

***The Gospel
of the
Kingdom***

The Gospel of the Kingdom

By the Lord Jesus Christ

through his servant-sons

who are learning to walk together in his kingdom

REDEMPTION  PRESS

© Paul A. Lindberg 1989, renewed 2017. All rights reserved. Edit version 10/28/17.

Published by Redemption Press, PO Box 427. Enumclaw, WA 98022
Toll Free (844) 2REDEEM (273-3336)

Redemption Press is honored to present this title in partnership with the author. The views expressed or implied in this work are those of the author. Redemption Press provides our imprint seal representing design excellence, creative content, and high quality production. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise – without the prior permission of the copyright holder, except as provided by USA copyright law.

My primary Scripture source and constant reference is the *New American Standard Bible* ® Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.

Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

The version I use was printed in 1971 by Regal Books, a division of Gospel Light Publications, Glendale, CA.

My secondary Scripture source is *The Interlinear Hebrew / Greek English Bible*, Copyright © 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1983 by Jay P. Green, Sr, and published in 1976 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. (Peabody, MA 01960), and the Associated Publishers and Authors, Inc. (Lafayette, IN 47903), edited by Jay P.

Green, Sr. The version I have was printed in 1984.

ISBN 13: 978-1-68314-186-0 (Print)

ISBN 13: 978-1-68314-187-7 (ePub)

ISBN 13: 978-1-68314-188-4 (Mobi)

Library of Congress Card Catalogue Number – 2017959808

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Introduction

What is the gospel of the kingdom?

The *gospel* is simply the “good news.”

The *kingdom* is the reign of the king, the Lord Jesus Christ.

So the gospel of the kingdom is the good news that the Lord Jesus Christ is, right now, reigning in my life, accomplishing his perfect will in and through me (and each of his saints)!

Now, that is a big statement. You may be quick to ask about my sins? My failures? My weaknesses and imperfections? Perhaps you think that the Lord Jesus Christ needs to spend a long time (even a lifetime) perfecting me through suffering before he could actually use me to accomplish any of his perfect will and purposes.

Well, slow down a bit, my friend. I’ve done plenty of wrestling with sin and satan, too. But to claim that God cannot accomplish any perfect works in me because I personally am not yet perfected, is *false humility* sent by satan himself, intended to keep the sons of God from doing the will of God on the earth.

Instead, I reckon my flesh nature to be crucified, dead, and buried
with my Lord Jesus Christ, and I look to him to live through me
and to accomplish his perfect will and purposes through me.

Yes, even right now, as I write.

In other words, I am a believer. I have chosen to believe the word of God, even when it seems to contradict the physical realm I see around me. His word is truth! He speaks to me, just as he has to all of his saints throughout the ages. He is still the same God that he always has been, and he still wants to communicate with and through his precious ones. He has asked me to write this book and has promised to guide me by his Holy Spirit. Here is my response:

O my Lord Jesus Christ, I belong to you, for you paid the ultimate price of the law’s demands with your own blood, when you died on the Roman cross in my place. You have already won the victory over satan, and have delivered me from the bondage of sin and satan’s kingdom of sin. By your perfect sacrifice, I am this day totally free from sin’s domination, free to hear clearly from you, free to learn of your wisdom and your ways and to do your perfect will.

I come to you now, my Lord Jesus Christ, and ask you for the words to write.

The right words to communicate your “good news,” the gospel of the kingdom.

I come humbly, for in myself, I am worth nothing. Yet I come boldly,

for your Holy Spirit in me has bid me come,

and you, even through my weakness, can do all things by your righteousness and perfection.

*Let this book be a blessing from you to your people,
in perfect accord with your thoughts and intents for your precious ones:
all those who have chosen to acknowledge you as king.*

We praise you, O Lord Jesus Christ, for you have done all things well!

Amen. So it is, and so it shall ever be.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Preface

This is a book which speaks to the spirit, rather than just the human intellect. I can't really claim authorship, though God knows I've tried several times, because the Holy Spirit will not let me. He is a jealous God, and I joyfully acknowledge that he has written this in spite of (and sometimes in direct opposition to) my own human intellect. This is his work. I give up trying to support it or defend it, or even fully understand it, as I give up trying to claim any glory of authorship.

If you really want to know a little about me, for whatever that's worth, see my testimony at the end of the book. But as for how you accept (or don't accept) this book, I feel that you would be making a mistake if you were to judge it on the basis of human knowledge. The more you know about me, and the more you know the doctrines and religious traditions of churchmen, the more difficult it could be for you to simply receive the impartation of spirit that the Holy Spirit desires for you from this book.

For those of you who have already entered into the kingdom of God, you will have no problem. You are already believers. Just enjoy it! Read to receive whatever the Holy Spirit has to say to you through it, because your heart has already been tuned to hear only from him through any of his humble vessels. You will have no condemnation in your hearts against what might be missing, inaccurate, or beyond your understanding, because you already know that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. You remember that like you, I am still growing in the manifold wisdom and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, so this Gospel of the Kingdom is growing as well.

For those of you who have not yet entered into the kingdom, I encourage you to be careful how you respond to this book. I am aware that there are things here which will be a stumbling block to those who are motivated by an intellectual understanding of the religious doctrines and traditions of today (i.e. the knowledge of good and evil). There are more "Pharisees" among the religious establishment today than there were in Jesus' time, and they are just as eager to crucify him afresh within his saints who have chosen to walk with him, seeking first his kingdom and his righteousness.

So please bear in mind: this book was not written for the Pharisees to judge or criticize according to the "*tree of the knowledge of good and evil*"; they will do that, but I will neither debate with them nor try to defend what the Holy Spirit has given. Instead this book was written from the perspective of one already walking in God's kingdom, so that you who have not yet entered in can catch the vision from the Holy Spirit and receive the power to become saints of God.

Each lesson builds on the last, defining its terms. I urge you, therefore, to begin reading with the first chapter "Entering the Kingdom," with the prayer that the Holy Spirit will speak to your heart as you read, rather than merely trying to understand the words with your mind. In the physical realm, men must understand in order to believe, but in the spirit realm, faith comes first, then obedience, then understanding follows. God really does have a perfect kingdom of peace and righteousness, but only believers – those with the simple faith of a child – can enter in.

As you read, you will notice the simple dialog between the saint (on the left) and the Lord Jesus Christ (on the right). The “I” on the left is not me; it is any saint who is learning how to walk with God in his kingdom of love, righteousness, justice, joy, and peace. It may be helpful to read aloud between two people, one taking the left column, the other responding with the right, so the message can come through more clearly.

Bear in mind, the saint, at least at the beginning, is a mere babe in Christ. Picture a very little child coming to sit at the feet of Jesus, eager to learn wisdom and to express his or her love for him. That’s the picture I used as I was writing.

Consider this book as a primer, like a children’s book for baby Christians. The problem here is that no matter how mature in Christ we think we are, to God we are barely beginners – or pre-born infants still in the womb – from God’s eternity perspective. I include myself in this. But that is not an indictment against anyone. The Kingdom of God has always been far bigger and better than any of us could ever ask or imagine.

For those scholars who wish to do further research, I have added an index of common terms at the end of this book. However, please just ignore it, at least until you have read the book. Most people will never need this index, as the Holy Spirit will become your “index.” You see, an index is more of a mental thing. His Spirit flies high above our mental understanding.

Similarly, I have also added a cross reference of the major Scripture passages at the end of this book. Again, do not start there! Bible references are not really needed until you first receive the impartation of spirit – then it might be good to go back to verify that it really is all firmly based on Scripture. But I suspect that you’ve seen the Scriptures through the lens of your training and traditions of the past. Once you read this book, you will see the Scriptures with “new eyes.”

Capitalization was a huge problem. I originally capitalized everything referring to the Almighty. *Our God is an Awesome God and His Holy Name is Majestic in Power and Glory. His Kingdom is Love, Wisdom, Justice, and Mercy, for He is Good and in His Presence we find our Peace and Joy. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. His Spirit is the Comforter, Guide, and Friend of His Saints.*

Do you see how intrusive all those capitals can be? Like road-bumps when we’re trying to read. So except for actual names, I took them out – including the title God gave Lucifer: satan. I even removed the capitalization of all the personal pronouns of God, as well as most mentions of his spirit. I use these terms so much that it became too distracting to the message.

So here it is; a book the Lord has led me to call *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. May it be as much a blessing to you as it has been to me, and as I believe it is to “many of his servant-sons who are learning to walk together in his kingdom.”

Paul A. Lindberg

Table of Contents

Chapter 1	11	Praise and Worship	13
		Righteousness	14
		Peace	15
		Humility	16
		Love	17
		Grace	19
		Mercy	20
		Justice	21
		Judgment	22
		Sin	23
		Health	25
		Physical Body	27
		Law	29
		Relationship	33
		Joy	34
		Faith	35
		Suffering	37
		Reaching the Lost	38
		Discipline, Testing	39
		Baptism of Fire	40
		Sabbath Rest	41
		Sabbath Rest II	43
		<i>Entering the Kingdom</i>	
Chapter 2	45	Prayer	47
		Peace II	49
		Judgment II	50
		Grace II	51
		Fellowship	52
		Joy II	53
		Time, Temporal	55
		Eternity	56
		Life and Death	57
		Sleep, Physical Death	58
		Heaven and Hell	59
		Angels and Demons	60
		Spiritual Warfare	62
		Discerning the Body	64
		Futility	66
		Creation	67
		Free Will	69
		Freedom	71
		Bondage	72
		Doctrine	73
		Government	75
		Kingdom Basics	77
		<i>Growing in the Kingdom</i>	

Dwelling in the Kingdom

Man	81
Faith II	82
Sovereignty	84
Building the Kingdom	86
Open Hearts	88
Mission	89
Pure Hearts	90
Kingdom Relationships	91
Adam	93
Oneness	95
Lordship	97
Light and Darkness	99
Truth	101
Scripture	102
Error	104
Mystery	106
Freedom II	107
Father's Heart	108
Peace III	109
Community	110
Life and Death II	113
Spirit, Soul, and Body	115

Maturing in the Kingdom

Prayer II	121
Sons of God	124
Suffering II	127
Worship in Action	129
Holy, Holy, Holy	131
Salvation	132
Lamb's Book of Life	133
Sheep and Goats	136
The Lake of Fire	137
Heaven and Hell II	138
Paradise	139
Animals	140
The Sword	141
Home	143
Shepherd	145
Fear	147
Sabbath Rest III	150
Law II	151
Thanksgiving	154
Unity	155
Fasting and Intercession	158
Good News	160

Chapter 5	165		The Kingdom is Come	167
<i>The Kingdom!</i>				
Supplementary Material	173		Index	173
			Personal Testimony	181
			Notes on Scripture References	185
			Scripture References	187

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Chapter 1

Entering the Kingdom

Lord Jesus, I am come to sit at your feet and worship you.

How may I best worship you?

I love to study your nature and character, and your thoughts and ways are life and strength to me as I feast continually on your living word. But how can I reflect your glory?

How does singing praise songs fit into all this?

