Fellowship Of The Mystery
Sharri Eckstein & Charlie Hamilton
Fellowship Of The Mystery

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Product Description

This eBook “Fellowship Of The Mystery” reveals the great secret hidden in God from before the foundation of the world. The mystery is that God predestined Mankind to have an intimate “Oneness” relationship with Him—a special fellowship with Him as a royal family. As Christians, we’re on a journey to “Oneness” with God. Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life of that journey. Readers will broaden their understanding of the gospel of the Kingdom by investigating key scriptural passages and learning how to apply them to their own lives.

About the Authors

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Introduction

Ephesians 3:9 tells us,

“And to make all [people] see what is the fellowship [koinōnia] of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ.” [Emphasis mine] Ephesians 3:9

This eBook “Fellowship Of The Mystery” reveals the great secret hidden in God from before the foundation of the world. The mystery is that God predestined Mankind to have an intimate “Oneness” relationship with Him—a special fellowship with Him as a royal family. As Christians, we’re on a journey to “Oneness” with God. Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life of that journey.

It takes God to love God and it takes God to love people beyond reason. The word in Ephesians 3:9 for “fellowship” is the special GREEK word koinōnia. Man offers fraternity and friendship but only God offers fellowship koinōnia, which is a deep, abiding, supernatural relationship of oneness. In eternity God had never known any other kind of relationship other than koinonia which He would also offer to Mankind.

Fraternity and friendships are only temporal, but the fellowship koinōnia that God offers to Mankind is forever. God is a family Man who desires a love relationship with each member of His royal family.

We have the incredible joy and privilege of entering into this fellowship koinōnia with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

We do not have to wait until Heaven to enjoy this love and intimacy. Through Jesus Christ we can experience the love of the Father and the love of His Son—the LORD Jesus Christ. Now, we can enter into this sweet fellowship koinōnia with the Father and His Son.

But this fellowship koinōnia of the mystery was hidden in God from before the foundation of the world.
Romans 16:25 says, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began.” Romans 16:25

God wants to establish in every Christian this truth of koinōnia according to the revelation of the mystery. So great was this hidden mystery of koinōnia that had the devil known what God would do in His Son Jesus Christ for Mankind—the devil would have never crucified the LORD of Glory.

Look in 1 Corinthians 2:7-8,

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory. Which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known [God’s mystery], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” [Emphasis mine] 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

John, the Apostle of love gives more details of this koinonia.

Look in 1 John 1:1-4,

“That [Christ] which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship [koinōnia] with us; and truly our fellowship [koinōnia] is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.” [Emphasis mine] 1 John 1:1-4

God’s Mystery is at the very heart of His Kingdom message. “The riches of the glory of this mystery... is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (see Colossians 1:27)

**Big Picture—God’s Eternal Purpose**

Understanding our beginning is the beginning of our understanding.
Here in God’s prophetic timetable—here at the end of the age, it’s important to understand that before God’s creation of heaven and earth—before His creation of Mankind—God predestined all things according to the counsel of His own Will. God began His creation with the eternal purpose of His Son in mind.

Look in Ephesians 1:11,

“In Him [Christ] also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.” [Emphasis mine] Ephesians 1:11

God began His creation with the eternal purpose of His Son in mind. God works all things according to the counsel of His own Will. God is omniscient—all knowing and all powerful. But before anything was ever created—there was God. There was no need for the Voice of God because the godhead communicated by the Spirit of God—Spirit to Spirit. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were One in Person and One in unity of His eternal purpose. The godhead enjoyed koinonia and it is all they ever knew. But there came a time, before time—in eternal dimensions—which is called “in the beginning” when God convened a counsel with Himself and it was determined in that counsel that the Son of God—His Only begotten Son would become the Word of God, the communication of God to all His creation.

As the Word of God—as the Voice of God, the Son of God would perfectly represent His loving Heavenly Father to His new creation. God who dwells in unapproachable light (see 1 Timothy 6:16) desired to be approached in koinōnia by His new creation. Therefore, the Son of God was ordained to be the Word of God—the Voice of God upon the throne.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us as Emmanuel—God with us! In the Son of God was life, and the life was the light of all men whom He created. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was ever made.

We see these truths clearly revealed in the opening verses of the Gospel of John.
Look in John 1:1-5,

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” John 1:1-5

It’s one thing for us to understand our salvation and what we’ve been saved from—a fiery Hell, but it is quite another thing to understand our salvation with respect to what we have been saved unto—the eternal purpose of God in His Son. God’s eternal purpose at the counsel of His Will was not simply to offer Mankind salvation. No, salvation became a necessity as a result of the fall. (see Genesis 3) God’s eternal purpose for Mankind at the counsel of His Will was that Mankind, as His new creation, would be granted the joy and privilege of approaching God. But as wonderful as this is, God also granted Mankind the joy and privilege of having an intimate koinōnia fellowship with God called “Oneness”, which was never offered to any other creature that God created.

