

Tell My People My Word Must Become Flesh

Chapter 10 - Outline of Class, November 16, 2021 by Connie Smith

In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son...In him was the gospel, and the gospel was the life, and the life was the light of men; And the light shineth in the world, and the world perceiveth it not. (John 1:1-5) We see that Jesus was the Word in heaven and took on flesh to become the visible Word that was born in the stable and lived and walked among the people of the New Testament. He then lived the very Word that He taught making Him the best example of the Word made flesh by keeping all the words of His Father!

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came into the world for a witness, to bear witness of the light, to bear record of the gospel through the Son, unto all, that through him men might believe. He was not that light, but came to bear witness of that light, Which was the true light, which lighteth every man who cometh into the world: Even the Son of God...And the same word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth (John 1:6-14). John the Baptist was commanded by God to tell the people of his day to repent and prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. It parallels our day and is a message for us to repent and prepare!

A. Oakman in his book, *Belief in Christ*, writes: (p 34)

“The essential note in John’s preaching was the coming of the kingdom of God. It was out of his deep assurance that the kingdom could not be long put off that he called on all men everywhere to **repent**. To him the cardinal condition of salvation was a change of heart, mind, and life.”

p. 35 “A fundamental change of mind was needed, and John’s baptism was the symbol of admission to a new Israel—a **people prepared for the Lord.**”

DC 83:7a-c And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.

7b For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ; 7c and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit;

A description of the Word of God: Psalms 19:7-11 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward.

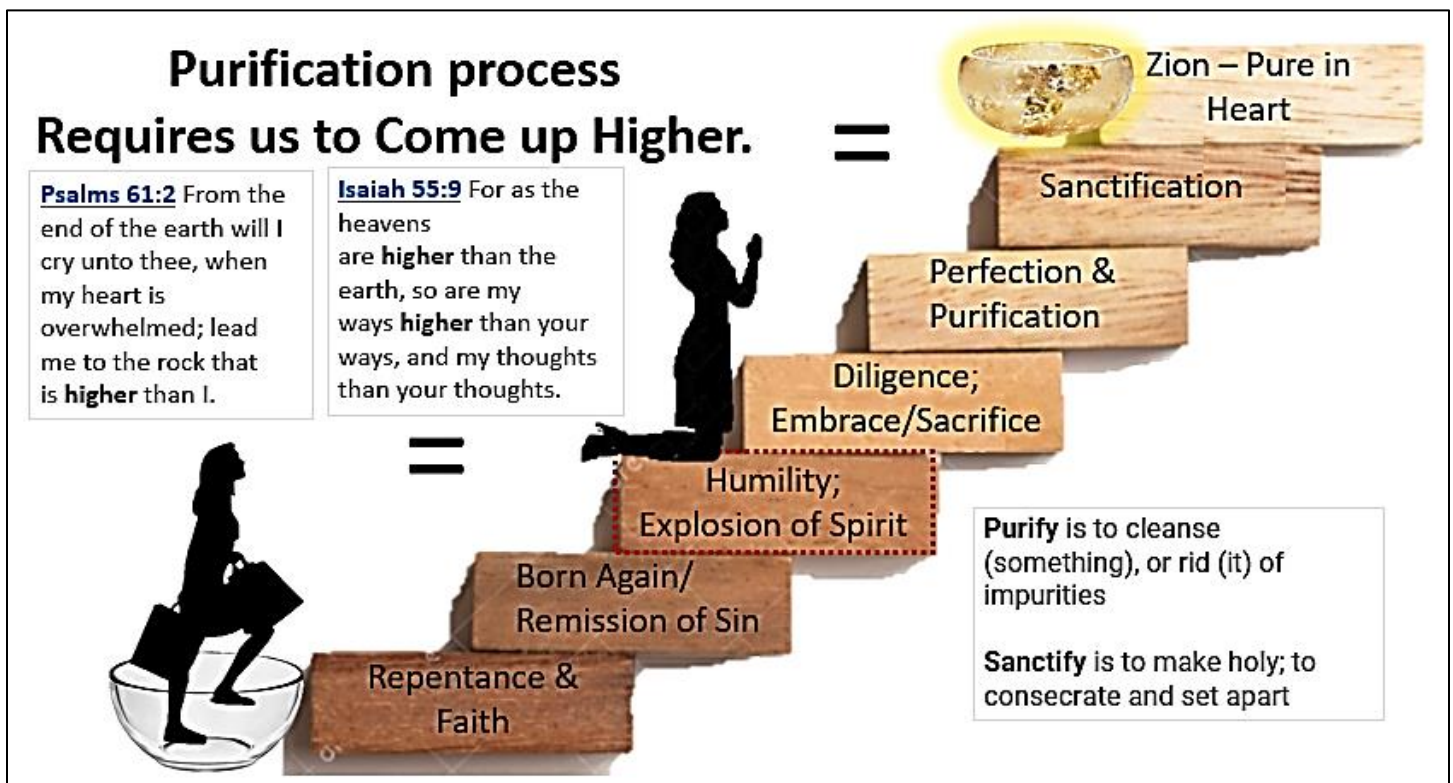
I Began this Journey of Seeking to Live the Gospel in my mid-20’s:

- *Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. Js 1:22*
- ***Learn to do well;** seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Isa 1:17*
- *...impart of your substance to the poor*
- *Visit the sick, and administer to their relief, Feed the hungry, Cloth the naked (Mos 2:43)*

I realized I had been living my life according to my OWN standard of righteousness. When I really read the Word of God and what Christ taught it convicted me and changed my prayer life. I repented and began to seek God’s will in my life. I asked Him to open my eyes to the needs of those around me. I also asked Him to help me understand scriptures that didn’t make sense to me. AND I began to experiment on His word! Can He really clothe me like He does the grass of the field? Do I really have to pray publicly as well as in secret? Why wouldn’t those wise virgins share their oil? How do I love my enemies? ...This life, my life became a journey of

transformation from my carnal nature and selfishness to one of seeking, asking, knocking and doing. It is a journey because things change little by little and there is always more to learn and deeper meanings that have to be unlocked to us.

In preparing for this class, I saw in my mind a set of steps with words on them. Much like the graph below:



Word of God Partners With the Holy Spirit (They are inseparably connected.) It is a key to our success in becoming one with Christ!

- **Ephesians 1:13** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the **word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,**
- **Helaman 2:111** And behold the **Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as if with fire; and they could speak forth marvelous words.**
- The gift of the Holy Ghost is one of the most important gifts you'll ever receive. In the book, *Lectures on Faith*, the Holy Spirit is described as **“the fullness of the glory of the Father—possessing the same mind with the Father.”** (p.74)
- ...which Spirit is shed forth upon all who believe on his name and keep his commandments; and all those who keep his commandments shall grow up from grace to grace, and become heirs of the heavenly kingdom, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ; **possessing the same mind, being transformed in the same image or likeness, even the express image of him who fills all in all; being filled with the fullness of his glory, and become one in him, even as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one.** (p.75)

The Word of God is a Lamp and a Light to provide direction and protection.

- **1 Nephi 3:68** And it came to pass that I beheld that the **rod of iron**, which my father had seen, **was the word of God**, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God;
- **Psalms 119:105** Thy **word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**
- **Psalms 119:130** The entrance of **thy words giveth light**; they give **understanding unto the simple.**
- **Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

- **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of body and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It is easy to be lulled into thinking that just serving God is all we need to do. Sometimes we really are pew warmers and Sunday goers, but if you're doing the same job(s) you've done for the past



