



Unrealized Spiritual Potential

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Unless otherwise stated Scripture quotes are from the NLT

Introduction:

One of the unique things about New Covenant Christianity is the fact that we only get one shot at it! This is why we need to learn as much as we can and get as close to the Lord as possible in our own generation! What is the spiritual potential for your life? What is the spiritual potential of the Church, the Body of Christ in our generation here in Canada? Is it presently being realized or is there more for us?

We desperately need a genuine Holy Spirit revival! There is greater potential for us!

The story is told (evidently true) of an embittered old lady who lived for many year in poverty. After her death it was discovered that very valuable painting had hung on the wall of her small cottage for years! If she had only known what was in her possession she could have lived a much different life. How tragic are stories like this! Unrealized potential! How many of God's precious people go through their Christian lives with unrealized spiritual potential. I'm very sure that at the present time, in Canada, the Church, the spiritual body of Christ on earth is experiencing "unrealized potential"! Are we presently seeing God's potential for the Church being realized in our generation? Do we even know or understand what the spiritual potential is for Church today?

Presently, in Church, in general, in Canada we're experiencing so much spiritual defeat! There are shattered and broken lives everywhere! In the world we can expect this but as the Church we have the message of healing and strength! We're supposed to have the message of hope for broken hurting sin sick people, however, at present we've got almost as many divorces happening in the Church as outside the Church! The Word of God is very clear on this subject, "**God hates divorce**"! Why? One of the reasons is, "it hurts people"! It's not something birthed in the heart of God's love. This only one example! Is this what Jesus died for? Is the best He has to offer or is this present "**pre-revival**" state the situation of our own doing? Have we grown to accept the "bronze" as our standard? Has "going for the gold" become something considered unattainable and unrealistic? How many of God's people have died bitter and in spiritual poverty never realizing the potential that was "in their lives"?

What I want to draw your attention to is nothing knew but I strongly believe that we need to re-evaluate the spiritual potential of the Church! We need to see clearly what Jesus has done and how that should effect, our lives today and how our lives can effect, the lives of others today and tomorrow!

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM:

Jesus often used parables (illustrations using examples from the physical realm) to teach spiritual truths! He did this to teach His disciples about the spiritual Kingdom of God! Lets look at a couple from the Gospel Luke.

Mustard Seed:

Lk.13:18,19 - Then Jesus said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it? ¹⁹ It is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds come and find shelter among its branches."

Yeast:

Lk.13:20,21 - He also asked, "What else is the Kingdom of God like? ²¹ It is like yeast used by a woman making bread. Even though she used a large amount of flour, the yeast permeated every part of the dough."

The common feature about these two parables is growth. The mustard seed starts off very small and then grows large enough for birds to nest in. The yeast works its way into every part of the dough which in turn causing the dough to rise into a loaf of bread. What was Jesus teaching? He was teaching that the Kingdom of God starts off

small and grows larger! **Nt.** This basic principle is vital to understand! Why? Because this principle applies both to the individual Believer and to the Church (the present part of God's Kingdom here on earth)!

In our generation it's important that we understand this principle! 2000 years have passed since Jesus (the mustard seed) was planted in the earth! This principle easily seen in light of the individual Believer! Spiritual growth is fundamental teaching in most Bible believing local churches. A sinner comes to Christ in repentance of sin, receives Jesus a personal Lord and Savior resulting in the "Born Again" experience. The now "New Believer" starts of the spiritual journey of growth and maturity. People are born physically into this world as infants, babies! There are no adults born! Most people started off sucking their thumbs and needing their dippers changed. That's just the way it is! However, before the baby even enters this world the "growth process" has already started! Under normal circumstances that process continues until death! This is how it works spiritually as well. We start off as "babes in Christ" in need of being "bottle fed"! However, we must remember that the "growth process" has been activated and spiritual maturity is our destination!