Look in 1 Peter 1:10-12,

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.” 1 Peter 1:10-12

So great a salvation—so wonderful is God’s eternal purpose for Mankind that even angels desire to behold it. In His creation, God who dwells in unapproachable light would send His Son as a Man and allow His new creation Mankind to approach Him. But even greater, to invite and allow Mankind to enter into a spiritual and intimate koinōnia fellowship with God based upon the same exact relationship as that of His Son.
This new koinōnia fellowship was never offered to angels, nor Seraphim, nor Cherubim—nor any other creature which God created. Only Mankind was offered this incredible gift of Grace to have an intimate koinōnia fellowship with God and to enter in a “Oneness” with the godhead—becoming the royal family of God. (see 1 Peter 2:9)

Look at the LORD’s High Priestly prayer for us in John 17:20-23,

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be ONE, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be ONE in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be ONE just as We are ONE: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in ONE, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

John 17:20-23

The same exact intimate koinōnia fellowship that the Son of God enjoyed with His loving Heavenly Father is being offered to all Mankind—to those who will believe.

If this were a science fiction movie it would seem like fantasy. But the truth is—that it is too true to be ignored. How will we ever explain our rejection of this great mystery? How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?

Look in Hebrews 2:3-4,

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” Hebrews 2:3-4

God created the universe for the earth, the earth for Mankind and Mankind to have and experience a spiritual and intimate koinōnia fellowship with God called “Oneness.”
Christ in you (see Colossians 1:27) is LIFE from another realm—LIFE from another world. As it is written, “For the bread of God is He [Christ] who comes down from heaven and gives LIFE to the world.” [Emphasis mine] John 6:33 NKJV

Jesus came as LIFE from eternity and His LIFE was and is the light of every man. The Gospel of John declares “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:4 NKJV

Jesus declared in the Gospel of John that He came to give us LIFE and His LIFE is in His Seed. (see 1 Peter 1:23)

As it is written, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” John 10:10 NKJV

Now, let’s look at the mystery of the Kingdom—the Kingdom secret which was revealed to the Apostle Paul.

The Kingdom Mystery—Revealed

Apostles and prophets were meant to carry the plumb line message of the Kingdom to the nations. God’s Mystery is at the heart of the Kingdom message.

Look in Ephesians 3:1-7,

“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow [joint] heirs, of the same [joint] body, and [joint] partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.” [Emphasis mine] Ephesians 3:1-7
The Apostle Paul declares here in Ephesians how by revelation God made known to him a mystery—a great secret about the Kingdom. That secret being that NOW the Gentiles can be fellow [joint] heirs with Israel, and of the same [joint] body with Israel, and partakers [fully sharing] of God’s promise in Christ through the good news of the Kingdom message.

Christ as the first born is the heir of all things. (see Hebrews 1:2). As the first-born, Christ inherits everything from His Father. Part of that inheritance is koinonia which the Son enjoyed with His Heavenly Father. But a great secret which was revealed to the Apostle Paul was that every born-again Christian is now a joint heir in Christ whereby they fully share in the full inheritance of Christ—the first-born. Hebrews 12:23 tells us, “to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven.”

Israel was first offered the Kingdom, but after the nation rejected the gospel of the Kingdom, then God opened the doors of the Kingdom to all Gentiles starting with the house of Cornelius in Acts, chapter 10. Since that time, both Jew and Gentile can come into the Kingdom through the new birth experience. (see John 3:3-8)

In Colossians 1:27 Paul declares that the great mystery in a nutshell is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” We receive the Person of Christ when we are born again—we all receive His Kingdom Seed—the incorruptible Seed of Christ. That spiritual Seed is meant to grow the Kingdom within our human vessels and to produce fruit for the Kingdom. The koinonia fellowship is wrapped up in the Person of Christ who now lives in us.

That is why Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” As human beings we are earthen vessels just waiting for the Kingdom Seed to be planted in our human vessels through the new birth.

For Christians in the church of Corinth that still did not understand the great mystery of the Kingdom, Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
When you invited Jesus to come into your life—He did so in Seed form—and now that Kingdom Seed is meant to grow the Kingdom of God within your human vessel (see Luke 17:21) first and foremost.

