

Mark 16 **14** Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. **15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; **18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Psalm 119:89 LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Religion allows us to follow rules and traditions and nice sounding doctrine and words to make us think that we have right standing with God. But all these things can be done by the flesh and we are instructed to die to the flesh. The flesh cannot cannot cannot be well pleasing to God. Faith pleases God. God doesn't want us under rules or the law, He wants relationship and obedience to the Holy Spirit. We do not remove sin from our lives through rules and law but through grace and the Holy Spirit as He guides us. Gods grace is the power for us to walk away from sin. The law and religion binds us to sin through the condemnation of the law. Hearing and following the Holy Spirit requires faith. The flesh prefers rules. The flesh is comfortable with rules. Religion attempts to replace the truth with a false Jesus. A jesus with no power and it steals our hope of walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. satan will use religion to strip the gospel of power and the risen Jesus (God) with another Jesus, a false Jesus. It is the truth that sets us free and if we allow another Jesus to replace the truth then we are deceived and worshipping a false christ or an antichrist. Jesus is who He says He is in the word of God. Do not let religion replace the true God with a false powerless gospel. Another gospel. Jesus is risen and is God and has all power and authority and HE TRIUMPHED OVER THE WORKS OF THE ENEMY.

Colossians 2 **8** Beware lest any man spoil you **through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world**, and not after Christ. **9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: **11** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: **12** Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **14** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; **15** *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Philosophy and vain deceit will remove the power of the cross. It will put Jesus back on the cross and it will present him as a man. It will put a halo around his head and keep our mind bound to thinking of Him as a man and not as God. It strips us of the power to see His awesome victory and power and glory. He is risen! He is not on a cross. We must see Him as He is not as a man but as awesome God almighty. Religion is used by the enemy to keep our minds focused on Jesus as a man. The truth is He is God with unimaginable glory. Seeing Jesus as a man is what satan wants us to do, he wants to present us with a fake Jesus and a fake gospel. Jesus has risen! We must not let religion rob us of His awesome power, victory, or glory. He came in the flesh and fulfilled the law and won the victory for us. He defeated our enemies so that through His victory, we are able to do the same. His flesh was crucified and he is risen at the right hand of God. We must not bring Him back to the flesh. Our hope is in the risen Christ. See Him as He is! Do not let the enemy steal His victory from your life. Do not accept another Jesus.

Revelation 1 **14** His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire; **15** And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. **16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: **18** *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

This is the Jesus that John saw in the Spirit. This is who He is. He is God. Images we hold of Him still being a man is vain because we bring Him back to earth as a man and it binds our mind to think of Him incorrectly. It strips us of knowing His glory and power.

Romans 10:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*:)

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him ; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.

Mark 16 **16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; **18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Gods word doesn't change, it is settled in heaven forever and this scripture is not popular with the flesh. These things require faith, and faith is very uncomfortable. It requires us to believe

things which are not normal. It also requires us to know the all powerful risen Jesus. Religion keeps us from faith because it allows us to feel ok with following doctrine and nice thoughts and it excludes faith which requires the power of the Holy Spirit to achieve supernatural results. Religion pictures Jesus as a man. Faith proves we believe. Religion gives us excuses to not do these signs which Jesus said would follow them that believe. Religion turns the gospel in reverse. It is an opposite of what Jesus preached because it allows us to make the same mistake as the Pharisees. Puffed up with a bunch of worthless knowledge and tradition, and pride and position. Achieving nothing but to keep their own ego satisfied and feeling comfortable in their deception. Religion was so deceiving it caused the religious people to altogether miss recognizing their own messiah. When Jesus came with power and evidence that He was the messiah, religion kept them from recognizing Him.

