



Experiencing The "Jesus Life"

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Unless otherwise stated Scripture quotes are from the NLT

INTRODUCTION

What are God's expectations for my life? What can I expect to experience of God while here on earth? Can I know God's specific plans for my life? Can I experience more of the life Jesus lived while He was on earth? All these are very relevant questions that any serious "God lover" wants correct answers for!

Have you ever stopped to asked yourself the question, "Why doesn't God take us straight to heaven as soon as we're Born Again?" During this short study we want to investigate some of the reasons for this.

One unique feature of New Covenant Christianity is the fact that we only get one opportunity to make the best of our life for Christ. No one is coming back here to do a better job next time! It's important that we learn what God has for us now and give the Lord 100% in order that He can take us spiritually where He envisions we can be because of what Jesus Christ has done and who He is.

God had an original vision and purpose for the first generation of "exodus Israelites". He clearly stated before He even began to deliver them that He planned to set them free from Egyptian slaver and to take them into Canaan Land. These people experienced the miraculous power of God. The opening of the Red Sea was without question one of the great manifestations of God's awesome power and commitment to His people. One would think that after seeing such a display of power you would be able to believe God for anything! This however was not the case for these people. When they just at the point of entering into the "promised land" they balked in unbelief. They refused to go forward in the will of God. They simply did not believe in God's best for them.

Are we different from that first generation of "exodus Israelites"? Do we see where God is wanting to take us? Are we will to believe that God will take us into our New Covenant Canaan Land of Christlikeness! Will rise up in Jesus name in our generation and move forward in the purposed will of God and allow Him to take us where we've never gone before. Will we allow God to do for us what we can never do for ourselves. Will be believe God for Christlikeness in our generation? Will we be the ones to go in or will God have to wait for another generation of people who will believe him in Canada?

If sharing in the divine nature this side of heaven is a new concept for you then I simply ask you to take your time and prayerfully work through this study series. My the eyes of your heart be opened in Jesus name and may you fully embrace God's best for the here and now and may you blend your voice with the voice of Mary so many years ago. "So let it be done to me as you have spoken".

UNDERSTANDING GOD

As we consider Scriptures such as Acts 13:22 it becomes very evident that God is much more than a mystic, raw force somewhere off in the far reaches of the unknown! ["David son of Jesse is a man after my own heart, for he will do everything I want him to."](#)

Clearly God has a heart! He must have like and dislikes! Does He have a personality? Can He be related to and if so how?

What is the Almighty God really like? Clearly He is the Omnipotent (*all powerful*) the Creator of all seen and unseen! But what is He like? What is His nature, His character, His person? How can we see what really goes on in His heart. What motivates Him? What are His likes and dislikes? Where can we go to find a clear understandable and accurate picture of the God who is a Spirit (Jn.4:24) ?

To find the answer lets go back to "Book of Beginnings" Genesis. This where we find the first records of personal interaction between God and people! It is very interesting to note that God desires relationship and communication with people. He would come down in the cool of the evening and talk with Adam and Eve. He is a personal God! He is not abstract or simply force or the force as some would say. He has personality, a nature, character, and has chosen to be relational with the people He created.

In the book of Genesis is where we begin to discover God. Uniquely He has chosen to reveal Himself through is name. Below is a portion of work done by Scofield a theologian from the early 1900s and known for the Scofield Reference Bible bearing his name. He gives a clear understanding of one the basic fundamental characteristics of God. That being, the desire to be known! You may have noticed that the Old Testament of your that LORD is most often spelled with all capital letters. There's a reason for this! It signifies the name "Jehovah" and distinguishes it from other names that have been translated "Lord". To bring out the distinguishing feature of this name is very important! It sets a foundation on which to build! Lets look at the full mean of this name LORD or Jehovah.

