

Who is showing to be the LORD over our Lives?

God's people will be awake to the day they are living in:

There are many in our society who've been emotionally abused at some time in their life. Because of this a number of them may live inside an emotional wall that keeps loved ones and potential loved ones out. A number of those will have found spiritual healing that has greatly matured their emotional being. But I wonder if those who see themselves as emotionally normal are also capable of putting up an emotional wall against their injured brothers and sisters who've come to love the whole counsel of God? In this paper I would like share how the joy of obedience to the word of God is where God's elect finds God's righteousness that can greatly heal the mind and the body. This however will not change the trajectory of the wicked who must point their unrighteous finger at their neighbors' imperfections, [sin], in order to silence them from witnessing the whole counsel of God. God's people will be awake to the day they are living in.

Now a days the scripture teaches me to see negative emotionalism as part of being a sinner. If others see this weakness as an opportunity to discredit my person next to theirs, obviously they are not seeking the kingdom of God, and, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, but their own righteousness. "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone (John 8:7)." The Bible teaches that from Adam's sin all of mankind became corrupt in their emotional being. Did not Cain murder his brother Abel? Cain was upset that God chose Abel's sacrifice over his! Ables sacrifice was pointing to Christ. Cain's offering was pointing to the things of this world. Still, the lord in His loving mercy counselled Cain! So that Cain was given an opportunity to think about his feelings and how he could learn to obey the word God (Genesis 4:5-7). Instead, Cain chose to justify his ill feelings towards Abel that was contrary to God's word. This evil attitude led Cain to murdering his brother Abel! I'll say it again; God's people will be awake to the day they are living in! We may not be killed physically, but spiritually, being ostracized by those who think they're normal, (perfect).

It's true, additional abuse at an early age can instill insecurity and unhealthy emotional wall building as we grow older. Today this is why I am so adamant about everything that's in the word of God! The Holy Bible has to be the Christians ultimate source of help, that we might understand God's antidote to every problem we face. His spiritual word

must be our freedom from the corruption of the flesh and the carnal mind that can build these walls, whether we've been abused or not!

We might consider those whose hearts and souls have not been changed by the Holy Ghost. They will also put-up walls to stop their ears from hearing the whole counsel of God (Acts 7:57-58)! Discussing the doctrines of hell and damnation, or how God alone chooses those He plans to save, are emotionally disturbing to many! So that, Today, there are gospels everywhere that teach their members to experience wellness in their emotional being based on the works of their own hands, according to the programs of their congregation! Programs that often do not harmonize with the whole counsel of God! This is exactly what Jesus hated about the Pharisee's! "This is the day we are living in!"

Matthew 23:13 ¶ But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

**The warning of God's wrath is not
an emotionally unhealthy gospel:**

What we might consider to be exceedingly important is how we would be aware of the wall that is God's wrath that is without sin! It is the wall that kept Adam and Eve from entering the Garden of Eden following their transgression (Genesis 3:24). It is the wall that shall keep the wicked from entering eternal life following that Great and Notable Day, [Judgment Day] (Revelation 21:27). With these truths in mind, we continually beseech the Lord, that we might witness His new life according to His lovingkindness and faithfulness. That we would not witness a glass wall they cannot see through darkly (1 Corinthians 13:12)! We know of ourselves we will not be perfect in this. And there will be many who will not hear. Still, we find through His mercy, truth, and forgiveness all things are possible!

**Let him who is without
sin cast the first stone:**

I think all of us at times can find ourselves expressing sensitivity to various levels and forms of external distress, whether it be at work or at home. According to God's precious word, we could all use some additional wisdom and understanding regarding how we ought to treat one another (Philippians 2:3). For the past couple of decades, by the grace of God, I've found myself opening up to people I use to be closed to. He's given me a desire to want to understand and help people I previously

would have judged, and been closed minded to because of differences in beliefs. This change would unfold following a wrenching heartfelt prayer I had earlier experienced with the Lord.