The spiritual potential of every child of God is the same, "Christ-likeness"! Are we prepared, at present, to accept this truth or are quick to most of this maturing into heaven! When I get to heaven that when it will all change for me! After all right now I'm still only human you know! Hold it! Remember the poor embittered old lady? Could she have enjoyed more of life had she been aware of the potential that was right there in her own house? When the Apostle John was under the divine influence of the Holy Spirit he wrote these words, **"Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did."** (1Jn.2:6) Quite a tall order if all we are is human! If on the other hand we have the same Holy Spirit living in us as was living in Jesus while He was on earth then the spiritual potential is far beyond that of "only human".

What is the spiritual potential of the "Born Again Believer" in the "here and now"? The Word of God states very emphatically that the truly Born Again Believer is a "new creation", a new creature, a new species of God's creation! The old covenant saints knew nothing of being "Born Again"! **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"** (2Cor.5:17 NIV) The New Living Translations puts it this way, **"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!"** A new life has begun! It's only the beginning, the "spiritual growth process" has been activated by God Himself! This "new life" within the heart (spirit) of every Believer has exactly the same spiritual DNA as Jesus Christ!

Eph 2:10 - For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

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

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

2P 1:3,4 - 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.

As you have read through these verses do you find you have a desire to experience more of this potential or is there a little something in you that looks for some little legitimate excuse, a reason to expect the bronze and not he gold?

You've got to love the attitude of the Apostle Paul! Remember now this is God's man to take the message of Jesus to the gentiles. Here's the Apostle, through whom God manifest very special miracles and demonstrated His power to forgive, heal, and raise the dead, he says as mature Believer that He had not yet arrived. He was still pressing on, still reaching, still not settling for anything less than the gold. He could have been tempted play the religious games that are so prevalent today, trying hard to impress everyone but no says, "I have not yet arrived"! This should be an encouragement to us! Where ever we are in God at the present, were ever we've come from, however long the journey has been, there's still more for us. There's more for us in this generation, that is for sure.

Ph.3:10 - As a result, I can really know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I can learn what it means to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that, somehow, I can experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.

We need to adopt the same attitude the Apostle Paul had regarding spiritual growth! We desperately need to focus on the "gold" and we should be content with nothing less than Jesus' absolute best. Who knows how much of God we can experience! In my studies over the past 30 years I find no limits to how close we can get or how intimate we can be with Jesus! We have wonderful biographies and autobiographies of great men and women of faith throughout Church history! We're often awed by love faith and commitment to Christ. We're also awed by their holiness and spiritual maturity. AS wonderful as these stories are what about now? What about our generation? How close will God let us come? How full of the Spirit will He let us be? How much spiritual fruit will He let us bare? What did Jesus blood purchase for us in this generation and how much of it can we experience? These are questions that I'm sure will only be fully known when we get to heaven and everything is revealed to us. I don't know where you're at in all this but this is how I'm feeling about it all, "I don't want one drop of Jesus' precious blood to have been shed in vain on my behalf or on behalf of this generation in Canada". God please be gracious and merciful do in my life what ever is necessary that your full and complete plan for my life is realized! God be gracious and merciful to us as your people in this generation and let Jesus Christ, be glorified through His spiritual body, the Church, in Canada in this generation. Bring down every obstacle! Remove the sin from our lives, the apathy, the casualness and luke-warmness. Raise up a people holy and free, heart with a vibrant fervent passion for the Lord Jesus Christ

Personal Revival Can Happen:

Can God's best be personally realized? Can we become all that God envisioned for us? Why not! God has proven, through Christ, that He is well able to do for us what we can never do for ourselves. New Covenant Christianity is really all about Jesus. Spiritual growth is all Jesus! Too often our enemy wants us to focus on ourselves, our inadequacies, our shortcomings, even sins of the past. If spirituality or maturity depended on us we would still be living in "old covenant".