LORD (Hebrew = Jehovah)

(1) The primary meaning of the name LORD (Jehovah) is the "self-existent One." Literally (as in Ex 3:14), "He that is who He is, therefore the eternal I AM:"

But Havah, from which Jehovah, or Yahwe, is formed, signifies also "to become," that is, to become known, thus pointing to a continuous and increasing self-revelation. Combining these meanings of Havah, we arrive at the meaning of the name Jehovah. He is "the self-existent One who reveals Himself." The name is, in itself, an advance upon the name "God" (El, Elah, Elohim), which suggests certain attributes of Deity, as strength, etc., rather than His essential being.

JEHOVAH = The Self-Existent One who reveals Himself. This is fundamental to God's nature! He desires to be known! This helps to explain why God has chosen to be known by various names. There are well over 150 throughout the Bible. Each one revealing a unique and distinct facet of God's person! It seems there is a name to match ever human need. A Study of God's various names makes for one of the greatest and most edifying Studies you can ever be involved with! You learn so much about the heart of God through knowing His name!

THE REVELATION OF GOD'S NAME

The salvation plan of God is to bring us into personal relationship with the Lord. Out of relationship comes trust! If we are going to trust God we first must know Him! From Isa.43:10 we can see where God has purposed that we understand and know Him. His nature and character is reveled to us through His name. Knowing His name helps us to understand Him.

God has a name, a name that He has chosen to be called and know by!

Ex 3:15 - God also said, "Tell them, The **LORD**, the God of your ancestors-the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob-has sent me to you.

This will be my name forever; it has always been my name, and it will be used throughout all generations.

Ex 33:19 - The **LORD** replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, the **LORD**, to you.

The name of the LORD is much more than vowels and syllables arranged in such a way as to give a particular sound when vocalized! There is meaning! There is substance to it! For example if you mention the name of a famous person automatically you think of personality and character. Their name seems stands for something either positive or negative. When considering the name of the LORD it of necessity relates to His person, His character, His nature! In fact the heart of God can be seen through His name. His name represents His person. To really know His name is to know His nature.

The major revelation of the name of the LORD or Jehovah was given to Moses! A revelation that had never before been known!

Ex 6:3 - I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty, though I did not reveal my name, the LORD, to them.

Moses had a real desire to know God! To really understand Him! This is seen in his plea prior to leading the nation of Israel through the wilderness.

(NLT) Ex.33:13 - Please, if this is really so, show me your intentions **so I will understand you more fully** and do exactly what you want me to do. ...

(NIV) Ex.33:13 - If you are pleased with me, **teach me your ways so I may know you** and continue to find favor with you. ...

(NKJV) Ex.33:13 - "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, **show me now Your way, that I may know You** and that I may find grace in Your sight. ...

Moses was on the threshold of a new journey. A journey, which to him, was uncharted! He didn't really know exactly what was ahead for him. This was a whole new beginning and He felt the need to know the ways of God! He deeply wanted to understand what God was really like. This is interesting, because, at this point Moses had already witnessed Gods horrific judgments upon Egypt. He had seen the Red Sea open up! He experienced the pillar of cloud and fire. God had spoken to him from the burning bush! The list goes on! The point is, up to now Moses still felt he needed to know the ways of God. This is very relative in light of our New Covenant relationship with God. It's a journey we've never been on before with a God we've never known before.

Moses knew the power of God but there was a he wanted to know the ways of God. He wanted to do exactly what God wanted him to. He was interested in living a life that was pleasing the Lord. WOW! What a heart for God he had. Its very similar to the apostle Paul's heart!

Ph.3:8 - What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. **10 I want to know Christ** and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Both Paul and Moses were interested in building relationship with the Lord. Their passion was to know the ways of God so they could then be found living the ways of God, thus pleasing the One who redeemed them! The cry of our hearts MUST be to know God personally and intimately! Nothing should be permitted to distract us from our objective. Nothing and no one!

If this is not your present major goal it can be. God does not condemn us He changes us. [1Jn. 3:20](#) even if our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. God is greater than our hearts and if we really want it changed to be like His all we need do is ask.

