

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**
Chapter 20- Luke 20:27-40

308- What Jesus Believed and Taught about the
Resurrection- Part 2

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Luke 20:27-40

27 Now there came to Him some of the Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection),

28 and they questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that *IF A MAN'S BROTHER DIES*, having a wife, *AND HE IS CHILDLESS, HIS BROTHER SHOULD MARRY THE WIFE AND RAISE UP CHILDREN TO HIS BROTHER.*

29 "Now there were seven brothers; and the first took a wife and died childless;

30 and the second

31 and the third married her; and in the same way all seven died, leaving no children.

32 "Finally the woman died also.

33 "In the resurrection therefore, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had married her."

34 Jesus said to them, "**The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,**

35 **but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;**

36 **for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.**

37 "**But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the *passage about the burning bush*, where he calls the Lord *THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB.***

38 "**Now He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him.**"

39 Some of the scribes answered and said, "Teacher, You have spoken well."

40 For they did not have courage to question Him any longer about anything.

To the Glory of God

Now two weeks ago, we began to examine this interchange between Jesus and the Sadducees concerning the issue of the Resurrection. And we went over several things like:

- ✓ The background of who the Sadducees were and what they believed
- ✓ The distinction between the Resurrection and Re-incarnation

Now as these Sadducees asked Jesus this question, you can just see the smirk on their faces. They really think they have trapped Jesus here. And we have to understand that the Sadducees hadn't just made up this question five minutes ago, and Jesus was not the only One to whom they asked it. The Sadducees had *developed* this question after many years of dealing with the other group of religious leaders called the Pharisees. And through all the arguments and the many jokes they had made out of the practical absurdity of how the Pharisees taught the Resurrection, they had developed this argument.

So, the scenario they give Jesus here was actually designed to frustrate the *Pharisees*, because *they* were the ones who were wrongly teaching that the *next* life will be just like *this* life. The Pharisees were the ones who taught that, in the Resurrection, we would be the same person, having all of the same features, wearing the same clothes, having all the same weakness and strengths, while attached to the very same human relationships. And the Sadducees didn't buy what the Pharisees were teaching and thought maybe that Jesus agreed with the Pharisees, and so they saw this as an opportunity to discredit Jesus over this issue, so they threw it out.

Now in the sister Passage over in **Matthew 22**- we need to read something that will help us understand the magnitude of Jesus' response to these religious frauds. So turn to **Matthew 22** to look at just a single verse, . verse 29. At the end of their question, Jesus began His reply with this Statement:

Matthew 22:29

But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Now this is huge. So the first thing Jesus tells these Sadducees was they didn't understand the Scriptures. Now you have to remember that these guys prided themselves at being great interpreters of Scriptures, which at that time consisted of the 39 Books of the Old Testament. And so when Jesus says:

... You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures... nor the power of God.

He was attacking them at what was supposedly their strongest Point, the point at which they took the most pride, the understanding of the Word of God. So Jesus is insulting these men to their face by telling them that they do not understand the Scriptures correctly.

Now the word "mistake" that Jesus used here does not merely mean a "mistake" in the classic sense of that word like we use it all the time in our day. This word has a much *deeper* meaning that actually refers to:

An error that causes a person to wander OR an error that leads someone astray.

In other words, Jesus is telling these men, *"You are ignorant interpreters of Scripture. You've gotten it all wrong. You have misled yourselves. You are deceived. You have wandered from the Truth because you do not understand the Scriptures."*

And then Jesus adds insult injury and says that they were wrong and deceived about something else, too:

... the power of God.

So their blind eyes had deceived them into believing wrongly about two things:

- ✓ A correct understanding of Scripture
- ✓ The Power of God

So aside from completely missing the mark about the only two things that matter, the Sadducees were fairly astute. So, right off the bat, Jesus is saying that their entire effort at staying faithful to the first five Books of Moses at the expense of all the other OT Books was real bad theology. That method had deceived them and robbed them of a correct understanding of the Scriptures.