Wherever the King is—even in Seed form—that is where the Kingdom is. Wherever the King is that is where His koinonia fellowship is with the Heavenly Father and with the Son. The Kingdom and its koinonia fellowship all begins in the new birth with His Kingdom Seed.

To learn MORE click the FREE link to our eBook “The Kingdom Seed.”

Revealed To His Apostles & Prophets

Apostles and prophets are meant to carry the plumb line message of the Kingdom to the nations. Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Silas all carried the Kingdom message. God’s Mystery of koinonia is at the very heart of the Kingdom message. Through the Cross, God has reconciled all of us into His One Body that through death, he can present us before the Heavenly Father in koinonia—holy and blameless and beyond reproach.

Look in Colossians 1:22-29,

“Yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions. Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete [fully mature] in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power,
which mightily works within me.” [Emphasis mine] Colossians 1:22-29 NASB

The riches of the glory of this mystery is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Christ already has a koinonia fellowship with the Heavenly Father and it’s His koinonia fellowship that we are invited to experience on this side of Heaven.

Every born-again Christian has the Person of Christ in them. Every born-again Christian has the first-born Person in them which is the life and koinōnia of the Son of God from Heaven.

James 4:5 tells us, “Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

God the Father is jealous over the Spirit of Christ that He has made to dwell in us. We must come to the realization that when we were born again, the Person of Christ and His koinōnia fellowship came to live in our human vessels. Paul himself had a revelation of this mystery of the Person of Christ in book of Galatians.

Look in Galatians 1:15-17,

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.” Galatians 1:15-17

Our koinonia fellowship is bound up in the life of the Son of God—Christ who dwells in us. But just like when we were born the first time, we had to grow from childhood to manhood, so also being born again—there’s a process of growing from being a child [teknon] to becoming a Son [huios] of God.
A Child Verses A Son

Peter tells us that once we’re born again, “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (see 1 Peter 2:2-3)

A child is one born of God; a Son is one taught of God. A child has God’s nature; a Son has God’s character.

A Son of God through Kingdom maturity receives Kingdom responsibility.

Through the “new birth experience” we become a child [teknon] of God, but through adoption [son placing] we become the Sons [huios] of God. Birth gives one the right to the inheritance, but the adoption gives one access to the inheritance.

God’s likeness, His image, will be “stamped” upon those who have been brought to maturity and adopted as [huios] sons. (see Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:2-3)

Age has nothing to do with maturity and it has nothing to do with being a mature son or daughter of God. Spiritual maturity comes through right responses to the dealings of God, not simply the passing of time.

Understanding Adoption In The Bible

In America, an Adoption is understood as taking a child that is not your own and making them your very own through the legal system. However, in the times when Jesus was born, a Hebrew Adoption meant to place your mature son into a position in order to exercise power of authority and responsibility.

Paul was both a Jew and a Roman Citizen, so he was very familiar regarding adoptions. The Roman custom of adoption was basically the same adoption concept as the custom of the Hebrew patriarchs.
Look in Galatians 4:1-2,

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child [nēpios an infant; little child], does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by The Father. Galatians 4:1-2

Look in Galatians 4:3-7,

Even so we, when we were children [nēpios an infant; little child], were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son [huios], born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons [huiothesia]. Galatians 4:3-7

There is one Greek word for the whole phrase “adoption as sons.” The word is huiothesia. Do you see the word huios there? The “s” is dropped and it is combined with thesia. Together it literally means “son-placing.” Huios is the Greek word which refers to a mature son, as opposed to nēpios for an infant or teknon for a child or teenager.

What the “adoption as sons” is referring to is a ceremony; an appointed time when The Father invests His mature son with the power of attorney to act in all His affairs. Unlike our modern American custom and understanding of “adoption,” this adoption has nothing to do with being an orphan or a child from a previous marriage nor does it have anything to do with being adopted into someone else’s family.

In the Bible it is a legal proclamation: “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Why? Because now My Son has my authority to conduct business on my behalf; My Son will act on My behalf because He will say and do exactly as I would do and say. I have placed my son in this position.”

So, as we can see the new birth gives one the right to the inheritance, but the adoption gives one access to the inheritance.

To learn MORE click the FREE link to our eBook “Sons Of God.”
The Real Work of God

The real work of God is an internal work within the life of every Christian. The Holy Spirit as our child trainer works within us to bring us to maturity in Christ.

Look in John 6:28-29,

“Jesus answered them and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.’ Then they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’” John 6:28-29 (NKJV)

Here in John 6:26-29 we see the LORD Jesus telling God’s people that He was sent from Heaven with the seal of approval from His Heavenly Father to be the work of God and the One who does the deep work of God within Mankind. Jesus is the expressed image of God and as such He is the Way, the Truth and the Life of our journey to koinōnia “Oneness” with God. That does not make us gods, it makes us a vessel filled by God. Jesus Christ is LIFE from another world—Whose LIFE is to be lived out within our human vessels.

