8; 33:4).

The earthliness of Adam describes his physical location which was only his temporary truth (not absolute) – a truth which constituted only a minute aspect of his total existence. But the divinity of Adam laid in his spiritual consciousness which is his higher self, and which constitutes the very larger part of his total being.

Adam's spiritual self transcended his physical location (of planet earth). It is there that the Adam, though physically uncountable-billions of miles away from the physical seat of God, is ushered into the presence of God in a twinkling of an eye; and there the thoughts of the Almighty are transplanted into the consciousness of Adam. It was through this set up of virtual divine osmosis that Adam, for instance, became possessed of the knowledge of the names of every living creature (Genesis 2:19; Job 32:8). In the spiritual self, Adam rivalled and even beat the fallen higher beings. This is because those sinful angels had been tried and pronounced worthless and undeserving of any further honour by God, but Adam hitherto owned the Creator's approval.

(The Creator's approval is of eternal value in the spiritual transactions of the universe (Job 4:18; Genesis 1:26-31). This approval was so shiny in the hand of Adam that it attracted even

the Fallen Shining One, Lucifer).

On another note, the spiritual self was the plane on which the Adam interacted with his physical environment. In this state of being, Adam knew nothing after the flesh. In other words, he did not live by his emotions or physical senses. He saw every creature he came in contact with for what they were – the creative piece of the infinitely brilliant Mind of the Creator-God. Consequently, in his spiritual self the Adam is an incessant and spontaneous worshipper of his Creator. He would observe the horse, for instance, and admire it, not so much for its glory, but for the Creator who gave the horse its strength and courage. Adam would see the tall palm trees bowing in the wind and he would fall down and worship the magnificent Creator whose path is in the wind (Job 40:6; Psalm 78:26). He would listen to the chirping of little birds and wander off in thought after the Creator-God who put so penetrating sound waves in such tiny creatures. When Adam ate any food, he tasted the kindness of God in it and thanked Him for it (Psalm 103:5; 104:14-15; 145:15-16; 1Timothy 4:3-4). Indeed, the interaction between Adam and other creatures was practically always a worship discussion. And all things, at their core, are indeed spiritual (Psalm 19:1-3; 42:7). In this state of consciousness, God is in everything and everything is in God and for God (Acts 17:28; John 1:3; 1Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16-17). The spiritual/higher self is the untouched pure spirit cut out from God and put in man.

THEN TRAGEDY STRUCKED

But alas! Adam's spiritual self did not continue to dominate his physical self. When God charged Adam to subdue his surroundings, those included his physical being (body) which was essentially cut out from the ground under him. God knew not to give the responsibility of control to the physical self of man because the physical self is not good at being in charge. On

the contrary, the physical self is really only good at surrendering itself as a slave to whomever and whatever would dominate it. Yet, the physical self is a miserable chooser of masters - it always goes for the worst. The physical self would bow to anything, including things made to serve its existence such as food, sex, tree, and so on (Isaiah 44:14-20).

So Adam fell from the higher self (spiritual) to the lower self (the physical body). Consequently, control in Adam's existence shifted from the aspect of him that was in contact with the highest Intelligence (the Creator-God) to the aspect of him that was only in contact with mere creature. When Adam's spiritual self controlled him, God who is the ultimate reality determined everything. But when Adam's lower self came into power, all that mattered was then what was right before his eyes and in the now. In essence, the spiritual man lives by faith in the invisible Creator-God but the physical self lives by his sight (Romans 14:23; Hebrews 10:38; 11:6).

Once power was withdrawn from the spiritual self of Adam to his lower self, Adam immediately began to leak away all eternal values, and very fast too. He had resolved to live by his physical sight but unfortunately for him, he was very short-sighted. The spiritual self had always told Adam to trust God's wisdom and follow His instructions. But the lower self now tells him to ignore God and figure things out for himself by using his very limited gadgets of eyes, ears, nose, mouth and skin. We will see how far those will take him!