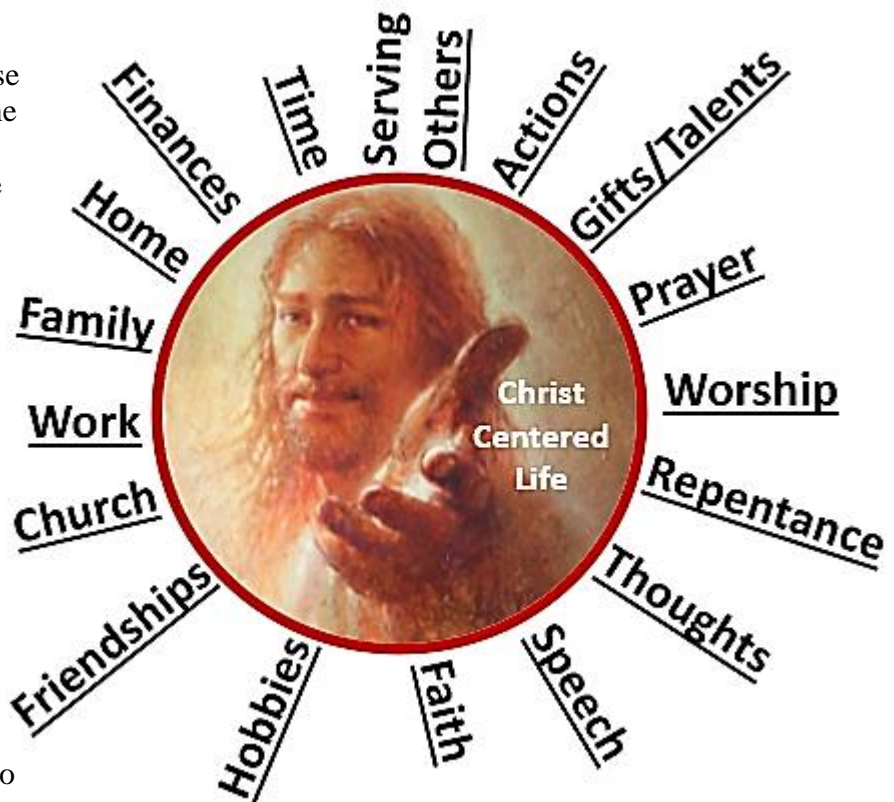
few years, you may have become at ease or complacent in your walk with the Lord. "This is my comfort zone and I am staying in it." Just because we are "busy" doesn't mean we are not asleep.

- *Jacob 2:64 O my brethren, hearken unto my word; arouse the faculties of your soul; shake yourselves, that ye may awake from the slumber of death;*
- *Moroni 10:28 And awake, and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion, and strengthen thy stakes, and enlarge thy borders for ever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled.*
- *2 Nephi 1:38 Awake, my sons: put on the armor of righteousness.*
- *2 Nephi 3:46 Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin.*
- *Deuteronomy 1:6-7 The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount; Turn you, and take your journey, and go...*

Let us examine ourselves in our commitment to purification. Alma asked us (Alma 3) if we are stripped of pride. If not, we are not "prepared to meet God". Are we stripped of envy? Do we repent often? Do we forgive quickly? Are we progressing in the fruits of the Spirit?

Do we have a Christ centered life? Are we redeeming our time in all of our activities? These facets of life are some of the things that consume our life and time. A friend of mine shared this picture idea that I thought reflected the message of making sure that our personal devotions and growth and always Christ centered, as well as the activities that consume our time. If Christ is the focus, then we are redeeming our time.

I'll use an example. I have a friend, Debbie Norman. She runs ultra-marathon races. These are races of 50miles or more. It requires her to spend hours of training every day. To devote such a large amount of "time" to this type of activity concerned her. She brought it to the Lord for His approval. He told her she could do it as long as she "redeemed her time". When she runs, she listens to the scriptures, she prays, she listens to sermons. She dedicates her races to



raising money or awareness to good causes. Through all of these things, she has gained wisdom in enduring to the end, pushing yourself beyond what you thought you could do, working with others to accomplish your goals, taking care of your body and being fit, hours spent in communion with the Heavenly Father...the list goes on and on.

How are you, how am I redeeming the time that the Lord has given to me? Am I growing in this purification process? When I see my Savior, will He see Himself in my countenance? It's easy to be lulled into complacency when we are serving here or there and busy doing good things.

Revelations 2:2-5 *I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars; And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. **Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;** or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

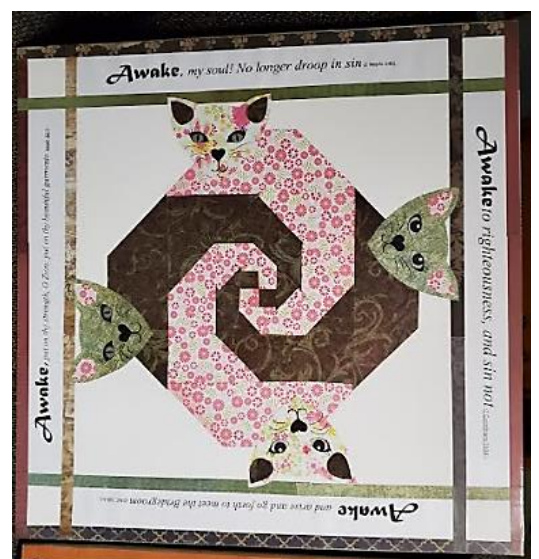
I'm convinced the foolish virgins were lovely women who lost sight of their personal relationship with the Lord. They were women who may have been busy working in their women's department or branch but let their personal growth go, assuming that what they were doing was enough. That somehow that was all they needed to do. It's in line with the teachings of Christ. We are to be doers of the word right? Yes, but also prayer warriors, also a light to others, also repent daily, etc.

