

**Now Concerning Spiritual Things**  
*an historical account of one man's walk with God*

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**FOUR WORDS OF THE SPIRIT**

One morning, shortly after the Holy Spirit introduced me to Jesus thirty-two years ago, I drove onto Interstate 30 in east Dallas headed for downtown. At this moment, I do not remember where I was going that morning. But I do remember one thing that happened. While driving down the expressway, alone in my car, about one-half mile east of the Ferguson Road intersection, the Holy Spirit began to teach me the first four words in the bible, "**In the beginning God...**"<sup>1</sup> The teaching lasted for part (most?) of the day, but I still remember the impact of the words thirty years later. I have wondered how Moses felt when the Holy Spirit gave him the same four words -- not just these same four words, but the many, many other words given to him by the same Spirit. That which was administered to me by the Holy Spirit with those four words was profound awe and respect for God -- *profound awe and respect which was totally devoid of fear -- so profound that it is unfathomable!* This is not something the rational mind can perceive. And the reason is, God's Spirit communes and communicates directly with man's spirit, bypassing his mind. Then is when His words become spirit and life, as the Holy Spirit teaches<sup>2</sup> us the meaning of His words. As this occurs, the mind is cognizant of, remembers, catalogues and assimilates for recall, the enlightenment given by the Spirit. When the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, touches the spirit of man, the lamp of the Lord,<sup>3</sup> the light of the Lord shines within that man, as Jesus said, "For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."<sup>4</sup> This is an unalterable, irrefutable law of God, as certain as the law of Gravity,

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<sup>1</sup>Genesis 1:1 (a). All scripture references are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup>Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send in His Name, "...will teach you all things..." See John 14:25 & 26.

<sup>3</sup>"The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart." (Proverbs 20:27)

<sup>4</sup>Luke 17:21 (b).

as are all of God's laws when accepted by faith and understood in the spirit.

It makes very little sense rationally, that one might spend the better part of a day learning the meaning of four simple words. But that's the way of our God. Several other things were learned as a result of this teaching. For example, when Solomon wrote, "Fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man,"<sup>5</sup> he was not talking about a child of God being afraid of his Father. Absolutely not! When you turn to God, receive His Son as savior and Lord and know Jesus through the precious Holy Spirit, His perfect love casts out fear.<sup>6</sup> Fear and love cannot dwell in the same vessel. The fear and wrath of God are reserved for those who are His enemies. Jesus said, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell,"<sup>7</sup> that is, destroy the soul and body of *God's enemies in hell*. Know assuredly that hell is just as real as God is real. He has assigned to everyone a measure of faith<sup>8</sup> through which to come to Him for salvation. And salvation means so much more than eternal life. The Lord has been dealing with

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<sup>5</sup>Ecclesiastes 12:13 (b), RSV.

<sup>6</sup>In 1 John 4:18 the Apostle wrote, "There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because **fear involves torment**. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." The source of God's love is the Holy Spirit, as recorded by the Apostle Paul, "...because the precious love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." [Romans 5:5 (b)]. Notice also in 1 John 4:18, as referenced above in this footnote, that **fear involves torment!** This is a clear indication that the source of fear in the world, as we know it today, originated with the sin of Adam. And Satan himself orchestrated the act. Proof of this fact is that Adam walked and talked with God, was naked, unashamed and unafraid before he sinned. After he sinned, he was ashamed of his condition, was afraid, and therefore hid from God. See Genesis 3:10. A Christian who does not pray is hiding from God, the very source his treasure.

<sup>7</sup>Matthew 10:28.

<sup>8</sup>See Romans 12:3 (b): "...God has dealt to **each** one a measure of faith." (Bold pint added). Therefore, because of God's grace and mercy, He has **given** us the means whereby we may come to Him for the blessings of His treasures.

me for some time to write about the benefits of a Spirit filled life as it pertains to physical health. I have been reluctant to do so because there are so many of God's servants who are better qualified than I am for this task. But in spite of that, I intend to write of these benefits in a later letter.

### THREE MORE WORDS

The morning of May 14, 1997, the Holy Spirit awakened me with these words, "Two ten James." The words were clear and unmistakable. I realized immediately that *two ten James* referred to Chapter two, verse ten of the book of James, usually referred to as James 2:10 but never as 2:10 James. But the Holy Spirit does not make mistakes. I had no idea of the content of this verse of scripture. As you may realize, when Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure from this earth, He also told *them* many things that *they* did not comprehend at first. For example, He told them that after His departure, He would send them another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, Who would "**teach them all things.**"<sup>9</sup> In other words, the Holy Spirit Himself, in the absence of Jesus, would become the new leader<sup>10</sup> of His disciples, Who would guide them into all truth. His small band of followers had very little understanding of what those words meant.<sup>11</sup> But that fact, within itself, more clearly

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<sup>9</sup>John 14:25 & 26..

<sup>10</sup>See John 16:13 & 14.