Here Jesus defines the real Work of God. That singular work is having faith in Christ Whom the Father has sent into the world. Why? Because Christ IS THE WORK OF GOD! Jesus is not talking about our works here; He is talking about THE WORK OF GOD.

Yes, we can go to work; we can clean our houses—but this is NOT the work that the LORD is talking about. Jesus is talking about the REAL WORK OF GOD which is an internal and eternal work of the Spirit. (see Zechariah 4:6)
Look in Philippians 1:6,

“He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

When we were born again, God began a work within us to conform us to the image and likeness of Christ. (see Romans 8:29) The Holy Spirit, as our child trainer, began the process of maturing us in Christ. As we desire the sincere milk of the Word of God, we grow up in Him in all things. Just like a newborn we must grow and mature, so also a born-again child of God must grow and mature in Christ.

Now, look in Philippians 2:13,

“For it is God who works in you both to Will and to do for His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13

God is at work within us to mature us in Christ. As we submit and surrender to the process of conformity to Christ—God can complete His good work in us which pleases our heavenly Father. Through the Christ in us, the hope of glory, we are brought into a real intimate koinōnia fellowship with the Father and His Son.

Ephesians 2:10 tells us,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

We are the workmanship (masterpiece) of God, created in Christ Jesus. When did this work of God begin? When we were born-again of the Spirit of God through the new birth. From that point in time, we walk in the good works of God as we walk with and in Him—Christ!

This is THE WORK OF GOD—THAT YOU BELIEVE IN CHRIST. (see John 6:29)

God the Father sent both the Work—Christ and the Worker—Christ because without Christ we can do absolutely nothing!
Christ Perfect Our Example

In John 5:19 Jesus said He did not initiate anything. All through the Gospel of John Jesus spoke along these lines. This is what it means to be inwardly aligned to the mission and the vision of God. So, I do not initiate ANYTHING or ANY WORK. I wait on God Himself to initiate it and when He does, I join Him in the work. Just like the LORD Jesus, when God shows us what He’s doing then we’re invited to join Him in the work.

The Work of God is beyond me and my ability. It is beyond you or your ability. The Work Of God is not by my might, nor by my power but BY MY SPIRIT says the LORD of Hosts. I cannot save myself; I cannot deliver myself; I cannot conform myself to the image of Christ and I cannot really change myself. Only the Work of God working in me can do that!

Listen, we’ve tried doing the Work of God ourselves through behavior modification, through rules and regulations, through the law only to discover that we have failed miserably to accomplish the real internal and eternal Work of God.

Christ is not only the WORK but He is the WORKER of the REAL WORK. We need to move away from performance Christianity where—when we’re DOING GOOD then we’re FEELING GOOD. When we’re NOT DOING GOOD then we’re NOT FEELING SO GOOD ANYMORE. What must change? Our religious performance must stop. What was begun in the Spirit cannot be perfected in the flesh. (see Galatians 3:3)

Condemnation, accusations, and comparing ourselves to others is NOT THE WORK OF GOD. It is the work of Satan—it is the work of the accuser of the brethren.

If we ONLY FEEL GOOD when we are DOING something FOR GOD then we have missed the REAL INTERNAL WORK OF GOD. We have missed the real intimate fellowship koinōnia with the Father and with His Son.

There’s nothing wrong with being a vessel for God and God working in us and through us but the REAL WORK OF GOD IS AN INTERNAL WORK—the Mystery. It always has been and always will be an internal work.
In this new season we all need to be MORE like Mary and LESS like Martha.

Mary was able to sit and rest at the feet of Jesus, while Martha always had to be doing something. Mary could simply let something happen, but Martha had to be making something happen.

This is not to cast Martha in a bad light, but there are times when Jesus calls us to “Come Away” and simply BE with Him.