GOD WANTS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

The call of God for His people has always been relational. Abraham is called the "friend of God"! This is what the LORD called him. [Isa 41:8](#) - ... **Abraham my friend**. This was also said of Moses! [Ex 33:17](#) - **And the LORD replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for you have found favor with me, and you are my friend."**

To be called a friend of God by the LORD himself is quite a thing! Nothing short of awesome! This goes along way to reinforce the concept that God is very much interested in building relationship with people! Clearly the call of God upon our lives right now is one of relationship!

[Isa 43:10](#) - "But you are my witnesses, O Israel!" says the LORD. "And you are my servant. **You have been chosen to know me**, believe in me, and understand that I alone am God. There is no other God; there never has been and never will be.

We have been chosen not to know "of God" or "about Him" but to know and understand Him in a very personal and intimate way. Knowing God effects how we live! It effects how we relate to God and to others! This can be seen through the life of Moses. God revealed Himself to Moses and it had a dramatic effect on his life.

[Ps 103:7](#) - He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.

This is a very interesting portion of Scripture! To Moses God revealed His character, His nature, His person. The nation of Israel on the other hand only knew His power or His actions. Israel knew what God was capable of doing while Moses understood God's heart and knew what motivated Him to do what he did.

The nations of Israel saw one powerful miracle after another and yet it did not change their heart towards God one bit. In general they remained stiff necked and hard hearted. Listed below are just a few of the many references that are found which help verify this.

[Isa 30:9](#) - These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. (NIV)

[Jer 5:23](#) - But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away. (NIV)

Eze 2:3 - He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. (NIV)

Heb.3:9 - There your ancestors tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years.10 So I was angry with them, and I said, Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.

Even though they saw the miracle power of God continually being demonstrated this was not enough to effect heart change! It takes more than seeing miracles or even being the recipient of one to effect a heart change towards the LORD.

On the other hand we find Moses who was with the Israelites during the exodus from Egypt and their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. He too saw what God was capable of doing yet he didn't stop there he went on to relationship with God! He went on to gain an understanding of the nature and character of the LORD. Clearly this affected him in a deep personal way, resulting in him being the meekest or humblest man on the earth at that time!

Num. 12:3 - Now Moses was more humble than any other person on earth.

It's amazing how an intimate, personal relationship with God effects how we see ourselves! As New Covenant Believers we've been called into friendship relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 1:9 - God will surely do this for you, for he always does just what he says, and he is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word used in this verse for "friendship" is the Greek word koinonia [koy-nohn-ee'-ah] which is translated in some other Bibles as "fellowship". It has the meaning of fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse. This all speaks very clearly of how intimate a relationship God desires us to have with Him. This is the call of God upon our lives right now! Today! Legalism was unable to bring Israel into a "koinonia" relationship with God. The intimacy desired by the Lord must originate from a heart of love. This is where the "New Birth" comes in! God gives us a heart capable of loving Him in a way that is meaningful to Him.

GOD'S DIVINE NATURE

Moses saw something that Israel didn't! He saw into the heart of God. He was shown the ways of God! He was shown the character and nature of the LORD, Jehovah! Ps 103:7 - He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel. There is a difference between deeds and character! God's deeds are always governed by His character.

Early we saw where Moses like the apostle Paul had this deep yearning to really know the Lord. He wanted to see more than demonstrations of power he wanted to understand the heart behind these miracles. His prayer was answered in Exodus 34!

Ex. 34:5 - Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and

proclaimed his name, the LORD. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." (NIV)

Moses had this deep passion to really know God. He said to the Lord, "If you are pleased with me, teach me your WAYS SO I MAY KNOW YOU, (Ex. 33:13). The answer to this request resulted in an incredible experience for Moses. "Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His name, the LORD," (Ex. 34:5). God came down and stood there! He was in essence taking His stand on the earth and in so doing PROCLAIMED His name! His person! His character!

As the LORD (Jehovah) stood there with Moses He started out by declaring that His name IS IN FACT the LORD or Jehovah which actually means, "The self-existent one who reveals Himself". This in itself, is a revelation of God's person. "He is the God who reveals himself." He's the God that wants to be known. He is not a god hiding away. It's in God's heart to be known and understood by His people. "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, SO THAT you may know and believe me and understand that I am He... (Isa. 43:10).