Matthew 23 **34** Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city: **35** That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. **36** Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! **38** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. **39** For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Even when Jesus had been crucified and had risen, the religious people still couldn't recognize God at work in the disciples who were also doing these miracles. They felt safe in religion, the false comfort of their deception. They wanted to kill the disciples. Why do we feel safe in religion which is satans defense against the gospel? It is because religion allows us to follow rules to feel like we are pleasing God. This is a lie, if we come under the law we fall from grace. It is because to have faith we find we have to obey the word of God and learn to follow the Holy Spirit and obey him. This takes patience and perseverance and endurance, all of which our flesh hates. Our conscience will not allow us to have faith for our prayers if we are not obeying what we know the Holy Spirit is asking us to obey. So we find ourselves hating faith because we cannot attain to it until we obey God. It is easier for the flesh to abide in rules than to abide in God. We find the flesh hates to obey God. So our flesh then hates faith too. The flesh is Gods enemy and religion is the fleshes friend because it gives the flesh an excuse to avoid faith by thinking it can get away with obeying the law to please God. But obeying the law doesn't produce faith, it just causes us to fall from grace and so come under condemnation. Religion is anti faith and anti God. The flesh loves religion.

Romans 3 **19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The law that Jesus said for us to follow is to love God and love our neighbor. To obey this takes true humility and change of lifestyle. It cannot be obeyed by knowing good doctrine and believing nice things. Religion is worthless if it allows the flesh to reign. When we begin to obey God and love each other we find much resistance within ourselves and it also forces satan to come out into the open because he has to do something to prevent us walking in love. He has to expose himself when we begin to obey. But if we do not obey and do these things then we will find ourselves unable to do the works that Jesus did. Religion allows us to feel good knowing and thinking nice things. But to be able to walk in faith and cast out demons and heal the sick we find we **first need to obey what we know to obey**. We realize we must learn to love. This then requires us to change but when we begin to do this then we find ourselves having to become humble.

Once again our flesh hates this. But that is the point, we have to **die to ourselves and live to God**. This world and our flesh is fallen. Our born again **Spirit is wrestling with our flesh** for our soul. Our Spirit must win, and religion will prevent that. Obeying the first thing we know which is to love God and love our neighbor will allow God to begin to humble the flesh and give us victory over it. If we love the world more than God then we are in trouble. The flesh will win if we love the world more. Religion will allow us to continue loving the world. Religion will bring Jesus back down as a man and this in fact is another Jesus. Jesus is risen at the right hand of God. He has all authority and power and has trampled the enemy. Do not let satan deceive any longer. We are risen with Him by faith, and we seek His kingdom and not this fallen world. Our hope is above and we must see Him as He IS so that our hope is in the correct place. Our hope is in Heaven in Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

When we try to love God and others without faith, we find we can't. Remembering that the way God defines love is not feelings and emotions or having nice thoughts. The flesh simply cannot produce the Love of God because the love of God comes from above. It is spiritual, from God. How can our flesh possibly produce Gods love? But religion would have us think we are doing quite well. Fleshly love which we all have, is generally motivated by self gratification. As soon as someone comes along that we don't like, there is no evidence of this love toward them. Religion will say if we do nice things and do a nice deed and don't steal or lie then that is love. But when someone mean and nasty comes along our religion falls to pieces because we find we can no longer smile and be nice.

Gods love never fails and we need God to provide His love, to walk in it. Religion would have us justify that its ok to be angry at a person who has wronged us and we have the right to be offended. But God says we are forgiven as we forgive and judged as we judge. Love does not allow an excuse it requires forgiveness, patience and endurance. It requires sacrificing of the self. The flesh hates it because the flesh is of the world. Religion is of the world so the flesh tends to gravitate to religion to escape. We cannot forgive many things and so must turn to God for faith to forgive even when we feel a person does not deserve it. We are tested this way. This is how we learn to walk in faith. This is how faith begins, then as we learn to see God helping us in these simpler things we begin to trust he will help us to do other things such as cast out demons and heal the sick. Remember it is God that defines love for us, not what the world and media call love. The world lies, the flesh likes the worlds definition. Here is Gods description. If we follow this, we will soon find ourselves being humbled by the word of God and needing to ask God for help. Which is what God wants, us to ask Him for help.