New Covenant is about "new life" with new power source, that being the resurrection power of Christ. The fruits of righteousness are produced in our lives through the resident Jesus. Ph 1:11 - *May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation* (fruits of righteousness NIV) **-those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ-for this will bring much glory and praise to God.** Are we prime candidates for fruits of righteousness? Clearly, if we have Jesus in our lives then, He is the One with the capacity to produce the God honoring fruit of good deeds! What about other spiritual fruit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, self control? Is there any hope of ever experiencing the same kind of fruit that was produced in Jesus life? Yes there is and it will be produced by the same Holy Spirit! [Gal.5:22,23](#) - **But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.** God is not nor has He ever expected His people to produce fruit on their own.

The "New Life" in Christ is all about Jesus' ability to please the Father. GOD IS NOT ASKING US TO TRY HARDER BUT TO TRUST! [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.** The Apostle Paul knew the difference between "old covenant" and "new covenant". He prided himself in his strict adherence to the Law and he considered himself a good Pharisee in his generation. He knew the limitations of "old covenant"! He had learned from experience that the Law could give the knowledge of right and wrong but could never give the power to do what was right. The Law lacked the ability to give power! The old Adamic nature does not have the spiritual resources to please God. Try as it may it can never produce a God pleasing life. This is where Jesus comes in! Jesus came to do for us what the Adamic sin nature could never do! It started by giving to the Father the perfect atoning sacrifice for sin but that was only beginning! Jesus now lives in the hearts of Redeemed to give them the power, the spiritual resources to do that which pleases God. [Ph.2:13](#) - **For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.** With Paul's understanding of "old covenant life" and His personal experience with the new "Jesus life" he is one to listen to when he says, ["For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need."](#)([Ph. 4:13](#)) Paul didn't waista a lot of time feeling sorry for himself, or condemning himself because he just didn't have what it took to be all Jesus wanted him to be! Paul knew about the life and power of Jesus who was alive in him!

Maybe we need to be reminded at we are no different than the Apostle Paul! He, like us, was born into this world a sinner! He was born with the Adamic nature and he like all unsaved people do exactly what come natural to that nature, sin! He also knew what it was to be "born again", to be saved and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He knew what it was to grow spiritually, to die to the desires of the "old self" and live to the desires of the Spirit of Christ! How did it go for him in his generation? When he was getting ready to step out of the temporal world into eternal he was able to make this awesome statement, ["I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me-the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his glorious return."](#) ([2Tim.4:7,8](#)) Was there any fear about meeting Jesus? Was there any concerns, at all that maybe he had missed the mark, that somehow he'd failed? No! It can be like that for us as well. Why not!

Personal Revival can happen right now! If we're not careful it's quite possible to make the same mistake that the first generation of "Exodus Israelites" did! Was God's plan for them good? Yes! Was it exceptional? Yes! Was humanly impossible? Yes! Was it impossible for? NO! Did they get to enjoy the true blessings of God that makes one spiritually rich and adds no sorrow to their life? No! Why? Because they refused to believe! They looked at the promises of God through humanistic thinking and reasoning! They failed to listen or do what God instructed. [Pr 3:5](#) - **Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.** It wasn't until God raised up a new generation of "Believers" that God's purposes for Israel was realized! God is looking for "Believers" today! People, His people that will simply believe that if God said it can happen then it can happen. If God says it can happen in my own personal life then it can happen.

It's time for us to adopt the same attitude that Mary had when she was told the incredible things that would happen to her. The only question she had was, "How is this going to happen?". The answer given to her is the same one given to us, It's going to happen through the power of God, the Holy Spirit will cause it to happen. What was Mary's attitude in all this? [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...."** This is the same kind of "believing attitude" that Joshua and Caleb displayed! This the same kind of attitude the second generation of "Exodus Israelites" had when they passed through the Jordan and entered the Promised Land. God is asking and

encouraging us to believe Him! If we will believe He will do the work.