And it won't help people any better in our day, either. The notion that many people espouse today that says the so-called "red letter" Words of Jesus recorded in the four Gospel Records are somehow of a *higher* inspiration than the rest of the Bible is nonsense. But believing this is actually *worse* than nonsense, because believing this will deceive you and it will *rob* you of having a Biblical understanding of the important and eternal issues. So we need to know what God the Holy Spirit moved the Apostles Peter and Paul and John to write down, as well as the writer of the Book of Hebrews and Jude and James, or we will be off in our understanding of New Testament Truth.

And that is why we need to comprehend what God gave Daniel and David and Samuel and Isaiah and Ezra and Jeremiah and the other OT Prophets, because the *entirety* of sacred Scripture is fully inspired, all 66 books have been breathed out by God, and is therefore:

- ✓ Inerrant
- ✓ Infallible
- ✓ Authoritative
- ✓ Relevant

And all of this put together is what is called "The Sufficiency of Scripture". And that is why God moved upon the Apostle Paul to say:

2 Timothy 3:16&17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Now the Reformers of the 16th Century developed a concept about Scripture that *reinforces* what Paul said here. And that concept says that all Church Doctrine, all Teaching in the Church, all Correction, all training in Righteousness, and all Counselling must be from the

Scriptures and from the Scriptures alone. And this concept is defined by the Latin phrase:

Sola Scriptura

So, for example, suggesting that you can read and understand the Old Testament correctly, and still not believe in the full Deity of Jesus Christ, or that sinners are justified by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Christ alone, and not through human works or through obedience to the Law or by keeping the Sacraments, is ridiculous.

A correct reading and understanding of what God inspired to be in the 39 Books of the Old Testament will *always* and in *all cases*, bring the individual to a saving Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And if it doesn't, then you have *misread* the Old Testament and you are deceived.

So Judaism as we know it today, as well as these Messianic cults that spring up everywhere are wrong about what they take great pride in- what the Old Testament says. And that causes these people to deny three fundamental things:

- ✓ The Deity of Jesus Christ
- ✓ The full Inspiration of the New Testament
- ✓ Justification by Grace through Faith alone

... which eliminates any possibility of any of these people being saved.

So Jesus said that these Sadducees did not know the Scriptures correctly. And had they known the Power of God, they would have understood that God is able to raise people in a state where all the absurdities that the Sadducees put forth in this question to Jesus would be solved.

So what you should take away from this is that these Sadducees were spiritually blind. They were *not* following God and they were *not* saved.

Now please turn with me to **John 11**. And as you're turning, you need to understand that these men are approaching Jesus here with a view of getting rid of Him because He's a very serious threat to

them. And that is what the Apostle John was talking about in **John 11:47-48** when he said:

47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.

48 "If we let Him *go on* like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

So while the Sadducees and the Pharisees can't agree on theology, they *do* agree that they both want Jesus dead. Now the chief priests, who were basically all Sadducees, didn't really want Jesus to be arrested by the Romans, even though they eventually fell in line with the Pharisees about that. They were very worried about Rome getting involved in what they considered to be an internal matter, and they were always concerned about doing anything that might irritate Rome because that would threaten their own security.

But here, John tells us that these two very divergent religious groups put aside their differences and came together to see what they could do to destroy Jesus. And it was the Pharisees who asked the question:

What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.

You see, the Pharisees never denied Jesus' miracles, not even the raising of Lazarus from the dead. But it was the chief priests who said:

If we let Him *go on* like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.

... and this was because these chief priests were Sadducees, who feared losing their position and prestige with Rome.

So the Pharisees want the Romans to come and arrest Jesus so that the people will immediately know that He's not the real Messiah, because surely the real Messiah would never allow Himself to be taken prisoner.

But the Sadducees don't want the Romans involved in this because they think they'll lose their position. And John tells us this, beginning with the next verse:

John 11:49-53

49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."

51 Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation,

52 and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.

So, for the very first time in their entire history, these two very different groups, the Sadducees and the Pharisees, put aside their theological differences and brought forth an amazing show of unity and came together.

