

ANGÈLE CAPORASO
10552 SE 151ST STREET
SUMMERFIELD FL 34491
PH. 352-288-5257
EMAIL- jackiecaporaso@gmail.com

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST IN YOU

NO.316

BREAD OF LIFE

“As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father:so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead; he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.” (Jn.6:57-58)

In the wilderness, Israel had no bread to eat. God rained down “manna” on their camps, every morning of the week, except on the Sabbath. It was nutritious, but it was very bland and tasteless. Jesus said that they ate that manna and died. It was not that the manna poisoned them; it was that it did not give them eternal life. Jesus was speaking spiritually and not literally. Manna is a type of the Word under the Law. It is as the literal letter of the Word. It will give strength for the day, but cannot produce eternal life.

We have all preached words that did not give life, yet were good for the soul and help the hearers live better lives. These are behavioral words that help us control our human emotions, and enjoy a more peaceful and successful “now” life. But these words are as “manna.” They do not quicken life eternal within the preachers or the hearers.

Jesus, the Word, explains that He is not as this manna. He calls Himself “The Bread of Life.” When bread bakes, its aroma stirs up the appetite; it is mouth-watering. In the natural, bread is called the “staff of life” because it is a food that can sustain life. The prophet Ezekiel speaks of God breaking Israel’s staff of life because of their disobedience.

We can eat the same fresh-baked bread each day, delight in every bite, and never get tired of it; fresh-baked bread is very satisfying and pleasant to eat.

When Jesus taught us to ask the Father for our “daily bread,” He was primarily speaking of Himself as the bread of life. And so the Word of God that He gives us each day is always fresh, new and exciting, even when it is served over and over again. The Spirit repeats many truths, over and over again and each time, the one who eats of it receives new life. The Bible is a book of “parallelisms.” This means that many things are repeated in different ways. So it is like the bread that we eat every day; we can never get tired of it.

At this point, the story of Adam and Eve in the garden comes up again. Keeping in mind that these are not just one time events that took place long ago, but they are events that keep repeating themselves from generation to generation in the people. Adam’s partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is something that keeps happening in the lives of every descendant of Adam, even today.

Adam and Eve never ate of the tree of life, and neither had anyone else until the time that Jesus came and opened the way. Our carnal minds can only lead us by the knowledge from the tree of good and evil. Our carnal minds are totally opposite and at enmity with the tree of life who is Christ.

From the time we are born, we are trained and educated on the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is the fruit of our carnal learning and reasoning, and although knowledge helps us tremendously in this world, it cannot give us life eternal; even the greatest minds and the most brilliant and talented individuals, end up in the grave with all their wisdom, knowledge and abilities. This kind of knowledge is, at best, what helps us navigate our

daily lives, and climb the ladder of success in this world. It is when we begin to eat of the Bread of life; that is to say, of the living, passed through the fire Word of Jesus Himself, that we begin our turn around and our journey to “eternal life.”

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles was an Israelite, well learned in the Scriptures, who also became a man filled with God’s Holy Spirit. Paul never saw the physical Jesus, and he was not taught by Him as were the other apostles each day. But Paul had experienced a tremendous, unforgettable, life-changing encounter with the resurrected and glorified Lord. This caused him to isolate himself for three years, in the desert of Arabia, to hear from His Lord and be filled in on his new mission. The other disciples walked three years with Jesus, but Paul’s three years in the desert with Jesus in the Spirit, led him to discover mysteries that the others could not comprehend.

Paul knew that it was difficult to explain what he was seeing. He wrote to the saints and brethren of the church, imploring them to pray that he would find a way to speak these mysteries among the saints. *“Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds.”* (Col.4:3)

Paul was most likely talking about the bonds imposed on him by the authorities of that day, but today, as the Spirit reveals many of these truths in a new way, there are spiritual forces coming from our own minds, and often from our own brethren, that try to hinder us from fully receiving new truths.

