wisdom of God and glory be to the Holy Spirit personified, who is now on earth to unfold these mysteries. We shall come back to discuss this time factor and how God has fulfilled this wonderful promise. The covenant could never have come into reality without the work and death of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God.

LEADER'S SERMON ON "GOD LOVES THE WORLD"

Below is a precis of the Leader's Sunday Sermon to the entire world on the topic - GOD LOVES THE WORLD'

1st Lesson: John 10:11 "' I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep."

2nd Lesson: John 15:13 "The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them."

3rd Lesson: John 3:16 "For God loved the world so much that He gave his own son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."

Brethren, the theme of my sermon is as contained in the above passages, read out. God loves man to such an extent that He allowed His only begotten Son to come and die in order to redeem man. The extent of God's love is as indicated in the third lesson. - "God loved the world so much that -----" This is an indication of the depth of God's love towards man. On the other hand, what has man done? Man hates his fellowman; he persecutes and tortures his fellowman; he even kills his fellowman. Man hates his very body, he disgraces and deconsecrates himself by committing fornication or adultery, by drinking and becoming drunk, by smoking and snuffing, by injecting all types of concoctions from necromansers and sorcerers into his body. Man hates God, his Creator and disobeys all His rules and Commandments; yet this does not prevent God from continuing to extend his eternal love to all makind. Man's intransigence did not stop God from allowing his only Son to come and die. Tell me, right from the day Adam and Eve went astray and ate fruit from the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil, how many men have sought a reconiliation with God? How many men really want God? Did God not regret having made man? Enoch was sent into the world by God, as a spy; he was not a human being. His mission to the world was to come and observe men's characters and behaviours and report back to God. When Enoch disappeared from the earth and went back to God with the report, did God not regret having made man? God's initial intention for man was that man should not die, man should be immortal, but man rejected that intention. Despite this, God's love for man is still supreme and has no comparisons whatsoever. Why does God still love and want man? He does not want to loose him because He created man in his image Of all creations of God, man was moulded out of the dust of the earth by God's own hands, and in His own very image. The creation of man in His own image is an extreme act of love. Man is thus the only Creature on earth with the exact image of his creator. Furthermore, He gave man the exalted position to rule and control all other creations of His on earth. To test the reciprocal love of man for God, God asked him to eat all other types of fruits in the garden except that of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. Angels which are very powerful and can de troy the whole world in a matter of seconds, were made to serve man. Man was the pride of God, and God's very precious Jewel

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The fact that Man disobeyed Gou and His commandments proves absolutely and conclusively that man does not love God. Who is responsible for Man's failure today? God's injunction was, if you eat, you will die! Man ate and died! who was responsible? Before eating the fruit, there were no sicknesses, no pains, no anger, no hatred, no malice, no evils in the world and no death. God also warned Adam not to receive any lessons from any angels for He, God, would teach him everything, personally, Unfortunately, man disobeyed God and consequently all disappointments culminating in death, set it.

Prophets came in and attempted, teach and convert men, but how many were not killed by men. This was why God sent Enoch into the world as a spy. What about the coming of Noah? Did he not spend 120 years preaching, all to no avail? There was no repentance and so God had to destroy all the inhabitants of the world at this point in time, except Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives and the assorted animals which were in the Ark. If God did not love man, He could have exterminated him totally, but He allowed Noah and his immediate family to survive and procreate the present world of our time. Furthermore, God placed the rainbow in the sky, a sign which would always remind Him of his promise never to destroy the world again by flood.