MISERABLE IRONY OF LOWER SELF HEGEMONY

Lucifer, who was once perfect in wisdom and beauty until he compromised by sin, knew he did not need to ask Adam to give over his dominion mandate. All Satan needed to do was suggest to Adam to let power change hands from his right hand to his left – not even to different hands entirely. In other words, the Devil

practically says to Adam, "I am not asking you to give me the control. But just loosen up a little and withdraw the control from your spiritual-higher-self to your physical-lower-self". And Satan approached Adam this way knowing very well the miserable nature of the lower self which essentially is in two parts, namely:

1. That the lower self is a stooge – puppet on the throne. Therefore, whosoever puts it in power is the true ruler of the life of man. In other words, if Satan succeeded in influencing the Adam to will power to his lower self, then Satan will be the ruler over Adam, and consequently over the earth God meant for Adam to subdue (Roman 6: 16).
2. That the lower self is a Prostitute of Carnal Pleasure - there is nothing intrinsically wrong in seeking pleasure. However, when the focus of man's existence, or his labour, is controlled by the search for physical pleasures, then everything has gone wrong. It is good to make money, for instance. But the prostitute chose to work off her body to make money because money had become the ultimate thing for her. It no longer matters who or what climbs her. As a matter of facts, anything may now go through her because the pleasure of money now owns her. Likewise, the instance pleasure becomes priority to any man, he will certainly lose control because all sense of rule and responsibility is strangled to death. Unfortunately, the lower self does not know any other way to exist within the frame of time and space than to live solely for, and fully submitted to, sensual pleasure. And because the lower self is limited to the physical senses alone, its actions and reactions are generated strictly for the purpose of achieving immediate pleasures, not taking into account the future ramifications of such pleasures. To the lower self, it is what feels right, rather than what the Creator says is right; it is what seems beautiful, rather than what the Creator says is beautiful. Does sex feel good? If yes, then the lower self would have sex in any form and under any circumstance whether or not the act would

amount to fornication. Does food taste delicious? If yes, then the lower self would eat even when the act would amount to gluttony. The lower self does not regard the laws of the all-wise Creator. Simply put, the operating system of the lower self is lawlessness. And this is why the lower self must die, or at least be put to unending sleep (Colossians 3:5).

SIN MOTIF

Stealing, murder, fornication, lying, covetousness, abortion, backbiting, fraud, greed, pride, adultery, malice, fighting, bitterness, foul-mouthedness, drunkenness, hate, witchcraft, and the likes are not different sins, but rather they are diverse manifestations of one sin.

SIN ESSENCE

There is indeed only one sin, but variety of manifestations of the one sin. The above listed ungodly acts and habits are just channels of one sin – idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Consequently, all those listed unclean acts warrant the same punishment – death (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23). By the way, the disease of idolatry which is native to fallen man's fabric of consciousness has never been more vivid than it is now in this generation of smart phones and social media. Now, most people's phones are practically mobile shrines of self where unsolicited personal information is advertised in return for the petty gain of a brief moment of fame (2Timothy 3:1-5).

The essence of sin is the pretence that the creature can in any way rival the Creator. Sin is the attempt, by thought or action, to suggest that it is okay to put anything at the same level with God, or worse, above God. Before any creature can disregard any law of God, such creature must first consciously or subconsciously believe a fundamental nonsense that God is dispensable and so can be escaped; and that therefore, there can be an alternative ground that supports the individual

existence of creature. For all created intelligences, as evident in the cases of Lucifer and Adam, the false alternative to God is self.

The core of sin therefore is self reliance and self exaltation. Consequently, Lucifer thought to exalt himself to the position of being God to himself – having fully deceived himself to believe that whatever God can do, he can do as much, if not better. For Adam, it was that he had come to see no longer a reason he should not have whatever God is having (Genesis 3:5).