These hidden mysteries are not “doctrines.” They are part of our eternal clothing in Christ. Doctrines are teachings that we apply to our everyday lives, but these mysteries are truths that quicken us into becoming the image of Christ. These truths were very difficult for Paul to explain because none were ready to receive them. I speak from my own experience when I say that these truths are very difficult to accept because they totally upset the patterns of what we have believed. They cause division among the brethren,

and make us vulnerable to insult and even slander by those who once were our friends. This has been the way, each time that the Lord has moved us up higher in the Light. We have had to make the choice, either stay in the comfortable place we shared with dear ones for many years, or follow Him. It was so when I became “born-again.” It was so when I received the Holy Spirit baptism. It was so when I was joined to the Word of Sonship. It is so with the third feast and the deliverance of the entire creation. And now there is a mystery that is being revealed; the unfolding of the mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory.

A few night ago I dreamed, “My husband and I had been living in a house filled with light. It was very clean and bright with many windows. When looking out of the windows, one could see the grounds below where many streams of crystal clear water were bubbling everywhere. But now my husband had gotten a new job. It was a great job in aeronautical engineering but it was away from this house. I had the choice of staying here and he would visit from time to time, or sell the house and be with him. I sold the house and two women bought it right away. I was showing them the house and the streams of water from the window. I became a little nostalgic about leaving this place, yet I knew that I could not live without being close to my husband every day.” End of dream.

In this dream, I represent not only myself, but all whose spirits and souls live in a bright place in Christ, (denoted by the many windows of the house that let in the Light of truth). They are surrounded by the many clear, bubbling streams of living water that issue from the many voices of the Body of Christ. Voices that have been heard from the times of the first apostles, to this day. Now the Lord is calling again, “Come up higher!” And every time we come up higher, there is a price to pay. We leave behind the familiar ways of the past. This has to be and the choice is not always easy.

Note that the new job has to do with aeronautical engineering. From what I gather, this has to do with designing aircraft, propulsion systems and studying their performance. The dream did not say astronautical engineering which would have to do with space vehicles; it was simply aeronautical. When we trans-

late this in the Spirit, we understand that the next step our husband Christ is taking us to, has to do with ways of spiritual communications and with a higher and clearer understanding of the Word.

VESSELS OF MERCY

Speaking of Paul, the Lord told Ananias, “...*Go thy way for he is a **chosen vessel** unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.*” (Acts 9:15) Paul was a high-ranking Israelite and a Pharisee of Pharisees. When Jesus brought him down from his high horse and called him for Himself, He did not send him only to his own people, He sent him to the Gentiles.

The Gentiles were a great part of Paul’s mission. God needed a people that had no history among His chosen nation. He needed a people who had never known His Law or His prophets, and who were in total darkness, worshiping false gods. He knew that once converted, these Gentiles would appreciate their calling much more than the Jews. The Jews at the time were very arrogant and cock-sure of themselves as they boldly told the Master, “...*ABRAHAM IS OUR FATHER. Jesus said, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham.*” (Jn.8:39)

The Gentiles had no previous history with the God of Israel. They knew how it felt to be called “dogs,” “nobodies.” The Gentiles could have compassion on the world, because they had been part of the world. They had never been a chosen people. Paul called them “vessels of mercy” for he knew that they had been chosen and predestinated, not only to receive God’s mercy, but to BE His mercy.

He writes, “*And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the **vessels of mercy**, which he had **AFORE PREPARED** unto glory, (which he prepared before hand for glory), even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As he saith in Osee (Hosea) I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her **BELOVED** (my Bride) which was not beloved.*” (Rom.9:23-25)

The Jews were so wrapped up in their religious opin-

ions and works, that they could not accept that the Gentiles could ever be saved and become God’s people. The same spirit among legalistic Christians today, smugly reject the truth that the sons are called to save God’s entire creation. It is the very same story.

