

MALE AND FEMALE — IN THE SPIRIT AND IN THE NATURAL

This subject has plagued God's people for what seems like 'forever'. It needs to be addressed — in love and in spiritual understanding. This I will endeavour to do in this writing.

Often sisters in fellowships are treated as second-class citizens, implying that God has included them, somewhat reluctantly, in His Body as servants to men. They are expected to occupy this lowly, but privileged, place without complaint. Many times wives and mothers are physically and emotionally abused at the hands (& tongue) of a strong masculine 'brother'. Confusion has reigned because of a wrong understanding of 'scriptural' teachings. This has left them unable to effectively resist these pressures.

Now, bring this into a Christian setting in the home or Church. The predominant male will have many scriptures readily available in defence of his actions. This may make the female feel even smaller and less valued in the eyes of other members. Where does such an attitude come from? "Prejudice blinds men, even in their treatment of the Word of God, if a faulty rendering coincides with their preconceptions" (Katherine Bushnell). People of the world, who know not the Lord Jesus Christ, have tried to correct this situation. 'Women's Lib.' was born out of a matter of survival and the belief that in a civilized society, every person has a right to life and dignity.

They have become unbalanced in their striving for equality and refusing to admit differences between the sexes that God ordained . . . 'Unisex' became their cry. This has increased a striving against the demeaning of men, as women demanded their rights. Today, men scarcely know if a courteous act will be received with anger or thanks. This represents the negative viewpoint of man's wisdom. We now need to turn to hear what our Father would say concerning these seeming injustices. The world is not setting an example for the church, nor is the church able, at this time, to show God's solution to the world.

RELIGION

Religion has put woman in a subservient role, believing untrue concepts. In some religions women must be fully covered. In others, they are treated as chattels, not much more than burden-bearers and slaves. Even in our 'enlightened' countries, where liberation is proclaimed, thousands are being physically and emotionally abused and live in fear of men. Much misunderstanding has come from the Bible translation called the King James Version. When King James in the early 1600's ordered the Bible translation, two major schools of thought prevailed. Let us examine them.

First, the church-system was moving very slowly away from the domination of the Roman Catholic Church, whose dogmas kept the female in low estate. So low, in fact, they were expected to obey every whim of their husbands . . . or any man desiring to 'lord' it over them.

Second, was the worldwide acceptance gained by the Talmud. These bondages had begun as a book of Israelite oral laws, but had changed and added to many times over the ensuing centuries. Its content became in some places obscene, labelling women and children as nothing more than 'pieces of furniture' for men to treat as they chose.

Do these attitudes still prevail in this our day? Even in the Body of Christ? Yes, I say with shame, they do though often cloaked. I believe it is an evil thing, bringing poverty and loss to women and men. Man, moving in the 'macho-letter-word' domineering spirit (which is none other than pride), has left deep scars on

the women of God, especially wives of ministry. Women, all too often, have been silenced by this spirit, simply not listened to, and relegated to menial tasks or accepted as unable to have input in normal affairs. At home, it might be different! . . . but don't count on it!

Overall influences of these two major bondages became entwined with church teachings until anyone stepping out of line with its doctrines, stood in danger of being burned at the stake.

For example, the Greek word *baptizo* means to DIP OR IMMERSE. This translation would not be received back in the early 1600's, as the church then taught infant baptism by sprinkling. In wisdom, so as not to create 'waves', the translators created a new English word — 'baptize'. I firmly believe that there is still much fear around concerning going against traditional teachings that have been with us for centuries.

Mr. Aquilas and Mrs. Priscilla were always mentioned together in Acts, even though history informs us that it was Mrs. Priscilla who had the greater spiritual understanding. Most times, please note, Priscilla was mentioned first. They moved together to help Apollus to a better understanding of the Word. Just in passing — did you note that Aquila (KJV) has an 's' added on the end of his name? Aquilas is his proper name just like Silas had an 's' on the end of his name. I believe the 's' was omitted to draw attention away from Priscilla by making their names look alike — not wanting the woman to have any preeminence.