My faith? Do you mean that praise songs mostly benefit me, rather than bless you?

So singing praises without resulting actions is like faith without works: dead. Right?

Wonderful! Then singing praises is always a benefit to us both!

Thank you, my Lord Jesus Christ! My heart continually sings your praises in my spirit, and I am learning how to let these praises ring through the rest of my being as I go about my daily life.

You are most welcome, my son. I am pleased that you come, and I receive your love and worship with great joy.

You best worship me by learning of my nature and character, that you may think my thoughts and understand my ways. The result is: you are transformed to become like me. As you become more and more like me, you bring me great worship by reflecting my glory on my earth to my precious creation.

The greatest praise of all is that you do the will of my Father in the same way I did when I was on the earth. This brings me glory as the earth becomes aware of the true source of your good works: that is, my life being lived through you.

Praise songs are good when they become true expressions of the heart and not merely the mind or emotions. When they are sung in response to a transforming revelation of my nature and character to your heart, they become a real assistance to your faith.

As your faith is strengthened in song, you are filled with my spirit and empowered to do my will. This blesses me.

Not exactly. You tend to think of the Father's will as just some activity for you to figure out and struggle to do. In reality, Father's will is mostly a state of *being* filled with my spirit – a state of *being* transformed into my image. Father's will is always accomplished in you as you live continually filled with my spirit.

Be careful! Most praises I hear are merely a temporary emotional high, and the singer leaving is no more full of my spirit than when he came. This saddens me because it gives a satisfied feeling and an illusion of benefit without the reality of inner transformation. Sing from your heart or not at all.

Yes, and that delights me! For it is my spirit within you that brings forth pure worship as my Father's will is accomplished in your life.

Lord Jesus, I have come to sit at your feet and learn your wisdom.

Welcome, my son! I love to give you wisdom because I know you come with true faith to receive. In what may I instruct you?

I want to know of your righteousness, Lord.
Yes, Lord.

My righteousness? Are you sure?
Are you very sure?

You know how I long for your righteousness, Lord. I hunger and thirst for it continually.

How sincerely do you want to know about my righteousness?

Lord, I do seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. I want it more than anything else in my life.

That is good because it will cost you everything else in your life, including your life. I Am my righteousness, and there is no righteousness on earth but mine. To know my righteousness, you must be filled with me, and to be filled with me, you must be dead to self and to all unrighteousness. Now, do you still want to know my righteousness?

Yes, Lord. I don't care how much it costs, but I will be satisfied with nothing less than all you have promised, and you did promise that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be satisfied.

Then give me your heart, and allow me to be absolute lord and master over every area of your life, including all of your ambitions, your ego, your fleshly lusts and appetites, your rights and expectations, your habits and conditionings, your possessions, your job, your loved ones, yes, even your family and your own life as well. Give me unconditional permission to do as I will in all these areas, and you shall know of my righteousness.

I can't do that Lord. I want to, but I honestly can't.

You have spoken well, for I know the depth of your heart better than you. No one can, by force of his human will, die to his own flesh nature. However, I am able to search the heart of man and cleanse it of all unrighteousness by the power of my shed blood. But first I must send the baptism of fire to burn up your old nature. Are you willing to submit?

Yes, Lord, you have my full permission. Send your fire. Only, please, be gentle, and give me grace to bear it. I am overwhelmed by the weakness and foolishness of my flesh nature. I long for your righteousness, but I sense that in my humanness, I can never contain it.

I am very pleased, my son! I am doing all that I have spoken. Consider that flesh nature dead and buried with me, for it is only my life in you that can contain my righteousness. You shall find my righteousness a continual joy and delight; never a burden. My life lived through you results in your being and doing exactly what is right at all times and in all circumstances. That is my righteousness.

Thank you my Lord. I joyfully receive it!

Lord Jesus, I have come to sit at your feet, to learn of your peace. I have been troubled and busy and have gotten anxious and upset these last few days, and I'm very sorry that it has hindered our relationship.

Only a little, Lord?

I am willing to receive as much as you will share with me. Please expand my faith to be able to handle it.

Yes, my Lord, but only because I know that is your will for me.

Wow, Lord! I am trying to believe. Please help my faith! That does not seem to agree with what I see all around me, especially after the last few days of trouble. How does all that make up your peace?

Uh, no Lord. I'm sorry, I forgot. Thank you for the anxiousness and trouble. I do know that they were sent for my discipline, and that all things work together for good in me, for you only are good. I love your law, and I love your discipline, for I know you have chosen me and are working out your eternal purposes in me.

Thank you, my Lord. What a joy! I do will to believe; please create in me the reality of this faith in my daily experience.

Praise you, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all that you are and all that you have done! Truly, you are my peace.

I gladly forgive you and eagerly restore the joy of our relationship. I take greater delight in our love relationship than you realize. Now, relax and bask in my love, and I will teach you a little about my peace.

My peace is far beyond human understanding. Do you really think that you could handle it all in one morning?

[Laughing] That's one of the things I like about you. You are always so bold to take all that I am willing to give, and then some!

It is indeed! Here is my peace: I have created all things, yes all things, perfectly in line with my Father's will, and it is all very good. I have defeated satan and destroyed all his works. I have not only defeated but also abolished even death itself. I have brought everything in the universe into perfect alignment with my Father's Plan of the Ages. I am now ruling over every living thing in my perfect kingdom of righteousness. Nothing – not one thing – can happen in all of my creation except at my command. And now, you are my righteousness I send to my earth. Do you believe that?

Did you remember to thank me for your recent anxiousness and trouble? Did it occur to you that I sent it for you to learn about my peace?

You are forgiven. Now rest in my completed works and receive my peace. I do now with these words give you the faith to believe all that I have ever promised: all that I am and all that I ever said I would be or do. In my sight, it is all a present reality, for all my works were completed from the beginning of time. I in my Father am at rest. As you learn to believe the words you have just spoken, you enter into my Sabbath Rest and experience my peace.

In your "daily experience" (your words for chance circumstances, but in reality every situation I send your way), you experience my peace when you remember who I am, stop to appreciate what I have done, and give thanks.

Lord Jesus, I come to sit at your feet to learn from you. I bow before you in deep humility, and with gratefulness in my heart that you have bid me come.

I think so. Isn't that recognizing my own unworthiness, submitting my will to yours, and giving you the glory for the results?

Uh, is it repentance? Or is it waiting on you in all things?

Oh, I get it. After recognizing my own unworthiness, I recognize your worthiness in me! "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." [Philippians 4:13]

How can boldness be humble?

If that is false humility, how can I avoid it? How can I be truly humble in the way I live and pray?

Thank you, my Lord. You are my life, my strength, my all. You are truly sufficient in me to accomplish anything and everything that you wish. And you are doing it! Thank you! What a joy it is to receive your humility, so that you may do your will and bring forth your glory in me. I return unto you all glory and praise for ever and ever!

You are my special joy when you respond to my bidding! Welcome, my son! Let's talk about that humility that I have given you. Do you know what it means?

That's very close, but you've missed a step. Can you figure it out?

Those are aspects of the first two items. You can't recognize your unworthiness without repentance; you can't submit your will to mine without waiting on me to know my will. I'll give you a clue. So far, you have only what the world sees as humility: a wishy-washy nobody who lets everyone push him around.

That's it! Your awareness of the tremendous power of my righteousness in you gives you a humble boldness which makes you very useful in my kingdom.

You are humble when you allow me to be bold in you! Your awareness of my life being lived through you makes you bold to speak my word and do my will. Only false humility bows and waits for the "sweet by and by," or prays, "I'm just a poor, weak, and vile sinner. Lord, you do it." Though he appears to be humble, I cannot use him in my kingdom.

Do confess any personal sins and weaknesses as I bring them to mind, but always with faith that I am not only able to forgive and cleanse you from all unrighteousness by my grace, but also to give you my power and righteousness to overcome. Then even those very weaknesses become strengths in my hands. Do bow and wait on me to know my will, but when you discern it, boldly do it with all your heart. It gives me great glory when you are a sharp tool in my hands. Live in the present, not in the past or future. Finally, true humility always bears fruit when the job is done. The proud try to steal some of my glory for themselves, but the humble walk on with scarcely a look back, so that I receive the harvest of glory for what I have accomplished through you.

Good morning, Lord Jesus! I just come to sit at your feet to tell you that I love you! My heart overflows with joy as I think of all you are and of all you have done, are doing, and will do. You are wonderful beyond words!

Your love? It isn't my own love?

So, if someone doesn't know you, how can he really love his wife or children?

I think I know why. Is that because it is the love of God revealed in your goodness to us that calls men to repentance, and you do want all to come to repentance?

What about our expressions of love for one another?

But what if he takes my love, uh, your love through me, and doesn't return it, but rather uses it (and me) for his own selfish purposes?

What really is love? Can you define it in just a few words?

Thank you, my son. I gladly receive my love that you are returning to me. That is why I gave it to you in the first place, you know – so you would be able to experience firsthand the joy that I, as God, have continually.

The only kind of love which you could call your own is that perverted self-love which I call lust or selfishness. But even that is not your own; it originated in satan's rebellion. No person – even the sinner – can experience true love without experiencing some of me, by my grace. I am love, and all true love is a part of me. The outward things you may call love (loving actions, attitudes, and emotions) are, in reality, expressions of my spirit within you.

Some don't. Their love is a form of self-love. Their relationships are based on trying to get security, pleasure, and honor for themselves. But don't forget that I shower my grace on all, not just those who know me. I make very sure that everyone at least tastes of my love.

It is indeed! When a person experiences my love, it gives him a hunger for more of me. When you really want more of me, you want to get rid of the barriers between us. This involves repentance – clearing out that which is not of me to make room for more of me.

As I express myself to someone through you, he has an opportunity to receive me in you. If he rejects my love in you, he has rejected me. But if he receives it, he enters into me.

Then he has not received it, but rejected it and substituted his own self-love, lust. All who receive my love, love to give it again, for my love is always giving, living, flowing, and growing. My love cannot feed selfishness.

All of me is love, and love is all of me. Love encompasses every aspect of my nature and every one of my character traits; for example, my judgment reveals my love just as much as my mercy! Everything I do is an expression of my love, and it always results in benefit to all.

How does your love relate to your holiness, justice, and judgment?

Wow! So love hates?! What about fear? Does love also fear? I still sometimes have trouble correlating your love with the "Fear of the Lord" which is the beginning of wisdom, according to Proverbs 9:10.

I still have a tremendous sense of awe in your presence, but you're right; ever since I have begun to experience the power and beauty of your love filling my own life, I'm no longer afraid of you.

To the lowest hell? Could you possibly mean that you love even satan?

Yes, Lord, but only in ignorance. I just didn't know how wonderful you are!

I have been taught that you don't violate a person's free will; that if a person chooses to hate you, you eventually give up on him and let him go to hell.

Thank you, Lord. I do come. Please flood me with your love and let it flow continually through me. My greatest joy is to reflect back your love to you and to your precious ones.

Love is a two-edged sword: discipline for my saints and punishment for sinners. My love hates anything keeping my beloved from me.