So in this awesome revelation of the character of God we find that it is His character trait to not hide His heart from us but rather to expose it. He will always be found of people who seek Him, (Deut. 4:9, Pr. 8:17, Jer. 29:13, Mt. 7:7). Its not in the heart of God to make it difficult for people to know Him.

As the Lord took His stand He was not only making a statement but was exposing the truth. He was revealing to Moses and all of us what was and is in His heart. He proclaimed the LORD to be:

- *compassionate
- *gracious
- *slow to anger
- *abounding in love
- *abounding in faithfulness
- *maintain love--
- *forgiving wickedness
- *does not leave the guilty unpunished

(KJV)

- *merciful
- *gracious
- *long suffering
- *abundant in goodness
- *abundant in truth
- *maintaining mercy {faithful}
- *forgiving
- *by no means clears the guilty

This lists the basic fundamentals of the character of God. This is His name! The name that is majestic. When you actually stop and consider these character traits, it's not too long before you feel yourself saying, "Awesome! What an awesome God". This is His good name and God will go to great extends to see to it that His name remains credible. It's, as we understand our God's heart that we can become free to trust Him, knowing that He will remain true to His character.

Never before had the LORD revealed Himself to anyone in this way. Moses wanted to know the God who would be leading him along life's journey to the Promised Land! The LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with Moses. It seems as if the LORD Himself came to earth and took a stand for some things. Its as if He was saying Moses "this is Me! This is what I stand for".

Ps. 9:10 - **Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, have never abandoned anyone who searches for you.**

Pr 18:10 - **The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.**

It's very difficult if not impossible to trust someone you do not know! As we grow in our understanding of the Lord trust becomes easier! We're talking heart issues here not head issues. To know God the way He desires to be know must involve the whole heart!

These character traits represent the heart of God. He is the unchanging God and therefore these traits never fluctuate or vary! As we learn God's true nature we are able to begin trusting Him. For example God will always be gracious! Why? Because it's His unchanging nature to be gracious! Go through the list and commit it to memory! God can be trusted and as a result of it we are able to run into His name in our time of need and there find the help needed to bring us through our difficulties.

THE "JESUS NATURE"

We've just been looking at the name and nature of God! From Ex.34:5-7 we looked at the heart of God as revealed to Moses. We found what the LORD stands for, the things that make up His person, His character. These attributes of God are what will never change. God will always be what He is! He can't be anything else for this is Him, the unchanging God of glory.

Jehovah, the self existent One who reveals Himself . The God who wants to be known and understood has made the greatest revelation of His person through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb.1: 3 **The Son reflects Gods own glory, and everything about him represents God exactly. (NLT)**

Heb.1:3 **The Son is the radiance of Gods glory and the exact representation of his being, (NIV)**

Heb.1:3 **who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person (NKJV)**

Jesus fully and completely reveals God's heart! Lets look at how the of Amplified Bible interprets Jn. 1:18 - *No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, the only begotten god, who is in the bosom [that is, in the intimate presence] of the father, he has declared him - he has revealed him, brought him out where he can be seen; he has interpreted him, and HE has made him known.* Jesus could do this because he was God! He was God in a human form!

Listed below are the character traits of God as they are fulfilled through the Lord Jesus Christ

1) THE LORD: (self existent One who reveals Himself)

(i) Jn. 17:6 - I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world.

(ii) Jn. 17:26 - I have made you known to them,

2) COMPASSIONATE:

(i) (10 Lepers) Lk.17:13 - Have pity on us (mercy or compassion)

(ii) (demonized son) Mt. 17:15 -Lord, have mercy on my son.

3) GRACIOUS:

(i) Jn.1:14- full of grace and truth

(ii) Jn.1:18 - grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

4) SLOW TO ANGER:

(i) 1 P.2:23 - When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

(ii) Lk. 23:34 - Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

5) ABOUNDING IN LOVE:

(i) Acts 10:38 - ...He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil.