Clearly, sin requires that man puts himself ahead of God. An adulterer, for instance, knows adultery is wrong, but he does it anyway because he has decided the pleasure he gets from adultery surpasses the will of God concerning the matter. Hence, with the lower self of man in power, the Adam not only loses the control of his being, but he also loses the sense of universal order - which is, the Creator first, creature second!

CONDITION OF SIN

The condition of sin is disorder. As soon as Adam fell, there was an instant radical shift in his consciousness - a shift from reality to non-reality: up became down and down became up; right became wrong and wrong became right. The overall perception of Adam was now nothing more than pleasurable hallucination. The proper logic as well as the initial order of things had been that the Creator's will be recognized as the sustenance of all existence. But for Adam in who now rules the lower self, the mediums of the attainment of temporary pleasures now substituted God's will and truth. The result of this is a world of darkness, pain and chaos.

IMPLICATION OF SIN

It is evident from the foregoing position that the condition of sin is hallucinatory. And this is because sin itself is a falsehood. Hopefully it is also clear that sin is a nothing that is made to

become something only by the folly of the lower self of Adam - the lower self being the betrayer of his total being.

Although the lower self is a loyal accomplice of sin, and although sin survives on the clumsiness of the lower self of Adam, sin is nonetheless the rabid enemy of Adam's being which inevitably destroys him. Much like how a python would swallow its prey from the feet up, so does sin swallow man's total being beginning at his lower self.

The preoccupation of sin is to bring man to nothing. Essentially, a sinner-man sets himself at naught by the sin he commits. Sin cannot hurt God because God cannot suffer. The sinner and his environment are the sufferers of the pains from sin. Even the physical creation known to man suffers somewhat from the devastation brought on by the transgression of the Creator's laws (Isaiah 24:5-6; Romans 8:19-22).

Adam had everything going for him until sin made away with his cosmic fortune leaving him low and dry. God had made Adam a complete man - the implication of that being that Adam was spiritually alive and well, emotionally stable and tranquil, mentally dependable and productive, morally upright and enlightened, and physically fit and pleasant. But sin sent all that out of the window. How unfortunate sin is!

DUPLICATES OF ADAM

Indeed, the creative force of God (with or without His approval) is needed for anything to be created (Psalm 62:11). And so, God would be rightly named the Ultimate Creator of every individual human being because the creative command He gave at the beginning of creation enacted the metaphysical, biological and physical protocols that make the reproduction and survival of the human being possible on the earth plane (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 24:1-2). It is a fact of existence that, as far as the coming into being of earth-men is concerned, God produced but man continues to reproduce. In His own sovereign will, God had deposited in man the will power as well as the biological and chemical resources to duplicate himself. Unfortunately however, Adam only managed to begin to duplicate himself after he had been compromised by sin.

While it had been a great disaster that Adam fell, it was even a greater tragedy that he reproduced in his fallen condition, having already become a shadow of his original self. Consequently, his offspring could never be more than duplicates of a shadow. And now, after thousands of years of duplicating the duplicates of the shadow of the original man, the human race as it is now is so far flung from its initial spiritual duty post and from moral sanity to all intents and purposes. Yet, man is not able to discern this seismic dislocation of his, very much like how a fish in the water does not realise that it is wet. Sin that was repulsive to an older generation of man steadily grows to become norm for a newer generation. There is hardly any sacrilege in the modern world because moral standard drops with each passing day. Sacredness is now a rarity.

POTENTIALS OF THE DUPLICATES

There is so much talk about self worth. So much of the preoccupation of the entertainers, the philosophers and even

the religious teachers of the modern world appears to be structured around the idea of self love or the phenomenon of "tapping into one's potentials". Well since I am writing to the people of a progressively modern age, I feel compelled to appreciate the potential of the human race, albeit from the Creator's point of view as given in the sacred books.

Potential 1:

Job 15:16 – how much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

Potential 2:

Jeremiah 17:9 – the heart (of man) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Potential 3:

Ecclesiastes 9:3 – yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live and after that they go to the dead.