PROPHECY FULFILLED BY JESUS

We know that everything Jesus did while here on earth, was fulfilling the words of God’s prophets. He is continuing this work through His body, until all is fulfilled. One day, when Jesus went to the synagogue of his home town, He opened the book of the prophet Isaiah and specifically selected a prophecy that spoke of Himself.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor... (He had been doing that.) He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book...” (Lk.4:18-19)

At that exact point, Jesus closed the book and quit reading. So far, these were the things that Jesus was called to fulfill while He walked the earth. Jesus actually stopped reading in the middle of a sentence, but the prophecy continues with a lot more...to be fulfilled later. “...*and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.*” (Isa.61:2b-3)

We have all heard this before, but as a foundation for the mystery of Christ to be revealed, we need to see that there is a timely order to the fulfillment of this prophecy. In the first part, Jesus certainly preached the gospel to the poor (in spirit too), He has touched those who have a need for inner healing. He did this while here on earth and continued to do this through His gift ministries. “*For he gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers...*” (Eph.4:11) Although men have set up “seminaries” to teach their ministers

what to say and how to say it, the Lord has had His devoted workers who faithfully accomplished that which they were sent to do.

It is through these that Jesus called out His church and taught her to hear His Word, even in the literal letter at first. For me, as with many, the cry of my heart was to know who I was in this immensity. Who did I belong to? Where did I come from, and where was I going? Through these ministries I found my answer and new direction for my life.

When Jesus came to my spiritual house (spirit and soul), it was through these ministries that I heard the gospel of salvation; and found healing for my broken heart. After I met Him, the world no longer frightened me; it did not possess me; I belonged to Jesus and I was safe. I had been captive to the darkness of this world, but now I found the Way out.

I had been blind to the world of “spirit,” and Jesus gave me eyes to see beyond this physical realm. As I moved on with Him, the dead rituals of churches and assemblies were no longer sources that fed the new life within. I became free from all of them. Jesus made me free indeed. Jesus began these things when He was here on earth. He continued them after He sent His Holy Spirit, and now He will finish fulfilling the rest of this prophecy as He arises in His body.

We come to the place where Jesus closed the book. The next thing that we come to is indeed alarming; it is the “day of vengeance of our God.” Jesus knew that His time on earth was not to be a time of vengeance. That part of the prophecy would be fulfilled at a time closer to the end of the age. Now Jesus began to build the church that would prevail against the gates of hell that have kept the world in its clutches of sin and death.

Jesus knew that it would be a time of great tribulations. The “man of sin” would be revealed, and he would wreak havoc over the people of the earth. Jesus spoke of great tribulations at the time when the Son of Man was about to appear. *“The stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.”*(Mk.13:25) This is not speaking of the twinkling stars that we see in the sky at night; it is

speaking of the governmental powers that have ruled over humanity. Many shall fall off their position of power and many will be shaken to the core.

“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.” (Vs.26) This is the Lord Jesus coming in the clouds of heaven (His body of witnesses). This is who we are, witnesses with personal experience. Christ, who is now risen within His people, is not yet manifested, but the powers of Satan, that serpent who deceived the world and made himself to be God, is now being shaken to the core. He is in panic, not knowing what to do, to keep his kingdom from being crushed to dust.

As it was in the times of Samuel and Eli, the glory has now departed from many of the world’s powers. The world has been ruled by powerful emperors, kings and princes, dictators, communist leaders, prime ministers, presidents and more. People have been under the rule of totalitarianism, socialism, communism, tyranny, democracy and theology. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan rule the people with the iron fist of a theocracy. All of them have been stars in the darkness to the people, but now their time is up, the kingdom of God is at hand.

And so we understand why there is so much chaos, violence, bitterness and animosity among the people today. The “man of sin” which is the old carnal serpent nature in the Adam man, has been revealed. He has controlled the people of the earth and is now being DE-throned with no recourse. These are days of great tribulations; the days of vengeance of our God.

