

## 2. Naked Before God

### ***First the Bad News...Then the Good News***

*“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.’ And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’” (Gen. 3:7-11)*

### **A Sinner? Who, Me?**

People instinctively recoil and wiggle away from any thought or mention of our personal and corporate Sin. Seldom is it mentioned in polite social circles. Even the intimation that we might not be as ‘good’ or ‘decent’ as we like to think we are stirs up self-righteous anger and denial within us. But just as we can’t make the laws of physics go away or change by getting angry and trying to pass laws and legislate them out of existence, so too is it impossible to make God and His Reality go away because we find Him inconvenient or embarrassing or opposed to our fondest wishes and desires. Sooner or later we will all be forced to come to grips with the Reality and Truth of the perfect, infinitely righteous, pure holy God who has revealed that He is perfect. His standards of righteousness are perfect and His impending ultimate Judgment will be based on His perfect holy righteous nature, and not at all upon our wishes, opinions or good intentions.

This is a problem for us humans because we are, by nature (and by actual deeds) highly imperfect. And even if we refuse to think about this or become enraged when it is mentioned in our presence, the truth is that, like it or not, we will all give an account for everything we did with our minds, wills, imaginations, choices and bodies before the Divine Tribunal of God’s infinitely perfect, pure, holy and righteous Justice. And when that reckoning time comes, there will be no escape. We won’t be able to avoid, deny, laugh or shrug God’s Reality off. We will enter our eternal destiny as soon as He pronounces His final Word of Judgment.

In light of that, we can understand why God’s Chosen People and His prophets, and even His living Word incarnate and His apostles and disciples were and are, always getting into big trouble when they deliver God’s ‘mail’ to the world. The people who don’t want to hear mention of this often kill the messengers that won’t stop bringing it up. And since that arrogant rebellion against God continues, and the selfish, venal, idolatrous world keeps covering its ears, there’s going to be big trouble ahead as well... for all those who are not ready to face what is coming.

Since each human heart is full of corruption, who or what can save us from ourselves? Our own hearts and track records will testify against us before God’s Perfect Knowledge and Tribunal of Eternal Justice. At that time, this will be the issue that no one will be able to avoid. We will all have to face Spiritual Reality and Truth when death overtakes us. So NOW is always the time to deliver the mail. And NOW is the time to have the guts to face facts, and look carefully at how

temporal and passing this world and those in it really are. It's time for us to take a good, careful look at our true selves — the selves that the all-penetrating eye of God gazes upon all the time. It's time to look under your own 'hood'. You are so fragile and mortal... like a puff of smoke. How long will you last? Where can you go? Behind what will you hide? Who can escape this perfect Eternal Gaze that knows every speck of truth about us?

### **The Beachball of Truth...The Shame Issue**

We've all been like swimmers that frantically try to conceal our beach balls of Truth by keeping it submerged and suppressed beneath the water's surface. You won't dare let anyone see yours. And for years, I didn't dare let anyone see mine. I tried desperately to appear calm, cool, okay and collected on the surface, never giving a hint as to what was really going on beneath it.

*“But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.”* (Matthew 15:18-20)

Shame makes us unwilling to be open and honestly admit what we really are. So we struggle fiercely to try to twist the Truth and create what we hope is a convincing front behind which we hope the truth about us will be hidden. We do whatever we can think of to make sure nobody sees the soulish, selfish, predatory 'beast in the basement' of our heart of hearts — the real Truth about the self-adoring corruption that really lurks deep within and continually oozes out contaminating whatever we touch. And until God's Word and Spirit pierce us with the Truth, we won't admit where we are and how desperately we are in need of His mercy.

### **Parallel Worlds and Kingdoms**

There are 'parallel worlds' in the spiritual realm, The Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness. There is our personal, private life, the one we try to conceal and reserve strictly to ourselves. We even try to hide it from our parents, spouses and families. And worse still, there is a part of ourselves we try desperately to conceal from ourselves! But although we resort to such tactics, we never succeed in concealing from our Creator even a speck of what we really are. We wallow in lies; but He is the perfect Spirit of Truth!

Our earthly 'life' that runs parallel to God's Kingdom of Truth, is the false front we fallen humans present to whoever and whatever is around us. We all do it. We live behind the cosmetically enhanced, counterfeit 'self-life' that we diligently construct and try to dress up, primp, deodorize, glamorize, idealize, exalt, flaunt and hide behind. Most of us are addicted to that phony, controlling, manipulative device.

We self-righteously label our concealments as, 'my right to privacy.' But most often, it's not objective freedom and liberty we want to protect. It's the subjective toxic sense of shame we feel that drives us to hide the Truth. We pose and posture and project an image of being 'okay' from behind our crafted façades. We plaster over the selfishness, rebellion, and dark, lustful, predatory corruptions always lurking just below the surface. Occasionally, the tremendous force from the decades-long buildup of these trapped forces, erupts forcefully, or seeps inevitably into our physical lives, relationships and issues, despite our best efforts to suppress and conceal them. Then we can no longer contain the enormous buildup of pressure; and so the beach ball of Truth

slips out from our grasp and pops up into the light of day. Then, when we're caught 'red-handed', we do our best to minimize the effects by saying – "I made a mistake."

But that's not what the Living God calls it. Because He always dwells in Reality the way it *really* is, to Him it's not an aberration or mistake -- it's Sin, rearing its ugly head and manifesting itself through destructive acts of commission or omission that we cannot stop doing.