I had to end a relationship with the opposite gender that had been based on adultery, and lies. Spiritually I was just as much at fault as she was. I knew I was not supposed to be with her the way I was outside of marriage. I was not thinking about the soul I was violating that belonged to God, regardless of how she may have thought. It was my responsibility as a professing Christian to be a faithful brother. "Who really was I!" I found I couldn't think about what she had done against me, as much as what I had done against God! And I knew I reaped what I sowed!

In the beginning she was persuasive in causing me to perceive a future permanent relationship. But when the signs appeared that she may be cheating on me, I wasn't ready to give up the physical benefits, until she admitted her intimacy with others, so that I woke up to what I was a part of. From the emotional pain that followed the Lord mercifully brought me into remembrance of what I had done that was against Him. What did I expect! The problem was, up until this time there were important things I had not fully understood according to God's understanding! Instead of continuing to read His word I allowed my carnal emotions to take over that had been experiencing loneliness and need. Why did I feel alone if I had God? Did I ever have Him?

From a mercy I can't comprehend, and by God's understanding, I was going to come to finally understand a critically important reality (Proverbs 8:13-14). An ability to walk in a way that could actually say no to sin against His word. This is what being a Christian is supposed to be about! It was through this spiritual mind set over time an assurance and emotional balance would begin to return. Just prior to this break up, in great anguish and tears, I had earnestly prayed; would He forgive me and let me return to the position I had once known in His strength and faithfulness when I had behaved according to His will and not my own. Thus far, over the past two decades, the Lord has been showing me a positive answer to this prayer.

**There is a wall
that must remain:**

Today, while remaining in His faithfulness, I enjoy being with people no matter who they are or what they believe. From God's word I have found the ability to refrain from those things that are contrary to His word. I'm not perfect in this! Still, in this sense, there is a wall that must

remain. I won't judge, but nor will I join in with those who grossly violate scripture! But I'll love them never the less. It's a wonderful freedom! So, there is a wall that must remain following the spiritual strength He provides in His mercy and love. Our desire to be obedient and faithful to His word must be exercised rather than compromised, (taken down)! If obedience is not faithfully exercised on a daily bases compromise to God's Holy Word is inevitable.

I've come to realize how dangerous it is to have intimacy with the opposite gender outside of marriage, having suffered the consequences of this violation of God's word! In previous behavior I justified intimacy outside of marriage, believing I would make her my wife. When the signs showed otherwise, I would bow to her, believing she would eventually see things my way. The 'key error': "my way". But it hadn't been God's way; and my way was never going to work not being equally yoked!

I realize now that the past relationships were not God's blessing on me, as I use to believe, but was God's judgement on me! Today, in my fervent desire to remain faithful to His word, a wall will go up if sensing the opposite gender is showing interest in intimacy. I am a sinner, so, I don't always see things correctly the first time (Ecc 7:20). Still, I'm a man who can be attracted to the opposite gender. So, I've prayed for a spiritual attitude that would keep me more safe than sorry. I'm not perfect in this. But because of my love for God that is above myself, I purposely abstain from intimacy outside of marriage!

As mentioned, prior to my ability to abstain from infidelity, I use to suffer from feeling alone. Because of the worlds pressures on us, when allowing myself to feel emotionally in need I would do almost anything to be with someone, in order to gain according to how I had been raised from the streets, according to the world. Today, as I see so much of this in the world it really grieves me; because I know what many are going through. For me, today, that someone I need is the Lord Jesus Christ who will never leave me nor forsake me. If God would even have someone of the opposite gender who sees their Lord as their ultimate authority in life, who would be interested in me, that's how a spiritually healthy relationship would have to begin. The two must be equally yoked in Christ before any other consideration is observed. Unfortunately, that's not how the world sees it, nor our flesh! Everything in the world is about the outside of the cup and personality, which, unfortunately, doesn't prove the heart of anyone! I've found that to better understand God's idea of a biblical relationship the professing Christian ought to read the Proverbs over and over!