How vital it is that we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church in this hour. For far too long we have held to the traditions of men, teaching the commandments of men, not discerning the Lord's Body. What was spoken by holy men of God by the Spirit must also be understood by that selfsame Spirit. Too often has Hagar (spirit of bondage working from the 'letter-word') become our Instructress!

In Genesis 21:12, Abraham (after he was enlightened and received a name-change) was told by God to 'hearken' (Heb. = listen intently, perceive, obey) to Sarah's voice (also enlightened and received a name-change) . . . why? Because she had the '*word of the Lord*' for that situation. Some husbands have found themselves in trouble when they refused to listen to the word of the Lord through their wives!

Let us search the scriptures to see how God views this subject. His thoughts, I trust, will set all sincere believers, male and female, free — to walk in the Spirit.

The Bible states, *A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife*. Matthew 19:5 adds, . . . *and the two shall be one flesh*. The word 'cleave' means TO BE GLUED TO. Is it not strange that the teachings today imply that *a woman shall leave her mother and father and cleave unto her husband*? God's intention is — one flesh, one being, one corporate vessel with one related expression, not two! In spite of how we may desire it to be otherwise, it is very often the woman/wife/mother who upholds the Christian standards and spiritual qualities in a family!

GOD IS FEMALE TOO!

There is a female aspect of God that has equal standing with the male aspect of God. God has many names and titles which, when understood, shed light upon His nature and also upon His purposes in creation. *EL SHADDAI* (fem.) is translated 'Almighty God' in most versions. The actual meaning of the Hebrew words, when translated, is THE MANY-BREADED ONE OR THE FULL-BREADED ONE depicting the maternal ability to feed, succour and enfold each new life.

By contrast, *JAHWEH* (or Jehovah) is the 'Father Image' and one can readily see the commanding figure that such a name produces as He gives His no-nonsense directions, deals with enemies and also knows how to spank the wayward to bring them back into line!

God made a spiritual man (Gen.1) out of Himself in the Image and Likeness of Himself. The Hebrew word for '*image*' is masculine in gender, while the word for '*likeness*' is feminine. When God formed man out

of the dust of the earth, he was made up of both male and female parts. This readily seen when God later separated these two parts. The Hebrew word *TSELAH*, translated 'rib' in the KJV, actually means FLANK, SIDE, HALF. God brought Adam's other half to him and declared, *They shall be one flesh* (Gen.2:24). . . no longer duality.

TSELAH-flank has the same root meaning in Hebrew as does 'image'. As God created male and female, He placed both soul and spirit in each human vessel. Thus we could put 'image' as the male — spirit and 'likeness' as the female — soul. *God called their name* Adam (Gen. 5:1). Adam later declared that Eve was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. If she was just a 'rib', then he could only have said, *Bone of my bone!*

IMAGE & LIKENESS and SPIRIT & SOUL

Image and likeness and/or spirit and soul become to us the full picture of the makeup of each man. Eve came to represent his female, soulish and vulnerable part, while Adam represented the male, spirit part which had communications with his Maker. The female-soul part of man was tempted and succumbed to the thoughts created by the serpent, who was 'the salesman' of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Adam-spirit position was brought down by Adam failing to listen to God. He sinned as he drew his thinking from the wrong source . . . his soul.

Let us remember in Gen. 2:7 when God formed man, He *breathed into him the breath of lives*. Lives in the Hebrew is a plural word *CHAYIM*. . . hence liveS! There are two ways one can see the plural working. **First** — breath to live + breath to speak. **Second** — breath to speak when the Spirit is the source + breath to speak when the soulish-natural is the source of what is being brought forth. What you and I speak will either be the expression and voice of God or it will be the voice of man. This will be seen to affect each one of God's people.