*"Thus says the LORD, 'Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.*

*"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the LORD, search the heart; I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds." (Jeremiah 17:5-10)*

### **The Sin Corrupted "Normal" We've Inherited**

The world we live in and the system that runs it, if we look at it honestly, resembles an insane asylum. The trend setters and the powers that be call themselves 'public servants' while they manipulate and exploit the public for self-serving purposes. So-called leaders in every field and educators and scientists and social pundits take God's Truth and Reality and twist them beyond recognition. The rich and powerful go berserk, sucking up wealth and exceptional privileges and luxuriating in things they reserve for themselves at the expense of their less fortunate and less crafty starving neighbors. In this world, nothing is sacred, except for our own egos, agendas, pleasures, preeminent self-interest and public images.

True reverence and fear of God are ridiculed and mocked. Division, selfishness and violence reign supreme; material gain and power over others are idolized, predatory lust is flaunted, good is abhorred and banned as evil, while evil is legislated, promoted and marketed as ultimate good. The fallen world is entrapped in the coils of the Serpent. So regardless of race, color, nationality, creed, century, country or culture, we are the epitome of hypocrisy, predatory selfishness, venal self-seeking, self-destructiveness and contemptible double-dealing. These are undeniable, historically-proven and recorded facts! Rejection of God's Word is what runs this fallen world. And, sooner or later, the Word of God and His Truth will expose and judge and deal with all of His enemies.

### **The Deadly Sin Snake Bite**

The satanic Serpent injected his venom into us all. So as long as we remain deaf and resistant to God's Word, Sin maintains a stranglehold on our individual and collective throats. The world has decided that Sin is '*normal*' and '*human*' and, therefore, unavoidable. We blame God for making us '*this way*', and try to get even by rejecting Him and making up 'gods' and 'truths' of our own. God reveals Reality and Truth, but because we do not accept Him as He really is, we can't accept ourselves as we really are either. So we deny and turn our backs on Him, thinking that will justify and set us free from guilt, shame and condemnation. We make up our own truth

and reality in which we come across as righteous, worthy and free to do as we please. This is so normal and acceptable in this world that humans have become truly ‘shameless’. To us evil things are ‘good’ and good things are ‘evil’. We take God out of the picture and become humanists, thinking and acting as if man is the measure of all things, and that each of us has the right to decide for ourselves what is true, false, good and evil.

Since the world has made peace with God-less radical independence, people are sometimes willing to admit that they *‘made a mistake’*...but they hiss and recoil and snarl, should anyone make any mention of Sin! They refuse to consider anything that would disturb and expose their false sense of righteousness. The world considers the idea of calling people to repent of their sins to be very bad form indeed. In the genteel, sophisticated, and wretchedly phony social, economic, educational and political circles of this world, the Truth of God is rejected. It is also rejected in organized religions and in the squalor of slums, saloons, reality talk shows and drug dens. No one is allowed to dare to point out that every single one of us is – ‘as guilty as Sin’.

I can really relate to that. I did that for a great part of my adult life. I did it until the Lord, in His great mercy, opened my tightly clenched eyes to something I had been blind to since birth. And it is that revelation that I am compelled to share with others, now, while I still have time to do it.

*“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.”* (1 Corinthians 9:16)

Ever since I was a child I heard people that I loved, trusted and respected talking about *‘Jesus,’* and *‘God,’* and *‘going to church,’* and *‘making it to Heaven’* and *‘avoiding Hell.’* I even underwent seminary training for thirteen years and dabbled in theology, philosophy, ‘Biblical Criticism,’ the study of Hebrew and Greek and hermeneutical science, liturgy and *‘ministry.’* I was ordained and became a full blown member of the clergy. In that capacity I had religious talk coming out of my ears. But I could only see these things through the worldly eyes of fallen flesh. I did not have spiritual eyes; my eyes were soulish, intellectual, emotional and carnal, and therefore, ‘worldly’.

*“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”* (1 Cor. 2:12-14 Emphasis added.)

*“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God!”* (James 4:4)

### **Religious Nonsense – or Life Changing Truth**

I had come to view any talk about God, His holy righteousness, Sin and repentance as nothing more than religious nonsense. That’s because the living Word of God and His Holy Spirit had not yet pierced, penetrated and impregnated my innermost being with His Truth and Light. To

me it was just head knowledge I had learned from going to schools and memorizing the teachings of men and soaking up the culture of the world into which we are all born.

That soulish perspective, coupled with my own inherited corruption and immaturity, resulted in a personal ‘implosion’. I experienced a burn-out that totally derailed and destroyed my life of religiosity. I snapped all of a sudden and could no longer function in that ‘ivory tower’, inbred, religious world of mine. My coping systems shut down and I became paranoid and lost faith in everything. I had to leave the ministry before I was even able to get a good start in it! So I left the church of my fathers and forefathers and turned my back on God and Jesus as I then soulishly understood them. And for the next fifteen years, I either fervently avoided the mention of anything Christian, or tore into anyone who even remotely dared to bring it up in my presence.

I forced myself to believe that Christianity was foolishness and that it was dangerous to believe it. I used denial to try to conceal my true self. On the outside, I ridiculed religion and anything that had to do with ‘the God of the Bible’. I was as locked into radically independent living as I could get, because I kept blinding myself to God’s spiritual Reality for reasons I wasn’t willing to admit to myself, or share with anyone else.

### **God-Defined Reality Enters Virtual Reality**

But when God sends His living Word to come after you, and say, “*Where are you?*” it’s a totally different matter. Then God’s Reality falls all over you like a ton of bricks. It overwhelms and hits you in your gut and leaves you writhing in the dust, gasping for air. That’s the difference between soulish head knowledge that men control, and direct Holy Spirit revelation that hits like a lightning bolt out of eternity and pierces your innermost being!