It is in this resting place that all Marthas will struggle in their soul. Where a Mary can find her identity in simply BEING with Jesus—Martha finds her identity in what she DOES for Jesus. This is the treadmill of religious performance which we must all be delivered from. We need to focus inwardly on the Person of Christ who lives in us in surrender and in yieldedness. It is not Jesus of Nazareth that lives in us but the risen Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Jesus does not want our identity to be in what we DO for Him but WHO we are In Him and Who He is in us. Our identity can ONLY be found In Christ. (see John 17)

We know the argument that all Marthas will make, “If I don’t do anything, then nothing will ever get done.” But Jesus said, “For he that has entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works.” (see Hebrews 4:10)

This does not mean that we don’t go to work—it simply means we don’t initiate the WORK OF GOD. They that are led by the Spirit, these are the sons (mature ones) of God. (see Romans 8:14)

God does not appreciate what He does not initiate. When we rest in God we MUST “cease from our own works.” (see John 5:19)

The Bible says that it is “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.” (see Zechariah 4:6)

The Bible says that “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.” Psalm 127:1
Look In Matthew 11:28-29,

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29

We need to learn of Christ. He is the perfect example of someone Who was led by the Spirit and enjoyed a koinonia fellowship with His Heavenly Father on earth as it is in Heaven. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. Now, it is Christ in us the hope of glory. Just as the LORD had an internal fellowship koinōnia of Oneness with the Heavenly Father, so also, we’re being invited to have an internal fellowship koinōnia of Oneness with the Heavenly Father and the Son who have both come to make their abode in us.

Now look in Hebrews 4:8-11,

“For if Jesus [Joshua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour [contend] therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” Hebrews 4:8-11

In the book of Hebrews we see that it was unbelief—it was doubt that kept them out of the real rest of God. Beware of the cloud of doubt; beware of unbelief.

So perfectly was the Son of God aligned with the eternal purpose—the vision—the mission of the godhead that Jesus told Philip “If you have seen me, then you have seen the Father.”

Look in John 14:8-11,

“Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My
own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” John 14:8-11

It is fellowship koinonia that our Heavenly Father is after which is how He conforms us the image and likeness of His Son—Jesus Christ. It is fellowship koinonia that we are meant to enjoy on earth as it is in Heaven.

Red Solo Cup Revelation

Several years ago, the Holy Spirit revealed this revelation as “a visual aid” for the fellowship koinonia that God desires for each one of us.

Take two solo cups; one red and one clear (see through).

The red solo represents Christ in all His Power and Glory filled to the fullness of the godhead bodily. The clear solo cup represents us as a surrendered and transparent vessel of the LORD. Why?

Because we are supposed to be so transparent; so surrendered that when Christ manifests Himself within us, He is the “only one” who is seen as we ‘deny ourselves’ take up our ‘cross daily’ and ‘follow Him.’

Now, fill the red solo cup with water completely to the very top where one more drop of water would cause it to overflow.

The red solo cup filled to the very brim represents the “Fullness of the Godhead Bodily in Christ.”

Now carefully pick up the red solo cup and sit it down inside the clear solo cup. This represents “Christ in us, the hope of glory.” (See Colossians 1:27)

Now with this example in mind, examine the following scriptures below.
Look in Colossians 1:19,

“For it pleased the Father that in him [Christ] should all fullness [pleroma] dwell [katoikeo].” [Emphasis mine] Colossians 1:19

Now look in Colossians 2:9-10,

“For in Him [Christ] dwelleth [katoikeo] all the fullness [pleroma] of the Godhead bodily. And you are complete [pleroo—filled to capacity] in Him [Christ] which is the head of [over] all principality and power.” [Emphasis mine] Colossians 2:9-10

The verses above are teaching us that all the fullness of the Godhead bodily dwelt in Christ and now Christ is in us—soon to be in fullness. In Tabernacles, Christ is going to completely manifest Himself in and through us, in fullness [pleroo].

We’re in a spiritual transition. We are transitioning from the Church age to the Kingdom age. The time is coming when the saints of God will possess the kingdom. (see Daniel 7:18)

In the Gospels, the LORD showed Peter, James and John a vision of Him coming into His Kingdom at the end of the age. If you examine the record in Matthew 17 you will discover what His Kingdom will look like—as it arises upon a company (remnant) of people in the earth with Christ as their head. (See Isaiah 60:1-4)

What Christ did on earth in a single human vessel, He is going to replicate in a corporate vessel; a corporate Body. It’s coming! (John 14:12) Since there was a literal Passover, a literal Pentecost, there must be a literal Tabernacles [habitation]. Can you say "Glory." It's coming!

To learn MORE click the FREE link to our eBook “Revelation & Daniel 2”

The LAMB Nature Of Jesus Christ

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a LAMB to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” Isaiah 53:7 NKJV
In Isaiah 53 we see the LAMB nature of the LORD Jesus Christ. The Bride of Christ will have the same exact nature of Christ as she makes herself ready. The Bride has been predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ who is the LAMB. As the Bride chooses by the freedom of her will to accept the destiny of God, she will lay down her life so that the Life of the Son of God resident within her—will arise and shine. (see Isaiah 60)

Therefore, the Wife of the LAMB will have the LIFE of the LAMB resident with her vessel before her wedding day. His wife will make herself ready. (see Revelation 19:7)

To learn MORE click the FREE link to our eBook “The Good Bride.”