Potential 4:

Romans 3:11-12: there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way; they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one.

Potential 5:

Isaiah 64:6 - But we are all as unclean thing and all our righteousness as filthy rags, and we do all fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Potential 6:

Isaiah 40:6 – all flesh is grass, and all the godliness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades.

Potential 7

1 Corinthians 2:14 – But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Potential 8

Isaiah 2:22 - Cease to trust in [weak, frail, and dying] man, whose breath is in his nostrils [for so short a time]; in what sense can he be counted as having intrinsic worth?

Potential 9

Psalms 39:5 – Verily, every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

Potential 10

1 Corinthians 3:19-20: For this world's wisdom is foolishness (absurdity and stupidity) with God... The Lord knows the thoughts and reasoning of the [humanly] wise and recognises how futile they are.

Potential 11

Psalms 62:9 – Men of low degree [in the social scale] are emptiness (futility, breath) and men of high degree [in the same scale] are a lie and a delusion. In the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

It is true that all the social, political, economic and scientific advancements of man have not been able to solve the problem of the animalistic savage tendencies of mankind. The governmental international organisations fail to achieve world peace; the state governments fail to eradicate crime; the educational systems fail to unite all its participators under a common world view; the financial institutions with all their sophistication fail to stop financial fraud; and all of our scientific and technological inventions fail to birth final solutions. In spite of all the philosophical talks on peace along with the billions of dollars spent on promoting the idea of global brotherhood, hate

crime is still here, and racial discrimination is still a reality, and new terrorist organisations are springing up every other day. It is as if whenever man tries to patch up his sack of problems at one end, it rips open at another. This is because man's problem is fundamental and spiritual, but all the measures he comes up with are peripheral and temporary. On this account therefore, man is ultimately helpless. And apart from a timely divine intervention, humanity would be hopeless.

Indeed, the way man must begin to address his eternal and fundamental problem is to first admit his Innate Self-destructive Mechanism (ISM) [Deuteronomy 31:16; Acts 20:29-30]. The following are the principles of ISM:

- Understand that your natural and fallen mind is vile and wicked in the event of desperation (Jeremiah 17:9; Ecclesiastes 9:3).
- Understand that everything confined to time and space naturally progresses towards decay (Genesis 3:17; Isaiah 24:4-6; Romans 8:19-22).
- Understand that you began to die the very minute you were born (Genesis 3:9).

PART B
THE ORIGINAL

JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH: EARTHMAN'S REMEDY

Adam was the first earthman but not the original (or model) man – that is Jesus Christ. Adam was made in the image of Christ; and Christ is the perfectly detailed manifestation of God as far as any finite creature of God will ever be able to comprehend. Just as the immortal spirit of man takes on flesh in order to be comprehensible to his physical environment, so does the Infinite God-head (Eternal Father of all spirits) takes on the manifestations of the Personality known as the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be a bit more comprehensible to all of His finite creation (John 1:18; Matthew 11:27). And just as the spirit of a man exists as an ocean of possibilities concealed inside his physical body and waiting to be expressed, so does God in all His infinite fullness dwell in Jesus Christ readily willing to reveal Himself to every created being that would look for Him in sincere humility. No created being has seen God in terms of comprehending all of Him. And that is because God is infinite and all His creation more or less finite. Therefore, it is by Christ's manifestation of God that all creation will eternally learn about God who could not be otherwise known or completely known – He is too much!

Jesus Christ is the sublime representation of the dichotomisation of the God-man relationship, as well as the Creator-creature relationship as formulated in the infallible counsel of the Godhead. In essence, the incarnation of Christ is a phenomenon worthy to be obsessed upon, not only by earthmen, but indeed by all the creatures of God spread across the far-flung universe. In the personality manifested as Jesus Christ, we see the unmixing and unconfused union of the whole mind of God on the one hand, and the whole mind of a man on the other hand. The implication of that is that in Christ, all of creation clearly sees God's domain as opposed to man's domain simultaneously. Because God's domain is really God's business, and He only reveals it at His own sovereign choosing, I shall

presently concentrate on expatiating on man's domain in relation to the Creator-God as exemplified by Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ of Nazareth was manifested to show man, and indeed all created beings, how to be truly godly. But what does it mean to be godly? Godliness may be summarised into three component parts; which are:

1. To be godly – is to be connected with God.
2. To be godly – is to be conscious of God.
3. To be godly – is to be constantly in the worship of God.