After the first destruction, sins re-surfaced on the globe and multiplied by leaps an bounds. God decided to destroy the world again. There was the voice from the throne of God, 'who would go for me? Who would go and convert my people? Who would go and shed an innocent blood?' There was intense silence in heaven. None of the angels agreed to go. Suddenly, the son stepped forward and pleaded with HIs Father not to destroy the world for He would go and shed an innocent blood for the forgiveness of men's sins. Can you see the love of our Lord Jesus Christ? Can you also imagine God's love in allowing His only son to undertake such a fatal venture? Our first lesson has clearly told us how our Lord was the good shepherd who was willing to die for the sheep. How many shepherds can agree to die for their sheep today? Before Our Lord came into the world His Father made it very clear to Him the conditions He had kept for the redemption of man. It was an impoossible demand, as it were, for a verv sinless and stainless blood was required. God made it known to Him that He would be killed, and He would suffer a very disgraceful death of crucifixion on the cross. He made it clear to him that He must lead an exemplary life; a life of humility, simplicity, honesty, gentleness. goodness, love. peace, patience, hope, joy, selfkindness, faithfullness, control, all these being the Spiritual attributes of God Himself. During His trials, He must remain very calm and not quarrel or be exasperated, knowing fully well that no - one on earth could kill Him unless He - God gave the person power from above. The conditions were similar to the demand of Shylock from Anthony - a a pound of flesh , rom very close to the heart; the exact pound of flesh should be taken out, but no drop of blood. Jod made it abundantly clear that if His son could fulfil all those conditions, and most importantly die on the Cross without

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anger or exasperation or regrets, He would forgive men, completely and remember their sins no more. Christ completed that assignment when He announced "It is *finished*" on the Cross. He therefore used His precious blood to redeem the whole world from eternal condemnation and destruction.

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V Who could carry out this assignment except God Himself? Don't you see that Jesus Christ was God in Human Form. If God was not inside Him and directed n Him, could He have been able to complete that assignment successfully? How V many men, in the world today can obey all the commandments and rules of T God? Christ knew that His primary assignment was to shed a sinless, stainless blood and that was why He behaved in the way He did. Christ was very humble V and obedient to His father, so obedient even unto death. Since He success t fully completed his assignment, the agreement He made with His father as contained in Hebrews 8, has now become a reality. God has now made a new M covenant with men; He neither imputes sins to them nor remember their wrongs anymore. "I will forgive their sins and will no longer remember their wrongs." Heb. 8:12.

This is why when Christ says, Father forgive! God forgives. *This is why we are all known as sons of God now*. I have the full right to call Him, my Father; you have the full right to call Him your Father; we are not adopted children anymore but sons of God. Christ said, *call no one Teacher, for ye are all brethren.* "Christ is the only Teacher. He used His blood and bought us all unto Himself.

Our second lesson has told us that the greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. We should no more get ourselves involved in idol worshipping or in offering of sacrifices. The last of all sacrifices has been done by Our Lord Jesus Christ. We now have access to the Father through the Son. The scripture says that as by one man death came into the world, by one man, Christ Jesus, eternal life has returned to man. Those people who reject Christ's teachings, what do they think of themselves? He had said that those who keep His commandments are those who love him; it is only these people that He and the Father would love and also make their abode in them. The next commandment is love all others as Christ loved you. The third lesson informs us that everyone who believes in Him will not die but have eternal life. If you believe in HIm today, you are saved. The pertinent question new is, where is Christ now? He does not leave us at all, not a single step. He is God, He is man, He is spirit, He is everywhere, throughout the universe. where will you go to that you will not see Him? That Spirit is in you, the Spirit of Christ. He is here in the world to liberate all from the bonds of sins so that there may be one flock and one shepherd. He rules everywhere'in the heavens and on earth. He had said that when the time comes, all who oppose him and do not want him to rule will be brought and slaughtered before him. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are now inside one being in the world. Many people are now fasting and praying for Jesus to come down and destroy O.O. Obu, and I ask, are there Two Christs? Will He destroy Obu? Who is doing this work? Is it not Him? There is intensive spiritual war in progress everywhere in the entire

universe. You will only be able to win the war if you arm yourself with LOVE as Christ did. Believe and have full faith in him and practise "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" which is the golden rule. One stroke of the cane is sufficient for the wise. Those who have ears to hear, let them hear!