Now normally everybody rejoices when people come together in some show of unity, but we need to keep in mind that these men were unified over one thing:

... from that day on they planned together to kill Him [Jesus]

... which shows us that simply coming together in unity may be nice, but it's not enough. Because it matters what people are unified about. And so if unity is to mean anything at all, we must be unified about the Truth and not merely agree with one another about secondary or peripheral issues that really don't have any eternal significance.

And so now Jesus begins to unfold for us just what the Resurrection is really all about. Read again **Luke 20:34-36**:

34 Jesus said to them, "**The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,**

35 **but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;**

36 **for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.**

Now the phrase "sons of this age" in verse 34 is how the Hebrews understood people who are alive in this world. So we see that there are

several issues that pertain to this life that do *not* pertain to the next, things like:

- ✓ Marriage
- ✓ Gender Distinctions
- ✓ Human Sexuality
- ✓ Reproduction
- ✓ Children
- ✓ Parenting

... all of these things are very important to us in this life, but *none* of those things will be a part of the next life.

Now, for several weeks now, on Sunday Evenings, I have been going over what the Bible teaches about Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage, and we have found out that Marriage is defined as:

The temporary, tangible, visible, and earthly representation of the Mystery of the Covenant between Christ and His Church

... and so Marriage is *temporary*, because the tangible, visible, and earthly *representation* will no longer be needed once we are finally united with Jesus Christ in Heaven. So once we have the Reality, the sign or the symbol is no longer needed.

So the Mormon doctrine of "Eternal Marriages" in Heaven is wrong. Jesus says here that there will be no Marriages at all in Heaven. Now when Jesus said,

The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage...

... He was referring to the differences between how men and women entered into Marriage in the 1st Century. Back then, Men "married", but women were "given in marriage". And this refers to the system of "Arranged Marriages" that dominated the world until about 150 years or so.

Now there are all sorts of horror stories about how terrible arranged marriage were, and I'm not advocating that we bring them back. But I would just like to say a few things about this issue. According to the Holy Scriptures:

- ✓ God certainly *could* have made men and women in full equality, but He chose not to do so.
- ✓ God made the woman at a different time and in a different way and for a different reason than He made the Man.
- ✓ God tasked the Man to submit to a servant/leadership role in the Home and the Church, where the man takes primary responsibility for provision, protection, and spiritual leadership.
- ✓ God tasked the Woman to submit to a servant/support role where she takes primary responsibility to bear and nurture children and assist the Man in fulfilling God's Call on his life.

And so it is *impossible* to read the Bible with any honesty at all and not come to the conclusion that the Lord God very powerfully and very wisely made them *uniquely* male and female. And that means by default men and women are *not* the same and we are *not* equal.

Now by saying that, I am certainly *not* saying that men are *better* than women. But I *am* saying that the modern tendency to either *minimize* or outright *ignore* the God-ordained *distinctions* between men and women, and the corresponding differences in the roles that men and women are commanded by the Lord Christ to hold in this life, is not only silly and unworkable, but it is sinful rebellion against the Divine Order of God.

So, instead of *minimizing* or *ignoring* those distinctions, we should be *emphasizing* them and *celebrating* them, and teaching and learning how to *magnify* them. Because what is crystal clear from sacred Scripture is that God established non-negotiable "roles" for both the man and the woman for this life. And God also holds the man and woman *accountable* to those gender specific roles.

Now, because all this is true, therefore, God has commanded the Husband to love his Wife *sacrificially*, patterning his love for his wife after the Love that Jesus Christ has for His Church. And God commands the Wife to honor and respect her husband, patterning her behavior toward her husband after the Church's submission to Christ.

And the twin evils of radical Feminism out in the world and Egalitarian false teaching in the Church have waged war against this very simple but profound Divine Order that God established. And so we must take heed to ourselves that we first understand and then

recapture and then implement and finally defend the Biblical Order for both Male and Female in this life.