You can call them the three C's of godliness, if you like.

A person who denies his connection with God – a connection which exists in the form of the indwelling conscience (the moral compass that evaluates and regulates actions and reactions) – is a liar. Such a person does not possess the truth and so cannot be godly. Christ is that Truth.

A person who is rarely mindful of what the Divine will is concerning his life is actually dead spiritually. And even when such a one is conscious of the Divine Will but is unable to be positively influenced by that consciousness, such a one is still spiritually dead because he does not possess the life-force of God. Christ is that Life.

A person who is not perpetually preoccupied with God, whether by contemplating His stupefying grandeur or by appreciating His creative works and gifts, does not know the way to God's presence. Such a person usually wastes his existence by fascinating himself with the fleeting performances of creatures as though those creatures possess any intrinsic worth. Persons as these are stuck in this miserable position because they have not found the way to be pleasing unto God. But Christ is the bodily manifestation of that Way.

So, Christ is the truth, the life and the way of genuine godliness. And He is the One approved by God for every man to live by.

THE VEHICLE OF GODLINESS

By vehicle of godliness we mean the only plausible medium by which any man can practise genuine godliness. And love is the vehicle of godliness.

It is sad that a word so sacred as love should be made so common and deficient of its honourable meaning among earthmen who are so much benefitting from the expression of the immeasurable love of God. Love is not infatuation. Love is not sexual attraction. Love is not invested interest in an auspicious entity. Love is not romance. And it is certainly not the theme of the so-called "love songs" written by the music stars of the world of man.

Love is first of all vertical, and then, horizontal. It is impossible for anyone to love fellow human being without first loving his Creator genuinely. This is because it is the bowl of love a man swings up towards God that splashes down on his neighbours around him. God is the source of all moral standards, and morality is the back of love. As a matter of fact, love and justice are the two valiant arms of morality. Love is therefore only attainable when there is a moral responsibility.

God, through His prophets in the holy books, is unequivocal about the fact that love for Him cannot be divorced from obedience to His laws. While keeping God's law may not always translate to loving Him, loving Him however will always birth the desire to obey Him. Loving God is not for God's sake but for man's sake. Just as obeying God brings man peace, so does loving God keeps humanity safe and sane. A man, for instance, will only treat his neighbour fairly all the time, and not only when it is convenient, if he believes God wills it so and if he fears/loves

God enough to honour that divine will. As far as man's relations with God are concerned, fear and love are inseparable consciousnesses.

Let it be known that Christ is the embodiment of love. He is the beginning and the end of it. The Creator-Son became man to help man better appreciate Divine love. And the standard procedure for initiating the appreciation of that infinitely spotless love of God is to believe and consistently follow Jesus Christ.

VITAL ORGANS OF LOVE

Just as the vital organs of the human body are indispensable, so are the vital organs of love indispensable. And just as the absence of any vital organ of the human body would mean terminal sickness, so also when any vital organ of love is missing such love is hardly existent. The vitals of love are what make it work, and they are as follow:

1. Endurance: true love is able to withstand the strains and twists of relationships. Love comes with a viable emotional absorber such that it is not very easy to elicit negative emotions from love. Yes, love can be wrathful when necessary, but love is patient and level headed enough to endure pain for as long as necessary before ever choosing to inflict justice. God, for instance, has always had to endure a lot of nonsense from man. Of course, God does not like the nonsense one bit, but He is many times willing to allow us the chance to outgrow our foolishness. But if growth fails to come, consequence never fails to come, no matter the scale.
2. Generosity: there may be giving without love, but there certainly cannot be love without giving. Love takes away from your resources but it does not necessarily dissipate them. If you say you love a person and you realise there is nothing you are giving or have given the person, then you need to

reconsider that so-called love because love always impart to the loved. Resources that man possesses and which are meant to be shared include: time, bodily strength, money, knowledge, verbal affections and so on. Note that the selfish soul is too small to hold any portion of the exceeding great weight of glory which God has prepared for those who love Christ Jesus in sincerity.