Now I understand why all mention of God’s ‘*Good News*’ made me burn out, quit, and later, nod off to sleep. I know why I felt fed up and would self-righteously tear into anyone who dared to knock on my door to ‘*get me saved*’. It was because in all of those years of classes, services, sermons, retreats, fellowship and book reading, I had never personally grasped or felt the devastating impact of what the bad news that God has revealed to the world was about. I never knew the Living God directly and personally. So, to me, He was not real or present and IN MY FACE! And so neither was this awesome, heart-gripping warning He gave to the first human:

*“The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’”* (Genesis 2:16-17, Emphasis added)

### **Decapitated!**

I was never fully aware of the meaning of the words, ‘*die*’ and ‘*death*’ in the sense that God meant them. Only later did I see that rebellion and disobedience to God’s living Word is sure Death. God’s Word is our Creator and Lord. Therefore, He is our ‘*Head*’. So spiritually speaking, when the Serpent succeeded in getting our first parents to rebel and disobey, he ‘*decapitated*’ us all from our only true Source of Life! Before I saw this, I didn’t have to face what living and acting apart from Him really meant. It is ‘*living death*’ and death breeds corruption and anything that flows out of it is equally dead and corrupt and unacceptable to God.

If we don't grasp the significance of the, 'bad news', we surely will fail to grasp the meaning of *The Good News*. We don't grasp the meaning of the word '*repent*' unless we're deeply broken, exposed and devastated by The Truth that we really are decapitated and existing as '*the living dead*'. In the past, because the Truth hadn't hit home, I had not yet been slammed to the ground like a hammer-struck bull. Truth had not yet forced me to fall on my face before the Living God, blinded by the flash of His Blazing Holiness and Truth.

I didn't know what it was to have my mouth shut and silenced or to feel compelled to fall prostrate before Almighty God in total, helpless bankruptcy and wordless worship. Instead, I somehow expected God to bow down and serve me! That's because I had not yet been stripped naked. My utter corruption of heart hadn't been exposed by the flaming brilliance of His incomprehensible Truth and **BLINDING, DEVASTATING HOLINESS!**

How in the world can God's Good News get through to a man and really expose what is in his heart, if the bad news never first penetrates his innards and pops all of his delusional bubbles? And how can you leap, dance and twirl in the streets for sheer joy, gratitude and relief, if you don't know what a narrow escape you've had from the eternal 'meat grinder' that is stands behind those ultimate, inescapable terminal Realities called *Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell?*

### **Flying Blind**

So the reality is that if you don't get the point, you continue to fly blind, like a pilot in a terrible storm that has no instruments, and worse still, no eyes! If we don't even know that the world and its 'Head-less' system that you love and revel in so much is the gateway to the Hell of eternal separation from your Creator, then the Redemption Solution that is always right under our noses falls flat and leaves us untouched. We shrug our shoulders and ask, "*So what? What's so bad about this world? And since I'm such a good person, why would I need a redeemer? Why would you think I would be interested in anything like that?*"

In that blind state we can't imagine why anyone would give God and His Word or the Bible a second thought. All we know or care about are horizontal things that pertain to our self-serving lives in this fallen world. In our decapitated state, we can't imagine that there could be anything vertical and spiritual and Heavenly that is more real than what we can see, touch, smell, hear and feel. And as long as what we feel and have seems 'good', 'normal' and 'satisfactory' in our sight, we remain blind to the Realities and the Secrets of The Kingdom of Heaven.

*"Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, 'Alas, my master! What shall we do?' So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see. And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.'" (2 Kings 6:15-17)*

*"And the disciples came and said to Him, "'Why do You speak to them in parables?'" Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing*

*they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,*

*‘YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM!’*

*‘But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.’” (Matthew 13:10-17)*

Fallen flesh assumes that this world is everything and its false gods are all that matter. It thinks that what pertains to this worldly, decapitated life is all we need to know. It assumes that it doesn't get any better than what we can see, hear and feel or imagine with our natural physical senses and comprehend with the Sin-corrupted faculties of our fallen souls. So the viewpoint of this man-adoring world and its *dog-eat-dog* system becomes our sole point of reference. We judge, assess and evaluate everything under the sun according to our personal self-serving worldly standards. That's why we remain self-satisfied and 'blind' and 'Head-less'.

Even Isaiah, one of God's prophets, needed more revelation from God. He had already received some understanding from the Holy Spirit and was called to be a prophet. But God gave more revelation that completely blew him away and left him devastated. He saw the Truth concerning God's Holiness and Majesty – at a depth he had never before imagined possible. We'll look at what happened to him later. But first, let me share what the Lord taught me in the midst of one of my most foolish and embarrassing blunders. He used this unforgettable experience to 'download' some vitally needed insight and understanding.

I had already surrendered to my risen Lord and had come under His Authority by that time. But like Isaiah, I needed a much deeper revelation. I was already 'back in ministry', trying to serve God. I had already reconciled with Him, but on this day He revealed much more of His Truth and did it in a very graphically physical and gut-wrenching way. He taught me something that no theology study or logic or discussion or organized religious ritual could have ever given. I share it with you in the hope that it may help someone else. Even if it only opens one heart and one person can transform and usher in the Dominion, Pre-eminence, Lordship and Eternal Glory of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, it will be worth it. So, here is my true story:

### ***The Cooler***

I was in Central Iowa at the end of a ministry business trip. My friends, Kenny and Lyn had invited me to their home for dinner. They treated me to a wonderful meal and made me feel like an honored guest. After our meal, as I was preparing to leave, Kenny pulled out a large insulated cooler from a closet, the kind you use for picnic lunches. Then he went to his meat freezer and proceeded to pack the cooler full of neat packages of freshly butchered cuts of meat that he had just brought back from his father's farm. "Here," he said. "Take this with you. It's as fresh as it gets."