There is an outworking of God's word and purposes concerning man and woman, male and female in the spiritual and in the natural realms. I will endeavour to unveil the distinctions so that each one of us can see the beauty of the natural marriage pattern as it leads us to the glory of Father's fulfillment in us.

ENTER THE SERPENT

The 'beast-nature' in man is subtle. The word declares that the serpent was at the top of the crafty-ones list! He is so subtle, he can imitate God's voice in an amazing way. *The second Eve*, who is the female or soulish part of man, will react to the serpent's whisperings whether such come from within or without.

When the female or soulish part of this 'Adam' had led them to submit to thoughts from the wrong tree, God began to declare His plan of redemption. He told the serpent, *I will put enmity between thee and the woman, between thy seed and her seed; it* (Christ - the Seed) *shall bruise his heel* (Gen.3:15). Here we see the first promise of redemption through the Bruising of the serpent. This promise was to come through Eve, the soul part of man. The Christ-Seed, even the last Adam, would bring victory over the serpent and all soulish desires by the life-giving Spirit of the Living God.

THE 'SECOND EVE'

In the New Covenant Jesus Christ is referred to as the last Adam. *The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening Spirit*. There is a clear distinction between the natural and the spiritual man. The first Adam relates now to the earth and the natural way of thinking. Christ, the last Adam, relates to the heavenly or spiritual word or God-thoughts.

A redemptive change must come to each of us . . . that will move us from the tyranny of the natural mind into moving only in the mind of Christ, which we have. This is a process of submission. It is allowing resurrection-life to overcome any part of us that is declared dead. As in Gen.3, so for us today: what comes

from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil will produce spiritual death. God's thinking will produce spiritual life, which will build up His image in us (Proverbs 23:7 - principle). The new swallows up the old: it is a matter of *overcoming evil with good* with His life (Rom.12:21). The second Eve pictures our female- soulish thinking which must submit to the word of the last Adam, Christ . . . in us.

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

The male creation is made stronger and larger (usually) than the female, so that he might be the protector and provider. With these abilities, he should be the leader also. He is, however, not limited to these roles. Love will motivate him to give himself to help the female in her role of childbearing and nurturing. With her softer and more gentle ways, she becomes the true homemaker. In the natural, there are different roles for a man and a woman. There are exceptions, but usually the woman is not the man for the job! The man will usually have the attribute of looking ahead while the woman will see things near at hand. What is being declared here, is that man and woman — male and female — are truly different but composite parts of the whole.

THE NATURAL HAPPY MARRIAGE

He is treated by her as a King! She is treated by him as a Queen! He leads but does not boss; he considers and listens carefully when she submits her contributions to the relationship. His every word and action is to declare that they are one bearing His name together. They are one what? One expression of the life of God. Why is this so important? There is one God Who is male and female. Marriage is a type and shadow of the marriage relationship that Christ has with His Bride, the Church.

The spiritual guidelines of Ephesians 5 break this relationship into easy-to-grasp details . . .

HUSBAND! Love your wife to the degree that you lay down your life, your plans, your desires, your methods and your priorities. The Bible says that a husband is to *agapé* (love) his wife. This is love that loves and keeps on loving, not expecting any return! Your wife is a God-given treasure placed in your care where she is to be enabled to grow up into Him. You are God's man to encourage her to come forth in His nature.

WIFE! Remember, love always gives! Your husband is a God-given treasure placed in your care. Love your husband to the degree that you lay down your life, your plans, your desires, your methods and your priorities, so that you might serve your husband. You are to *phileo* (brotherly love) your husband, expecting a return! That is a minimum . . . both wives and husbands have the enabling grace of God to *Agapé* and to *phileo* their 'other halves'.

There is not a true wife who wouldn't rejoice to be loved by a true husband in God's way where she is provided for, protected, nurtured, helped, encouraged, considered, appreciated, understood and acclaimed to be precious, wonderful and so on! To be called his and his alone!