This is the lesson from the Lord of Wisdom. We have heard from the horse's mouth. He has vividly outlined the assignment of our Lord Jesus Christ and why God has now made a new covenant with the world.

THE SOLE MEDIATOR - HIS TEACHINGS/PRACTICES

The advanced learners Dictionary of Current English describes a Mediator as one who acts as a go-between or peace-maker, for example, between employers and their workers. In our own case, the parties involved are God and His creation Man. In this sub-section, we are going to discuss how our Lord Jesus Christ is that Sole Mediator between God and Man, as well as the Sole mediator between the old and the new covenants. I have given an outline of the personality and characteristics of this Son, who was God in Himan flesh, in my little book New Heaven and New Earth. A very close examination of Him gives us an insight into the characteristics of His Father, God. In the publication, we had discussed His birth, baptism, death and resurrection. We had considered the type of work He did, his humility, obedience and simplicity; His persistent glorification of His Father and open exhibition of works of love, mercy, kindness, peace, joy, faithfullness, hope, goodness, forgiveness and so on. We saw that He was ONE with the Father, for the latter was inside Hirn and He did nothing on His own without consulting the Father. It was this special gift which made Him know the inside of people, people's secret thoughts, benaviours and mannerism, a gift which is retricted to God alone. With this gift, He could read into the future unlimitingly and this was the attribute which made Him God. We had examined his death, the disgraceful death on the Cross and its significance thereof.

Our Lord saw how cumbersome the laws of Moses were and how the teachers of the law and the Pharisees implemented them hypocritically. He therefore introduced some alterations. Let us examine a few of these alterations. A summary of His teachings are found in Matthew Chapter 5,6, and 7, otherwise known as the sermon on the mount. You can read about the following:-

- (a) True Happiness. Matt. 5:3-12
- (b) Teaching about the Law. Matt. 5:17-20
- (c) Teaching about Anger. Matt. 5:21-26

Moses had taught that anyone who committed murder would himself be killed. He had thus dealt with the effect of the matter. Christ's approach, however, was to tackle the cause of the effect of the matter - before someone kills, he must have been extremely exasperated or angry. Christ therefore nipped the cause of the effect in the bud. If you could stop the anger, then killing would be prevented. So He taught, 'whoever is angry with his brother is already a murderer and will

- be brought to trial.
- (d) Teaching about fornication/adulerly Matt. 5:27-30.

Here again, the cause of the effect has been tackled. Committing of adultery or fornication is normally preceded by wanton thoughts and admirations of the eyes. If you could curb admirations by opposite sexes, adultery would be prevented. This was our Lord's strategy.

- (e) Teaching about Divorce Matt. 5:31-32
- (f) Teaching about Vows. Matt. 5:33-37
- (g) Teaching about Revenge. Matt. 5:38-42
- (h) Love of Enemies. Matt. 5:43-48
- (i) Teaching about Charity. Matt. 6:1-4
- (j) Teaching about Praver. Matt. 6:5-14
- (k) Having Riches in Heaven. Matt. 6:19-21

(i) Judging others. Matt. 7:1-6

(m) 'Ask, seek and knock Matt. 7:7-12

'Do for others what you want them to do for you; this is the meaning of the law of MOses and the teachings of the prophets? v.12

- (n) The narrow gate Matt. 7:13-14
- (o) Beware of false prophets Matt. 7:15-20
  - 'They teach but do not practise what they teach.'
- (p) I never knew you Matt. 7:21-22
- (q) the teaching of the ancestors Matt. 15:1-9
- (r) The great Commandment: Matt. 22:34-40