Then he took the cooler out to my car, and put it in the trunk. I thanked him and his wife profusely, got behind the wheel, and headed for the interstate highway and the two and a half hour drive home. By the time I got home, it was getting late and I was anxious to see my wife and son. So I parked the car, took my bags out of the back seat, and hurried into the house to spend time with my family before bedtime.

The car I traveled in was a staff car which I only used it for business trips. When I didn't have to be on the road, I used our family car for personal transportation. So the staff car sat in the driveway, unused and unnoticed, for three weeks. Then one evening, I went out to the staff car to look for something in the glove box. And the faint, redolent odor that hit me when I opened the door instantly reminded me of that long-forgotten cooler. It was still in the trunk where I had left it—and now it was full of—God only knew what.

I can't convey the electrical surge of emotional voltage that went through me at that moment. It was dread, horror and shame along with the disgusting prospect and inevitability of having to open that trunk to face the gruesome Reality within it. I remember that my instant, knee-jerk reaction was a strong desire to keep it quiet and not let my wife or anyone else on planet Earth, know that I had done such a stupid and wasteful thing. It reminded me of the guilty reaction murderers must feel when they try to hide the bodies of their victims and all incriminating evidence to avoid responsibility and punishment.

So, I opened the trunk. There it was... the cooler... sealed tight, just the way my friend had left it... three weeks—twenty one days, and over five hundred hot, unrefrigerated, summer hours ago. I couldn't see anything yet, but I could most certainly smell it.

I remembered what the white clean interior of the cooler had looked like three weeks ago when my friend placed the nice neat white paper wrapped packages of meat into it. In their frozen, rock-hard firmness, the packages had filled the cavity all the way to the top, leaving just enough room for the lid to close properly. But now, I was about to see what the inside of the cooler looked like after my enormous blunder. With great trepidation – like the inescapable fear that many will feel on the Day of Judgment, I opened the lid.

What met my eyes, and every other physical sense I had, was the most appalling, disgusting, sickening abomination I have ever experienced. The cooler's inner cavity was nearly half empty! In place of the nice white, frozen packages, there sat several gallons of pure liquid putrescence that looked, like muddy water, in which floated lumps of brown, soggy pulp. That was what was left of those nice, white paper wrappers that had covered the frozen meat. And the whole inside surface of the cooler down to the 'water line' was no longer white. Now I saw the difference between death that is '*as fresh as it gets*', and death that has been around for a while. The cooler's inner surface was discolored, deeply etched with a disgusting greenish-gray patina of death-corruption. And, of course, the inner surface of the cooler was crawling with swarms of countless maggots!

I remember almost passing out with the horror, nausea and disgust that welled up in me. How could that wonderful meat that I had been so anxious to savor and eat, have contained within itself the horrible abomination that was crawling before me? My mind and brain shut down in a state of total overwhelm. I could not even think of what to do next. It was all I could do to

control the involuntary gag reflex and retching of my stomach caused by the unbearable stench. I closed the lid of the cooler and walked away for a few minutes, just to settle my stomach and get some fresh air and compose myself and clear my head.

After a few minutes, I was finally able to think and come up with a plan of action. I put on two pair of disposable rubber gloves. Then, holding my breath as much as possible, I fished the paper and the bones out of the bottom of the cooler in record time and deposited the mess in a plastic bag and sealed it tight. Then I got three other plastic bags. I put the original bag inside of another and sealed it. Then I put that bag inside of another, sealed it and that bag inside of another and sealed it. I had to get rid of that filth and seal it away from the rest of the universe! There was nothing else that could be done with this pure essence of Death.

Then I took the cooler to the toilet in our basement. As carefully as possible, I emptied the liquid putrescence within that bulky container into the toilet and flushed it several times. Then I took the cooler outside to our back patio. I poured disinfectant into it and filled it to the top with water. And I left it out there to soak. The next morning, I emptied the cooler and left it outside so that the direct rays of the sun could hit it all day. But I never came close to restoring the cooler to what it had once been. So I ended up throwing it away and buying a new one to replace it.

### ***Death and its effect***

But let's go back to those awful initial moments and the immediate clean up job I had to face. In the process of emptying and flushing the fetid contents of the cooler down the toilet, several drops fell onto the concrete floor of my basement. It wasn't very much – only a few drops. But it might as well have been fifty gallons, because as soon as those few drops hit the concrete floor, the entire basement was filled with the same overpowering stench that was in the cooler. Death and its corruption were in every drop, in the most concentrated strength imaginable. The stench diffused instantly throughout every molecule of air around me. It invaded and defiled every cubic foot of air in that basement!

I spent the next two hours frantically, desperately, cleaning, disinfecting, scrubbing, ventilating – doing everything I could think of – to deodorize wherever and whatever that liquid death and its traces had touched. And as I worked and scrubbed and held my breath, the Lord began to speak to my heart. I will try to put what He said at that time, about that corruption ... into human words:

### ***Death as God Sees It***

“You are looking at Sin and what it did to My beloved humans the moment Adam mistrusted Me and rejected My Word. My Word was His Life. But Adam pulled away from his Life Source! The moment he and the woman did that, they ‘decapitated’ themselves and their human nature died, just like a living flower dies as soon as you cut its stem from the roots and place it in a vase for display. Degeneration and corruption—exactly like this—took over every molecule of human nature and the rest of earthly Creation as soon as Sin entered Adam's heart. And that became the lethal legacy and birthright he passed on to all of his unborn descendants.