Perfect love is being so full of me that there is no room left for fear. Fear of me is indeed the beginning of wisdom, but the end of wisdom is love. As you become my righteousness, my love so fills you that all fear is cast out.

[Chuckling] I am God! You will always be awed in my presence. No created being can fully comprehend the magnitude of my love. It reaches beyond the farthest star. It descends to the lowest hell. Nothing can escape it, for I am everywhere, and where I am, there is love.

Yes, even satan. Though my plan allows him to be the way he has chosen to be for now, in ages to come he will be reconciled to me and will bow in repentance to acknowledge my lordship. Don't forget that I created him and gave him the capacity to be what he is now. "Love your enemies" is my command to you because it is my own nature! Though he is now my enemy, yet my love is greater than that. Were you not at one time my enemy?

So also with satan and all my enemies. They do not know what they are doing. Someday all shall know, when my glory is revealed. Then all creation will be reconciled to me and will willingly, joyfully bow in loving worship. Then you will recognize the greatness of my love, when it has drawn every creature into oneness with me. Remember this: satan's way is to force the unwilling into slavery. My way is to love the unwilling into willing oneness.

You were taught wrong. My love never fails; it never gives up. Your teachers have totally underestimated the drawing power of my love. There is no greater force in existence, for my love is me, and all power in heaven and earth is mine. You do not yet understand about my discipline or the punishments of hell. First you must come to me without any reservation and immerse yourself in my love.

Lord Jesus, I've come to you with joy and anticipation to sit at your feet and learn more of your nature. Would you please teach me about your justice this morning?

Yes, Lord. I'd love to hear about your grace.

Well, yes, Lord. Didn't you say that after your return, sinners would be judged and cast into the lake of fire?

Oh yes, Lord. I remember. That's right from II Timothy 1:9 and Ephesians 2:7-8.

Yes, Lord. I'm sorry that I limited you.

Thank you, my Lord. I am deeply grateful. I certainly did not deserve the abundance of blessings you have poured out on me just in bringing me to yourself, not to mention all the blessings since then.

Only a few, Lord? Are there others which you have not chosen, whose hearts are so hard that they cannot ever receive your love?

Thank you, Lord! I will remember. Knowing that, I will also have more compassion.

I also am rejoicing at your coming, my son. May I teach you first of my grace? You will appreciate my justice more when you catch the vision of the magnitude of my grace.

You have been taught, and have even taught others, that "the age of grace is near its end," and that after I return for my bride, there will be no more grace available to sinners.

Your question shows you do not understand the nature of my grace. You are thinking of judgment according to works, but you have forgotten that I saved you and called you into righteousness, not according to your works, but according to my own purpose and grace which I gave you in myself from before time began. You've also forgotten that I saved you so that I might in you display the surpassing riches of my grace throughout ages to come.

Right. Does that give you a clue that my grace is not limited to the created ages?

I too am sorry that my people are so quick to limit me to their own understanding. You were created to comprehend only within time, but I dwell in eternity. Grace is a part of my own nature and is therefore also eternal, for I do not change from age to age. I am infinite; therefore my grace is also infinite. I open your eyes now to see the grace required just for your salvation alone.

Neither does any sinner deserve any good thing from me, yet I continue to pour out blessings from my inexhaustible store. But my grace is far more than just my blessings. For a few in this age, it also opens blind eyes and softens hard hearts to receive my love.

Ever is a long time, my son! Yes, there are others whose hearts I have hardened to fulfill my purposes in this age. From them I have withheld my grace – for now! Do you have no compassion for them? I will prepare you to understand about them, but always remember, my grace is both infinite and eternal.

Good morning, Lord Jesus! May I sit here with you to learn more of your nature?

Good morning, and welcome. I am always delighted that you wish to learn of my nature, for it is also becoming yours, you know.

Yes, it is, and I thank you! Am I ready yet to learn of your justice?

Do not be so eager on justice. Even the most mature of my sons sometimes have trouble with that. Let's talk about mercy instead. Do you remember our talk on grace?

Yes, Lord. You said that your grace is both infinite and eternal because it is a part of your unchangeable nature. I know that mercy is the same, for you have said in Psalm 136 that your mercy endures forever.

Very good! Both my mercy and my grace are expressions of my love, working together as I draw sinners through repentance into sonship. My mercy tempers my discipline and delays judgment, while my grace pours out blessings and opens eyes and hearts to my goodness, thus enabling sinners to receive my love.

And if a sinner responds to you in time, then the delayed judgment is no longer needed, right?

No. My law must always be satisfied. The judgment for sin then falls on me. This is why I died. Mercy does not eliminate my justice, for that too is a part of my nature. But I don't look at time the way you do. Because of the greatness of my love, sinners do respond "in time" from my perspective, even though it may be "too late" from yours.

But if a sinner dies without repenting...

Does my mercy depend on the beating of a human heart? In this age most sinners are "lost," but what of ages to come? You're still thinking of that traditional end of the "age of grace," but ages to come shall reveal more of my mercy and grace than you can imagine.

But what about Romans 9:18, where you said that you have mercy on whom you wish, and whom you wish, you harden? Doesn't that imply that there are some who are forever hardened?

Careful! Forever is a long time! Read the rest of Romans 9 before you judge my mercy to be so limited. Why do you think I hated Esau? Why do you think I hardened Pharaoh's heart? Would I be just in denying them my mercy when it was I who kept them from me?

Uh, you're right, Lord, it doesn't seem very fair. I didn't realize you had kept them from knowing you. But why did you harden them, and how can you now show them mercy?

Fair has nothing to do with it. Fair is a worldly term which does not include my justice and which denies my grace and mercy. I hardened Pharaoh to demonstrate my power and to deliver Israel from Egypt. Later I hardened the Jews to spread my salvation to the Gentiles. In the ages to come, I will display to all of them my infinite mercy and grace through you.

Wow! Thank you, Lord! That is fantastic! What a plan! I bow in worship to you for your wondrous love to your creation.

I have come to bow before you, Jesus my Lord, to learn more of your wondrous nature.

Am I finally ready to learn of your justice?

Yes, Lord. I think so.

I think justice is your system of rewards and punishments based on a person's obedience or disobedience to your law and on good works or evil works.

I love your righteousness, Lord. I also love your commandments and the revelation of your nature and character through them. But I don't see how they relate to justice.

Ah! I get it! Justice is an eternal part of your nature like righteousness, grace, and mercy. The rewards and punishments I talked about are merely expressions of your justice during this age of sin, to discipline your sons so that we will grow up into your image. When we are perfectly one with you, the discipline is no longer needed.

So that's why you wanted me to learn of grace and mercy first! Is that why Micah 6:8 says to do justice, but to love mercy?

That doesn't sound like very fair discipline!

Thank you, Lord. That is my goal, too. I praise your holy, righteous name forever!

I rejoice that you have come! What aspect of my nature would you like to explore?

You are still so eager regarding justice? Have you digested our talks on grace and mercy?

Then tell me what you think justice is.

Not quite. Look first at my righteousness. My righteousness is a part of my nature, which is eternal and unchangeable. Every created thing which exists is placed in order, or "judged," by how it compares to my righteousness. In my law, each commandment is an expression of my nature to show you how well you measure up to my righteousness. My justice is like that.

That system of rewards and punishments that you see operating in this world are, like the world itself, purely temporal. When I created the world, I built into it many "natural laws." For example, if you drop something heavy, it falls. If it lands on your toe, it hurts. The pain lasts long enough for you to learn the lesson: "Be careful not to drop heavy things over your toes." This is called discipline. Its goal is not so much to punish you, as to teach you the wisdom of my character – carefulness in this example. But that training is still all temporal.

Exactly! My justice is a high standard. This is why I compared it with righteousness, which is also an absolute, unchangeable standard. But remember, grace and mercy are also part of my eternal nature. Thus justice can be softened, and in fact, I prefer that justice be tempered with mercy when wisdom can be learned easily for one who is meek and teachable.

Right! My righteousness must always be satisfied, but my justice may treat one person much more severely than others, depending on how he can best learn my wisdom.

My goal is not fairness. My goal is perfection of my precious ones to walk eternally in my righteousness. When you are walking in my righteousness, justice is completely satisfied.

Lord Jesus, I come to sit at your feet, eager to learn more about your justice. I very much appreciated our previous discussion, but it seems like we just scratched the surface. I sense that there is more to your justice than what I learned so far.

You said that justice is a part of your eternal nature, like your righteousness, except justice can be tempered with your mercy and grace. Isn't judgment just a result of your justice confronting our world filled with wickedness?

How can your judgments be just when you send them all across the land? Don't they then fall on the righteous and the wicked alike?

You mentioned mercy and grace mixed with justice. Are they also involved in judgment against those whose hearts are hard?

Any, Lord? In the great tribulations that are prophesied to come, won't there be many who will perish under your judgments?

No, I don't fear satan, Lord. Not since I have really come to love you and trust your great power and love. But sometimes I am tempted to fear the judgments that I know are coming.

Thank you, Jesus! Your judgments are good, like everything from your hand. I do abide in faith in you as my refuge and guide. I choose to dwell in that secret place of communion with you, so that I am kept in the shadow of your almighty protection. Though judgments fall all around me, they will not harm me.

I rejoice at your eagerness for my wisdom. Your meditations regarding our lessons on love, grace, mercy, and justice have prepared you well for this lesson. You are right. There is much more to learn about justice. What is the difference between justice and judgment?

Yes. I am the righteous judge of all the earth. When I send my judgments upon a wicked land, it is only by my perfect justice that I do so. The law of sowing and reaping, which I built into the world at creation, still holds.

True. But when judgment falls, my disciples purify themselves and open their hearts to me. They receive it as discipline to learn wisdom. Thus I keep my sons from harm. The wicked harden their hearts against it. This changes the judgment to punishment, even torment. Their own hardness of heart is destroying them.

Oh, definitely! If I withdrew my mercy or my grace for even a moment, the earth would be consumed. I always prefer mercy to judgment, and my love is displayed in my unwillingness to allow any to perish in judgment.

Suffer and die, yes. But perish, no. My will is always accomplished. Judgment falls because of sin, to bring sinners to repentance, so they can learn righteousness. I am aware that when I send satan to administer my judgment, his intent is to destroy. Do not fear him. He does not yet understand that he only does my will.

You've only had the eyes to see the outward destruction, suffering, and death. I now give you the vision to see judgment from my point of view. Remember that I dwell in eternity, and that all the combined human suffering since Adam is like the prick of a pin relative to the eternal joy that awaits you. Who will not rejoice and give fervent thanks to me for my judgments, as they realize that the moment of suffering results in an eternity of joy beyond measure? Those who fear judgments must receive what they fear in order to learn faith. Abide in faith; that is your protection.

Dear Lord Jesus, I desperately want to love you with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to be holy even as you are holy, but I can't! There always seems to be some little thing that turns me aside, and I find myself falling into sin. Please, my Lord and my God, forgive me, cleanse me, and deliver me from the horrible power of sin in my life!

Thank you, Lord Jesus! I willingly submit to your choosing, for I long to be delivered from sin, and I know that only you can do it.