(ii) Jn. 17:23 - I (Jesus) have loved them (the disciples) as you have loved me.

6) ABOUNDING IN FAITHFULNESS:

(i) Rev. 19:11 - Faithful and True

(ii) Jn. 18:9 - ..."I have not lost one of those you gave me".

7) MAINTAINING LOVE TO THOUSANDS:

(i) Jn. 17:20 - my prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for a those who will believe in me through their message,

(ii) **Note:** Acts. 2:39 - The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.

8) FORGIVING:

(i) Mt.9:2 - ..."Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven".

(ii) Lk. 7:47 - Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven.

9) JUST: (PUNISHING THE GUILTY):

(i) Jn. 5:30 - ...My judgment is just

(ii) Rev. 15:3 - Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

NOTE: Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's heart expressed to humanity. The Father's heart has been exposed to us through the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Lord Jesus Christ we can see the full expression of Gods nature and character.

Another important area of consideration is the fruit of the Spirit as described in Gal.5:22&23 - **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

This fruit is produced in our lives by the Holy Spirit! This is not the product of self determination by the old Adamic nature.

Jesus lived this on a daily basis! **2 Cor. 3:17 - Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom!** There is only one divine nature as there is only one God! This is very much apart of the life Jesus offers us today! He came to give us this eternal life in abundance!

Ph. 1:11 - May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation-those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ-for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

We can share in the "Divine Nature" because Jesus is alive in us and is producing His nature in our lives. We can expect and anticipate that, if allowed to, Jesus will bring us into this aspect of our salvation. Jesus has been made the Perfect Leader the One capable of changing our lives to be just like His in every way.

THE NEW CREATION

Jesus has fully expressed the person of God to us. When Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father here is what He told him. **Jn. 14:9 - Jesus replied, "Philip, don't you even yet know who I am, even after all the time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking to see him?"**

The point is Jesus lived the divine life because He is the divine external life! If we are to understand our "sharing of the divine" it is important that we understand the Jesus Life! The reason for this? Because that is the life of the "New Creation" received at salvation!

2Cor. 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (NIV)

Eph. 4:24 You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in Gods likeness-righteous, holy, and true.

Salvation is much more than having our sins forgiven! Jesus told Nicodemus that unless a person is "Born Again" or "born from Above" they will never see or enter the kingdom of God! To be "Born Again" is to be spiritually birthed new by the power of the Holy Spirit! New Covenant Christianity should never be understood as, a life, of modify the old Adamic sin nature! God is not in the business of patching up the old nature. He is in the business of creating the "New Creation" the "New Life". It appears the Apostle Paul clearly understood this concept!

Gal.2:20 - I myself no longer live, *(by this he means the old self, or old sin nature)* but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Paul believed his "old sin nature" was crucified with Christ and that he had a "new life" which was Christ in him. The "New Life" within us is the "Jesus Life". Stop and think this through! If this is true, which it is, then what is our spiritual potential? What should we be expecting in our Christian lives? Do we wait until we get to heaven before we experience anything of the "Jesus Life" or is there a spiritual potential for the "here and now"? Should I anticipate experiencing the divine nature of God in my life now?

Col.1:27 - For it has pleased God to tell his people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. **For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.**

The LORD had a plan for the Israelites! They were to be "delivered from" Egypt and experience the blessings of the Promised Land. The first generation of "exodus Israelites" failed to experience all God had for them. They refused to believe that God would do for them what they could not do for themselves. They missed it! Is it possible for us to miss all that God has for now?

Is it possible for us to experience the "Jesus Life" now? Does Jesus live within Believers? Whose power is at work within us? Eventually God found a generation of people that would believe Him. They did enter Canaan Land. They did see their enemies defeated? They experienced the promises of God being fulfilled!

Jos 21:45 - **All of the good promises that the LORD had given Israel came true.**

Jos 23:14 - Soon I will die, going the way of all the earth. Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the LORD your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!