“The human spirits of Adam and the woman had once known and been bonded to My Word. But now their disobedience severed them from Him. So spiritually, they died. And their bodies became mortal and their souls—mind, will, desires and emotions—mutated and degenerated into the mental equivalent of this exact same physical corruption. What you see and smell before you

now, permeated their humanity on every level and began to have this effect, the moment they pulled away from Me and took matters into their own hands. *At that moment*, they died and began to be... **this**...instead of the beautiful human temples of My Presence that I had originally created them to be.

“Because they rejected My Word and fell under the destructive domination of the Serpent, they were mortally wounded, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and genetically. I am Life. To pull away from Me is Death. As soon as Sin touches anything, this is what it becomes—Death! Look at it. Smell it! Touch it if you dare! This is what is in every human heart, despite what the soulish world says about how great and wonderful man is! This is not what I created or intended. This is what Rebellion and Sin have created. This is the living death that is passed from one generation to another through procreation. This is what I meant by these words:

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.” (Romans 5:12-14 Emphasis added.)

### **Life vs. Death**

“Little son, if you were to prepare a meal for someone you love, would you use any of this? No! You would not allow even a speck of it to touch your loved one’s food. So can you now see why I will never use anything that comes from this filth, or has even touched it, for My purposes? Sin is Death! And Death is an abomination to Me! How could I ever use anything so corrupt? Can you see how incompatible this is with My Divine, Holy, Pure Nature? I cannot abide or permit it to remain in existence. Every speck of Death must be annihilated and removed from My living Presence. And so will it be!

“And yet, people born into your fallen world know nothing else but this Sin. To them, this is normal. They call it ‘good.’ Because they don’t know Me, they have no Truth, nothing Heavenly by which to compare this. In their delusion, many mindlessly pray to Me, asking Me to help them to ‘*improve*’ the corruption that is in them. They ask me to ‘*use*’ it, or to ‘*come into their life*’ while they remain blind and deaf to their true state before Me. Satan has deceived and blinded them to that extent!

“They expect Me to accept and bless this abomination and somehow make use of it. They have no idea what they’re asking. But can you see it now? Even your own fallen, corrupt flesh is recoiling with horror as you experience the Death and Corruption that is before you. What you see is in all human flesh. Now can you agree that the only thing to do with it is to dispose of it? This is why My beloved Son said this to His disciples:

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.” And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed

of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.’” (Luke 9:22-26 Emphasis added.)

### **The Cost of Sin and its Corruption**

“This filth is what I commissioned My Beloved Son to take upon Himself and represent and atone for in the Eternal Covenant! It is for this that He became the Lamb slain since before the foundation of the world! Only His perfect human obedience and faith and crucifixion and death could atone for and redeem and make this right. He was the Scapegoat, the Garbage Man, for all the rest of you. Although He remained ever holy and innocent, I heaped all of man’s corruption upon Him, and executed Him and buried Him as He took all of it to Himself, to set the rest of you free from this and give you His perfect Righteousness in exchange. Now can you see why He was sweating blood in the Garden of Gethsemane? And can you see what my precious people mean to Me – that for their sake I would put Myself and My own Beloved Son through such agony? Can you see how much I love you all and why My Son told Nicodemus that unless he was ‘*born again*’ he would not be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

“You must all stop putting faith in what you are and what you produce. You must exchange all of that for My Son and the perfect, finished work that He has already produced in your name through His perfectly obedient human life. All of your corruption was crucified with and buried into the death of My Son. Death and burial are the only remedy for living death and whatever it touches. My Eternal Covenant immerses you into My Son’s Atoning Death and burial, so that you may then be immersed in the perfect Purity, Holiness, Perfection and Eternal Life of His Resurrection. He is and must be Everything to you...Now can you see why?

“Imagine what it was like to have to send My Son into the middle of all the filth and corruption of the entire human race! He had to live in it for over thirty years! Every second He was there, He had to endure this and identify with it and be surrounded by it. He had to see, touch, smell, abide in, love and pay for it, as your Blood Covenant Representative. And yet, not once did He become part of it. And He endured that ordeal gladly. Not once did He despise any of His human brothers who were afflicted with this. He loves you all with an eternal Love. You are His ‘neighbors’ and He loves His neighbors as He loves Himself, because He embodies Me and My Love for My people.

“Because of My Love for each of you – My living Word went gladly, willingly, eagerly, to save you and vindicate My Name and cleanse, purify and redeem My Creation. He did it as your Covenant Representative, making Perfect, Infinite Atonement before My Perfect Justice. Yet, because of how damaged, blinded and twisted humanity became after the fall, no one could understand Him or what He was doing. They were so blind and deaf that they had no idea that this corruption is what they had become. They had never seen an alternative to this filth, so they assumed that this is what I had created, and that just because they were religious, they were as good as they could be!

### **Deception exposed**

“Satan is rightly named *Beelzebub – the Lord of the flies*. His deceived victims are like flies that thrive and exult in their Sin. It is this filth and corruption that they all love; they eagerly, greedily cluster around and seek it out. That is where they live. They feed on it, make their living from it and spawn their offspring in it, breeding future generations of fallen, sinful people that will also

be born to it. And they will spend eternity in it – unless they stop rejecting My Son and turn to Him so He can save and regenerate them into new creations and return them pure and clean, to My arms, as my perfect image and likeness.