My grandparents had been chosen for each other while still children. My Nana and Grandpa were from Messina Italy. They were truly happily married for over 70 years before they passed at 96, and 97. Nothing from the outward appearance of their cup, [the flesh], nor personality, had had anything to do with why they were happily married. It was a relationship they 'understood' they had to work at while both having the same goal in mind. They were to work hard to raise their children in the promised land, if you will; America, according to their Lord. When they learned of the problems that America had this didn't stop them. They continued to look to God who had been their ultimate source of help. Psychologically, emotionally, they witnessed a stable life.

**The flesh, the carnal mind,
and personality are deceivers:**

At times, from the outward appearance of the flesh, some of us can look like a lonely miserable life to others – especially seniors whose youth no longer hides the physical or emotional as it once did! But it doesn't change the fact that the flesh is always a deceiver. In our spirit, there is always joy and assurance that keeps us safe where it counts. Spiritually we continue to learn about God's ability to keep us faithful to His word; and it's a wonderful freedom. I remain as much a sponge in learning the word of God as when I first began. And I see the foundation from which this learning takes place: "THE WORD OF GOD, ALONE, and in its ENTIRETY". By His word He molds us and guides us like the potter molds the clay (Jeremiah 18:6-8). It is His work in us not ours that counts!

**His wall is the
word of God not me:**

Still, as the true gospel teaches, many in the world will not like the obedient Christian, who holds to their guns; even hating us, because of sin they refuse to give up! Walls are going to go up on both sides! For me, today, this wall is, THE WORD OF GOD, not me! His Word is my hedge and my defense in times of trouble, when the enemy throws their darts and arrows, the bible says we can expect. Be that as it may, our wall, which is His Word, is not without His love, and compassion for those around us! We desire the best for everyone as we desire for ourselves, no matter what their sin, remembering our own past sins! As the Lord commands us, we would love our enemies. We would pray for those who hate us, as we look for opportunity to do good to those who spitefully use us (Matthew 5:44). Knowing that in ourselves we would be no different, [and have been no different]; except by the grace of God that is changing us! So that our own emotional walls come down as we learn

to become vulnerable and transparent through His word; that some may believe and also become changed. We're not perfect in this, but by His Grace we continue to grow in this way!

So, then, the only wall that remains is His hedge of protection around us which is His living word that must not be subtracted from nor added to, less we take down the wrong wall (Duet 4:1; Rev 22:18-19)! This wall, which is our obedience in Him, is not to be confused with the outward appearance of maturity from a sophisticated intellect that is capable of hiding unrepentant sins. Rather, it is a spiritual grace and power only God can give us, that is according to His word. Seeing ourselves growing spiritually in Christ is the exact opposite of those who only grow intellectually in the carnal mind that primarily serves the flesh.

The True Love of God is manifested in our behavior that's according to His word:

If we become physically yoked, [having intimacy], whether it be with a professing Christian, or not, but outside of marriage, we are mocking the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. For it is the Lord who formerly becomes engaged to His Bride, the believer, [when they become born again]. He, the Husband, will never leave her nor forsake her; until He consummates the marriage with her when she is taken up to be with Him forever more! This is what God's word teaches! On the other hand, how does the worlds adulterous relationships usually pan out? One usually leaves the other for some alleged imperfect reason or another! But for the faithful in Christ, who have the true love of God, His Righteous Spiritual Wall must go up in them by which Christ is held on high and not the will of the professing believer. This does not mean our love, and compassion and grace are not simultaneously present! Rather, that God's will must be our primary witness at all times and not our own will! This is the True Love of God! For as scripture would warn: God's wall, [non-entrance into the kingdom], will keep us out if we insist on our way over His way! Deliverance from God's wrath because of unrepentant sin must be a part of our gospel message; for if it's not, then what are we believing we are saved from?