And I will be faithful tell you that this issue of male Headship and Female Submission is *the* seminal issue of our day. And all of the other social maladies that are ravaging our culture and the Church, like abortion, and the violent abuse of women and children, and so-called homosexual "marriage", and divorce, and unbiblical remarriage, and illegitimate children, and the epidemic of sexually transmitted disease, and the scourge of pornography, all flow out from the dysfunction created when both Men and Women rebel against their God-given duty to submit themselves to God's joyful and wise Order.

But the outflow from Men and Women taking their Biblical Roles *seriously* is that it is the Father's primary responsibility to not only love his wife, but to also raise his daughters to be godly daughters, mothers, wives, and sisters and to raise his sons to be godly sons, fathers, husbands, and brothers.

And the Father is to provide for and protect his daughters from evil men- until he takes his daughter's hand and places it into the hand of her husband at her wedding, *transferring* that God-ordained responsibility to her godly and loving husband.

And this is done in the Church, with the blessings of the leaders of the Church, because they have taken the time to know whether the young man loves Jesus and intends to obey the Bible in his treatment of this beautiful daughter of the Lord that is about to be his cherished bride.

So the way this is supposed to work is that both the young and man and young woman have sat for years underneath the clear, sound teaching of the Word of God, and they have observed their entire lives how their *own* parents relate to one another, and they have other living examples in the Church of how other godly men treat their wives and how other godly women love their husbands, and this couple has then gone through extensive premarital counselling so that they understand what God expects from them in this glorious marriage.

And after that, they come before the Church to make three Covenants:

1. A Covenant between themselves and God
2. A Covenant between each other

3. A Covenant between themselves and the witnesses who are present

And then this newly married couple has loving and godly brothers and sisters who will walk with them and who will love them, and help them and encourage them through the trials and tests that God has ordained for them in this life.

And that is what "arranged marriages" were *supposed* to bring forth. It was a *collective* effort by both sets of parents, along with the Elders and older Members of the Church to *assure* that the young lady was not abused by evil men, and to keep her heart from being broken fifty times before she was twenty years old.

Now sadly, it is true that many arranged marriages were very harsh and cruel and very ungodly. And many a woman was harmed by wayward parents and families, and were "given in marriage" that had nothing to do with God or anything holy.

But we also have to look honestly at what has *replaced* the practice of fathers taking primary responsibility for their daughters well-being. It is called "Dating", where impressionable young women are now in charge of picking their *own* husbands, apart from any counsel and restraint by older and wiser people.

And if you would simply take the time to find out, you would see that young ladies today are using very important characteristics to find the man that God has chosen for them, like:

- ✓ He's cute
- ✓ He's cool
- ✓ He's funny
- ✓ He's rich
- ✓ He drives a nice car
- ✓ We like the same music

... and a few other things that I won't mention here. And, of course, what has resulted from *this* effort is that young women today are *more* abused, *more* used, *more* hurt, and *more* likely to compromise everything she believes in than ever before. And so damaged women, illegitimate births, poverty, abortions, and sexually transmitted

diseases are completely out of control, the very things that the *other* system was designed to prevent. So we are certainly not better off.

But, as serious as all this is, we have to understand that Jesus tells us here that Marriage is for this life only. Now look again at **Luke 20:35-36:**

35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;
36 for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Now here, Jesus is once again confronting these men to their face with their own lost condition by telling them in verse 35:

... those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage

In other words, those who are “**worthy to attain to that age and the Resurrection from the dead**” are those who are saved. So the phrase, “**that age and the Resurrection from the dead**”, refers to those who have been born again by the miracle of the New Birth. And by saying it this way, Jesus was telling these Sadducees that they were *not* saved and that they were *not* worthy to attain “to that age” and *neither* were they worthy to attain “to the Resurrection from the dead”.

But notice what Jesus said at the end of verse 35:

... neither marry nor are given in marriage

So those who attain to “that age”, meaning those who are saved and who will be in “the Resurrection from the dead”, will not “marry” in the case of men, and they will not be “given in marriage” in the case of women. Now why is that? Because Marriage is only for this life.

Remember, Marriage is the visible, tangible, and earthly representation of the Mystery of Covenant Love between Christ and His Church. And therefore, when Christ’s Church is united with Christ in reality, there is no further need of this representation. The sign will have given way to the Reality.