“When My Son came, no one grasped the full realization that the Living God was actually there with them, in pure, Sin-less incorruptible human flesh, rescuing, redeeming, protecting and saving them from their own inherent death and corruption. Their Sin-corrupted hearts resented, belittled and scorned Him. Even those closest to Him accused Him of being out of His mind. So-called religious leaders accused Him of being demonic. What a travesty, what unspeakable hypocrisy! The very purveyors of this filth attacked, betrayed, tortured and murdered My Beloved Son even as He was saving them from My wrath against it. But that’s what this corruption does to human minds and faculties. They cannot help it or do otherwise. Truly they do not know what they are doing!

“This fallen flesh killed its Creator and spurned its Redeemer. That’s what is in you and all the others. It’s in your natural, instinctive thoughts, reactions, urges, judgments, choices, motives and initiatives—abominable filth. And I had to deliver Him into the hands of such as these. I heaped all of their shame, infamy, punishment and death that this corruption merited for them—upon Him. And He took it and willingly paid for every bit of it even as they were killing Him. He shed His precious Life-Blood to the very last drop. That is how much your Creator and Redeemer values you, no matter what has happened to you. This is how precious you are in My sight and how much each one of you means to Me!

### **Blood Covenant Redemption!**

“The agony heaped upon My living Word was part of my Plan of Redemption. I sent Him to endure all of that, in your name, as your Covenant Representative. It is what all fallen humanity has coming in itself! But He has absorbed it all and paid your ransom in full. That is how much the Living God loves His blind, selfish, treacherous, ungrateful people. This is how much I can be trusted! By this I prove to the world, that Satan is a liar and that you can trust Me with airtight faith, because I am the infinitely Airtight, Living, Blood Covenant God!

“Because of your acceptance of and faith in My Son, He can cleanse and set you free from this unspeakable death and corruption. I brought you into My Eternal covenant with Him and regenerated your spirit, that you might know and bond with Me at last. And even though you still have fallen flesh and a fallen soul, by faith, you can feed on My Son and embrace Him and all He is. In your heart. I have baptized you into His Death, filled you with the All-consuming Fire of My own Spirit, and fused your regenerated spirit into My Holy Spirit. I have cleansed and purified you by the authority of My Son’s Covenant Blood. I gave you My Spirit that He may serve as My eternal Guarantee: that after your fallen corrupt body finally gasps its last, I will give you a new eternal, spiritual body, and every eternal covenant promise I made, will be perfectly and completely fulfilled in you!

“Because Yeshua (Jesus) took all of this upon Himself, you are free, healed and restored. And because of His Authority and Righteousness, which I apply to you, you are now guiltless, pure, free, righteous and beautiful in My sight. So do not ever assume that there can be any other way for anyone contaminated by this putrid Sin to be saved, except by My living Word and the perfect Work that He has already done in your name. His is the perfect, infinite Redemptive

Atonement that has been made on your behalf. And I have accepted Him and all those He represents, forever.

“Don’t ever think that any of you could ever add one thing to the Perfection of what He has already done. Don’t think you can do anything to save or cleanse or deliver yourself, independently of Him. If you try that, your deadness will only produce more death. I gave you My beloved Son. He is the only Way, Truth and Life that I accept. No one comes to Me but by Him, for He is the One Human in Whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him. Embrace Him. Depend upon Him—and live! I proclaim Him to be the only one that is ‘good enough’ in My sight! That is why I commissioned Him to be your Covenant Representative Covering. That is why I joined you to Him. Whatever He is, you can be *in Him*, if you submit to and abide in Him, as your Representative, Substitute Lamb, Lord, Master and Owner!”

### ***It’s Never About Us***

From that day on, I cannot see the Christian faith as being about us, or what we do, or how we do it. We can do nothing ‘for God’. What had to be done was DONE. God had to do it! And that’s why it is perfect. So it will never be about us decapitated people, trying to be more ‘like’ God or doing something ‘for’ God. It is not a ‘self-improvement’ endeavor. We must die to trusting in that kind of demonic Headless thinking. Everything depends on whether or not we are truly joined to our true Head, God’s living Word, from whose perfect, already-finished work we receive true eternal Life! It must be all about Him from now on!

I never see my acceptance of God’s Gospel, or the need for my ‘Head-less’ existence to be crucified, as being a loss or an inconvenience. It is not something to resent or complain about. It is not about God, arbitrarily imposing on our self-assumed ‘rights’ or ruining our ‘fun’, or being rigidly unreasonable and uncaring toward our personal ‘rights’ or comforts. The Gospel is never a cause for resentment, never an inconvenience. It is Life out of Death! It is Light out of Darkness and Joy out of Agonizing Devastation! How can I blame God for trying to re-connect me to my true Head or wanting to deliver me from the horrid corruption of this fallen ‘living dead’ world? How can I blame Him for what the Sin-full hearts of the decapitated men and women around me decide to do or not do? I know who created all this evil. The Serpent did. And My Father sent His Word to overcome that demonic evil with His infinitely perfect and eternal GOOD!

Once the cooler opened experience opened my eyes and I saw our true state before God, and how utterly horrible the bad news of Sin that hit us really is, I was appalled at the residue of Sin that lurks within my flesh. Never again can I dare to put my faith and trust in anything that originates in and from my or anyone else’s fallen, soul-driven flesh. I can better understand God’s glorious Good News, and why He is always so Yeshua-centered in all that He says and does on our behalf.