In a prophetic encounter of the LORD I was shown a vision that expresses these truths.

The LORD & LAMB Vision (from 10/13/2013)

I was inside The LORD’S bedroom. It was very large room and had marbled stone on all four walls. There was a large square sunken bath filled with water opposite the bed. The room was well lit with torches and a few candles. One candle was near a nightstand where I saw a water basin and a Bible on a shelf above it.

The LORD was sitting on the bed that had four posts with veils that were all pulled back. I could plainly see the LORD Jesus. As I looked in His eyes, they looked like they were translucent—like they were full of water or tears. As I looked deeper, I could see all of creation inside them.

Then the scene changed and I saw the Bride sitting on the bed next to Him. She was holding His face with her hand on His cheek; gazing deep into His eyes.

Then in a short series of imagery, I saw The LORD praying and surrendering His will in the garden of Gethsemane. I saw The LORD hanging on the Cross with His bloodied face and bloodied feet. I saw the tomb with the stone rolled away where The LORD was buried, and I saw The LORD come out of the tomb in resurrection life.
The scene changed again, and I was back in the bedroom. This time I saw The LORD sitting on the bed holding a LAMB. The thing that stood out about this LAMB was that the LAMB had the same kind of eyes that the LORD Jesus had—You could see all of creation in them. The Bride had been transformed into a LAMB by beholding the LORD Jesus with an unveiled face.

The scene changed again, and I saw The LORD Jesus standing alone on His balcony with His right hand extended toward the darkness outside. I saw lightening flashing in the darkness—then the vision ended.

**Interpretation**

After prayer this is what I believe The LORD is saying. As the Bride beholds The LORD with an unveiled face, she will become like The Lamb of God. She will be willing to sacrifice everything for Him. She will be willing to lay down her soul in her own garden of Gethsemane, she will be willing to suffer, to be disciplined, scourged, broken and die to self on the Cross so that the life of Christ may come forth from within her human vessel.

The Bride will be willing to exchange death to self for the incredible life of Christ within! We are called to reckon ourselves to be dead to sin (nature) but alive unto God by the nature of Christ within.

Rick Joyner once said, “As we behold The LORD with an unveiled face, we embrace and identify with His Cross and His resurrection.” Rick Joyner

**The Fellowship [Koinōnia] Of His Sufferings**

We must be delivered from the false narrative in Christian circles that teach, “If we walk in righteousness, only blessings will come our way.”

The book of Job clearly destroys that narrative because God declared that Job was a righteous man. Yet, Satan attacked him relentlessly. The LORD Jesus Christ Himself was righteous and although He spoke the Truth in love—they crucified Him.
Jesus said, "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also." John 15:20

Jesus suffered for being righteous—Jesus suffered for doing good.

In I Peter we see an incredible truth regarding suffering for good.

Look in I Peter 2:20-25,

“For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. I Peter 2:20-25 NKJV

Do you see this?

But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.

As we enjoy sweet fellowship [koinonia] with the LORD Jesus we are called to follow in His footsteps. There are times when we will join the LORD in the fellowship [koinônia] of his sufferings. (see Philippians 3:10)

It is a great mystery that as Christians we’re called to experience the fellowship [koinônia] of His sufferings—being made conformable unto his death.
Look in Philippians 3:10,

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship [koinōnia] of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

Why? That the Life of Christ may arise within our human vessels. We are called to follow in the LORD’s footsteps.

The eternal purpose of biblical suffering is twofold:

1. At times God allows in His Wisdom, for His own people to be illegally touched by Satan. In allowing Satan to illegally touch the LORD’s anointed and to do His prophets harm, it gives Jesus the Blood right to plunder the enemy’s kingdom and to save souls.

2. In allowing His own people to experience the fellowship [koinōnia] of the sufferings of Christ—it enables God to establish His own "Lamb-like nature" within His people.

Examples:

1) In Luke 22:31-32 Peter was told by Jesus that Satan desired to sift Him like wheat. But did Jesus stop that sifting from happening? No, He did not! Jesus told Peter that He would pray for Peter that his faith would not fail. Through this sifting experience, Peter was made more Christlike at the end of the sifting.

2) In Acts 7:54-60 Stephens martyrdom allowed God to extract Saul who became Paul out of the enemy’s kingdom. Although Stephen had a major Kingdom impact locally, the Apostle Paul had a major Kingdom impact globally—for generations to come. Do you see the multiplication factor in God’s Wisdom?