There is not a true husband who wouldn't rejoice to be loved by a true wife in God's way where he is respected, encouraged, considered, appreciated and understood. To be called hers and hers alone! This is not difficult when Christ is Lord within, because LOVE GIVES. (Lust, on the other hand, always TAKES!).

Ever since the early days of our marriage, I have given my wife her breakfast in bed (which she thoroughly enjoys!) on most Sunday mornings. The children were not allowed to disturb her until 9 a.m. on those mornings. It was her time to be quiet and have no responsibilities . . . Dad took care of things! It was a small way in which I acknowledged her priceless role as Mother and Wife. Other mornings she would receive the 'English cup of tea' before rising to her full day.

I once heard of a Christian man who blessed his wife and thanked God for her whenever he sat to a meal that she had prepared for him. How beautiful!

HEADSHIP!

How do these natural experiences relate to the spiritual realm? I Corinthians statement about man being the head of the woman is simplified when one sees that 'the head' represents the source of life. AS Christ is the source of life to mankind in the spiritual realm, SO is the man the source of life to the woman (his wife) in the natural. Just as one cannot produce spiritual life without Christ, nor can the woman produce a child (natural life) without her husband. Let us be assured that the wife does not have to come to Christ for anything via her husband. Christ is her direct source of life for things spiritual just as He is for her husband.

Have you ever heard the statement — 'The husband is the priest of the Church that is in his house?' He is not a priest as such, unless he, as well as those of his house, is in the faith. If he is not in such a position, it is a case of the blind leading the blind! However, Father and Mother will be joint-leaders (as ONE in the spirit) in providing direction for their family. The opportunity is there for them to move as true priests. A priest is simply one called of God who takes the needs of the needy and presents them to God and takes the word of the Lord and gives it to the people. Just as one who doesn't paint houses, can hardly be called a 'House-Painter', so neither can a priest who doesn't do priestly things can be considered as a priest! In this hour, the calling of a priest is a spiritual calling and carries with it the very presence of the Lord and the ability to hear His voice.

HEAD-COVERING!

As we have seen, the male is a type of Christ — the spiritual word within — and the female is the type of the soul — the natural word within. Once we have seen this, it follows that when Christian people pray, HIS head (the mind of Christ) must not be covered, while the soulish thinking needs to be fully covered (i.e. out of sight!)(I Corinthians 11). When the female-soul is not covered, it is the same as a woman shorn, which results in showing nothing but flesh to all those around her. This truly dishonours her Head — her source of life, Christ, for she is honouring her own thinking, which disallows His! When Christ can move unhindered, He is seen in the earthly realm in all of His glory and this can be in either a man or a woman!. God's glory is the effect of His Presence when His will is being accomplished. Legalistic cloth head-coverings as taught by some who can only operate in the letter-word can only bring bondage and death to anything of spiritual life.

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

In the natural, marriage is the vehicle that allows the full love and trust between husband and wife to be expressed . . . in giving and receiving. Children who are born of this union will show forth characteristics of both parents — the evidence that the parents have become one. In the spiritual, God has purposed to *change each one from glory to glory into His image* (II Cor. 3:17-18). He knows what each of us needs to bring forth such a change. With a godly partner, each will come more readily into that place of full union with Him. It is like two glasses of water being poured into a single glass . . . a picture of true union. Husbands, wives and children are tools in the Master's hands which He uses to bring forth His perfection in each.

CHRIST AND HIS BRIDE

Ephesians 5:31-32 . . . speaking of Christ and His Church-Bride . . . they two shall be one flesh! The 'flesh' mentioned here is not 'soulish' flesh, but the arena or expression where the full life of God is displayed in this earthly scene. It is a resurrected, pure, uncontaminated body compared to the body we now operate in which is contaminated by sin and self-will. Jesus carried our sin in His Body and died. He was raised with a glorified body without limitations.