### **Judgment – Ours vs. God’s**

The world judges itself according to its false scale of 1 to 10. But that is an unreal standard of judgment. The truth is that all men are born dead... into the state of Sin and into a nature that desires to trespass against God (Ephesians 2). So in terms of God’s Righteousness, they are all stuck at the zero point. So now we can see through all the layers of cosmetically placed facades, disguises, charades and religious ‘self-improvement’ scams that this humanistic, self-centered,

God-less world invents for itself. How could any of us ‘improve’, or ‘save’ the death that was in that cooler? What good would it do to ‘refreeze’ it or ‘dress it up’ with a lot of gold medals and perfumes and spices? How would freezing it or deodorizing it change its inherent death-nature? How could we have been so blind and arrogant to think that there could be any hope or use for it? And How could God be so patient, long-suffering and loving with those that are His avowed enemies? And how could we think that we can handle life in this world without the constant supply and protection of our Heavenly Creator and Redeemer – the living Word of God?

I realized that not only is that corruption resident in our human bodies, regardless of how much time and money we spend clothing, washing, perfuming, teaching, gratifying and showing them off, but even after we’re saved, the residue of it keeps trying to take over again in our souls—intellect, will, emotions, motives, choices, reactions, plans, desires and affections, regardless of how much we spend ‘educating’ and decorating ourselves with academic degrees, scientific awards, artistic honors, black belts or soulish, religious pomp and empty fluff. But if you read Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 13; and 2 Corinthians 4, you’ll see what God’s indwelling risen Word will be able to do in you and through you, when you die to your old radical independence, and allow Him to be your new and eternal Life.

### **Learning from Isaiah**

So let’s go back to Isaiah. He had been operating as a recognized prophet in Israel during the reign of King Uzziah of Judah. But it was only when this king’s reign came to an end, that Isaiah’s eyes were opened further to this Truth.

Uzziah had been a fairly good king at the beginning. But toward the end of his reign, he decided to take upon himself the added functions of the temple priesthood. He ventured into the holy place in the temple that was reserved only for the priests appointed to minister there to the Lord. Uzziah wanted to burn incense to the Lord, despite the legitimate protests of the chief priests.

But, king of Israel, or not, Uzziah was a descendant of fallen Adam. He had corrupt, mortal, human nature – *flesh*’ as the Bible calls it. And in the sight of God, it was ‘Head-less’. Therefore it contained that same death-corruption described in my ‘cooler’ story. God had made provision for the priests to be consecrated, anointed and insulated by Covenant blood, from the wrath of God against their sinful flesh. Thus they were able to approach God’s Presence and minister to Him in His temple, in Covenant safety.

But Uzziah was anointed to be Israel’s king, not a priest. His flesh was not insulated and protected against the judgment of God’s Perfect Nature, to perform priestly functions. So when he dared to approach God’s holy Presence in that decapitated state, the incompatibility between God’s Perfect Nature, and his sinful, death-ridden nature became apparent. The non-insulated Sin-nature that was in him was suddenly exposed by the intensity of the ‘blast furnace’ of God’s Holy Presence and Truth. As the Light of Truth hit what was inside of him, that inner death corruption in Uzziah’s heart began to manifest itself externally in the form of physical leprosy. Then the decaying process that was always underway *within* his body began to manifest itself *upon* his body. (See Uzziah’s story in 2 Chronicles 26).

Now the king became an object of horror to himself and all of his subjects. The rot and corruption that were in his fallen nature became visible. And the other, fallen, corrupt people

around him, once they saw on him the ghastly corruption that comes from Sin, immediately agreed with God's Judgment upon it and strove to separate themselves from Uzziah. They cut him off from the community. They isolated the leprosy death that was in him, lest it spread to anyone else.

So even though he was king, Uzziah lived apart, like all the other lepers, with covered face and mouth and limbs. He was viewed by everyone else as an object of disgust, horror and shame. The rest had not yet been affected by the visible manifestations of that death. Nevertheless, they were all full-fledged spiritual 'lepers' themselves...every bit as corrupt and 'unclean' as Uzziah. But because the leprosy of their Sin was not yet externally as obvious on their skin as Uzziah's was, they assumed a self-righteous air of superiority and looked down on him and ostracized him, never suspecting that what they saw before them, was the very thing that lurked within them all, even though it was not yet outwardly apparent.

At that moment, the Lord revealed Himself and His Holiness and Glory to Isaiah in such a way and at such depth, that he was devastated and overwhelmed and changed forever. In seeing God, high and lifted up, he saw The Lamb, as if slain. He saw what our infinitely perfect, beautiful, loving God was forced to put Himself through in order to redeem and save all of us from the Sin that was in all fallen flesh. God revealed His incomprehensible Majesty, Purity, Holiness and Self-less Love to Isaiah through His living Word. And later, Isaiah revealed to us all, exactly what He had seen:

*"Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My people, so His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men. Thus He will sprinkle many nations; kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand. Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."* (Isaiah 52:13-15; 53:1-6)

When Isaiah saw what God's perfect faithfulness and mercy on behalf of His beloved humans forced Him to put Himself through in order to satisfy His perfect standards of righteousness and justice on their behalf, he saw himself for what he really was by comparison. His mortal, fallen flesh was like a nocturnal cockroach suddenly exposed by a blinding Light. The Light of God's Holiness and penetrating Love sought him out in the darkness where he had been lurking and exposed Him to the blazing Light of the real Truth. The exposure left nothing to Isaiah's imagination. What He saw of God enabled Isaiah to see what was in himself – the same thing I saw in that fetid cooler! He saw the death that was in his own heart. He realized as never before, that what was in him had forced God to put Himself through unspeakable agony.