WATCHING THE DAY OF VENGEANCE

We may have been led to believe that the Day of the Lord was to be a glorious day in the world. But Joel declared that it is, *“A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness...”* Joel 2:2a) Speaking of those days, the Lord says, *“Take heed, WATCH AND PRAY for ye know not when the time is.”* (Mk.13:33) The Lord has made us “watchers.” We are watching with great interest, everything that He is doing, not only in each of us, but in the entire creation. God’s Spirit is the One doing the work, while the watchers are standing and believing in

great anticipation of His soon and full appearing in power and glory in the saints. As watchers, we have seen the mighty work of our Lord. We have met with Him as He marched up and down into the depths of our souls and spirits, defeating and eradicating the lies that held us in darkness. And now we are watching Him in the world around us, as He goes about dethroning the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, (carnal, earthly realm). We are watching this Conqueror as He sits on His white horse (the righteousness of God made flesh), with eyes as a flame of fire, and the many crowns of His overcoming victories in us, upon His head.

He is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood for He is coming to avenge all the righteous blood that has been poured out for His name sake. And, He has a name written that no man knows, but He himself. *“And his name is called THE WORD OF GOD. And the armies which are in heaven (in the spirit) followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”* (Rev.19:13-14) Many are familiar with the written Word, but only those who are in Him, know his name, THE (living) WORD OF GOD.

Can we not see that this is the same WORD OF GOD who has been riding up and down in our vessels, to purify us and to clothe us with the righteousness of God, the fine linen white and clean. And now He is raising us up, along with all who have gone before us, as the armies of heaven, to proclaim the truth as it has never been proclaimed before, in order to defeat and abolish all the lies of the devil and to bring creation to bow down before the true God.

“Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. ALL NATIONS whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.” (Ps.86:8-9)

In our day, the “image of the beast” is highly worshiped. The beast is the SELF, egotistical one that has been formed by the lies of the serpent. It is that image of our EGO, along with the heroes that we have created, that have become the gods that men, women and children of this world fervently follow. By turning away from the Word of God and going

about their own way, they are perpetuating and ever increasing the suffering of this Adam man in this world and beyond.

The day of vengeance of our God is the love of God putting an end to this damning cycle. It is the fulfillment of what God told the serpent, *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring. He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.”*(Gen.3:15 Ampl.)

This amplified version makes it clear that it is the Offspring or Son that the woman, the true church will bear (Christ in us), just as Mary bore the Offspring of God’s seed to give birth to the Savior. It is the Offspring of the woman, the church, who will tread underfoot the seed of the Adam man, with its carnal, serpentine mind. The same Son of God, who first came to destroy the works of the man of sin in His people, is now being raised up in His brethren, to perform the works of crushing the head of the devil in humanity and creation.

THE PLANTING OF THE LORD

As we continue reading the words of the prophecy, we find that amid all the woes and sufferings that the destroying of the world systems is producing, our God is ministering “comfort and hope” to those who mourn their loss. And He takes great care of Zion, those who are His called out people in Christ. He gives them beauty for ashes. He gives them much more than the fire has taken away. Job received seven times more than he had before he was tested of Satan.

As the Lord restores peace and praise to our hearts, He whispers our new name to our spiritual ear. *“...that they might be called TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.”* (Isa.61:3)

As we moved higher in Christ, we have walked through many hot fires. We have been rejected by our peers many times. We have been misunderstood and looked upon as trash for our beliefs. Yet each time, He has covered us with the garment of praise

from within. The greatest of all His promises comes at the end of the prophecy, "They shall be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." From the Seed of the Word, we have become tall trees of His righteousness.

Paul said, "*For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.*" (Rom.8:18) The trees of righteousness are His chosen people, His sons, who will rule and reign with Christ to deliver creation.

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Jesus said, "*Except a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye MUST be born again.*" (Jn.3:5-7)

It is necessary that we be first born of the flesh. But then we MUST also be born of the Spirit, to enter the kingdom of God. Although we will definitely, first go through repentance and a change of heart, **IT IS WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN INTO A NEW CREATION** that we ENTER the kingdom of God. This new creation begins in the flesh and is **REBORN** of the Spirit.