God has purposed to be fully manifested in a corporate Bride. The Bride is in the natural realm where flesh and blood live. Christ is in the heavenly realm where the mind of Christ is the source of her life. The Bride of Christ is made up of men and women, Jews and Gentiles, servants and masters, but God does not recognize any of these natural differences. He recognizes only HIS LIFE or what has come out of Himself. He sees only the male of the Spirit in each one. The female-soul is not destroyed or cast aside, but has come at last into a true union with the male spirit.

As Amy Carmichael's song says so well, "I pray Thee, blend Thy Holy Will with mine". Such implies that my will would be swallowed up.

Are believers married or just engaged to Christ? Hebrew customs held that the Betrothal-Engagement to be as binding as the Marriage ceremony, even though there could be a delay of up to two years between them. During this time, the bride would make herself ready. This is a major part of the prime thrust of the Spirit at this time. The soul is being brought to full submission to the spirit. Remember that *he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit*. His fullness will be seen in His Bride — the Church . . . when she has made herself ready for the full union with Him.

At the time of initially receiving the Lord, our spirit is made one with His Spirit (I Cor. 6:17). Our soul is not made one at that time. There follows 'a long dark night' in which the female-soul discovers her true nature and sees that she has usurped the place of the Spirit. This situation the Lord desires to remedy and so bring 'her' through many dealings, purifications and cleansings to a place of readiness with Him. This union will include a change for our bodies also. Only as glorified ones can we be fully one.

Christians, for the most part, have very little understanding that they are yet soulish and they know not Jesus Christ as 'Lord' over every part of their lives. Jesus showed us at the beginning of His ministry, after He returned from the tests in the wilderness, that He was ONE with His Father. His soul was fully submissive to His Father's will within Him . . . He was the prototype manchild. This can be a picture of the union producing fullness within an individual. The perfected Bride, having made herself ready, comes from the heavenly realm of His authority and Presence into the earthly realm of His expression. She is then His 'other half'! She receives the full expression of Himself as God makes His dwelling-place within mankind. This can also be a picture of what takes place corporately in the Church, His Body.

FOR ME — A MALE

When I, as a man, speak from the mind of Christ in the anointing, I speak in the spirit or voice of the last Adam, Christ. It is He speaking . . . the 'man' (spirit) in me is speaking, which is the Living Word speaking Christ-Jesus. When I speak out of my own thinking, the thoughts come from my female- soulish source and NOT the mind of Christ. From the heavenly vantage point, it is I who speaks — my soul getting 'her' word in. It represents 'the female' in me. It is the second Eve in me (soulish thinking) offering the Last (second) Adam in me fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The result is spiritual death for such words cannot produce spiritual life. What comes out of me is either truth from Him (His Indwelling Spirit) or emptiness from her!

The Church in Corinth had a reputation of their meetings being a sort of 'free-for-all' where 'order' was in short supply! Paul's instructions regarding the vociferous women was to silence them. He hoped this would bring order to the situation. This was an example of the 'female-soul' going unchecked. Just as Paul purposed back then for the women to be quiet, it is the same today in the spirit — the female-soulish expression from people in a meeting, should also remain quiet.

Because I, as a man, may have a beard and wear a suit, does not automatically give me authority in the Church or in spiritual things. I can all too readily operate as female in the spirit unless I truly recognize and move in the anointing from the Christ (male) within.

Let the Word confirm this understanding of 'female-soul versus male-spirit'. In the spirit, we must learn to discern or recognize the difference; if we don't, the result will be 'out of the spirit'! The following verses link

up this theme. . .

I Corinthians 14:34 *Let the woman keep silence*

Habakkuk 2:20 *Let all the earth keep silence before Him*

Zechariah 2:13 *Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord*

What is commanded to be SILENT is the woman, the earth and all flesh. Now the earth and the flesh in the natural do not make any noise — let alone, speak! So this woman is therefore a spiritual expression of flesh and earth . . . the soul realm which is at enmity with God.