Here, we are told that our Lord spoke and taught very authoritatively to the astonishment of the elites of the society - "When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. 'Teacher,' he said which is the greatest commandment in the law? 'Jesus answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the most important commandment, the second is like it: Love your neighbour as you love yourself. The whole law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments." This is a proof of the type of Godly Genius He was and the fact that He did not come to destroy the laws of Moses but to make them a reality. As a matter of fact, if you consider the ten commendments carefully, you will notice that the first four pertains to God Himself. They deal with the love we should have towards God as the only true God, the creator of the universe, the respect we should give Him and the unalloyed faith we should have in Him. The other six laws deal with what we should do inorder to love our fenow men and our neighbours. Our relationships with others will never be strained if we respect our parents, if we abhor murder, adultery, theft, false accusation and do not desire other people's belongings. Christ therefore proved that the whole law of Moses and the teaching of the Prophets depended on these two commandments of love, which He himself, practised. He thus condensed all the laws into ONE, that is LOVE' which He was an embodiment of.

It is on record that He had entered the temple at the age of twelve and intelligently argued and embarassed-the Scribes and Pharisees for three days and nights. Here is another dialogue which shows His spiritual superiority and ingenuity over the Jews:-

"When some Pharisees gathered together, Jesus asked them, what do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is he?' They answered, 'He is David's descendant. 'Why then,' Jesus asked, 'did the spirit inspire David to call him Lord: The Lord said to my Lord, sit here on my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet. If then David called him, Lord!, how can the Messiah be David's descendant?' No one was able to give Jesus any answer, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more question." Matt. 22:41-46.

It is impossible to discuss all aspects of His teaching in a small publication like this. The whole of the New TEstament of the Holy Bible is based on the teaching of the Son. Unlike the Pharisees, He was a practical teacher and practically demonstrated all His teachings by His personal examples. This is why He is the way, the Truth and the Life. He is indeed the light of the world. His characteristics and behaviours cannot be in any way compared with those of Moses, Elijah or any of the prophets of old. He did not kill or destroy a single human being; His life was full of love - the unfathomable love of God, the greatest love that moved Him into giving His very life for His friends. He taught love, practised and exhibited love which covers a multitude of sins. He spoke in parables, taught in parables, healed the sick of diverse diseases and raised the dead to life, free of charge. He performed series of miracles but what disintinguished Him uniquelly from all prophets were His teachings, His mannerism, the simplicity, meekness, gentleness, forgiveness, obedience, all other aspects of His exemplary life and the supreme sacrifice He made of Himself - His death on the Cross. How did He act as the mediator? The Father's Sermon on 'God Loves the World has put the facts in their true perspective, Our Lord was the only Spirit, who, having known the almost impossible condition God had kept for redemption of man, agreed to undertake the fatal venture. He completed the assignment very successfully, He passed through the trials and tortures very calmly and without any exasperations or regrets whatsoever. He thus succeeded in sheding his own very innocent and spotless blood to the acceptance of His Father, God. On the cross, He wholeheartedly pleaded, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they This statement has been the salient link between humanity and the New Covenant. Because He successfully completed that primary assignment of sheding His own innocent blood, God raised Him from the dead, and made a new covenant with humanity as already outlined. Christ's genuine pleading of forgiveness for humanity, on the Cross, had been accepted by the Father, God and here lies the salvation of the whole world. Christ is therefore the great and Sole mediator between the old and new covenants.

In the next subsection of this chapter, we are going to discuss how God has fulfilled this new covenant and is personally putting the laws into people's minds and hearts so that all, from the least to the greatest, might 'Know Him.'

St. Paul discussed the old covenant as follows: "The Old rule, then, is set aside, because it was weak and useless. For the law of Moses could not make anything perfect. And now, a better hope has been provided through which we come near to God." Hebrews 7:18-19