Yes, Lord. I understand about temptations. They do usually turn me right to you, uh... if I recognize them as temptations in time. But what about these old habits and conditionings from the past which I don't even recognize as sins?

I don't understand, Lord. Isn't sin always sin, regardless of whether or not it results in my repentance and turning back to you?

Yes, Lord. He wanted to be as God, knowing good and evil for himself. So he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That was indeed an act of his willful self since it was in direct opposition to your specific command.

My heart rejoices even as yours despairs, my son! I have brought you to the end of yourself that you would cry out to me for deliverance. I am the Savior! I do hear you and forgive your sins, and I also save you from that root of sin in your life, as my name promises. Let me teach you about sin, for I have chosen to deliver you from all sin, that you may walk with me in my kingdom forever!

First, you must get rid of that false notion that temptations are sins. I often allow temptation to turn aside your focus for a short time for the testing of your faith. If your first response is to indulge your fleshly appetites or to resist with your own human wisdom and strength, then you have failed the test and fallen into sin. I will then lead you to repent and learn my wisdom, after which I will test you again. But if your first response is to look to me for wisdom and assistance, you have not sinned, for my test purifies my faith in your heart.

Forget them. They are not sins to you until I reveal to your heart that they are an offense to me. I do not demand instant maturity of my sons, but I give them time to grow. Learn to love my law, for through it, I reveal areas where you still need to grow and draw closer to me. Nothing is a sin if, as soon as you see it as sin, you turn from it and draw closer to me.

You are thinking of outward actions as sins, but I judge according to the heart. The only real sin is the heart opposed to me, which is rebellion or idolatry. The arrogant self who lives by his human mind, feelings, and desires of the flesh, is living in sin. He has neither seen me nor known me. Remember Adam?

Correct. And all his descendants died; for in him, have all sinned. But you are born of me, and you cannot sin, for my grace keeps your heart always turned towards me. I use your failures only as tools to help you grow in every aspect of my character. Do not call it sin when I have allowed it in your life for my purposes, for I do not cause anyone to sin!

Wow, Lord! I think I just heard you say that I cannot sin! How can that be? Does that mean that I should stop repenting?

Yes, Lord! I certainly have. But still, I feel that I have fallen far short of your glory and have failed miserably in your plans and purposes for me.

You make it sound like I dishonor you every time I confess my sins!

I'm sorry, Lord! Holy Spirit, please remind me to watch my tongue! How should I confess?

Yes, Lord! What a wonderful confession! You are my savior from sin. I do now confess that the perfect sacrifice of your blood is sufficient for me, and that I am set forever free from the power of sin. I reckon my old sin nature dead and buried with you at Golgotha. Praise God that I am free from it! I now confess that I am a bondsman to your righteousness. I accept your free gift of eternal life in your presence! You have set me free for you to develop your nature and character in me, that you may shine with your glory through me. From this day on, it is only you living in and through me for your purposes and pleasure! Hallelujah!

Yes indeed, stop repenting for sin, for there is no rebellion or idolatry in your heart! You know that if I should find some there, you already gave me permission to get rid of it.

Then repent of falling short of my glory and of weakness and failing in my plans for you. But repent with faith, for in truth, it is only I in you that achieves my glory, and only I in you that fulfills my plans and purposes. So do not bemoan your falling short, when it is I who has brought you thus far, and I am responsible for completing all that I have promised. My strength is made perfect in your weakness; my righteousness in you converts your failures and mistakes into perfection. My body is free from sin, and you are a member of my body.

Indeed you do dishonor me when you call sin that which I have allowed in you for your good. The power of the tongue is beyond your comprehension. Confessing that you are still a sinner after I saved you from sin is confessing satan's lordship over you and your bondage to his domain of evil. Do not give him power by idle confessions of faith in his power!

First confess that my perfect and complete atonement for sin, through my blood shed for you, has saved you from all the power of sin. Reckon that old sin nature dead and buried with me at Golgotha. Confess with your heart and lips that it is dead and buried, and that you are slave to it no more. Then confess the mighty power of my righteousness in you, bringing you into my very presence with great joy, setting you free to develop and grow into all the perfection of my nature and character, and allowing my glory to shine through you to all my creation. You bear my name, my son! Confess with your heart and lips that only my eternal life lives in you, and through you I will bring great honor and glory to my name!

I rejoice with you that you have received my salvation: my victory over sin and my power to walk in my righteousness. Trust me, my son, and I will never allow you to fall into sin.

Lord Jesus, may I come to sit at your feet and learn from you about my health? My throat is sore, and my head aches. When I feel like this, I don't feel very effective for your kingdom.

Does that mean you want me to always be healthy?

Thank you, Lord, for the sore throat and the headache! I do want to learn your wisdom, not just to be delivered from the suffering, but also because I dearly love your wisdom.

One perfect diet for everyone? I thought each individual problem or circumstance required a different diet.

Yes, Lord! You have my full attention!

But Lord, what about the high protein foods: meat, fish, milk, cheese, and eggs? Didn't you allow the Israelites to eat the clean meats as long as they eliminated the fat and blood?

What about sweetenings such as sugar, honey, and concentrated fruit sweeteners? I remember you called the Promised Land a "land flowing with milk and honey"!

Welcome, my son! I am especially glad that you come to me when you don't feel effective for my kingdom, for it is my desire that you always radiate the good health of my kingdom.

Yes, I do! But health is possible only through obedience to my health principles! Disease results from violating those principles. It is meant to encourage you to learn my wisdom.

Good. Here is wisdom! I have a perfect diet for man, as I do for each of my creatures. Those that do not eat my perfect diet, weaken, suffer, and die at an early age; that is disease. If you hear me and are careful to do all that I say, I will keep you from all disease.

But I am lord of the differences just as I am of the circumstances. Therefore my perfect diet for mankind makes provision for all. Ready?

Nutrition is essential for life. In your spirit, feed continually on my living word; all else is poison. For your body, feed two or three times daily (except for your weekly time of fasting) on fruits, grains, and seeds, alternated with meals of vegetables, herbs, grains, and nuts. Minimize cooking; fresh, raw, simple meals are best! Better yet, learn to sprout the grains and seeds, as the young sprouts are the most nutritious. If a mother obeys me on this, her infant will flourish on only mother's milk, which is my perfect diet for babies.

I allowed clean animals to be killed and eaten during the age of sin, to illustrate the tragedy of futility to which I subjected my creation. In my kingdom it is not so, for animals are your friends, obedient to my authority in you. Animal products such as milk, cheese, and eggs will not harm a healthy person if used moderately, but are not part of my perfect diet. Eat a few nuts now and then, and perhaps some fish; you will get plenty of protein!

Fruit sweeteners are a poor but acceptable substitute for fresh fruit; honey is better, but only in moderation. Refined sugar is poison.

Refined sugar is poison?

Thank you, Lord; I heed your warning. What about spices, condiments, and commercially processed foods? And should I add vitamin and mineral supplements to my diet?

Thank you, Lord! Is that about it?

That sounds good! So to start my day, I wake up with my stretching and bouncing exercises and with several glasses of warm water to flush out my digestive system. Then, after a half hour or so of feasting on your living word and enjoying communion with you, I'll be ready for breakfast.

I gladly receive your instruction, O my Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for your Holy Spirit in me, giving me the will and the power to do all that you have shown me. I know that my sinful appetites are dead and buried with you – now all my remaining appetites I joyfully commit to your lordship. I notice that your perfect diet spells out **NEW START!** I joyfully start anew, and from this day forth, I walk with you in your kingdom and in your wisdom of perfect health.

Yes. It is a toxic, addictive drug, not a food.

Natural salts and herbal spices may be good, but minimize refined products and processed foods. Food supplements may be good for now, especially to recover from disease; I allow you to continue taking them for a time until my earth is thoroughly cleansed and the land is healed, so that it brings forth once again from its full strength. For example, vitamin C and calcium-magnesium supplements may be needed daily. But supplements can be avoided by the regular addition of fresh vegetable juice (like carrot and celery) to the diet.

Nutrition is but one part of my perfect diet. Exercise is just as important! Daily bouncing, stretching, fast walking, and deep breathing are needed to maintain your physical health. So is hard physical work or vigorous aerobic exercises which increase your heart rate and respiration for at least 15 minutes, 2 or 3 times a week. Don't forget to drink plenty of pure Water in between meals. Distilled, de-ionized, or well water at about 90 to 110° F is best; chemically treated water is not pure, and ice cold or boiling water is a shock to the system.

Sunshine is also important. Get out in it daily when I give you opportunity. It will not hurt your skin if you eat no animal fats. But use Temperance in this and all things; abstain from evil and be moderate on what is good. Air is essential. Each cell in your body must have a constant supply of oxygen to survive. Especially at night, even in winter, keep your window open a crack for my fresh, pure air! Rest is essential, too. Sleep refreshes the body; the weekly Sabbath rest renews the body, soul, and spirit; and your times of rest in fasting and special communion with me restores your whole being into what I created you to be! Trust only me. Obey me in all things. I gave you a physical picture of a spiritual principle. My perfect diet is my lordship, my direction and control, over your spiritual, emotional, and physical appetites, that we may walk in my kingdom together, free from all disease.

O Lord Jesus, I come into your presence, weary from a heavy load of responsibilities and concerns. I long to be rid of this physical body, so that I may dwell forever with you in your wonderful heavens.

Yes, Lord! I used to feel that my physical body was just for my temporary training, testing, and preparation to make me fit for heaven. Do you have other purposes for it here on earth?

You want a physical body? And here I was wanting to get rid of it!

Lord, how can you enjoy my physical body?

But I thought that was just to be a spiritual “wedding” to take place only when we got to heaven. What does that have to do with the physical body?

Forever, Lord? I thought this physical body was to pass away!

Yes, my son, come and rest all your earthly cares and burdens here with me, for I have borne them all, and I understand. Allow me now to open the eyes of your heart to the real purposes for which I have created your body.

Your goal is not just heaven; it is oneness with me! I have many purposes for you here on earth, but the highest is that your soul may be filled with my spirit, so that my life may live in your physical body. Look at the physical realm from my point of view; my deepest desire is to have a body in which to live.

I eagerly welcome you into my presence, whenever you are willing to come. In truth, you are my temple, my dwelling place, and my greatest joy is to fill my temple with my glory. You only wanted to be rid of it because you have spent so much time apart from me. If you will dwell continually with me and allow my life to fill you totally, I will heal, strengthen, cleanse, and perfect your physical body. Then you will begin to enjoy it as much as I do!

Like a fish enjoys the water, or a bird enjoys the air! You are for me, and I am for you, for I created you to fit me perfectly. Just as the husband and the wife are one flesh, perfectly suitable for each other, so are we, for that is my design. You have no idea how I long for my wedding day with you, my bride!

You are in heaven if you are in my presence. Our wedding is in spirit, for I am spirit, but it is also in the physical realm, for your body is physical. Our wedding is a marriage of spirit with physical, so that I forever have a perfect physical body through which to live my life.