There are some New Covenant promises that need to be seriously considered! We have a spiritual Canaan Land to enter now! Our Canaan Land is "The Land of Christ-likeness" and it's here for to enter into and experience!

2 P.1:3 As we know Jesus better, **his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life.** He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! 4 And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that **you will share in his divine nature.**

These verses should challenge us! They should both encourage and inspire us to seeking God! They should help motivate us to discovering how we can experience more of the "Jesus Life" today.

Eph 3:20 - Now glory be to God! **By his mighty power at work within us**, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

There's a point of great significance here! The key to success is in the power source! For whatever reason this is where the first generation of "exodus Israelites" failed to make the grade! You would think that after having seen the great judgments of God upon the nation of Egypt, the miraculous opening of the Red Sea, the pillar of fire and cloud that lead them that they would have no problem believing that God could conquer the giants of Canaan etc. Clearly from the reports of the spies they looked at things humanistically. They looked like grasshoppers in their own eyes! They were not looking through the eyes of God!

The second generation of "exodus Israelites" did receive what God had promised! How did it happen for them? What was their source of power?

Ps 44:3 -They did not conquer the land with their swords; it was not their own strength that gave them victory. It was by your mighty power that they succeeded; it was because you favored them and smiled on them.

The key to their success was the Lord Himself. He did it for them! If He did it for them in their generation why won't He do it for us in our generation? Remember it was God's will that they enter in and take possession of the promises of God! It's His will for us to experience the "Jesus Life" now. He is not expecting us to do it! He fully expects that He will do it for us!

Ph.2:13 - For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

EXPERIENCING THE "JESUS NATURE"

Often times God's plan for us is much more than we're prepared to believe. Gideon, who was hiding in fear, was told he was a great man of valor. Abraham was too old for procreation when God told him he'd have a son through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed. Mary, a virgin was told she would conceive the Messiah.

Canaan land was occupied with hostile nations when Israel was told it was their land. We shouldn't be surprised if we have a tendency to hesitate in unbelief at the thought that God's vision for our lives is "Christ-likeness".

The First Step to "sharing in the divine" is to embrace the truth. We are encouraged to hear the voice of God speaking to us "Today" (Heb 3:15).

Heb 3:7 - That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today you must listen to his voice".

Rev 3:6 - Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

We need to open to hearing what the Lord is saying in our generation! If we ever needed Christ-likeness manifest to our world it is now! People need to see an accurate representation of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. The only way this will happen is through the chosen people of God!

The Second Step is to fully agree with God's will, receiving it and believing it will be as God has spoken. In this area Mary excelled! Her attitude is nothing short of courageous!

Lk.1:38 - Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true."

We start our Christian life through receiving! It's an attitude of heart welcoming the Lord Jesus Christ to be our personal Lord. This attitude needs to remain at the forefront of our relationship with the Lord.

Col 2:6 - So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, (NIV)

Notice the wording in Col. 2:6 "just as", meaning the "same way" you received Jesus Christ, as Lord is how we are to continue to live. Are we open to receiving Jesus lordship today?

The Third Step is obedience to the Word of God! To be genuinely "Born Again" is absolutely miraculous and instantaneous upon repentance of sin and the receiving of Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior! On the other hand spiritual maturity is a growth process. During this spiritual journey with Jesus obedience is vital. There is no maturity without it.

Heb 5:14 - Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and **then do what is right.**

Its strange how the word obedience can be so quickly tagged as legalism! The great blessing of New Covenant relationship with God is the fact that now we can be obedient where as prior to our salvation experience this was not possible. New Covenant obedience is not the result of striving through Adamic power but rather the result of Gods power released in us through faith.

Ph.2:13 - For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him **and the power to do what pleases him.**

Obedience is no longer an exception to the rule but rather the norm! It was normal for Jesus to do only those things that pleased the Father! Through Jesus Christ this has now become normal Christian living. If we love the Lord then we obey because we desire to not because we have too!

The Fourth step is relationship with the Lord Jesus!