FOR ME — A FEMALE

An individual Christian woman is made up of two parts: male and female — spirit and soul, in one body. In reality, I speak 'in the spirit' and am acknowledged by the Lord as Himself — male. I can also speak 'in the soul realm' which is called female. My speech can be expressing (spiritually) either male or female. The eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, separated soul from spirit. . . making two incompatible expressions of life UNTIL the soul submits to the spirit and becomes one with him.

When a woman speaks from *the mind of Christ* (which ALL believers have - I Corinthians 2:16) in the anointing, she speaks in the spirit and it is the voice of the Last Adam. The 'male' in her is communicating. When she speaks out of her own thinking, it is the female- soulish speaking and is not the mind of Christ. It is the 'second Eve-female' in her offering the Last Adam-male in her, fruit from *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil* and the result is death.

HOME AND MEETINGS SEPARATED

Just because a man has been mightily used of God as a channel for the anointing in a gathering of the saints, he must NOT bring that 'position' back into his home, where he expects his wife and family to willingly submit to his 'natural' words as they willingly submitted to his anointed words in the meeting. His love-motivated authority in the home is an inherent authority (goes with the position) while the authority in a meeting is delegated authority (anointing) from God.

God's ideal is to have couples who both move in the spirit and that can be like two halves making one whole. The Eve-expression of Adam was necessary to make Adam complete. When the male in the man speaks in the anointing, then his wife can say "Amen" (which means "that's my voice!") and when the male in the wife speaks in the anointing, the husband can likewise say, 'Amen'— that's my voice.

A domineering man in the natural realm can use the same characteristics in spiritual things and come across with law, bondage and compelled submission to the 'letter word' requirements. He does not understand 'grace'. He also does not know that he speaks as a 'woman' and should be quiet!

EMOTION — CARNAL AND SPIRITUAL

Single women without husbands or women with sick husbands, or widows, have had to take on much of the man's role. In the spirit these sisters are betrothed to Christ and are a part, like the others, of the Bride of Christ. He fills the gap of husband in their lives. They are (in the natural) their own authority unless they have been enabled to see (in the spirit) the male and female expressions within them. They must not take their added authority and responsibility that they have to have at home, into the meetings and the realm of the spirit. This natural characteristic brought into a gathering of the saints, in whatever quantity, can produce emotion but fail to gender spiritual life and lasting fruit.

Emotion can be either carnal or spiritual. The love of Jesus will always be expressed with true emotion. By contrast, soulish deliveries of the Word backed up by emotional songs (including favourites? . . . not chosen by the Spirit) just magnify the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the midst.

CONNECTING IN SPIRIT

Here is an example of what we mean by being 'connected in spirit'. One can go into a room full of strangers and within a few minutes recognize other Christians without being introduced or being informed anything about them. The Spirit of Christ enables you to recognize the same Spirit in another. Similarly, adherents to other religions can recognize others of their kind. It is a witness in the spirit realm which can affect the natural realm.

Another example: the domineering 'female' in a man will quickly tune-in to another of the same spirit. Their input in a gathering can readily bring bondage and limit the flowing of the Spirit of the true man, Christ. The 'female' in a woman will also quickly be aware of another of like kind. The tendency, when this occurs, is for these ones to 'flock-together' and draw strength from each other which will usually manifest with great emotion! At times, both men and women can miss the anointing and not flow with the moving of the true Man, Christ, Who desires to be Lord of all that is said and done in a meeting.