Forever means for all time; it does not imply eternity. Your physical body, as well as all creation, will change as you enter my kingdom age. You will experience no sorrow, aging, or suffering. Many things will change, including undue burdens to care for and provide for the physical needs of the body. Yes, throughout all the ages I shall delight in my physical body!

When will the physical body pass away?

When my body is fully mature in all of my nature and character, wisdom and ways, then you will have fully experienced all that there is to experience (that is, all of me). Then time itself will draw to a close, for you will have entered fully into my eternity. Then all things physical will have served their purpose and be no longer needed. But do not be concerned of that, for it is yet sweet ages of ages away.

You speak of these ages as if they are something that you will enjoy. Can you, a dweller in eternity, enjoy time and the physical realm?

Yes, I sure do! I enjoy guiding the maturing process of all my creatures, especially my sons. I enjoy working out my Plan of the Ages down to the tiniest detail, even in and through those whose intent it is to thwart my plan. But best of all, I enjoy living my life in and through my own precious sons – you, my firstfruits of this age, out of my vast harvest that I have reserved for myself during ages to come.

Could you describe a little of how you enjoy living in your sons?

I enjoy tasting the good healthy foods which you eat, for I have no body to feed other than yours. I enjoy seeing my beauty in creation through your eyes. I enjoy a good night's rest in you as you accept my gift of sleep, for as spirit I cannot sleep. I enjoy a loving touch, a hug, a kiss, a caring embrace, and the joyful physical union of husband and wife, for as spirit I cannot touch or feel as you. I enjoy the encouraging communications between my saints, for that is my mind maturing in you.

But, Lord Jesus, what about the physical body you took on when you came to earth to be born of Mary in Bethlehem?

I am far bigger than that! Do you really think that one member could contain all of me? My first earthly body was assigned the mission to defeat evil and death and redeem my precious ones. I had little time then to enjoy the body I was creating for myself. But now my sacrifice has borne fruit, and my body has grown from one member to many, so I can begin to really enjoy this life that I have chosen to live in and through you. Just think of my first physical body as “conception” – the first living cell of my perfect body. Now, my body has come to “birth” and is beginning to grow and mature. In the ages to come, I rule over all creation through my physical body until all things are subjected unto me, so that I am all in all.

Praise you, O my Lord Jesus Christ! How awesome to consider that I am a member of your perfect body, and that you enjoy your life in me! Thank you for this lesson, Lord! I will be much more careful to keep this temple holy now that I realize how much you enjoy dwelling here in me and living through me. Truly, it is my joy and delight that you take delight in me, for now I see that this is why I was created. Here I am, Lord; I offer myself as a living sacrifice – I gladly sacrifice the old selfish life, for your life to be *all in me*.

Good morning, my Lord Jesus! What a joy it is to come into your presence and learn from you! I've been impressed recently by your spirit from Psalm 119 about loving your law. Will you please teach me how to do that?

How is your nature and character revealed in your law?

Well, I think I know what your law is, Lord. Isn't it the Ten Commandments, summarized by the two great commandments to "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love thy neighbor as thyself"?

I humbly bow in worship, my Lord. I limited you by my own limited understanding. Truly you are a much bigger God than I can ever comprehend. Please, expand my heart and my vision so I can love you in your law.

That's easy. I know you are love; I reflect your nature back to you by loving you with my whole being, and I display your character to others by loving them as much as myself.

Wow! No, I hadn't noticed! So that is how your nature and character are revealed within your law! Now I understand why you were willing to bear my sin and suffer and die for me! What fantastic love you are! Oh, fill me with your love; fill me with all of yourself!

Yes, gladly, my son. And welcome into my presence! King David loved my law because he loved me. In my law, he recognized my nature and character, and he expressed his love for me through his love for my law. David also worshipped me when he obeyed my law from his heart. Thus, he was a man after my own heart, and so are you as you do the same.

Perhaps you first should ask the question, "What is my law?"

That's a good start, but my law is much bigger than that. What about the laws which change from age to age: my dietary, ceremonial, and civil laws? What about my unchanging laws, my natural law upon which I founded the universe, my spiritual law which governs my heavens, and my law of physical-to-spiritual relationships? What about the many writings I've inspired, including those yet to be written, and my living word, my spirit's revelation to your heart? In all these and more, I reveal my nature and character. I am the God of law and order throughout every realm of my universe.

Do not be anxious, for I am doing that now and will continue for much time to come. Let's start with my moral law, summarized as you said by my two greatest commandments. What do you think those two reveal about me?

Right. Did you notice in that statement of yours that my love is the sum total of every aspect of my whole being, and that I love you even as much as I love myself?

You are being filled! Your love of my law is your love of me, for my law is my expression of myself to you. Many who do not know me are under forced obligation to obey my law, but they cannot, for they do not see me in it; therefore they can only be slaves to sin and death until I choose to set them free. But I reveal myself to you within my law and fill you with my love. My love gives you power to obey perfectly from your heart everything I have set before you, and thus my law is fulfilled in you.

Your law fulfilled in me? Wow! I've even had trouble keeping the Ten Commandments.

But Lord, what about when I was angry with my brother recently? Isn't that breaking your commandment to not murder, as you said in Matthew 5:21 and 22?

Thank you, my Lord and my God! I do reckon my past dead and buried with you at Golgotha – forgiven and forgotten. You are indeed my life, from this moment on. I delight in seeing your righteousness work through even this humble vessel. I sense that that is the gospel of the kingdom in a nutshell.

That you are the only real God, and that you are our loving heavenly Father. You want to be close to us and to guide and protect us from being misled by the claims of false gods.

I may not make idols for myself, nor worship them, for you are a jealous God, allowing no rivals to your lordship anywhere in my life. Uh... Is that really the second one, or is it part of the first? Doesn't that have about the same meaning as the first commandment?

Thank you for keeping my affections fixed on you, that I not be led astray by placing any value at all upon the things of this physical life, or even seeking for security from them.

Thank you, Lord. I dare not be careless about what you have so carefully provided. I do appreciate your character of carefulness!

In yourself you cannot keep them. But I in you keep them perfectly, now and always.

You must have repented and been forgiven, for I remember no such incident. I do not live in the past, my son. Neither should you. Don't make provision for the flesh by looking to the past as your standard. I am your life! Simply reckon the past dead, buried with me. Live my perfect righteous life moment by moment.

No, but it is entering into my kingdom, in a nutshell. [Laughing] Frankly, this gospel of the kingdom is too big to fit into a nutshell! Let's look next into my Ten Commandments, and how they reveal my nature and character. What does the **first** one, "You shall have no other gods before me," reveal about me?

Very good. It also demonstrates my power and authority over all false gods, as I keep this commandment in you, my precious son. What about the **second** commandment?

Not at all. Those who combine the first two commandments are doing me great injustice. There are false gods, though I have defeated them. But idols are pure deception: physical things which the false gods use to manipulate and tempt those who walk by sight and not by faith. I am spirit. You who walk by faith in me, live by the spirit and do not cast your worship or adoration down into the fleshly realm. This second commandment differentiates between the sinner and the saint. My saints are one with me in vision and purpose; sinners still place part of their affections on earthly things.

Careful, my son! It is good that you find your security only in me. But I do value physical things, as they are of use to me in my kingdom to be a blessing to my precious ones. You are a good steward of my physical things when my values become your values.

When my carefulness is seen in each thing I have created, sinners make idols, but my saints recognize my glory and worship me.

What about the **third** commandment, Lord?
“Don’t use your name irreverently or vainly.”
What does that reveal about your nature and
character?

Thank you, my Lord. I do open up my heart to
learn of you through your many names...
What about your **fourth** commandment? How
does “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it
holy” reveal your nature and character?

Does this have anything to do with the passage
in Hebrews 4 which says, “...there remains
therefore a Sabbath Rest for the people of
God.”? I always thought that referred to the
future Millennium. Is that coming soon?

That is a lot to digest, Lord! But I receive it
gladly and trust that you will bring it to pass
through my life in you...
How about the **fifth** commandment, which is
to “Honor my father and mother”?

Thank you, Lord, for your precious gift of
earthly parents, to teach me how to relate to
you. I realize they are imperfect, so I trust you
in this, and I thank you for being faithful to
not let them lead me astray.

All life, Lord? I thought that just talked about
human life. Some translations render this,
“You shall not murder.”

I have many names. As you use each one, I
establish my relationship to you based on your
understanding and use of that special name.
Those who use my names lightly cannot have
anything but superficial relationships with me.
As you learn of me through my names, you
become like me, for you also bear my name.

I worked diligently for six days and rested the
seventh. I therefore set up the seventh day as a
perpetual memorial of my completed works.
You have worked for six thousand years, and it
has been but vanity and futility. Remember
now my Sabbath! Turn aside from your own
pleasure and laziness. Be diligent to do my
pleasure on my holy day. Thus I restore the
communion I had with Adam before the Fall!

Yes, it is time for you to enter my Sabbath Rest
– to rule for a thousand years with me in my
kingdom. You enter my kingdom through my
Sabbaths! When you recognize my sovereignty
in my works completed during the six days of
creation, you accept my authority as king and
find rest in doing only my completed works.

I am Father; I am Mother. Your relationship to
me and the blessings you receive from that
relationship depend partly on how you relate
to your earthly father and mother. I gave you
parents in place of me when you were young.
They should point you to me. Honor me
through them, and I reward you with long life
and prosperity, for I lead you, give you
wisdom, and bless you even through them.

I am glad you appreciate my faithfulness. The
sixth commandment is “You shall not kill.”
When you recognize me as the source of all
life, you joyfully participate with me in setting
all my creation free from the bondage of sin
and the futility of suffering and death.

Human life is most precious, but animals and
birds were created to be your friends. Plant life
was created for food. Insect and germ life was
created to assist healthy life and to cleanse the
land of disease. Respect my purposes in all life.

Thank you, Lord. I will respect all forms of life much more now that I know why you created them. I reverence you as the author of life as I perceive your glory within each living thing... Are we ready for the **seventh** commandment, which prohibits adultery? Does "adultery" here also include pre-marital sex and other forms of sexual immorality and perversions?

Yes, my Lord! I, too, long for you, that I may see you face to face even with my physical eyes and ever be with you in your glory! For now, I choose to show my love for you by always being faithful and loving toward my wife, so the world may see your love and goodness in our relationship.

Thank you for helping me bear responsibility properly. Please grant me your wisdom in my stewardship of the property you assign me... The **ninth** commandment relates to lying, especially when it is against my neighbor.

Wow! Thank you, Lord! I didn't realize that lying was such an abomination to you! Holy Spirit, please guard my tongue so that no lie ever slips out of this mouth! Also, please guard my mind so that I am never guilty of believing or living a lie.

Yes, Lord, in knowing you, I am content. I feel full, like I've had a feast of learning about you through your law! And this is just a summary of your moral law! How much more is in your dietary, civil, ceremonial, natural, psychic, and spiritual laws? I have much yet to learn.

Yes indeed! I will not share you with other lovers! I made you for me. I also am for you. I created the bonds between a husband and his wife to show you how closely I bond with you, my precious one, in this our ever deepening love relationship. I long for the consummation of our oneness, that I may enjoy you and you may enjoy me throughout the ages of ages.