And so, ultimately, there are only two reasons why a Marriage should be over:

- ✓ The death of one or both spouses
- ✓ The Second Coming of Jesus

And so look again what Jesus says in **Luke 20:36**:

for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Now the word “**for**” here means “because”. So Jesus said that the reason why we will not marry or be given in marriage in Heaven is because...

... they cannot die anymore...

And this *eliminates* the need for three of the things that God instituted here on this earth:

1. Marriage
2. Children
3. Parents

Since nobody dies in Heaven, there will be no further need to *replenish* the population with children. And since there is no further need for children, there is no further need for parents either. But why can't we die in Heaven? Jesus said:

... because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection

... which was a vague reference to the fact that we will be immortal in Heaven.

Now one of the reasons why Jesus brings up a comparison here with the angels is because of how the Jews understood angels back then. It is very important for those of us who read these words today to understand that back in the First Century; the average Jew had a

theology about angels that was not only unbiblical, but was actually pagan.

You see, over the Centuries the religious leaders of Israel had developed various Teachings about angels that mirrored the Greeks and Romans who had occupied their land. Now the Greeks and Romans were all “polytheistic”, meaning they believed in many *different* gods, who all did different things. But the Jews were “monotheistic”, meaning they worshipped a single God.

But even though the Jews supposedly only worshipped one God, they were influenced enough by the pagans to allow for there to be many angels at work behind the scenes. So, for example, the Jewish religious leaders of the 1st Century taught that some angels made it rain while other angels caused it to thunder. They taught that certain angels brought death while special angels gave life. The Jews believed that angels allowed them to have a good harvest and that angels protected them and that there were angels were flying everywhere, *intervening* in their daily lives.

And this took on such a prominent role in Judaism that they even taught that back in **Genesis 1:26** when God said:

Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...

... that God was talking to the angels. Because even the Jews who were saved under the Old Covenant, like Moses and David, had little or no understanding of the “Tri-unity of God”, whereby the one, true, living God of the Bible is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So they attributed this to God speaking with the angels.

But this concept gave angels much more power than the Scriptures allow. And it even made angels to be deity or “mini-gods” in many minds. And this false concept of angels that the Jews had went on for several more years, even *after* Jesus’ Own Ministry, Death, and Resurrection, until almost right before the destruction of the Temple in 70AD. So, in part, to fix this false teaching in about 68AD, God the Holy Spirit moved upon an unknown writer to pen down what we know today as “**The Epistle to the Hebrews**”.

Now there are various ideas about who this writer might have been, some say Paul, and others have other ideas. But interestingly

enough, the style of writing found in **Hebrews** is more in line with Dr. Luke than almost anybody else.

But, *whoever* the writer was, God moved upon him to pen down the first several chapters of **Hebrews** to teach the Jewish believers of a small Church, in what today would be the nation of Turkey, that Jesus was not only *superior* to the great Old Testament heroes like Moses and Joshua and David, but that Jesus was also *superior* to the angels, and it is from the **Book of Hebrews** that we learn that angels actually *worship* Jesus Christ. And this man wrote all this down to *undo* the false teaching that the Jewish leaders had developed over the Centuries about angels.

So right here in **Luke 20**- Jesus knew how the Jews understood angels, and He also knew that He was going to overshadow the writer of **Hebrews** to correct them in just a few years, so He is giving an example here that they could understand. Because even though the Jews went way too far in their understanding of angels, they did believe, correctly, that angels were "spirit-beings" and were immortal. And so Jesus is telling us here that, in *that* sense, we will be like the angels in the Resurrection.

And the good doctor uses a Greek term here that is used only one time, right here in **Luke 20**, and isn't used anywhere else in the New Testament:

Isangeloi- equal to angels

Now Jesus is doing several things here all at once. He is giving us insight into just what the Resurrection will be like, but He is also correcting the false beliefs that many Jews had about angels, and, at the same time, He is also condemning the doctrine of the Sadducees. Now remember, the Sadducees don't believe in the supernatural at all- and so they don't believe in angels.