Remember beautiful Queen Esther? She was not taken directly from her home and to the King. She first was required to spend a year in purification. Why? Because no matter how beautiful she was, she was not prepared to come into the presence of the King! We parallel this. We must be purified because we are not prepared to come into the presence of the King without it.

Is This Korean? No, it's Scripture Memorization. This last summer at Reunion in Odessa, my 8-year-old grandson took my Steno pad and started scribbling line after line of scribble-scrabble. Before I knew it, he had filled 3 pages. I asked, "What is this?" He replied, "Korean." I told him that's not Korean. He insisted it was! So, I made up a secret code and paired it with the alphabet and wrote him a secret message he had to decode. When he saw it, his mouth dropped open and said, "You know Korean?" It was very funny. So, when I memorize scripture and I make my chicken-scratch "code" to help me, I think of him and this experience.

One way to put the Word of God in our hearts is to memorize it. Before you run for the door realize that I'm in my 60's and this seemed like a foreign idea to me too, kind of like writing in Korean. But I want to share how this idea came about and why I feel like it's worth our effort.

At this same Reunion, Debbie Norman and I taught the Jr High class. I had been prompted to do a craft with the kids that incorporated some "Awake" scriptures. Also, I was prompted to use a quilting pattern called, *Let Sleeping Cats Lie*, only our cats would be waking up or wide awake. Out of this project, a desire to be able to remember the Awake scripture from 2 Nephi 3 just overwhelmed me. The thought to memorize verses 46-66 kept coming to my mind. I was doubtful that at my age that this could even be possible. So, I prayed and shared my fear with God and asked Him to help me. Because in His strength we can do all things that He wants us to. I took a Steno pad and my scriptures and wrote down the first letter of each word, including the punctuation, for each verse. Here is what it looked like:



Verses: (2 Nephi 3:46-50 to begin)

46 Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin.

47 Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.

48 Do not anger again, because of mine enemies

49 Do not slacken my strength, because of mine afflictions.

50 Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say, O Lord, I will praise thee for ever; yea, my soul will rejoice in thee, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

Steno Pad Version:

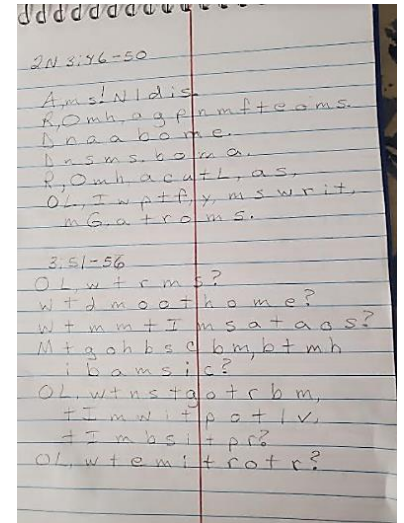
A, m s! N l d i s.

R, O m h, a g p n m f t e o m s.

D n a a, b o m e

D n s m s, b o m a.

R, O m h, a c u t L, a s, O L, I w p t f e; y m s w r i t, m G, a t r o m s.



The benefits of doing this include: being able to ponder the verses in the car or when you lie down to sleep or anytime you have free moments where you are idle; these verses can be personalized and prayed to God; when reading other scripture, it enlightens your eyes and understanding as the Word confirms itself and builds on itself.

Don't use age, busyness or other things as an excuse not to try this. Even if it's no more than 1 or 2 verses give it a try. Where is the Lord leading you? Ask Him what would be the most worth to your soul to memorize. I felt compelled to memorize the above scripture and have worked on others since. It does take **daily practice and time** but brings great reward! **Redeem your time!**

Charity: Weldon says (p. 177): **The word charity must become flesh in our lives.** It appears to top the list of God's word. It is another step beyond the word *love*. The word *charity* is stated in the scriptures many times. I believe it is the most difficult to become flesh. If I have charity the powers of satan cannot enter into my life. You are sanctified and are living the celestial law. This is what Jesus Christ is asking us to do.

Moroni 7:53 *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.*

(There is a handout included sharing 2 testimonies about exercising charity.)

Closing Scriptures:

- **Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
- **John 4:16** But whosoever drinketh of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.



Be a Living Testimony!