<sup>11</sup>One proof of this (and there are many others) is the incident recorded by the Apostle Matthew in the twenty-eighth chapter of His Gospel: the story begins with the resurrected Jesus directing the eleven Apostles to go to a mountain in Galilee where He would meet them. After the eleven arrived, Jesus appeared to them. "And when they saw him they worshiped Him; **but some doubted.**" (Matthew 28:17, bold type added, RSV). Try and grasp the impact of this: Forty days after Jesus was crucified, immediately before His ascension and ten days before the Church was established by the Acts of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in the second chapter of Acts, two or more of His Apostles were not sure **who Jesus was!** And I am persuaded that the word **some** means more than two. Seeing Jesus heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, give good news to the poor, as well as being resurrected from His tomb, **did not convince them that He was the Messiah!** Being empowered themselves to do some of these same things when the twelve and the seventy were sent out did not convince them. It was only **after** the Holy Spirit fell on them, ten days later on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), that **the doubts were erased!** As it was then, **so it is today! It is the Holy Spirit Himself who erases the doubts! Then you are sure -- then you know!** One of the major offices of the Holy Spirit is to

defined the future work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. That meant only one thing: that **the Spirit would come**, and only through their experience with Him, would they be taught the meaning of the words Jesus said. He would remove the "cloud" from their understanding. Only then would the meaning of the words become clear. Only then would doubters and cowards become stalwarts of the faith who would give their lives rather than recant. And the Holy Spirit will do the same for you if you will ask Him. Please do not be afraid of the Holy Spirit. Those who would warn you of the "pitfalls" of believing that the Holy Spirit is still doing things today that He did in the first century, have reasons for what they believe. Do not judge them for that, but rather bless them and pray for them. And do not deprive yourself of a blessing by failing to ask for the Holy Spirit. Even though the Lord is not yet finished with me, my changed life is both proof and evidence that the Holy Spirit works today as He did in the first century.

As you can imagine, when the Holy Spirit said to me, "Two ten James," my curiosity was aroused. When I opened my bible to the passage, I read these words, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." And sure enough, when I read those words that morning, I had no idea of why the Holy Spirit gave them to me. But true to His calling, He realized that, and also knew He had to teach me what He meant by the words, so I would understand what to do with the message He had given me. As usual, I wanted an answer immediately. But it didn't come that way. However, over the past few weeks the meaning has become clear, fifteen and one-half months after He spoke to me.

For sixteen years, from 1950 to 1966, I was a member of a church which makes exclusive salvation claims for its members only. In good faith, I accepted the exclusive doctrinal package completely and became a leader in that church. I have no idea how many other churches on the American scene make such exclusive claims, but I do know that there are several, some of which have large memberships. The problem of

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confirm within the believer the reality of Jesus as Lord to the Glory of God. (See John 14:21). And that's what He wants to do for you right now if you will extend Him an invitation, for Jesus said, "If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." (See Luke 11:9 - 13 for this verse and its context.)

determining that number is ever changing and here is why:

Once a Church becomes entangled in exclusive salvation doctrine for its members only, the evolution of that concept has no end. Church splits become the norm as “sound doctrine” or “pure doctrine” grows even more exclusive. For example, in the history of the church I was a part of, there have been church splits or divisions over such things as how to serve the Lord’s supper (one cup vs. many cups), the millennium, kitchens and recreational facilities owned by the church or in the church building complex, the care of orphans, Sunday School classes, the use of musical instruments in the worship services, just to name a few. It is my observation that when “sound doctrine” becomes the measure for fellowship or membership, Jesus is no longer Lord and the ministry of the Holy Spirit is not believed, taught or allowed. This can lead to serious error about which I shall write in a later letter.

The situation in the Church today is exactly as it was in the early Church. As the ministry of the Holy Spirit is openly taught in any Church, according to the scriptures, without restriction, His teaching and leading will change one so that his doctrine becomes a matter of grace and not of law. I write these words because they have been true in my life since about 7:45 A.M. on November 25, 1965 when the Holy Spirit Himself awakened me from my spiritual lethargy. The moment He spoke to me, my legalistic doctrine lay shattered at my feet, Jesus became Lord, the Holy Spirit confirmed to me my salvation and I saw and understood grace for the first time at forty-five years of age!

The Apostle Paul wrote that Satan transforms himself as an angel of light.<sup>12</sup> Light or enlightenment is spoken of in the Bible as the truth that will set you free. What Paul is saying here is that **truth** (scripture verses) may be used as a beguiling trick of the enemy. Here is why and here is how it happens: “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”<sup>13</sup> **Truth (scripture verses) without grace becomes law by which man is imprisoned,** “because by works of the law shall no one be justified.”<sup>14</sup> The reason is revealed in exactly what the Holy Spirit said

to me, “For whoever shall keep the whole law and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” Truth without grace becomes law based on works,<sup>15</sup> and you never know when you have done enough. Law will leave you insecure and never give you peace, the peace Jesus came to give. The reason is that law never justifies and law never changes one inside, even though those laws are based on scripture verses!