Today, many a professing Christian believe they are being blessed, [saved], by having good, **Financial**, **Political**, and **Health** conditions! But these are NOT the proof of true salvation, where our hearts and spirits have been made new (Eze 36:24-27). Lazarus, who's soars the dogs licked, had nothing in this world, but he's now in heaven; while the rich man is in hell, [the parable of the rich man and Lazarus]!

By His Grace we have been able to cross that bridge that asks, WHAT DO I REALLY WANT IN THIS LIFE? Do I desire God's way no matter what it may cost physically, emotionally, and intellectually? Does His Spirit bring me into remembrance of what the Lord went through?" "My God my God why hast thou forsaken me!" That God forsook God by humbling Himself to pay for the sins I would commit! And He was without sin! That's the Love I want! Or, rather, will we sell our souls for a job, or for the friends everyone approves of in order to be emotionally accepted? Will we violate the main precepts of the gospel, according to the lust of the eyes and the pride of life! To gain temporary relief from the stress and anxiety that always returns anyways (1 John 1:15-16)? The fact is, it's only by His mercy and truth we come to understand, that, if the root of our stress is not dealt with biblically it will never depart from us! Always seeking man's help, in place of God's help, is what the world is all about, which we are supposed to be separated from (1 John 2:15-16)! "WHAT DO WE REALLY WANT?"

As God warned Cain He is warning many; but who is listening?

Scripture shows how the true believer in Christ is going to have a spiritual wall that keeps out the deadly spiritual poisons of this world! But, again, simultaneously, our love and compassion and grace are also going to show through; so that others might come to 'see' and 'hear' and desire to be in His word! In this way we are trusting in God and not in ourselves! I find this is what the true believer so desires in this life which God is giving us! Wouldn't you agree? When our faith unfolds according to God's will and good pleasure, not according to our own will and good pleasure; then we truly belong to Christ who is the LORD of our lives. Otherwise, 'we' are the Lord of our own lives which will only lead to death! And that death is eternal damnation!

This is why we so much desire to bring our true vulnerable selves that would be in Christ to our brothers and sisters that they might also become exceedingly blessed by our witness. Hardly do we ever do this perfectly, or even very good at times, but it's our on-going desire to do it better, as He molds us and directs us like the potter molds the clay. WE LOOK TO HIM! Still, as the scripture makes clear, especially in our day, so that would understand: there's going to be a wall that the world puts up! So that if we are truly His, according to the Spirit of Truth, rather than according to our own intellect, we may end up being hated and reviled and even killed, [kept out of the world's approval]. If we're not killed physically then we'll be killed spiritually so that we are made ineffective in our proclamation of the gospel. In other words, WE'LL BE SILENCED.

So, here's the warning! This silencing can also happen if in our own behavior we join the ways of the world, that is in many of today's churches', so that we are seen by the world as being no different than the adulterers and adulteresses they reveal, which we are supposed to be separated from. How will we declare the faithful words of our Lord being ourselves unfaithful? We won't! While at the same time we may find ourselves in a strong delusion, where we believe we are being faithful according to our works; so that we look really good on the outside of the cup, while on the inside we have not been changed (Galatians 2:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)! As God warned Cain, He is warning many; but who is listening?

**Do we truly belong to Jesus
Christ as the Lord over our lives:**

Zechariah 1:4 Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.

Matthew 7:21-23 ¶ Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

“WHAT DO WE REALLY WANT? Who is showing to be the LORD of our life?” Many will answer: “I know Jesus is my Savior, so I have no need to examine myself! Ok! Well! But remember, this is, ‘your profession of faith that you are exclaiming to be true, and not God Himself speaking’!”

The true child of God desires to know what God Himself is showing to be doing in them, according to all of scripture? It is only through His living word God's people are truly able to emotionally rest. So that their on-going desire in this life is that God Be Magnified, not themselves!

To God be all the Glory. Amen.