Israel's entering Canaan and experiencing God's faithfulness in defeating their enemies should serve as a great example and encouragement to us! Was this humanly impossible? Yes! Were their enemies stronger than them? Yes! Did they experience victory and did they inherit the land as God had promised? Yes they did! Was this due to their greatness or God's greatness?

Josh 21:43 - So the LORD gave to Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they conquered it and settled there.

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 second generation of "Exodus Israelites" saw the promises of God fulfilled! They experienced God doing for them what they could never do for themselves and we will too as we learn to focus on the Lord and believe that he will do for us as He has promised. 2P.1: 3,4 - 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.**

If we can see and understand God's potential for our lives it can become our goal! As this happens we are then found in agreement with the will of God! Can there be anything more fulfilling for us than to walk through life in agreement with the Lord!

To see and understand God's purposes for us as individuals is awesome but because none of us are islands unto ourselves there's the bigger picture of the "Body of Christ" the Church! What's the potential for the Church in our generation? Is it presently being realized? Is the Church, in general, in Canada in a pre-revival condition? Is the Church presently glorifying God as it should? There's not a lot point in listening to the words of a critical perfectionist regarding revival, however, on the other hand if we can catch a glimpse into the heart of God regarding the Church and see it as He does that's quite another thing! If the Church in Canada is presently experiencing "below standard" Christian living then we need to be honest, courageous and humble enough to consider revival as a very realistic objective in our generation.

Revival In The Church

At present, in Canada, are we experiencing "Normal Christianity"? It may be all we've ever known, all we've ever experienced! It may be normal to us but make no mistake it is far from "Normal Christianity". Right now we're deeply "pre-revival"! When pre-marital sex is as common among Christian youth as it is right now you have to know that we have drifted far from God's standard of normal. Eph 5:3 - Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have **no place among God's people**. There is no place for any kind of sexual sin or any kind of greed in a Christian's life. I'm not going to pursue an exhaustive itemized list of the dominant blatant sins running rampant in the Church. I do want however to have said enough to cause us to realize that the present pursuit of revival is not just the result of extremism. There is nothing more important than finding the true and honest will of God and then pursuing it with all your heart. I want now to direct our attention to God's will and purposes for the Body of Christ! What does the Word say? At this point I want to ask you to seriously consider staying with me through the remainder of this study. There could be some things said that you haven't quite heard the same way. My sole purpose here is to expose the heart of God in hopes

that you will catch a life-changing glimpse of it. There can be no other motive for pursuit or purpose other than God's will!

Earlier we looked at a couple of parables Jesus used to describe the Kingdom of God.

Mustard Seed:

Lk.13:18,19 - Then Jesus said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it?
19 It is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds come and find shelter among its branches."

Yeast:

Lk.13:20,21 - He also asked, "What else is the Kingdom of God like? 21 It is like yeast used by a woman making bread. Even though she used a large amount of flour, the yeast permeated every part of the dough."

The common denominator in these two parables is growth. The mustard seed grows into a tree and yeast makes the bread dough expand larger. What's the most obvious teaching to be gleaned from this? The Church, which is that part of the Kingdom of God, presently is on earth had a starting point and from there was intended to grow! We've already looked at the growth principle in light of the individual Believer. We start out as babes in Christ and then grow into Christ-like maturity. God uses the physical to teach us the spiritual. Physically we're born into the world as babies and the natural process is growth into adulthood. If a baby is being bottle fed at 6 months that is consider normal growth. It's what we expect! On the other hand if a child is still being bottle fed at 6 years old then we say something is wrong here! This is not normal behavior for a 6 year old! The same is true in the spiritual growth of the individual Believer and it is also true for the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, "I will build my church". It had a beginning! It's coming out of the womb, as it were, into the world happened on the day of Pentecost when Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit! WOW, what a birthing, what a beginning! The book of Acts records some of the events of those early years.