TRUE LEADERS

Paul, an apostle by the will of God, not man! God calls and ordains the vessels of His choice to fulfil the different offices in His Church. Having a title, such as Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Elder or Deacon, does not automatically produce the anointing for the office. Those whom God calls will be able to recognize the true anointing. This is the crux of this whole subject . . . recognizing the anointing, the 'male-spirit' (Christ) when He speaks which will expose the 'female-soul' expressions. . . whether such comes through a man or a woman — and don't overlook the children! True leaders will be so yielded to the Lord that they will be enabled to discern when there is a mixture present. It requires a special anointing of wisdom to be able to correct such a situation and its effects. In the wisdom of God that is quite often carried out by more than one person who has such insight and wisdom. Those who do not understand will quite often emotionally defend the one who moved out of turn, believing them to be of the Lord. These uncorrected expressions have become a security to those who continue to move in this soulish way or in mixture.

The phrase, 'The Lord showed me. . .' will sometimes be used to substantiate a statement that came from 'the female!' Prophecies, including such phrases as 'thus saith the Lord' and 'saith thy God', do not give automatic authenticity to the prophecy! *Let the others judge* . . . let there be a spiritual weighing of all words. A true leader will move in the anointing rather than in the title. Without the use of titles, people are less likely to elevate the person.

Many Charismatics and End-timers have discarded all expressions of delegated authority in their fellowships. Such authority (via the true anointing which is easily entreated), will come through the some that God has set in the Church (I Cor.12). These true leaders, masculine or feminine in natural gender, — esteemed so because of the anointing that they walk in — will have special wisdom, insight and understanding to move as both watchmen and guides.

COMMANDS FROM GOD

Galatians 5:16 *Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.*

I Thess. 5:20 *Despise not prophesyings.* Irrespective which anointed vessel the Lord uses.

I Thess. 5:21 *Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good*

I Thess. 5:19 *Quench not the Spirit* coming forth from any vessel.

Finally, for those purposing to move in the male aspect in the spirit — that of Christ, the Anointed One, hear this . . .

Galatians 5:1 *Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

Let us not forget that 'the bondage' that we were set free from, is **THE LAW** and all its demanding

requirements . . . *for the law can make nothing perfect* (Hebrews 10:1). Grace, which acknowledges what He has done and what He has said, will keep us free and remind us that we are of the New Covenant under His headship.

Walk in the Spirit, in the awareness of the Lord's presence within you. *Build up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the spirit* (Jude 20). Greater is He Who is in you than he which is in the world. The male-Christ-man deep within you is greater than the female-fallen Adam-man (including your body and its appetites) that is in the world and is very conscious of its influences.

LEADERS — LEAD BY EXAMPLE!

To male-anointed ministries of this hour . . . be challenged by the Word — have a checkup before the Lord. Enquire sincerely of Him if you have any biased thoughts regarding anointed female ministries/vessels of God. Is there any forgiveness that you need to seek from any anointed female ministry you may have slighted or purposely ignored? Allow the nature of Christ to flow from within as you recognize the Word of the Lord and the Lord of the Word in her. Prefer your brother — for such she is!

To female anointed ministries of this hour . . . when you are slighted or put down — openly or by innuendo — by so-called anointed male ministry, let it not affect your spirit or allow a wall to go up . . . rather *bless them that despitefully use you* (Matthew 5:44). In this way you allow God to bring them into greater truth, thus increasing their liberty. Remember, you are your brother's keeper! Having done all, stand! . . . know who you are in Him. Do you need to seek forgiveness for any wall building?

Ministering men and women of God in this hour . . . have a willing heart that will rejoice to receive encouragements (sometimes called correction!) as we together weigh that which each vessel believes is the true anointing. Move as BROTHERS, for you all come under that heading (in the spirit, of course) if you are a part of the Body of Christ . . . the many-membered Man of many 'sons'. God will have us all move in a unity that is supernatural . . . because our Lord prayed it.

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ-Jesus. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male or female: for you are all ONE in Christ-Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

Brothers and Sisters (that is speaking naturally!) . . . Brethren (that is speaking in the spirit), the hour is come in which we are, if we are in the Spirit, to no longer recognize outward distinctions of gender, but to hear His Voice Who speaks from the heavens within through whomsoever He chooses. §