Thus there was no difference between what afflicted lepers like Uzziah on the outside, and what was lurking within him on the inside. That death caused by Sin had been there, since his conception. But he never fully realized it until that moment. That's why he wanted to cover his face and the unclean lips through which he had dared to utter pronouncements in the Name of God. He saw that he too, was a leper full of living death:

*“In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said,*

***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His GLORY!”***

*“And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.’” (Isaiah 6:1-5 Emphasis added.)*

### **The Truth that Sets Us Free**

There is no devastation anywhere in this world that can compare to the sudden nuclear blast of this God-revealing Truth. God’s Word comes at us from another World. And when He gives us a glimpse of Who He is... His awesome Holiness exposes our cheap corrupt decapitated, living death reality. We see ourselves as we are... for the very first time. We get in touch with spiritual Reality as it really is, and feel in our guts and the marrow of our bones just how bad the bad news about Sin really is. The eternal Word of the Living God wields His Sword of Truth and cuts right down the seam that divides His Holy Spirit of Truth, from our Sin-darkened, corrupt souliness. It cuts us open like a sharp antiseptic surgical scalpel. And we see Reality like we’ve never seen it before, and realize that without Him, the Source of all things real, true and good, we are nothing and can do nothing. He is everything to us. Without Him, we cannot even exist!

*“So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”*

*“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:9-16)*

When you finally see how bad the bad news is, and understand what the Lord had to put Himself through to save you from it, you finally **‘get it’**. You grasp what God is saying and gladly side

with Him against yourself. You realize that you will gladly spend all of eternity praising, thanking and glorifying Him for His incomprehensible, Eternal Mercy, Patience, Kindness and Blood Covenant Love. You will never again forget His agony or take it for granted, or blithely dismiss it. Nor will you dare look down your nose in arrogant, self-righteous judgment against any other human being again, no matter who it is, or how different from you on the outside they may seem. On the inside, we humans, Jew and Gentile alike, are all the same...dead, helpless, totally bankrupt...and EQUAL!

*“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. IF ANYONE THINKS HE IS SOMETHING WHEN HE IS NOTHING, HE DECEIVES HIMSELF!” (Galatians 6:1-3)*

The above text is two-edged. It explicitly says you should not exalt yourself above others. But neither should you exalt others above yourself. We're all products of the same 'cooler'! Beloved, in God's sight, there are no perfect 10's on this poor fallen planet. We are all at the 'zero point' because this entire planet is 'The Cooler.' We are all in the same boat, regardless of family pedigree or color, race, religion, money, degrees, lifestyles, sexual preferences or 'gold medals' or 'credentials.' Can you now see how foolish it would be for a former 'sirloin steak' to look down on former 'stew meat' from the midst of the disgusting maggot infested cooler contents?

*“You meet him who rejoices in doing righteousness, who remembers You in Your ways. Behold, You were angry, for we sinned, we continued in them a long time; and shall we be saved? For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on Your name, who arouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us and have delivered us into the power of our iniquities.*

*“But now, O LORD, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD, nor remember iniquity forever; behold, look now, all of us are Your people.” (Isaiah 64:5-9)*

I share my story with you to try to graphically depict the essence of the Bad News so that you could see the infinitely Perfect Compassion and eternal Glory behind God's Good News. Yeshua became the Ultimate Leper and Ultimate Outcast for the sake of all the rest of us. So I hope you can see how deadly serious and terminal the stakes are with which the Gospel of Salvation has to deal.

### **The Good News**

But now we must make a major distinction. Please grasp the meaning of the Good News. Note this and take it to heart:

God's perfect nature never changes. He will always hate Sin. But He will always love you. He will never change toward you. He will never despise, forget, forsake or hate you, no matter what you have done or failed to do! He will love us forever. It is not He that condemns people to Hell. It is our own demon-induced choices that will condemn us.

*“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”* (Matthew 12:33-37 Emphasis added.)

God created you and all the rest of us humans to be His image and likeness. And He is intent and determined to do whatever it will take to finish the task to perfection. He never changes or wavers. He is eternal, infinite Love. And He has always loved you and always will love you and mean you nothing but good. How else would you think that God is going to react to and feel about His own image and likeness?

We are made by God’s Word, for God’s Word. We are made to be His image and likeness. And so, God’s Love and Affection and Tender Covenant Faithfulness toward us are everlasting (Psalm 136). Our Sin and corruption never diminished or changed the way He feels about us, individually and corporately. We are God’s beloved people. He summons us to become His Blood Covenant Family, and He is intent on rescuing and restoring us and forging us into the perfect eternal Body of His Perfect Son.

Ultimately, we will be like a ravishing, beautiful Bride, ‘without spot or wrinkle’ and totally desirable and pleasing in His sight -- if we submit to Him on His terms and receive what only He can give to us. Look at how He describes our ultimate destiny!

*“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.’*

*“And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ And He said, ‘Write, for these words are faithful and true.’ Then He said to me, ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.’”* (Revelation 21:2-8)

*“And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ‘Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather*

*than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”* (Luke 18:9-14)

Don't obsess over your poor fallen condition. Focus on how much you are loved, cherished, provided for and protected by this awesome, indescribably Beautiful and Holy God of ours. Because He loves you to these depths, He has painstakingly revealed Himself and His Love for you so that you would be sure to **'get it,'** when He reveals in human terms and human words, the story of His great Good News. Trust in Him and His Love for you. Don't look to any other Source. When the time for your judgment comes, don't appear naked. Be covered by the infinitely perfect Righteousness of your Redeemer. Make sure God judges you by what is in the Life and 'Track Record' of His Son, rather than what belonged to you before you humbled yourself and entered into His perfect redemption.

*“Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors, I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, even at the time when I gather you together; indeed, I will give you renown and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,’ says the LORD.”* (Zephaniah 3:19-20)