When the Lord God formed the Adam man, He made him male and female. In this way, He was prepared to reproduce his image in the earth. When our God designed those whom He called, He equipped them with the spiritual reproductive system that would give birth to sons of God. "*For as many as received him, to them gave he power to become sons of God.*" (Jn.1:12)

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST IN YOU

Many times, I have wondered about the difference between Christ in us, and the Holy Spirit in us. We know that Christ in us is the **GLORY** that shall be revealed. He is the new creation that will reflect the glory of our Father in the world. When God created the earth, He created the perfect environment to plant seeds. He gave to each living thing, a seed to reproduce itself. Every tree, flower, plant has seed after its

own kind. Every beast of the field has a seed to reproduce its likeness. And not only do they have **SEED**, God also gave them the **WOMB** (the female, the bride) to receive, incubate and give birth to the life of that seed. Man has to have a woman, a womb, to multiply and reproduce his own image in the earth.

Paul told the church that "*God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery AMONG THE GENTILES; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" (Col.1:27) And indeed, the Holy Spirit within us, is the Revealer of this Christ. The Holy Spirit speaks the Word of life (Seed) into the spiritual womb of the woman, the church. It is there that she receives it, and where the quickening of life begins. In the natural, the woman's womb produces the egg where the embryo is formed. In the Spirit, Christ is the brand-new nature, the "divine embryo," that is quickened and begins to grow with the nurturing and nourishing of the Word that the woman receives daily.

By His great love and wisdom, our God has placed the new nature, the Christ nature in the form of an "embryo", to begin reproducing the image of the Son of God in us. This is why, after we repent we begin to feel the new life in us, but we need to nurture and nourish that new life that it might continue to be formed and grow. This is why we are first babes in Christ, then teenagers, then we mature into the fullness of the new Man. It is why Paul told the church, "*My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU.*" (Gal.4:19). They were still little children while Christ was being formed in them.

The woman is His bride. She receives the Seed in her womb which is the fertile mind that has been tilled and prepared to accept and believe the Word. The young virgin Mary, who received the Seed planted in her by the Holy Spirit, **BELIEVED** the angel that told her about the child that she was to bear. **FAITH** is key in this process. If we cannot believe the Word He speaks, we cannot receive the Seed, and give birth to the new creature in Christ. For this reason, the Lord takes us through a season of wooing. A season during which He shows us how much He loves us. He reveals the darkness of the sin nature

that has been our life, and He embraces us with total forgiveness. He gives us the hope of a brand new eternal life. Luke tells of the woman to whom much was forgiven, so SHE LOVED MUCH.

If the Seed of the Word is received by the intellect and not by faith and love of the truth, it will not produce the image of the Son of God. It is the Father that draws us, and the Father is Love. In a recent dream that I already shared, the Father approved of the union with the Son, because I truly loved the Son. Love is what He looks for. It is the Love of truth, the Love of the Word that forms this Son in us. *“We love him, because he first loved us.”* (I Jn.4:19) He shows us His love as He delivers us from evil, opens our understanding, comforts us through our griefs, heals our raw emotions and our hurting bodies.

For us, who have come to the end of this age, the “manchild” is about to be birthed. He has gone through the stages of being a baby, then a teenager, but is now coming to his full maturity. He is developing into a Priest and King, the Christ of God who will rule and reign in the earth. He is no longer our hope of glory within, He is who WE HAVE BECOME, through this divine union with Him.

A DOUBLE-MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE

“A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.” (Jms.1:8) Being double-minded is the indisputable condition of the first Adam man. As Eve was tempted and tested by the serpent, so our old nature constantly tempts us as well. The serpent offered her things that were contrary to what she knew God had told her, yet she could not resist the temptor, and yielded herself to his lies. When she told Adam what she had done, he was caught in the trap, because he knew he could not leave her. The first man sinned and was cast out of the place (garden), where he could hear from God. From that time forward, man was led by the reasoning of the carnal mind, the twisted, earthly mind of the serpent.

This is still the predicament of this man of flesh. Then when we are “born-again,” we have access to the mind of Christ, but often teeter from one to the other, unable to make up our mind. This is the state

of the double-minded, unstable man. Paul was in this state when he wrote, *“For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. O wretched man that I am.”* (Rom.7:15)

Jesus was tempted in the same way. As soon as He was baptized by John with the baptism of repentance, He was baptized in the Holy Spirit, *“And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Matt.3:16-17)

From that time on, Jesus was declared to be the Father’s beloved Son. Nevertheless, we read, *“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”* (Matt.4:1) No time was wasted. The Holy Spirit who was leading Jesus, took Him directly into a forty-day trial of shrewd and relentless temptations by the devil himself- no holds barred.