If we compare today's Church with that of the Epistles or the book of Acts, how much has it grown? I recently saw a TV report, which stated the Christian church had 1 billion followers. That's one sixth of the world's population! There is little doubt that the world has been affected with the teachings of Christ. Even if one was to remove from the number only those who were truly "born again" the number would still be very large. Now lets ask the same question but direct it to spiritual growth! Honestly, how are we doing today? We desperately need revival in the areas of morality, faith, and love for God and one another. We need revival in the areas of spiritual fruitfulness, fear of God, and genuine Holy Spirit zeal and fervor. We need revival in the area of passion to see the lost come to Jesus.

Is it a realistic to believe that the Church today in Canada can be or should be more spiritually mature and Christ-like than the early Church was? Is it right be believe that God's intent and vision for the Church is growth, not just numerically but spiritually as well? What should we expect the Church to be like just prior to Jesus return? Should we expect an immoral adulterous Bride for Jesus when He comes? Should we expect the Church to be worldly and spiritually indifferent to the things of God or should we expect a powerful, victorious, holy Church? Should we expect the Bride of Christ to be mature and well prepared to meet her Bride Groom when He comes?

God uses the physical to teach us the spiritual! In Galatians 4:21-28 Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to use this principle in explaining the difference between the old and new covenants. Hagar represented the old and Sarah the new. Heb.3:5 tells us that Moses serves as an illustration to us, "His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later". The Apostle Paul uses the anatomy of the physical body to about various spiritual gifts in the spiritual Body of Christ. (1Cor.12:12). I want now to introduce the thought that Jesus while here on earth is also an illustration, a picture from the physical to teach us spiritual things concerning the Church the

spiritual Body of Christ on earth. If this is true, and I strongly believe it is, this then opens up and lays a Biblical foundation to support genuine faith, hope and vision for what the Church can be here on earth!

A Hidden Mystery Revealed:

We discover from Ephesians that there was a mystery that God had not fully revealed to His Old Testament prophets. It was kept hidden in the heart of God, waiting for the right time to be made known. (Eph. 3:9). The Apostle Paul was the chosen vessel through which the Lord would begin to unveil this well-kept secret. (Eph. 3:3-5). The secret has to do with Jesus and the Spiritual Body of Christ, the Church. There's a few unique facets of this general mystery, each of which is important by itself yet more important as part of the whole.

The "Mystery of Christ" embraces at least the following!

- (1) Christ in you the hope of glory (Col. 1:27)
- (2) To bring everything in heaven and earth together under the Headship of Christ. (Eph. 1:9,10)
- (3) Jew and Gentile members together in One body (Eph.3:6)
- (4) To reveal God's manifold wisdom (Eph. 3:10,11)
- (5) The creation of one new spiritual man (Eph. 2:15,16)

These are the five obvious facets of the mystery, This list is not meant to suggest that's all there is! For our present purpose I want to focus in one facet of the mystery. It's the "One New Man"! As we start to investigate the "One New Man" there are a few basic and fundamental principles that might help us to understand and embrace this awesome mystery in Christ.

#1)

God uses the physical to teach us the spiritual. Moses was instructed to build things exactly the way he'd been shown. Why? Because the "Tent of Meeting" illustrated some very eternal and spiritual truths about worship, approaching God, the need for blood, etc. etc.

Much of Israel's "Exodus to Canaan" experience, illustrates our spiritual walk with God from sin to Christ-likeness. Why is God such a stickler when it comes to marriage? Why is He so against unfaithfulness and broken relationship? One: it hurts people. Two: it gives a very inaccurate picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride. Yes, God uses the physical marriage to illustrate something the Apostle Paul said was a profound mystery, the marriage relationship of Christ and His church (Eph. 5:32). When Paul was teaching about the significance of each person in the Church, the Holy Spirit inspired him to use the physical human body to illustrate the spiritual body of Christ. A lot of understanding about spiritual growth and development is gleaned from looking at the way we grow physically.