3) 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 Paul experienced great suffering by his thorn in the flesh and He prayed three times for the Lord to remove it. But what was God’s answer to Paul? "My Grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."
This suffering that Paul endured allowed God to plunder the enemy’s kingdom through Paul but also wrought a deep inner working within the human vessel of Paul to establish the LAMB like nature of Christ within.

God in His wisdom allows us to experience the fellowship [koinōnia] of His suffering to the end that we can be transformed into the image of Christ—which is His LAMB nature—as we behold Him with an unveiled face. It has been said that "A crisis does not make a man, it only reveals what’s already in him." Experiencing the fellowship [koinōnia] of His suffering reveals the Christ in us, the hope of glory.

In the crisis of these end times, let us be found to have the nature and life of the LAMB of God resident within us.

Let us pray: “Thank You LORD Jesus for teaching us something that we could not see. That through the fellowship [koinōnia] of your sufferings for doing good You will establish Your LAMB like nature within us.” Amen

**The Mystery Finished**

Look in Revelation 10:7,

“But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.” Revelation 10:7

There is coming a time when the mystery of God will be finished. What does that mean? It means that the gospel of the Kingdom—the Mystery of Christ in You, the hope of glory—the fellowship [koinonia] of the mystery will be preached throughout the world and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

In these perilous times let us take the plumb line of Scripture and make certain that our lives are founded upon the ROCK—Christ Jesus.

**Built Upon The Rock**

Before we close this eBook, we need to lay a strong foundation for these perilous times in which we live.
Look in Isaiah 28:17,

“Also I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place.”

Apostles and prophets use the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness when they lay the foundation of Christ in the lives and hearts of every disciple.

In the times of Jeremiah, people were building the wrong foundations throughout the nation so the prophet was sent to “to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.”

Look in Jeremiah 1:9-10,

“Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.””

Jeremiah 1:9-10

It is necessary to lay the only foundation that can be laid which is Jesus Christ.

“Only the foundation of God can support the government of God.” Sharri Eckstein

Years ago, we heard The LORD say, “The foundations of humanity will be tested.” That is certainly true in our day and in our time.

It is critical that we take the plumb line of Scripture and re-examine our foundation to ensure that our lives are properly built upon the “Rock”—Christ Jesus.

Look in Matthew 7:21-27,

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”
“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Matthew 7:21-27

The storms of life will come, but only those whose lives are built upon the right foundation of Jesus Christ will stand. All others will be sinking sand.

Jesus Christ—The Right Foundation

Look in Matthew 16:13-17,

“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:13-17

Many people believe that the LORD was talking about building His church upon the foundation of the man Peter. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that Peter was the first Pope. But that’s simply not true. Peter was sent to the Jews, Paul was sent to the Gentiles.
The word for Peter here in Matthew is the GREEK word petros, meaning a small stone. But Jesus said, on this “rock” He would build His church which is the GREEK word petra, meaning a massive rock. The difference between petros and petra is huge! Jesus never intended to build His church on Peter, but rather Himself.

If Peter believed that he was the foundation of the early church he would have never quoted Isaiah which says,

“Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’” I Peter 2:6

Peter knew from Scripture that Isaiah was not referring to him, but to The LORD Jesus Christ. The world is filled with man-made religions that place a man as the foundation. Peter knew he was NOT the foundation of the early church; he never was and never will be. If you build upon the foundation of a man you will be sadly disappointed.

Some believe that Jesus was referring to building His church upon “Revelation.” But again, that would be an error because although the LORD does give revelation, revelation is often wrongly subjected to private interpretations and opinions of men, which would never work as a solid foundation for His church. What Jesus was referring to in Matthew was the specific revelation that The Father revealed to Peter, which was that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

That’s the ONLY foundation that is strong enough and massive enough for the LORD to build His church upon.

To this truth the Apostle Paul agrees. (I Corinthians 3:10-15), “According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a
reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” I Corinthians 3:10-15

The foundation that the Apostle Paul laid and established in the lives of each disciple was the foundation of Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Listen to Paul’s heart as stated in Galatians 4:19,

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.” Galatians 4:19

A foundation needs to be properly formed, and Paul was concerned about every disciple having the right foundation “formed” in their lives; being conformed to the image of Christ in maturity. Fellowship (koinōnia) with the LORD, the fruit of the Spirit and Christlikeness was the emphasis in the Apostles’ life and ministry.