In a church where exclusive salvation claims are made for its members only, the messenger in the pulpit must constantly lift up the exclusive doctrinal salvation claims with supporting scripture verses to keep the membership “sound” and the new and prospective members properly “indoctrinated.”<sup>16</sup> The only antidote for truth without grace (law) is truth and grace through Jesus Christ. This is accomplished when Jesus is lifted up in the place of doctrine, for He Himself said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”<sup>17</sup> Once you catch a glimpse of Him, He will set you free. Thereafter your doctrine will gradually become a Person, who will change you from one degree of glory to another<sup>18</sup> as you learn to live with Him and for Him. Thereafter the way one’s doctrine is changed is by taking one step closer to Him.

The reason the Holy Spirit said to me “Two ten James,” or “2:10 James,” instead of James 2:10, is because *the words of scripture are more important than*

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<sup>15</sup>Works meaning adhering to specific doctrinal rules based on scripture verses which define the exclusive doctrinal salvation claims.

<sup>16</sup>I recall very clearly the reaction of the Church which expelled me and my family from its membership because I had been gloriously blessed by praying for baptism of the Holy Spirit. The first reaction of the Church leaders was panic that someone (one of their leaders) had strayed from their legalistic doctrine (truth without grace). The second reaction was to remove me and my wife from all activities within the Church including teaching. Since my doctrine was “polluted,” I was no longer allowed to pray in the worship services of the Church. The third reaction was to expel me from the Church without causing disturbance to the other members. The fourth reaction was to begin teaching anew, both from the pulpit and in Sunday School classes, the restoration of their “sound doctrine” so other members would “know the truth” and not stray from the fold.

<sup>17</sup>John 12:32.

<sup>18</sup>“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (II Corinthians 3:18, RSV).

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<sup>12</sup>Corinthians 11:14.

<sup>13</sup>John 1:17.

<sup>14</sup>Galatians 2:16 (b), RSV.

*the name of the one who wrote them.*

### SEVEN WORDS

In the first three pages of this letter I have written about *seven* words which were given to me by the Holy Spirit. Seven words which are easy to understand with the mind. But when the Holy Spirit gives them to you, it's a different matter. Words spoken directly to you by the Holy Spirit truly *are* spirit and life.<sup>19</sup> It may require a thousand words to give away each one given to you by the Holy Spirit.

### ADMONITION

As I have previously written, in the early days of my personal relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit said these two things to me, in this order, as I recall: "You are not to preach the Gospel," and, "Your work is your ministry." This meant that every day I went to the office, I went to do the Lord's work. And that was a real blessing. About 11:00 A.M. one morning, not long after He spoke these words to me, I dictated a letter to my secretary. This was before word processors and spell checkers. When the letter appeared in my inbox, I picked it up, made a few changes and corrections and pitched it back in my outbox. Thirty minutes later the letter was back in my inbox. I picked it up, expecting to sign it out and go to the next item on my agenda. Instead, I found one or two spelling mistakes. Whereupon I began to boil inside. My thoughts were along this line: "Here I am, a highly paid executive, having to do work my secretary should be able to do without my prompting her! The cost of this letter, considering the secretary's time and my time, is ridiculous. Why in the world doesn't she have enough sense and initiative to pick up the dictionary," I fumed to myself! With these thoughts feeding my flesh, I made the corrections, pitched the letter in my outbox again and went to lunch. That day I drove to a restaurant on the southeast corner of the Mockingbird Lane-Greenville Avenue intersection and gave my lunch order to a waitress. When she left to turn in my order, the Holy Spirit began to speak to me. As He began, I grabbed a paper napkin out of the metal napkin holder and wrote these words as *He dictated them to*

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<sup>19</sup>Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).

*me!*

*"Quit resisting temptations of the enemy which come to strengthen you in your area of weakness. Do not resist. Relax. The battle has been won. Just accept the victory and be saved from such turmoil. My son, you are trying too hard, struggling against that which I am trying to do in you so the praise, glory and honor can be mine. Therefore read and reread these words and I will give you the complete victory that you desire. Resistance to Satan is done in the spirit by faith in Jesus' Name, who has done all and accomplished complete defeat of the enemy, which is why He came to earth. Therefore, resist the enemy, firm in your faith, knowing the blessings, power and goodness of Christ Jesus is all yours by faith in Him."*

Shortly after I was given these words, I typed them on a 3" x 5" index card and carried it in my shirt pocket for several years. As I was instructed, I read and reread these words so many times, that I could repeat them verbatim without looking at the card.

Obviously, my reaction to the secretary's mistakes was wrong. My recollection is that I said nothing to her, but simply fumed to myself. Nevertheless, my reaction was very much in the flesh and totally wrong. This kind of fleshly reaction was exactly what Jesus had in mind when He said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."<sup>20</sup> The cross is not the symbol of life. It is the symbol of death! Jesus can live His life through us only as we are willing to *die to self*. The Apostle Paul expressed the same thing in these words, "I die daily."<sup>21</sup> A **dead self cannot fume** within when his secretary is doing her best to do her job. Herein lies one of my many weaknesses. God help me to be mindful of the Apostle Paul's *admonition*, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."<sup>22</sup>

....more later, the Lord willing.

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<sup>20</sup>Luke 9:23.

<sup>21</sup>I Corinthians 15:31 (b).

<sup>22</sup>Philippians 2:3.