So by Jesus saying that we will be like the angels in the Resurrection, He was telling the Sadducees that their doctrine that denied the supernatural, was wrong. Now Jesus just got through saying,

... You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures... nor the power of God.

... and then Jesus connects what He was talking about here with an Old Testament term that everybody would have been familiar with:

sons of God

And Jesus got this term from several Old Testament Passages. There are two references to "sons of God" in **Genesis 6** and three in **Job**. Now, *traditionally*, it has been accepted by many theologians that "sons of God" were angels. And many of the greatest names in Church history held that position.

But it seems clear to me that the term "sons of God" is more of a *generic* term that has to do with *not only* the *supernatural*, which would *include* angels, *but also* with the spiritual aspect of *this* life as well, which would *also* include human beings. So, for example- when it says in **Job 38:7**:

When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

... God was referring to the first five days during which He created the Universe, *before* there were people. So this reference would absolutely be about angels. But now I want you to turn to **Genesis 6** for just a moment. And here, Moses was moved along by God the Holy Spirit to say this in **Genesis 6:1-4**:

1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,

2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

Now it is my personal conviction that this is referring to human beings who knew *about* God and who were *associated* with God and who were *associated* with Truth, and maybe even associated with Adam's lineage, but who were personally unsaved.

And I say that in part *precisely* because of what Jesus says back in **Luke 20:35-36**. Jesus said that:

35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;
36 for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

... so from that, we know that angels do not marry, and so they do not produce children. And yet the "sons of God" in **Genesis 6** produced children. Now to be fair, Jesus never *specifically* said that the angels don't produce children, even though He *did* say they don't marry. And so we can't be dogmatic about this. But, however that works out, we know for a fact is that all three references of "sons of God" in the New Testament refer *only* to saved human beings. For example, Paul said in **Romans 8:14**:

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

And this verse shows us the great distinction between saved people and people who are lost by illustrating the difference in a human being, who is "indwelt" and "led" by God the Holy Spirit, as opposed to an unsaved person, who is helplessly "driven" by his carnal lusts.

We must remember that until Jesus brought in the New Covenant, God the Holy Spirit did not dwell *inside* of people in the same way that He does now. The Old Testament references to the Holy Spirit show that He "came and went", and that He "fell" and "moved upon" people, but there are no references that God the Holy Spirit ever dwelt inside believers on a *permanent* basis like He does today.

The indwelling of God's Spirit inside the believer on an ongoing and continual basis is a New Covenant distinctive that the saints who lived under the Old Covenant never knew.

In fact, the Spirit coming upon Jesus in the waters of baptism and *remaining* was one of the signs that God had given John Baptist so he would know Who the Messiah was. And this was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy from **Isaiah 42:1** that says:

Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

... where the Hebrew word translated here as “**upon**” means much more than “on” someone *externally*. And so the indwelling Power of the third Person of the Godhead allows the NT believer to love and serve and enjoy God like the OT saints could only imagine.

And this is the foundational argument behind why I tell you that there is no such thing under the glorious New Covenant of genuinely saved people being enslaved by what are called “addictions”. And there is no such thing as a truly born again believer being unable to overcome what are called “habitual sins”.

From everything that I understand about the Bible, it is my sincere conviction that the radical transformation of the human nature that is brought about through the miracle of the New Birth has been greatly *downplayed* and *minimized* and *marginalized* by the overwhelming majority of those in the modern Church to being merely an *improvement* of the “old man”.

And this *reduction* of the effect that Blood bought Salvation has on the individual is one of the biggest reasons why so many in the Church today are neck deep in the most blatant sins that would make the lost world of 150 years ago blush with embarrassment.

The radical and miraculous and supernatural transformation that Salvation promises to the believer is so minimized today that people actually think that obedience to God is *optional*, and that pursuing Holiness on purpose is *legalism*. And so the average church member today has never even heard about the dangers of worldliness, or the soul pollution of loving money, or the horrors of covetousness, or the Divine Mandate for believers to forgive even our worst enemies that the Bible clearly and repeatedly puts forth. And I see this as one of the greatest issues that we face today.