#2)

The second principle of significance in understanding the "One New Man" is that **the second is always more glorious than the first.** In fact we're told, He sets aside with the first to establish the second (Heb. 10:9) and Moses' second attempt to lead Israel: Israel's second attempt with Canaan illustrates this. There's the first and second man: Adam and Christ, (also called the first and last Adam). There's our second birth (born again), it's

far more glorious than the first, the old and New Covenants, and the first and second coming of Christ. There's also (as we will be looking at) the physical body of Christ and the spiritual body of Christ.

#3)

The third thing we need to understand is the use of oxymoron. In this case, things that appear almost opposite expressing the same thing: for example -- Jesus is the Lamb of God and yet at the same time He's the Lion of the tribe of Judah. These are two very opposite characteristics, yet both are very adequate and accurate in revealing the multi-faceted character of Christ. Another example is Jesus is called the Prince of Peace on the one hand and on the other the Man of War. Both describe Him perfectly, neither describe Him fully, nor does one in any way discredit the other.

The Church, was described, by Christ, in parable as a field, and a pearl. It's called the temple (the spiritual house God lives in). It's called the body of Christ, it's described as the fullness of Christ. It's called the Bride of Christ and I suggest it's also called the "One New Man".

We've had a lot of teaching over the years about the body of Christ and the Bride of Christ (and so we should.) There hasn't, however, been too much about the "One New Man". If you haven't ever considered it before, this can seem like an oxymoron. How can the Church be a "she" and a "he" at the same time? Just the same way Christ is a Lamb and a Lion at the same time. The various aspects merely express the multi-facets to more fully understand the whole.

The One New Man:

I personally believe this to be one of the most significant and powerful revelations concerning the Church, the Body of Christ. The "One New Man" is not a new revelation. I feel that if we would see the Church not only as the Bride of Christ but also as the "One New Man", we would understand another facet of the Church. I firmly believe that we would be greatly encouraged in these last days. We would be found believing and expecting the Church to be "the fullness of Him (Christ) who fills everything in every way" (Eph. 1:23). We would envision the Church as this "One New Man" in the earth, to be filled with and operating through the fullness of Christ. We would see the spiritual body of Christ as one with divine authority and ability. We would also see it with divine character. Yes, just like Christ, but bigger, much bigger. Yes, Christ is on the earth right now, in the "One New Man". By His Spirit He is in the "One New Man". No longer is Jesus limited by the physical body He had while on earth. He's free, as it were, to be in every nation of the world because He's in His people and He's in the "One New Man".

[Eph. 2:14-16 says, "For He himself is our peace who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. He purposed to create in himself one new man out of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility." \(NIV\)](#)

Where did Paul get this revelation? I would suggest, He was led into it by the Holy Spirit through Zech. 6:9-15. At this point it would be a good idea just to refresh your memory by turning in the Bible and reading these few Scriptures. There's no question that the reference is to Christ. He's the "Branch Man" for sure ([Jer. 33:15](#)). The context refers to the temple that He would build in fulfillment of the prophecies given to David in [1 Chr. 17:10-14](#). There's a lot that could be said here, however I don't want to get too distracted from our objective. What I want to point out from Zech. 6 is, the "harmony between the two". The "One New Man" is made up of Jew and Gentile and in this New Man there is neither Jew or Gentile. [Gal. 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for you are all one "IN" Christ."](#)

There's an important thing to remember about the "One New Man" as expressed by the Holy Spirit through the

Apostle Paul --This "One New Man" is the creation of God. Eph. 3:15 - "[His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two](#)". This "One New Man" creation has been created "[IN HIMSELF](#)". There is a present creation of God on earth. It's called the "One New Man". It is in fact the spiritual body of Christ. Yes, there's a sense where Christ is on earth right now in the church by His Spirit. In heaven? Yes! Seated at the right hand of the Father? Yes! On earth in, the One New Man? Yes! By His Spirit all this is possible.

Jesus' identification with the "One New Man" is very significant! It's awesome! Christ is not only considered to be a part of the Body, the Head (Col.1:18) but this "One New Man" is Scripturally declared to Christ. Hold it here! Good point! Where does it say this?