3. Contentedness: contentedness is a state of the mind which affords a man inner peace. When it comes to love, contentedness is the muzzle that keeps a man from the temptations and poisons of competition, envy and selfishness all which usually result from the desire to be more than others. The spirit of love is not interested in being better than others at anything. Love does not even want to succeed for the sake of succeeding. But love excels just by seeking to do right in the eyes of the Creator and for the glory of God.
4. Self-effacement: true love does not show off. It does not allow for boasting. A man possessed of love actively shies away from self praise and even avoids the adulation from others as often as possible. The divinity of Christ displayed His glory and accepted worship - and that rightly so. But the humanity of Jesus always shied away from the praise of men. It is a travesty that the so-called celebrities of this world show off themselves and gobble down the adoration of their fellow men as though they were anything more than a walking pile of dusts that will die and be forgotten just as every other human being. As say the Holy Scriptures, "Men of low degree in the social scale are emptiness, and men of high degree in the same scale are a lie and delusion. In the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath". The fact is that in the ideal worlds, no man is honoured with any attention unless what he has to say or show is in accordance with the will of God. Know this for sure that you are only as significant as much as you are in tune with God. And you are useless as

much as you are distant from the will of God. This is why only wisdom comes from heaven where noble spirits dwell, but there is so much foolishness on earth where idiots are allowed to trend and even lead (1 Samuel 2:30).

5. Self-respect: true love possesses self-respect. Self-respect is not arrogance, by the way. Arrogance is the attitude of a man who thinks he is more than what he actually is – and it is devilish. But self-respect is the attitude of a man who has come to the understanding that God has honoured him by holding him to a high standard, and as a result he is determined not to disappoint God. Self-respect necessarily births self-discipline; and self-discipline is the pattern of a sinless life.
6. Truthfulness: the truth many times is temporarily bitter. But love long ago decided that truth brings deliverance and so is worth any temporal hardship.
7. Optimism: love is rather always hopeful than hopeless. Nevertheless, love is pragmatic.

Note that all the above vital organs were perfectly visible in the life of the man Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He is the perfect man. He is the truth. He is the answer.

REGENERATION OF THE DUPLICATES

Jesus Christ's death by crucifixion was not enough to redeem fallen man from eternal condemnation. Rather, it was necessary that the same Jesus who died on the cross rose on the third day living forever so that whoever believes in Him may share in the new lease of eternal life. On the same note, the fact that Jesus shared His blood at Calvary does not guarantee any man the inheritance of heaven. Rather, the only man who may inherit the kingdom of God is that soul who has been conquered and

possessed by the Spirit of Christ, and who now lives a life patterned after the life and teachings of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. It is only creatures belonging to the order of Christ that can inherit the kingdom of God. But of course these creatures are not born by the biological procedure, but rather by an instant spiritual absolute act of God. I say "absolute act" because it will not be reversed. Once the new creature in Christ comes into being, he cannot experience spiritual death again so that he needed a spiritual resurrection. Rather, the new creature in Christ may only fall into spiritual sleep and therefore become in need of a spiritual awakening.

As in those ancient days when the fallen spirits penetrated humanity and forged the physical birth of hybrid-humanoids (i.e. half-human, half-demons), so do fallen spirits endeavour to forge counterfeit new creatures in these last days. These fake-new-creatures look and talk very much like the genuine new creatures in Christ.