The **eighth** commandment prohibits stealing. But deeper than that, it reveals my absolute ownership of all things and encourages you to wise stewardship of all that I entrust to you. You are not tempted to steal anything that I have entrusted to others when you recognize the responsibility I require of my stewards!

Lying is always against your neighbor, for any lie is against me and all my precious ones. I am truth, my son. My word is truth. My law is truth. My nature and character are truth. I hate lies! No liar has any part in me. You, my son, are an expression of my truth to my world. I allow no lies to mar the display of my glory to my creation! The devil has done his best to bring lies and perversion of all kinds into my world, but he has failed, and his perversions are now wearing thin. Now is time for my sons to stand boldly in my truth, that all creation may see the lie exposed for what it is.

I will, my son, for it is my joy and delight to bring forth my truth through you. "You shall not covet" is the **tenth** commandment. Sinners frantically seek physical things to give them comfort, security, or happiness, never realizing that only I can fill that void. You, my saints, don't covet because you really trust me! You know that I meet your needs, satisfy your longings, and fill your lives with happiness and joy. You are perfectly content in all things.

All of my principles for life, health, peace, joy, and relationships are contained within my law. Trust me, love me, and obey me carefully in all that I show you in my law, and together we will ride upon the glorious heights of blessings as I reveal my wisdom.

O my Lord Jesus Christ, I have come into your presence to bow and humble myself, that I may be your bondservant now and always. I throw myself at your feet and ask you how I may serve you. My debt of gratitude and love is greater than I can ever pay.

Thank you, Lord! How awesome to be called your son! Should I call you Father?

Please teach me about your names, that I may better understand our relationship. I usually pray to you as Father, call you Lord during my prayer, and then close, "...in the name of Jesus," but I've never really understood why.

Truly, you are the Lord Jesus Christ! How lovely is that name! Thank you for so greatly deepening our relationship by revealing more of the meaning behind your name. I begin to see why your name, "The Lord Jesus Christ," (or, in Hebrew, "Adonai, Yashua haMashiach") is the name above all names, highly exalted, the name at which every knee bows! I honor and worship your holy, wonderful, precious name as through it I catch a fresh vision of the awesome majesty of your power and wisdom, the glorious beauty and perfection of your nature and character, and the all-embracing immensity of your infinite goodness and love for your creation, all revealed within that one all-inclusive name: "The Lord Jesus Christ."

As you throw yourself down, I lift you up, my son! Servant you are, for all things serve me. But we have a deeper relationship than that, for a servant knows not what his master does. Now I call you my son, for I teach you as a father. Also, I am not ashamed to call you my brother, son of our Father. In my kingdom, our oneness exceeds human brotherhood!

You may if you wish, for one of my names is **Eternal Father**. For many activities (such as intercessory prayer) that is appropriate. My many names help you relate to various aspects of my manifold nature. Names are significant. Whenever you call on me, the name you use helps determine our relationship at the time.

I am **the Lord**. I am the Eternal Father, as well as the Creator, Master, and Sustainer of all my creation. There is only one God, and I am one. All flows from me and returns to me. I am **The Lord**, Lord of lords, King of kings. My power and majesty are revealed in my name **Lord**. As you use that name, relate to me in meekness, humility, awe, reverence, teachableness, holy fear, and worship, as my servant / son.

I am **Jesus**. I am the Savior, the son of man, God with man, God become man. I broke down the wall of separation between God and man and brought peace, delivering you from the power of sin to restore you into intimate fellowship with myself. My great love, mercy, grace, and righteousness are revealed in my name Jesus; as you use that name, relate to me in love, thankfulness, and joy as my brother.

I am **Christ**, the Messiah, who is and is to come. In me is fulfilled all prophetic promises. I am your servant / friend; I serve my brothers through you. I am your strength, your health, your encouragement, for I am the Holy Spirit, the healer, the comforter. I am your wisdom and your truth, for I guide you into all truth. When you use my name Christ, relate to me as "I Am," your ever-present provider. Forever I dwell within you and shine with the glory of my nature and character in loving service to all creation through you. **I Am** your love, your joy, your peace, your life, your all in all.

My beloved Lord Jesus Christ, my heart is bursting and overflowing with joy as I come into your presence! What pure delight fills my soul as I bow before you to learn of you!

Yes, my Lord. I was hoping you would!

I think so, Lord. Happiness on earth is the state of being content with what I have and where I am, and not being anxious about the future. Pleasure is the feeling I receive when I become aware that I am happy, especially as it is focused on one thing in particular that I'm doing or that I am or have.

Well, I've always assumed that joy is an overabundance of happiness and pleasure, with perhaps some peace and love and beauty and grace, all rolled into one.

But do you allow unbelievers to taste of your joy at times to lead them to repentance, like you do with your goodness and love?

So happiness and pleasure can never be perfect or complete without your joy?

I thank and praise you, O Lord Jesus Christ my Creator, my joy and delight! I do receive your gift of fullness of joy, together with your promise that I will never be empty again! Teach me ways to express your joy to others, that they too may discover their created purpose and receive their fulfillment in you!

[Laughing] My heart is also filled with joy, joy unbounded in the relationship growing between us, for your joy is but a reflection of my own. May I teach you about my joy?

Let's compare it with happiness and pleasure. They are easy to understand, for both have human equivalents. Can you explain them?

Very good! It pleases me that you avoided the worldly perversions which some attach to those words. Notice that your mind is being cleansed to think purely, even when using words such as 'pleasure', which the world perverted and claimed for its own. Now, can you tell me where joy fits into all this?

Close. But there is a difference. There is no human equivalent of joy, for it is mine and mine alone. The most happy person, with the greatest of this world's pleasures, cannot taste my joy without tasting of me, for just as I am love, and I am peace, so also I am joy.

Seldom, my son. Sinners can experience true happiness and pleasure by my grace, but deep down they have that nagging emptiness which makes it all incomplete and unfulfilling until completed with my joy. I usually reserve their first taste of my joy, true joy, for that moment when they open up their hearts to receive my love. What joy we and all the angels share then! My love, goodness, and mercy leads the sinner to repentance – to salvation – but my joy draws the new believer into my presence, to become his continual dwelling place.

That is true. You know that indulgently racing after the world's empty pleasures can never bring true fulfillment. Hear carefully now my definition of joy. Joy is my gift to your heart, enabling you to adequately respond to me as I reveal to you the purposes for which I created you, and as I grant you the power to begin accomplishing those purposes. Thus, my joy has fulfillment built into it. It can never be empty, but always overflowing with life. Here, take my gift of joy. Never be empty again!

Jesus my Lord, you've blessed me so much, you've given me so much, done so much for me, proved yourself over and over in my life, and you know that I trust you and love you, and that I really do believe you. I almost feel silly asking this question, but, do you mind?

Well, that's just it, Lord! What is faith? Do I have it, or do I just think I have it? And if I really have true faith, why am I sometimes still tempted to doubt, or fear, or be anxious?

Yes, thank you, I am reminded of the lesson on sin. But what does fearing you have to do with faith, and what did you mean when you said you answer according to *my* faith, and yet you will teach me to know *your* faith?

Yes, Lord Jesus! I have; I do! With every fiber of my being, I have dedicated my will to total submission to you. I command my self-nature to lie buried with you at Golgotha. I demand all that is left of me to submit to your lordship that I may fear you in the right way – for I know (from Prov 9:10) that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Then I can learn of you and learn to do your will.

It sounds like my faith is not worth much until it is united with yours.

Wow! So that must be the peaceable fruit of righteousness, born by the marriage of our faith-dedication to your faith-action.

Ask, my son. I know the deep troublings and wrestlings within your heart better than you! It honors me that you should open your heart to me and receive the ministry of my peace. I only require that you ask in faith, nothing doubting; for I answer according to your faith.

Remember the lesson on sin? Temptations are not sin; they are tests to strengthen your faith. Fear them not, but rather fear only me, and I will teach you to know my faith.

Review again the lesson on sin! You are still regarding sin as the opposite of righteousness, but it is not. Sin is the opposite of faith! Sin results in sins, just as faith results in righteous deeds. Sin is self-rule in ignorance or rebellion against me, which is idolatry. Your faith is willfully putting that self-nature to death and humbling yourself to submit to my lordship. Then you fear me, learn of me, and do my will.

Good! That is your only correct response to the awakening call of my spirit of faith. My response to that choice of your will is to give you my gift of faith, which is very different from your faith. Human faith is often a blind choice, a decision or set of the will to submit to someone whom you cannot see, hear, taste, smell, or touch. But my gift of faith provides substance to that blind choice and enables you to actually do acts of righteousness.

Nor is mine worth much to you until united with yours. This is a relationship, my son! I can work mighty miracles in a person's life to give him faith, but until he takes that step of simple human faith to set his will to mine, it will avail nothing. Much of what I do on the earth is done to kindle a spark of faith in my precious ones! I long to find even the tiniest seed of faith, so that I may nurture it, multiply it, and combine it with my gift of faith. Then it can bring forth fruit on the earth!

Yes indeed! And this combined faith is the most powerful force on earth, for in our faith relationship nothing can be denied.

Is that why you said that even faith as small as a mustard seed will move mountains?

Well, Lord, I think I do understand, because I've been there! I used to think that faith was pushing away all my doubts and forcing myself to believe. It never occurred to me that faith was simply setting my will to submit to your lordship and let my self-nature die!

What happens to them, my Lord? They try so hard! They wrestle with their doubts and fears and agonize over their unbelief! They pray and struggle to believe and wonder why there is no spiritual power in their lives. Why? What can you do for them? Can't you reach down and take them as far as they've come and give them your gift of faith?

Oh, my Lord Jesus Christ! I must admit I am appalled, horrified! All of a sudden, I caught a glimpse of what the occult is: it is those who have a spiritual gift of faith from satan, united with their dedication to the self-nature! It does result in spiritual power, but it is evil power directed against your kingdom. Your own law, working against you...

You don't sound very horrified, Lord! Isn't that just terrible the way people unwittingly join the occult by failing to deny self in their quest for faith...

Yes, Lord! Your gift of faith is my way of life. I treasure it in my heart. Thank you for planting it there – for enabling me to do your will, for such is my joy and delight.

When my dedication to do your will (whether I understand it or not) unites with your authority, guidance, wisdom, and power to do your will, I am walking by faith. Isn't that it?

Yes, but be careful! Many have spent a lot of time and effort working up a counterfeit faith and quoting that verse to try to twist my arm to accomplish their own will. Tell me if you understand: what do they think faith is?

Now understand, my son, why that counterfeit faith cannot work. You could spend a lifetime pushing away the doubts and forcing yourself to "believe," and all you would end up with is a lifetime of "good" works, worth no more than filthy rags to me. Sadly, many are there.

No, my son. I can do nothing. Until I see that spark of real faith which acknowledges that my ways are higher than your ways and desires to turn away from the self-nature and submit to my will, I cannot give them my gift of faith. To do so would empower their self-nature to rise up a spiritual force against my kingdom. My law works, even when used against me.