Today people are told they are saved by merely “accepting Jesus into their heart” *without* even knowing who Jesus is, and *without* verbally confessing Jesus as Lord, and *without* believing in the Resurrection. But what is even worse is that people are told today that they can obtain God’s Forgiveness without being convicted and without repenting of their sins, and that is a lie.

People who have truly experienced the miracle of the New Birth have the third Person of the Godhead dwelling inside of them, and so they have supernatural Power abiding inside them 24 hours every day and seven days every week that is way beyond *anything* that Moses or David or Isaiah or Daniel understood. And that indwelling Power enables us to love God and yield ourselves to God in ways that the Old Testament saints could only wonder after. And this Power *weakens* our flesh and it *reduces* the pull of the world to the point where God's Grace triumphs through us. Here is how the Apostle Paul described Salvation in **2 Corinthians 5:17**:

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

... which is *infinitely* more than a person simply "adding" Jesus to their already planned out life. Paul said that saved people were brand new creatures, and God has adopted us into His Own Family so that we will be a part of what God is doing.

Now that doesn't mean we never sin. Sadly, we *can* and we *do* sin, even after Salvation. But while it is true that we will never reach sinless perfection in this life, it is *also* true that one of the reasons why God saved us in the first place is not to merely forgive us, but so that we will be "free" to obey God and to follow Him into Holiness in this life. So bearing godly fruit after Salvation is *not* something that *some* believers do, *all* believers bear godly fruit, or they aren't saved.

So, part of the reason why God saved us in the first place is so that He will so radically and miraculously and supernaturally *transform* our natures by the sinless Life and the vicarious Death and the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, that our obedience will no longer be based on being driven by external Commandment, but based on an infinitely superior internal Joy in those Commandments, that reaches its fullness by loving and obeying Jesus Christ.

And so Jesus lived and died and rose again so that the barrier between God and Man will be removed. And we know that barrier is gone when wicked sinners are so changed that they truly delight themselves in the Lord, when spiritually dead people are so alive that they genuinely love the God that they one time hated, when former enemies of God long to be near the God that they were one time

separated from, and when people who at one time were consumed with their own self-righteousness and sin have been so radically altered that the Commandments of God are no longer burdensome but are the pathway to the fullness of Joy.

In other words, God loved us. And because He loved us, He overcame our sin, at great cost to Himself, and saved us. And that is absolutely true. But that is not *all* that is true. And so we must never stop with that statement. We must then go on to say that God loved us and so, at great cost to Himself, He saved us, so that by saving us, we would be so radically transformed that, in addition to being forgiven, we would now know God and love God and enjoy Him forever!

And the Bible teaches that the Power of the indwelling Holy Spirit will cause us to not only love God, but to also love the *things* of God and to love God's people, and to even love our enemies. And if that isn't happening, then there has been no real Salvation and the people are only deceived about themselves.

So while it is true that the New Birth does not mean we are sinless, it absolutely *does* mean that sin *cannot, and does not*, have dominion over us long term. And it absolutely *does* mean that we have lost the capacity to be *enslaved* by fleshly lusts to the point where we are *helpless* to overcome them.

So there is no such thing as a "12 step program" for born again believers to get them off drugs or alcohol or sex or any other habitual sin. There is only a three-step program:

1. God sovereignly changes our nature.
2. We repent and trust in Jesus.
3. We love and follow after and enjoy God.

And that is just a *part* of what the concept of "**sons of God**" from **Romans 8:14** means.

Now one more reason why Jesus used this term "sons of God" here to these Sadducees is because these men didn't believe that angels existed at all. And Jesus just got through telling them that they were mistaken about the Scriptures to the point where they were now deceived. And now He is using this phrase to show these Sadducees just how wrong they had become about the Power of God as well.

So Jesus says that in Heaven we will be purely spiritual beings, like the angels, and we will no longer marry. And, therefore, there will be no more need for either parents or children or the gender distinctions that we have in this life.

And there is much more here to uncover, and we'll get into that, Lord willing, next week.

Amen. Let's pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.