Sometimes, these fakes even appear to outdo the genuine ones in religious and humanitarian works. However, fakes do not last and are hardly consistent. They are infused into the scene by the forces of darkness in order to confuse, deceive and weary the genuine creatures as well as seal their own damnation.

So what does the genuine new creature in Christ look like?

EMBLEMS OF THE NEW CREATURE

- Transmundane Religion – the religion of the new creatures in Christ transcends the status quo of this physical world. They do not live just by what they see with their natural eyes; as a matter of truth, what runs their lives is a collection of eternal values. For the new creatures in Christ, the motto is "as it is done in heaven..." and they care very little for the honour this present world's systems have to offer. Their religion is not a utility religion: they do not seek God for His gifts but for Himself, and

they trust all needs will be met thereafter. They are not materialistic and they are certainly not covetous.

- Activeness of the Law of the Spirit – the new creature in Christ must find that he hates sin. He must find that he loves God and is always hungry to know God's will so as to do it to the best of his ability. The new creature in Christ is certainly obsessed with the proclamation of the name and grace of Jesus Christ. The new creature in Christ carries the predisposition of love rather than hate towards his fellow human beings. They seek God honestly and whole heartedly, and so, they get the reward of diligently seeking God. The new creature in Christ does not give up to the devil. They do not give way to darkness.
- Progressive Patience - the new creature in Christ must find that he is growing more and more accommodating of the (perceived) weaknesses of his fellow men wherever necessary. He becomes more like God in this area because he is growing in knowledge. And the increase of true knowledge brings humility. Patience does not exist in a vacuum. The testimony of patience in any man's life is his kindness towards others. Kindness is the quality of being warm-hearted and considerate and humane and sympathetic.
- Worshipfulness – the life of the new creature in Christ is enveloped in worship. Worship is the natural habitat of the new creature in Christ.
- Prayerfulness – prayer is a major addiction of the new creature in Christ.

THE NEW CREATURE AND WORSHIP

The life of the new creature in Christ is increasingly poured out in worship. In worship is where the new creature finds rest and sacred leisure for his soul. Worship is the greatest task for creatures and yet, it is accomplished most effortlessly because it is the most relaxation-affording burden in the universe. This is because the atmosphere of true worship is love, peace and joy. A worshipful life is the life already inside the kingdom of God and is consequently enjoying the bliss of heaven irrespective of physical location in time and space.

What you worship is what you gradually become. A life engrossed in the worship of the true God is the life that is saturated by God. This is because worship necessarily contains aspiration. The worshipper passionately aspires towards the object of worship. And soon enough, the worshipper becomes like what he has been worshipping.

Worship is the means by which we know how much unattached to the material world the new creature in Christ is becoming, such that he is able to appear continually before the Almighty Father of spirits.

True worship is the product of spiritual advancement. But no real spiritual advancement can be attained by any man without spiritual knowledge. Remember that Jesus Christ practically invalidated the worship of the Samaritans because they lacked knowledge about their Object of worship (John 4:22). Attempting the worship of God without the knowledge of God will amount to wrongful worship, or even outright sacrilege. Says that psalmist of old, "Sing praise with understanding" (Psalm 47:7). It must be noted that while the Scriptures have said that God seeks true worshippers, He is, however, not desperate to receive worship. The great God has placed a standard for worship and He would not be insulted in the name

of worship (Psalm 50).

The following knowledge is prerequisite for acceptable worship:

- The Knowledge of God – true knowledge of God only comes by revelation – it can only be given by God. The revelation of God may come to the mind (inspiration and dreams), or to the physical eyes (open vision), or even a total live-experiencing of God (a catching away). But irrespective of the form the revelation that comes, the result is the same – which is, the realisation of the awareness of the infinite difference between you (creature) and God (Creator). The awe that strikes the heart of man with both fear and admiration simultaneously is the testimony of an encounter with the God of the Holy Bible. Job received this encounter and the result was that (Job 42:5-6). Isaiah also received this revelation and the result was the same (Isaiah 6:1-5). The concurrent impartation of fear and admiration in man is what is called brokenness. But brokenness itself does not crystallize until the man has caught a picture of himself.
- The Knowledge of Oneself – as has been alluded to above, the knowledge of oneself is a ramification of the revelation of God. As soon as a man comes into the consciousness of the glory of God, he immediately, as an act of reflex, compares his own nature with God's. So a man, for instance, receives a revelation of God's infinite holiness and he immediately realises his own miserable commonness. Again, a man receives a revelation of God's blinding purity, for instance, and he immediately realises the grotesqueness of his own uncleanness. Again, a man receives a revelation of God's sublime righteousness, for instance, and he instantly recognises his own disgusting sinfulness. Man sees the unquantifiable gap between him and God and he consequently feels the impulse to get realigned with his Creator. The realisation that emerges from the juxtaposition

of the Divine and Infinite as against the carnal and fickle is what honestly triggers the repentance that affords salvation. No man can be saved until he has repented; and no man can repent until he has seen himself in the light of God's image. You must see yourself the way God sees you before you can start to honestly adjust yourself to the divine and transcendent programme of worship.

True worship is ultimately a reaction rather than an action. Worship is the creature's reaction to the magnificence of God. Action can be calculated, but not reaction. Action can be staged, but not reaction. Angels, when they come into God's presence, do not decide to fall down and worship. Rather, they fall because they have no strength to stand the infinite glory before which they have come. Worship is the overwhelming emotion that takes over the creature when his spiritual, mental and physical compositions are unable to take in a manifestation of the Creator-God. Really, no pastor needs to enjoin his congregation to worship God. A congregation that can see, or at least, can perceive God cannot help but worship Him.

THE NEW CREATURE AND PRAYER

Prayer is a lifestyle of spirituality. The new creature is spiritual and therefore he prays. And his prayer is not just an action but a holy incurable obsession of his life. Nonetheless, prayer is that obsession that is self-easing.

Prayer in the life of the new creature is indeed an aspect of relationship with God – a relationship which is smoothed by worship. Worship is the lubricant for the holy intercourse of prayer. Prayer is a natural offshoot of communion. The absence of prayer in a man's life is a reliable symptom of a dilapidated relationship with God.

Prayer is a personal ministry that nurses the soul of the one who prays.

The purpose of prayer is really not to make God give you something. A child does not need to ask a loving father before the father gives him what he needs. God is happily interested and proactive to meet our needs. But the agenda of prayer is to put and keep the inner man in the place where he can receive from God.

Prayer charges the spiritual atmosphere of a man in order to clear it from all demonic interferences and influences. Therefore, warfare prayer is of utmost importance.

The fire of prayer does not allow the bacteria of sin to survive. Therefore fervent prayer is key to the victorious Christian life. True prayer is not so much concentrated on the acquisition of material values as it is on the attainment of spiritual ideals. When the spiritual self is well taken care of, it will take care of the mental and the physical selves.

Advanced prayer does less putting of demands on God and rather seeks to get acclimatised with God's will and programme. Prayer is a part of the divine procedure to perfecting the imperfect man in the course of his stay in an imperfect world. No man who faithfully engages in regular honest praying will fail to attain constant spiritual progress. Amen!

OPEN ARMS

If the words of this book have blessed you and you would like to further explore the revelations of God in the light of biblical and historical Christianity, please feel at liberty to read more Christian articles by the same author and even listen to audio messages including sermons, prayers and prophetic ministrations by the servant of God. You will find more materials that will fuel your passion for the glory of Christ at our website apostolicshelter.com and on the YouTube channel Apostolic Shelter Ministry.

In addition, the servant of God would gladly accept, if the Lord permits, to minister in your church-groups or in your work-groups or in your school-groups, and so on. The Lord has ordained us to help you treasure His glory in these last days. Please contact us at the address or phone numbers below. Let us know how we can serve you!

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