1 Cor. 12:12--[The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many; they form one body. So it is with Christ.](#)"

1 Cor. 6:15--[Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself.](#)

1 Cor. 12:27--[Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.](#)

The words Jesus spoke to Saul of Tarsus while on his way to Damascus to further persecute the early Church are very revealing!

Acts 9:1-5 - [Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath. He was eager to destroy the Lord's followers, so he went to the high priest. 2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them-both men and women-back to Jerusalem in chains. 3 As he was nearing Damascus on this mission, a brilliant light from heaven suddenly beamed down upon him! 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" 5 "Who are you, sir?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "**I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!**](#)

Notice how closely Jesus identifies Himself with the Church! The persecution was against the physical followers of Jesus yet Jesus said that it was Him who was being persecuted. The Church is Jesus spiritual body in the earth. It is inseparable from Jesus! Jesus is it's head and Believers are its members.

Often when we talk about the body of Christ we see it similar to an organization, a club, a group of people. It's a revelation to see it as it is--the body; the spiritual body of Christ. Yes, He's the Head of it but this body is where He lives on earth, through His Holy Spirit. Col. 1:27 says--"Christ in you" the hope of glory. Just as Christ is "in" us and we are in Him individually, this is true corporately of all true born again Believers. We are in Him. We are in the "One New Man".

The Spiritual Body:

The Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul, uses the physical human body to illustrate the spiritual body of Christ. Are you seeing the body as the spiritual body of Christ or as a group of people?

Upon conversion there's quite a spiritual activity happening. Christ comes into us and we are taken by the Holy

Spirit and placed into Christ. It's a baptism that occurs which we cannot see with our physical eyes. It can however be seen through water baptism. Christ is the Word, and water is often used in Scripture to represent the Word. Eph. 5:26 refers to the washing of water by the Word. In water baptism we are submersed into the water. We are totally covered in water. We come up with water all over us. It illustrates the fact that we are now clothed with the Word, Christ.

Col. 3:27 - for all of you who were baptized "INTO" Christ have clothed yourself with Christ". (NIV)

1 Cor. 12:13 - For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink". (NIV)

1 Cor. 12:27 says - "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Christ lived in a physical human body while He was here on earth. He was very much limited by it. He could only walk so far in a day. He could only lay hands on so many people a day. He could only speak to a certain number of people at any given time. Christ lived and operated through various human limitations. The spiritual body is, however, very different. He can be in Russia, China, Canada, South American, the USA, all at the same time.

God expressed Himself at one time through the limitations of Christ's one physical body. Now, however, God expresses Himself through Christ's spiritual body, the "One New Man".

The Fullness Of Christ:

When we look at Jesus, what do we see? Do we see the Son of man or the Son of God? Do we see the created or do we see the Creator (Col. 1:15-17)? Do we see a second rate deity or do we see the fullness of God? The deity of Christ shouldn't be seen as an "issue" but rather a reality, fundamental to our understanding of Jesus and the Father heart of God.

Col. 1:19 says "God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Christ". What fullness? Col. 2:9 gives us the answer--"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form". Heb. 1:3 says, "The Son reflects God's own glory, and everything about him represents God exactly" "Fullness" is exactly that! Jesus, when asked by Philip to show him the Father said in Jn. 14:9- Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. Jesus went on to say that it was the Father living in Him that was doing His work. Why am I stressing this? Because when you saw Jesus, you were seeing God! When, you spoke to Jesus you were speaking to God. When Jesus spoke to you, God was speaking to you.

Jesus accurately displayed to the world the complete and full character and nature of God! Yes He displayed super nature power! He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cleansed the lepers, caused the crippled to walk and even raised the dead to life again! More than this however was the constant and consistent life style Jesus lived. He lived by the power of the Holy Spirit! He manifest to a sin sick world the fruit of the Holy Spirit. He lived a dynamically powerful sin free life for all to see. Every thing Jesus did or said represented the God of heaven!