1Corinthians 13 **4** Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; **6** rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; **7** beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Love never faileth:

When we try to follow these simple instructions and find we often cannot, and we realize that we need God to help. If we do not follow these instructions then we are simply hearers of the word and not doers. When people offend us it takes restraint to keep from saying the wrong thing. It takes humility to not become offended. Love humbles us and the flesh hates it. Enduring all

things and suffering long is difficult, as is bearing all things. But this is what God says it is to love. Religion will allow us to be angry and justify it. God says do not let the Sun go down on our anger. Faith requires us to forgive in His strength and His grace. If we choose to forgive and ask for God to grant us the grace He will do it and we will feel the burden that was upon us lift off. Unforgiveness is actually **a torment on the person hanging on to it**. Religion will give false comfort, it will help us to justify the offense so we do not need to forgive. But that's a lie that will block our walk with God. We will have no faith if we walk in disobedience because we won't believe our prayers will be effective. To walk in faith then, we are forced to obey the simplest instructions such as forgiving and not judging. So faith forces us into obedience and so the flesh hates it. But this is how God leads us to forsake sin. This is His love toward us.

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Mark 11 **22** And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. **23** For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. **24** Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*. **25** And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **26** But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

We see here Jesus giving an awesome promise for faith and believing and receiving what we ask for. Straight after this promise he gives us a hint how to have the confidence to believe. The first thing that will come to our mind when we stand praying is any unforgiveness we are holding onto, because **the Holy Spirit will remind us** as we pray. If we have unforgiveness, our ability to believe will disappear. Our faith will be useless because of our disobedience which is basically the same as unbelief. We see now why faith is so important to God. It is because he loves us and this is the way we are motivated to obey. This is how He sets us free from bondage. We cannot have faith to do supernatural works or works of faith if we are disobedient. Faith is our motivator to bring us into obedience and the saving of our souls through that obedience. This is the danger of religion, it excludes the need to walk in the power of God. Religion also gives us false comfort that we can get away with disobedience to the word.

Works of faith will force obedience and save our souls.

1Peter 2 **4** To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious, **5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: **but unto them which be disobedient**, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Why do the disobedient stumble at the word? It is because religion allows a person to walk without faith. Walking without faith allows disobedience to prosper. God requires faith because He uses it to lead us out of sin corruption the works of darkness. The stumbling stone is Jesus, because Jesus is a person and not a religion, and disobedience causes unbelief so there is no faith where there is unbelief. Therefore they stumble at the word following religion and rules of law rather than the Holy Spirit and Love. The working of power through the Holy Spirit will come as we obey Him. To ignore the power of the gospel and the power given freely to us by God is to ignore the truth that will set us free. Once again expecting that we need to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit will allow God to lead us out of darkness. It will cause us to realize we really do need to take seriously the need to Love.

Hebrews 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some should enter thereinto, and they to whom the good tidings were before preached failed to enter in because of disobedience,

It is the truth that sets us free, not lies, so we must be certain to walk in the truth. The truth is that faith is what pleases God. So we should strive to enter into that faith. Not be happy to just believe the word but to also walk in faith so that we have confidence towards God. When we have confidence we can then believe for our prayers and walk in His power.

Hebrews 3 **7** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? **19** So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief.**

Hebrews 11 **1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Walking in faith causes us to be obedient and it causes us to do the works of Jesus. Walking in faith is Gods way of bringing us into salvation as we walk with the Holy Spirit. Walking in faith allows God to guide us out of darkness because it causes us to obey the need for love. Without Love we will be unable to have faith. God will not be mocked. The Holy Spirit is in us and enables us to do these things. Choose to follow the risen Jesus Christ. Our hope is in heaven and in the risen Jesus. All glory to God.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Jesus Christ is alive and risen!

The truth sets us free.