That is correct; that is why I withhold my gift of faith until I see a willingness to forsake that self-will. I would rather have my precious one wrestle with doubts and unbelief and die in spiritual poverty, yet be humble and repentant, than have him lift himself up in the pride of a counterfeit faith to a life of spiritual power in active opposition to my will.

No, my son. I am not a man, that I should be troubled by them. At the right time, they will learn the error of their ways. But instead, I delight in those few who do reach up with the simple faith of self-denial to accept my gift of faith as their way of life. They may not seem great in the world's eyes, but they are to me, and they do mighty exploits for my kingdom!

You're welcome, my son. Now, try to explain back to me how my gift of faith really works. I have given you clues. Can you put it together?

Close, but more than that. You receive my gift of faith when I open up your heart to sense the guidance of my Holy Spirit. Only in union with me are you empowered to do my will.

Oh, my Lord Jesus, I have come to throw myself at your feet and cry before you. My body aches and throbs with sickness. Please teach me why you allow suffering.

I love to come to you, Lord, for I know that you are my strength and my healer. I thank you for my suffering, Lord, for I know that you are teaching me your wisdom through it. But my pain reminds me of many millions of innocent people, even children and babies, who live and die in constant pain and sorrow, who have never heard of you, and thus have no one to turn to in their suffering.

But Lord, that doesn't sound fair! If they are really innocent because they are free only to obey their sin nature, why must they suffer so? Can't you quicken them all to receive your grace, to deliver them from their misery?

No, my Lord. You are right. Thank you for being willing to suffer and die, so that I may be redeemed from the power of sin and brought into your kingdom of righteousness.

I'm very sorry that I judged you unfair, Lord. I was not aware that you identified so closely with us in our sufferings! But all the more, why have you continued to allow mankind's bondage to our inherited sin nature and the suffering and death that results?

Thank you, Lord, for your infinite love and wondrous sovereignty over all your creation! Thank you for motivation through suffering, that we may learn your wisdom, share your nature, and walk with you into the freedom from suffering accompanying your perfection. I am excited to hear you say "until now"! I sense your eagerness to cast death and hell into the lake of fire and put a final end to pain. So for the joy you've set before me, I willingly submit to the discipline of suffering.

My beloved child, I am glad that you have come! Some harden their hearts against me in their troubles, but I delight in the meek, who come to learn of me through their suffering.

Your question reveals an ignorance of the meaning of innocence. All are guilty before the law, for all sinned in Adam and are born in rebellion against me. Adam's sons have all inherited his sin nature, thus all instinctively live to serve self from the moment they are conceived. Yet all are innocent, for they have no choice but to act according to their nature. They are completely dead to my righteous ways and cannot understand or accept anything from me unless I change their nature.

"Fair" is my enemy! It judges me according to human standards and with limited human understanding. Tell me, is it fair that I, who never had a sin nature and never yielded to temptation, should suffer more than they all?

You speak of suffering past. Do you know the depth of suffering I bear daily with each of my precious ones? All of humanity is in my heart. I experience each happiness or sorrow, each pleasure or pain, and each agony of soul.

Before Adam, sin existed, but my creation did not know that its fruit is suffering and death. I gave satan my permission to tempt Adam, I allowed Adam's first sin, I subjected creation to futility, and I allowed sin, suffering, and death to continue until now for three reasons. First, so that all creation would witness the awfulness of sin as it matures and bears its fruit of suffering and death to us all – in direct comparison to the goodness of my ways – so that none of my creatures throughout all the ages of time would ever again be tempted to turn from the righteousness of my ways. Second, to demonstrate my infinite love by giving of myself to fulfill the law's demands and redeem all my creation back unto myself. And third, to purify an eternal body for myself, made of many members unified and matured through suffering into my nature.

O my Father, I come gratefully but sadly into your presence. I have been bowed down with cares for the lost and dying in this present world – for the many multitudes who don't know you or who have hardened their hearts against you and who are heading for eternal torment and separation from you.

Yes, Lord. But then, what happens to those who live a life of sin and who despise your salvation? Or worse yet, what about those who live their entire lives in sin and have never even heard the gospel? Or who die in infancy?

I'm sure you do find a way to reach the infant or the one who never heard the gospel, but...

I do remember you saying that you love even your enemies, such as satan and those who follow him. But what about those passages like Revelation 14:11 which say that they will be tormented day and night forever and ever?

How should those passages be translated? Should there be no fear of hell? I remember reading about revivals in the camp meetings in early America where multitudes came into your kingdom by fear of hell. Some preachers in those days didn't preach much but hellfire and damnation! Were they wrong? And how else would all those people have been reached for your kingdom?

Yes, my Lord Jesus Christ! I thank you for your perfect justice and holiness, for your great grace, mercy and love, and especially for your wonderful salvation from the sin and fear that was in my life. Please, now, share with me your love so that I do share this good news with those around me who are still bound in sin and fear. Teach me how to point them to you, for you alone are the Savior.

Welcome, my son. That is indeed a heavy burden, but it is not from me, for my burden of love for my precious ones is easy and light and is always a joy to bear. Cast those cares upon me, and learn of me. You mentioned eternal torment; do you remember our lesson on love? I am love, even to my enemies!

I am *one*. My justice and love do not contend within me! Even my justice is love. Though my judgment is a fearful thing for those who must suffer under it, you must not fear for them, for I shall yet bring them to myself.

My son, I am the way. There is no other way but by me. All, even the infant, must hear the gospel and believe it in their hearts to receive my salvation and enter my eternal life. Those lost in this age shall hear the gospel in ages to come, for I will preach it to them through you.

That is wrongly translated from my word by those who use manipulation or fear to try to drive souls into their own kingdoms for their own glory. No one comes into my kingdom except by love, and love delivers from fear.

The correct translation is that throughout the ages, rebels are tormented until their hardness of heart is burned up and they see the terrible fruit of wickedness. All must learn obedience through suffering, but any who reject wisdom must also learn of me through judgment. It is better to preach the fear of me than fear of judgment, though those who face it do fear, and I do use that fear. But it is best to preach love for wisdom learned through discipline. Many have been held in bondage in kingdoms of men by fear of death and torment, resulting in heavy burdens, labor, and futility. Sin does result in punishment, but fear only binds; it cannot deliver. When I give you my burden for the lost, pray for them and trust me with them. When I bring them to you, preach the truth in love, and point them to me. Whether through hardness of heart with torment, or through meekness with gentle discipline, I ultimately save all creation from both sin and fear!

Lord, I remember you saying in the lesson on judgement that justice and discipline are for all, but judgement is because of sin for those whose hearts are hard. That doesn't seem to correlate with what I read in the Scriptures about all the suffering the apostle Paul had to endure. What about that passage in 1 Peter 4:12-19? It implies that every Christian must go through fiery trials for our testing, and we learn to rejoice as we share in your sufferings. Then it says that it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God! That seems to be inconsistent with what you told me.

Do you mean that the apostle Paul and other saints who have suffered so much in the past, had hard hearts and needed your corrective judgments?

Oh. I see. You're right, my heart was pretty hard until you changed me. I still seem to be going through a lot of discipline, testing, and trials. It seems like your fire is never through!

I'm sorry, Lord. Please, continue to change me until none of that hard-heartedness remains. I was thinking it was gone already, but you're right, I sure have not yet fully entered your kingdom or matured into your perfection! Does that mean that when I have fully entered into your kingdom, your fire ceases to hurt?

Oh, Lord, I am longing to enter fully into your kingdom. Please share with me what it is like to walk with you, even in the midst of your consuming fire, in the fullness of your love, joy, and peace, without any anxiousness, fear, sorrow, or despair. I receive your discipline with thanksgiving, for I see before me your vision of the glory of your Sabbath Rest.

Yes, judgment did begin with my precious chosen ones, my firstfruits of my kingdom. My apostles, prophets, and saints of ages past have suffered sorrow, pain, trial, and testing beyond your comprehension as they began to fill up what was lacking in my body's afflictions. The pain and travail of bringing my body to birth was great. You, my sons, are actually my own physical body, brought to birth to join me in my kingdom. Judgement began with you, because no hardness of heart is able to enter into my kingdom! Judgment was my loving gift to burn up all your hardness of heart, so that you gladly receive the discipline of sons.

Yes, my son. All of them – and you as well – started with judgment. My consuming fire is always judgment to those who react against it. It becomes loving discipline when they learn to appreciate it. Paul did learn to appreciate it, but he never fully entered into my kingdom. His faith looked forward to you entering it.

I AM consuming fire! I never stop burning within my precious ones. But my fire is love! It only hurts those aspects of you that have not yet entered or matured into my perfection.

Oh, my son. Are you so eager for the wrong things? Love my discipline! Ask for it! Seek after it diligently! Let it burn, and let it hurt! There are many fiery trials necessary for the discipline of my sons to enter my kingdom. Do not try to get around them, but rather learn my wisdom, patience, endurance, joyfulness, thankfulness, and faithfulness through my discipline. You learn to display my victory to my creation by overcoming all the power of sin through the power of my righteousness. Do not be anxious; it is over soon enough.

The time has come! Judgment, then discipline, then testing, and now my righteousness begins shining in my sons, reconciling all of creation to my eternal life and purpose. From this time forth I bring my kingdom into the open for every eye to see, and I display to the world my righteousness in the sons of my perfection.

Lord Jesus, I come into your presence to sit at your feet and learn from you. Would you please tell me more about entering into your kingdom and dwelling with you there?

Yes, Lord. You said that you would send the baptism of fire to burn up my old nature so that I could walk in your righteousness.

I do remember some times of suffering, but as I recall, my attitudes were not very good at the time. In fact, I remember a few pretty rotten attitudes...

Yes, Lord Jesus. I have no more doubt at all. I have tasted too much of your goodness and love, known too much of your mercy and grace, and seen too much of your glory and power to ever turn away from you again.

You mean the baptism of fire? Why do I need to learn more of it? You just said that I've entered your kingdom. So isn't it past now?

Okay, Lord. But I suspect I already know the answer from what you just said. Now that I think of it, in your lesson on discipline you said that you are the consuming fire, and of course you will never change. You will always be the unquenchable, consuming fire. [Sigh...] From my limited perspective it seems like there is never an end to the fire...

Wow! That means the fire is over, right?

Oh! I do love your fire, my Lord! I did not realize it was your glory! Burn brightly in me, so others may see your glory through me.

Welcome, my son! You have asked a very big question, but one which I love to answer for all who truly seek me. Do you remember our lesson on my righteousness?

Correct! Now, do you remember the times of trouble and pain you have had since then? What were your responses to those times?

But your attitudes have grown! Each time I sent the fire, you were better able to recognize it as my discipline and quicker to respond with gratefulness. Now, you no longer resist the fire, for I have worked in you my gift of faith. Your faith has grown, so you have no more doubt about my love and goodness for you.

That is right. You have entered my kingdom, and from now on, there is no turning back. I will teach you to dwell with me continually and walk in my perfect peace and fellowship. But first I would teach you a little of my fire.