The same serpent that tempted Eve and won, was now trying his bewitching on Jesus. The Son of God made the right choices and passed all the tests. What the devil offered Jesus was basically what the serpent offered to Eve: knowledge of good and evil which he said would make one like God. Since that time, it is with this knowledge that men have ruled their own lives and the lives of others too.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

John Curtin, a brother in this walk, wrote a short article in which he mentions the difference between “knowledge” of good and evil and “good and evil” itself. It was the knowledge of good and evil that they partook of. Now they thought they knew how to rule themselves and society, they could judge the people, they could live in peace because they knew how to judge and control good and evil. The problem is that they did not partake of the all important “TREE OF LIFE.” They did not know Christ, and so all of their knowledge was carnal.

This has been happening ever since. Empires and kingdoms have risen and fallen because man has a warped knowledge of good and evil. We see this in the polluted justice of the court systems today. Lawyers and judges sound very knowledgeable and smart, but they have ruled the world with the reasoning of the serpentine mind. This mind is the man of sin who makes himself to be God, but is the expression of human carnal knowledge. This is THE THING that has brought (and is yet bringing), all nations and kingdoms to their ruin.

It is obvious that the Christian's greatest battlefield is the mind. Our minds are continually filled with activity. It is impossible to shut off the flow of thoughts that comes through our minds. The Word tells us to "meditate" on God's Word. We need to exercise ourselves in taking authority over the carnal thoughts of our minds, and be single-minded on the thoughts of the Spirit of God.

Paul teaches, "*Ye are to put off concerning the old behavior the old man, that is corrupt according to the desires of the deceit. And to be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And to put on the NEW MAN, which, according to God, was created in righteousness and kindness of the truth.*" (Eph.4:22-24. Young's literal translation) The King James Version which uses words that are more vivid, says that the new man was "*created in righteousness and true holiness.*"

Jesus has given us the most powerful and reliable tool to conquer this "old man". It is the cross. He said, "*Take up your cross daily and follow me...*" These are not empty words, they are God's power for us. Paul explains the power of the cross, yet it is not easy to grasp the truth that through the cross, the old man dies. Putting the old man and his thoughts on the cross must be a daily, continuous exercise.

"*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*" (Col.3:3) And again, "*For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise, RECKON YE ALSO YOURSELVES to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"(Rom.6:10-11) We can only reckon ourselves dead by picking up

our cross daily. David's prayer to God echoed that same truth, "*If I ascend up to heaven (in the new man) thou art there. If I make my bed in hell, (the old man) behold thou art there.*"(Ps.139:8)

David knew that it was within his own power to either choose heaven or hell on earth. There is no worse hell than the hell we create for ourselves now. Even when things are crumbling around us, and our bodies and souls are under painful attacks, we can call on the power of the new man within and keep the old man on the cross. This takes practice, but we know that our pattern, Jesus, showed us the strength of the new man as He suffered the agony of barbaric beatings followed by the cruel death of the cross.

When we received His same overcoming Spirit, Jesus gave us the power to resist all of the wiles of the flesh and of the devil. "*These things I have spoken to you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" (Jn.16:33)

Jesus Christ is as a diamond with many facets. The modern diamond has 58 facets. There are 33 facets on the crown which is the part above the "girdle" or middle of the stone. And 25 on the pavilion, which is the lower half below the girdle. Each facet catches the light from the other facets and sparkle with a rainbow of colors. Depending on the precision and sharpness of the cut, the facets will catch more light and sparkle brighter.

This is how we shine in the Body of Christ. We are all facets who reflect His bright light to one another. The many colors are the many callings and attributes that each contributes. They are lights that reflect Jesus the Lord, the Head of this marvelous body, in the brightness of the beauty of holiness.

"*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*"(I Pet.2:9)

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*