2Pe 1:3 - As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness!

Jesus is the Word manifest in human form. To know requires that we spend time with Him in the Word and in prayer. He speaks to us and we speak to Him and through this mutual communications intimacy of relationship is established and maintained. It can be quite a shock to discover how quickly intimacy with Jesus can slip into empty hearted habit and ritual resulting in religion rather than reality. Israel was to collect the manna daily and so with us! Daily we commune with the Bread of Life! Daily we share with each other!

The fifth step is patience! D. L. Moody is quoted as saying, "I've never met a man that has given me as much problem as myself". Whenever there is great zeal for the Lord there is the potential for discouragement! Maybe we don't feel like we're progressing fast enough!

Heb 6:12 - Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their **faith and patience**.

There is no question about the importance of faith. Without it we simply are not able to please God. However there are times when faith must wait and that it when things can get very trying! This is when we need to allow patience to have its complete work in our lives. Spiritual maturity is progressive. , "Sharing in the divine" is a realistic goal but it will not happen over night! As we understand this we are less susceptible to giving up and more determined to finish the race.

Heb 12:1 -Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run **with endurance** the race that God has set before us.

On occasion we need to be reminded that the race we're in is not a short sprint. We need to gear up for the long haul! Change will happen but it won't happen over night.

CONCLUSION

Jesus eliminated the old covenant and introduced the "New Living Way"! It's the only way to live pleasing to Almighty God! The "Jesus Life" supersedes the old covenant standards of living! Jesus has made it possible for all His people to experience the same kind of life He lived while here on earth. A life lived through the dynamics of God's power! This is New Covenant living!

Jesus has been made the "Perfect Leader" and He is able to lead us into our full salvation! Joshua took the second generation of "exodus Israelites" into Canaan and they possessed the land. They experienced their enemies being defeated. They experienced the promises of God being fulfilled on their behalf. Jesus is our New Covenant Joshua and as we follow Him He will take us into "Christlikeness" and we too will see our enemies defeated and we will partake in the divine "Jesus Nature".

How do we complete the spiritual race before us?

Heb 12:2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven.

New Covenant life is not a question of trying harder, of some how digging down deeper into the old Adamic nature in hopes of finding the recourse to live pleasing to the Lord. The "old self" does not have the ability to please God! The Old Covenant proved that even with the God given knowledge of His will the human nature simply does not have the power to do God's will nor live in a "love relationship" with Him.

New Covenant life is not about human abilities or inabilities! It's all about Jesus' abilities! It's about His life released in the Believer's life by the power of the resident Holy Spirit! The fruit that glorifies God is that which is produced by the Holy Spirit as revealed in Gal.5:22,23. The fruits of righteousness that are an integral part of the true Believer's life are those produced by the Lord Jesus Christ. **Ph 1:11 May you always be filled with the**

fruit of your salvation-those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ-for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

It's time to turn away from ourselves and look to Jesus for everything we need to glory Him. We've been given it! 2P.1:2-4 May God bless you with his special favor and wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus, our God and Lord, better and better. 3 As we know Jesus better, **his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life**. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! 4 And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. **He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature.**

The first generation of "Exodus Israelites" failed to experience God's best because they chose to look at things through human understanding. This resulted in them wandering through the wilderness of doubt, fear and unbelief for the next forty. This remains as a vivid picture of what looking to humanism will do for us. We don't look to self! We look to Jesus! He is the One capable of taking us into our New Covenant Promised Land! Lets blend our voices with those of Joshua and Caleb! It can happen because of who Jesus is and what He has done for us!

Let's not let one drop of Jesus blood to have been shed in vain on our behalf. Let's be reminded of how Mary responded when told that she would bare the Christ child. "So let it be done unto us as you have spoken Lord! Let your vision for your lives be realized! May you be thrilled and fully satisfied with what you are able to do in and through our lives in this generation. Be glorified Lord Jesus!

Thanks for your time. God bless you richly! If you have any questions or comments email john@revivalcanada.ca

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