[Laughing] You give yourself away! You can thank me for the fire, but you are so eager to be done with it! Let me tell you how the fire works, then you tell me if it is finished.

All fire is for discipline and instruction, but not all is for punishment. Before you received my grace, you were walking under the power of my law. You could not keep it, so my fire was punishment. This taught you to long for my mercy and grace. After receiving me, the law had no more power over you, so my fire became discipline to teach you to pursue my righteousness and testing to prove your faith. When your faith and hunger for righteousness became strong enough to ask for my baptism of fire, I sent that. The refining fire burned up your self-will and purified you. From now on, you will do my will. This is your choice. I honor it, for it is my choice for you as well.

Wrong! Only now you love my fire, for now you see it as the brightness of my glory, given to you that you may grow and shine with my wisdom, my ways, and my perfection!

O Lord Jesus, I come to you a little confused and frustrated after working all morning on that leaking roof. And this was supposed to be a day of rest! Will you please teach me how I can keep your Sabbath and enter into your Rest?

I don't despise your Sabbaths, my Lord! But I did not realize they were the key to entering into your kingdom. Now I am all the more eager to learn to keep your Sabbath day, for I love your kingdom and long to fully enter in. What really is the Sabbath?

I am trying to keep your Sabbath holy and not do any work in it, but the harder I try, the more burden it seems to become! It seems like you are deliberately allowing circumstances which force me to work on your Sabbath, just when I'm determined to really rest!

Does that mean you do want us to respond to emergencies and do works of love and mercy on the Sabbath? It seems from Luke 6 and 14 that you worked and healed on the Sabbath; you even told the Pharisees that it was right to help their animals out if they fell into a well on the Sabbath.

Welcome, my son! I joyfully teach you about my Sabbath, for in truth, keeping my Sabbath is the key to entering into my kingdom! The law says not only, "Don't do any work on the Sabbath," but also, "Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy." I did not create the Sabbath to be a restriction or heavy burden upon you, but rather to set you free from the every-day toil of making a living, so your soul and spirit can be refreshed and restored. It's like sleep restoring the body; if you despise my gift of sleep and work day and night, soon your body will fail you. So if you despise my Sabbaths, you are only hurting yourself, and your soul and spirit will slowly wither and die.

The Sabbath is a day of remembering – back to that first glorious Sabbath when there was no sin to cloud the perfection of my creation. Remember the beautiful garden I planted for you, the animals I gave you dominion over, the ground bringing forth joyfully of its strength for you. Remember your delight in walking with me by the water in the cool of the day. Remember my joy in looking over all that I had created, when I said, "Behold, it is very good!" Remember, Sabbath by Sabbath, and ponder, for as you are regularly reminded of the first Sabbath, you also catch the vision of the last Sabbath, my Rest I have prepared for you. That vision is very important, for you do not stumble into my kingdom by accident; you must want it enough to dedicate your heart to keep my Sabbath day holy.

You are correct, my son. Remember our lesson on peace? If I always gave you earthly peace you would never enter into my true peace. Just so, if I always gave you physical rest, you would never enter my Sabbath Rest.

I did not work on the Sabbath. I gave myself willingly and completely to my Father to accomplish his works through me. This was my joy and delight, a refreshing to my soul and spirit; it fed me, satisfied my thirst, and gave me strength for each day, not just on the Sabbath, but every day I spent on earth.

Oh, I see! That must be why Isaiah 58:3 tells me to turn away my feet from doing my own pleasure on your holy day. You want me to give up my own works and desires and do only what you set before me on your Sabbath.

The seventh day? But Lord, what about the first day of the week, Sunday? That is the day most of your sons have set aside for worship, rest, recreation, fellowship, and your work.

I have very much enjoyed your presence as I learned to seek your face on all days of the week, Lord. But now I thank you for teaching me to keep your seventh day, your Sabbath day, holy. I think I am beginning to understand how entering your Sabbath Rest fits in with what you said about your works already being finished. But... if your works are all complete, how can I do them?

Oh! I see! That is the word of reconciliation that you have given to us, as in 2 Corinthians 5:19. Thank you, Lord! I do choose to enter into your Sabbath Rest, that I may learn to speak your word of reconciliation with your power and authority. I have lived in the six days of labor for too long! I willingly give up doing my own pleasure, that I may do your pleasure on this your holy Sabbath day!

Yes! I gave you six days to do all your work. The result was futility, bondage, and despair. Now open your eyes to the seventh day, my Sabbath, my kingdom day! Watch me now, as I do my pleasure through my chosen sons!

I meet with them and refresh them on any day they choose to meet with me. I always honor every action done by my people in obedience to the faith in their own hearts. None of you has perfect wisdom, but I do not condemn; rather I bless those who walk, step by step, in the light they have been given so far. Yet there is an added blessing available for those who enter my Sabbath Rest. I sanctified the seventh day of creation in a special way, as a perpetual memorial of my finished works. I made it holy above all other days, and none can change that, for my works are complete. You may enjoy my presence and my blessing on any day you choose to seek my face, but only on each Sabbath day do you walk with me into my kingdom, to be one with me in all that I am and in all my finished works.

My Sabbath Rest is walking with me in my kingdom. My works are perfect, complete for all time. But to you they do not seem so, for in this physical space-time realm, your vision is limited. I allowed this so I could display my power and glory through the weakness of human flesh. I limited myself. I do nothing now apart from my human body. Through your prayers, prophetic words, and acts of faith, I bring all that I have done into the realm of physical reality, so all may see. This work is Rest! It is peace, joy, and total delight, for as you enter in with all your heart, you find the work is already complete, the victory already won, and all that remains is for you to speak the words of faith by my spirit in you, and creation is set free! To do my works on my Sabbath day, first tune your heart to mine and be filled with me and my love for my own. Then reach out in love to the hearts and lives of all my precious ones, and speak my living word in faith. Thus, through you, all things are reconciled to my original plan and purpose.

Hallelujah, I praise you, Lord Jesus Christ! Your wisdom, power, and majesty are shining brilliantly through your creation, and I bow to worship you and appreciate you in everything I see around me. Thank you for that lesson on your Sabbath Rest, for now I see you much more clearly through the fog of this physical realm. Even though there still seems to be a lot of pain, suffering, striving, and futility as satan rages all around, I certainly have a much better vision of your peace and your victory in it all. Thank you for explaining how your finished works, though completed in your realm, have yet to be fully manifested in ours. That makes me feel a lot better about all the trouble and woe I see around me. Sometimes it even seems like satan is winning! I eagerly look forward to his defeat.

Thank you, my Lord. I accept your invitation, for I long to enter into your Sabbath Rest and learn your ways and purposes. I long to be transformed, to partake of your divine nature. The burdens and cares of this daily life have become too much to bear, and I know that you have prepared something better for me.

What is your burden, Lord? I would love to help you bear it, especially if it is just an easy and joyful burden.

My son, to you satan appears to rage, and he is, for he knows his time is short. But to me, he is already defeated, and all his works are lies. Have no faith in his works, even when your physical senses tell you they are true. Believe my word only, and you will see that all of his works are lies built upon a foundation of lies, for he was a liar from the beginning, and is the father of it. You were conditioned by his lies more than you know. You believed all that you saw or felt without regard for my word. Now it is time for all things to be restored! I invite you, come now into my Sabbath Rest, where I cleanse you of all past conditionings, heal you, and teach you my ways. Many know my acts – they are proclaimed from church pulpits every Sunday. But few take the time to open up their hearts to me on my Sabbath, to learn of my ways and purposes, my nature, the thoughts and intentions of my heart, so that we may be one heart, one mind, one will, one purpose, one love, and one spirit of wisdom, righteousness, truth, compassion, and justice.

As you open up your heart to my Sabbath Rest, I teach you how to really rest! I know that you have earthly burdens and concerns. Now I show you a way to partake of my life, my unlimited wisdom, power and authority, to carry your burdens. Put them all aside for a day while I teach you to be what you were created to be. They do not get worse waiting for one day, and you are refreshed and better able to carry them again when the day is over, for it is not you but my strength in you that takes up those burdens again, for I bear them in you. In exchange, I give you my burden. My burden is light and easy to bear, a real joy.

My burden is my love for my own, my people whom I created in my image, and my universe which I made to bless them. Together in my Sabbath Rest we do Father's will, reconciling all things to oneness with us. Loving, caring, encouraging, helping, healing, and sharing life, joy, and peace to a world where strife, hate, fear, and death seem so real, together you and I build the relationships of my kingdom.

Thank you, my Lord Jesus Christ! I do gladly give you all my weekly burdens and concerns in exchange for your one burden, your love for your people and your universe. Please teach me how to bear your burden so that it is always a joy and delight, as you promised. It is really exciting to me to hear that it is finally time for all things to be reconciled to you so that your kingdom fills the earth.

Yes, Lord. I willingly allow you to take my flesh nature and bury it with you at Golgotha. I give up all my rights and expectations, as well as all ambitions, lusts, appetites, and the desires of the flesh. I submit everything to your lordship. I no longer count even my own physical life as dear to me, but give it freely to you for discipline, testing, suffering, or even death as you see fit. Whatever it costs, I am determined to learn obedience.

You are my life, my king, my everything, and all glory belongs only to you. I do submit myself to your perfect body, of which you are the only head, and I enter wholeheartedly into your Sabbaths. Praise be only and always unto you, for all that you choose to do through your body! I am deeply grateful just to be a part of you in what you are doing, and I rejoice that you are willing to do it through me.

Hallelujah! I also experience the joy! Thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do, my Lord and elder Brother Jesus!

Yes, my kingdom, hidden within my precious ones for so long, is finally being revealed for every eye to see! You, my saints, are now in training to be that nation of kings and priests who shall rule in perfect oneness with me for a thousand years over all that I have made. For it is my righteousness, wisdom, justice, and mercy that rules in and through you. This is the Sabbath Rest that I have prepared for you, of which all previous Sabbaths are but a dim picture. The time is now, yet so many of my chosen ones are not yet ready; my heart aches for them, because of all the training, all the discipline they have to go through in such a short time. If you would rule with me, you must go through what I went through – yes, even the death and burial of your self-nature, that you may walk in oneness with me. You must learn obedience, just as I had to learn obedience through the things that I suffered.

But I show you a better way. Enter now with wholehearted delight into my Sabbaths, for in them I teach you perfect obedience. I tasted death once for you so that you may forever have abundant, joyous, healthy, victorious life! My Sabbaths are your open door into my perfection! I am interceding at Father's right hand for you to enter fully into oneness with me in all that I am, that you may be as I am on the earth. You find your perfection in me and in my perfect, sinless body on earth. Together, as one body, we do Father's works in a far greater way than when I was alone on earth.

Yes, my son! Did you hear your confession? Know for sure that there is no turning back, for you have fully entered into my kingdom. With this lesson, the first chapter of your book, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, is finished. However, we are not finished with our grand adventure! We have much yet to talk about and even more yet to experience as you grow up into all things in my perfect, sinless body. But from now on, remember, you dwell in my presence continually, for there is no sin in my kingdom, nothing to ever turn you away from me! What joy I share with you, my brother!