**Vision Of The Plumb Line**

Look in Amos 7:7-8,

“Thus He showed me: Behold, the LORD stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. And the LORD said to me, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A plumb line.’ Then the LORD said: ‘Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.’” Amos 7:7-8

Even though Israel to the north went through their daily routine of religious activities they had forsaken God and His firm foundation. Israel was in apostasy and about to be judged by The LORD. Amos was God’s last call. Israel had allowed other things to replace their first love for God as their true foundation.

Here in Amos we see that the prophet was shown a picture of The LORD, as the heavenly surveyor with a plumb line in His hand.
The LORD was looking down from heaven’s perspective comparing His Kingdom blueprints to what the people on earth were building. There was no resemblance to what was being built on earth compared to the true Kingdom in Heaven. Israel refused to repent so Israel’s final judgment was imminent.

**Christ Our Chief Cornerstone**

In Ephesians 2:19-22 it says, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the LORD, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22

The foundation of all true apostles and prophets is The LORD Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus Christ was WHOM the apostles and prophets served; He was their foundation. For every true apostle and prophet, Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of their lives and ministries. Every apostle or prophet who does not point people back to the LORD Jesus Christ is not a true apostle or prophet; they are false.

God help you if you build your entire ministry on your own personality; your own charisma, your gifts and your talents. Why? Because one day, you will have to face the LORD of Glory at the judgment seat of Christ; you will have to explain to Him why you built your ministry upon yourself.

God forbid!

**The Divided Church at Corinth**

When we make disciples for the LORD Jesus Christ, we must be careful to lay the proper foundation. There is no other foundation which can be laid than the LORD Jesus Christ Himself.
The first century church in Corinth struggled with these same issues of people following men and their gift ministries.

In I Corinthians 1:10-13 we read,

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our LORD Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloë’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”
I Corinthians 1:10-13

Yikes, four different denominations!

Some disciples were following Christ, and rightly so; they had the right foundation. However others were following Apollos, some followed Peter (Cephas), while others Paul.

As we saw earlier in I Corinthians 3:10-15, the Apostle Paul brought reproach and correction to the early church in Corinth by pointing them back to the ONLY foundation that can ever stand: The LORD Jesus Christ.

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Apostle Paul

Man-made religion always lays down a different foundation other than Jesus Christ. It could be a gifted leader, a great orator, or a specific truth from the Bible, and it may be successful for a time, but it will never be the true church that Jesus Christ said He came to build.

Why? Because, it’s missing the ONLY foundation that He will ever build upon which is Himself; The LORD Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

True Christian leaders are careful to lay the proper cornerstone and the proper foundation in the lives and hearts of God’s people.
Once the proper foundation is laid, then we can take the plumb line and carefully lay the foundational truths of justification, righteousness, and sanctification. This would be building with gold, silver and precious stones. All these truths, just like a plumb line, point back to The LORD Jesus Christ as the true foundation.

The Apostle Paul warned about building with wood, hay and stubble, which would be things like philosophies, pet denominational rituals, traditions of men and individual opinions. These things will not stand the test of fire. Just like doctrines of demons and heresies from seducing spirits, these falsehoods will all be burned up into vapor.

We need to realize that it’s an “act of treason” to make disciples unto ourselves and build our own kingdoms instead of building the LORD’s Kingdom. Imagine how The LORD would feel if you romanced the Body and the Bride of Christ unto yourself?

Our God is a consuming fire; our God is a JEALOUS GOD.

Our teaching, our preaching should be designed to make disciples for the LORD Jesus Christ and to always point them back to the firm foundation of Christ Himself.

We are commissioned to help and equip the disciples to grow up in Christ in all things so that they are totally dependent upon the LORD Jesus Christ. We should be constantly trying to work ourselves out of a job—releasing and pointing people back to Christ.

We’re here to glorify the Son of God—Christ to the nations! Let His Kingdom come and let His Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

2 Thessalonians 1:10 tells us, "When he [Christ] shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."
Look in Luke 17:20-21,

“Now when He [Jesus] was asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, ‘The Kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you.’” [Emphasis mine] Luke 17:20-21

The Pharisees asked Jesus WHEN the Kingdom of God would come, but Jesus only told them WHERE it would come from—within human vessels.

To learn MORE click the FREE link to our eBook “The Restoration Of Kingdom Dominion.”

Blessings,

Sharri Eckstein, Charlie Hamilton

Come To Restoration Rivers

If you’re looking for a place to learn and grow, we would like to personally invite you to Restoration Rivers. We’re located in Boones Mill, Franklin County, Virginia. Our address is: 148 Southwood Lane, Boones Mill, VA 24065. Our Sunday fellowship starts at 11:00am and we have prayer and worship on Fridays at 7:00pm. We would love to see you there!

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