Now! Let's take this to the spiritual body of Christ. Let's look at the "One New Man". What do we see? An organization? Various denominational and non - denominational groups? A club? A religious political party? What do we see?

Why say anything about this at all? Why run the risk of being misunderstood? It's vital that we see the Church as this "One New Man" the way God has purposed Him to be. The religious Jews, of Jesus day didn't seem to have

too much problem accepting the humanity of Christ. It was the deity they found hard to embrace. It was the deity that they eventually chose to reject.

If we see the Church as limited we will likely embrace the misconception that the Church will be weak and ineffective in these last days. We will expect and anticipate failure, when victory has always been in the heart of God.

It's interesting to note how many Christians live a re-vamped Old Testament life rather than the "new creation", New Covenant life that Christ purchased for us. This same tendency seems to reach its tentacles into the Church. We look at the Church as a kind of re-vamped Israel when in reality it is a new creation of God, the "One New Man".

Eph. 1:23 tells us that the Church "which is His body" (the One New Man) is the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way. In other words-- just as Jesus is the fullness of God so the Church is the fullness of Christ. Yes, the "One New Man" in which Christ now lives by His Spirit is His fullness. Think of the spiritual ramification of this. I mean, without the grace of God I doubt that we'd believe it! No wonder Jesus said in John 14:12 - [I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.](#)

These greater works certainly couldn't refer to greater in quality but could and do refer to quantity. Christ had a physical body and chose to work through that limitation to glorify God. Now, however, Christ has the "One New Man" body through which to glorify God.

Can you see the Church with the authority of Christ, the ability of Christ, the character and nature of Christ? The Church is the fullness of Christ just as Christ on earth in a human body was the fullness of God.

Notice what the Holy Spirit said through the Apostle Paul in Eph. 4:11-13 - [It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some pastors and teacher, to prepare God's people for works of service, SO THAT the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, **ATTAINING TO THE WHOLE MEASURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST** \(NIV\).](#) Did you catch that--**attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.** Wow! That doesn't sound like defeat to me.

Conclusion:

God's plan for Christ was that through Him the people would see and experience God. God's plan for the "One New Man" is that Christ's ministry and purposes would reach to every nation and peoples of the world. The "One New Man" is the God-created spiritual body of Christ through which He has chosen to manifest and reveal His manifold wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. (Eph. 3:10).

Do you see the Body of Christ? Do you see this awesome "One New Man"? Do you see the works of Christ being manifest through the Church? Do you presently see in Canada a Church that is matured and displaying to the nation Jesus full character and nature? Do you see the "One New Man" as the fullness of Christ? What should we expect in these last days--defeat or victory? How can Jesus be defeated? If you could defeat Jesus you could defeat the "One New Man". Why? Because we're told that the One New Man" is Christ. There is no separation between the two.

Jesus already won the victory of the powers of darkness, over sin and over the world! He is presently seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven! All power, all authority, and all ability has been given to Jesus. He said He

would build His Church, His Spiritual Body, and that the powers of hell would not overcome it. Do we believe this? Are we looking for and expecting the Church to mature and display honest "New Covenant" living through the power of the Holy Spirit? Do we expect the Bride of Christ to be holy and separated from worldliness and ready to meet the Bride Groom when He comes? Is the Church in Canada presently experiencing unrealized potential? We desperately need revival in Canada and it all starts with you and me. God here I am forgive, cleans and free me from any and all sin and come in a fresh and new way into my life giving to me the desires that are in your heart for my life and the life of the Spiritual Body of Christ, the "One New Man". Cause the faith of Jesus to rise within me that I might be found believing you, anticipating and full expecting you to do for me what I cannot do for myself. Lord I want to be apart of that company of Believers who accurately represent you in this generation. In Jesus name, Amen!

Thanks for your time. God bless you richly! You can email your questions or comments to john@revivalcanada.ca

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