Again, he discussed a change of Priesthood and the law as follows: "For when Priesthood is changed, there also has to be a change in the law." Heb. 7:12. We are telling the whole world that RIGHT NOW' there is a further change of Priesthood and as such laws that are going to last on to eternity are Now( being revised and introduced into the world. For example, we are now under universal love and grace, God does not impute sins to us anymore, and we Must extend that same universal love and brotherhood which originally existed in the garden of Eden to all creations of God. If we had such love, then we should not have the mind of killing any animal creation of God. When Brotherhood members are told not to eat meat or fish, but become vegetarians, people begin to wonder what mystical power, the leader wants to impart to us. One who has the unfathomable love of God cannot withstand the sight of a cow or goat or chicken being slaughtered, not to talk of the sight of a fellow human being, being killed. It is this universal love and grace which is now making us become vegetarians, abstaining from eating animals, the condition which existed at the very beginning. Moreover, the only drink sanctioned by the Father is WATER' Alchols, Spiritc, Minerals are all prohibited. We should neither drink them, nor offer them to others to drink. Water is the drink of the New Kingdom of God; water existed at the very beginning. These are just Two of the new rules the Universal love is going to bring about in this New Kingdom of God and will last to eternity. This brings me to the making of sacrifices. The old covenant of Moses inovlved offering of sacrifices of lambs, cows, bulls, pigeons, doves and others. Again, St. Paul has clearly indicated, "For the blood of bulls and goats can never take away sins----- we are all purified from sins by the offering Christ made of his own body once and for all." Heb. 10:4-10. Again, "For there is no longer any sacrifice that will take away sins if we purposely go on sinning after the truth has been made known to us. Instead, all that is left is to wait in fear for the coming Judgement and the fierce fire which will destroy those who oppose God!" Heb. 10:26-27. Very pitiably, people, at this age when God does not impute or remember our sins anymore, are still making sacrifices of their fellow human-beings, cows, bulls, goats, pigeons, doves! They use perfumes, burn candles and incense and use concoctions of all types. We wonder to whom these sacrifices are made! According to Rev. of John, people with marks of the beast on their foreheads are still worshipping and honouring the beast and its images! we shall see what will happen to in subsequent chapters of this book.

Christ died so as to decend to Hell and Hades and obtain the keys of death so

that when He reappears, He would not die again, He would not mingle Himself with sinners and be addressed as friend of sinners anymore, but to judge the world. The Leader has given the significance of the two thieves crucified on both sides of our Lord as follows. The thief on the left side signifies that from the origin of man, the time of Adam, up to that age, there was no righteous man on earth. The one on the right side signifies that from that time, the advent of Christ, right up to eternity, there would be no righteouds man on earth. He is therefore the Sole Mediator between God and sinful men, the Sole Mediator between the old covenant and the new covenant. His blood saves all mankind from Adam's era to eternity.

FULFILMENT OF THE NEW COVENANT

If God had promised, after His Son's death, that He would put the laws into people's minds and write them in their hearts; that He would be the ONLY TEACHER, personally teaching everybody, from the young to the old, from the least to the greatest; that all would know Him and He would forgive and not remember their sins anymore? How does the world expect He wouldfulfil this promise? We in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star are very lucky to see a Leader who has been very explicit about this matter and has been able to explain and illustrate this particular attribute of God.

First and foremost, God has fulfilled the Son's salient promise by sending to the world the Holy Spirit, the promised Comforter, 'who would teach us everything and make us remember all that Christ had taught' John 14:26. since that Spirit is spirit of truth, 'He would guide us into all hidden truths and and judgement.' world of sins, righteousness the convince John 16:7-15. Again, I have discussed this fully in New Heaven and New Earth. I had shown that the Promised Comforter has not only come to the world in the form of power or influence but as a distinguished personality in Human Form.

My earlier publication - 'The Truth about Olumba Olumba Obu and Brotherhood of the Cross and Star,' and this one - 'Judgement,' have all vividly described the behaviours, characteristics and mannerism of this great and distinguished personality. The Holy Spirit, the supernatural invincible power we receive from God through this personality, guards and protects all members, from the least to the greatest. The powerful words of God, He preaches to members are spiritually recorded, as it were, by spiritual tape recorders inside the bodies of his children? these tapes replay anytime one is tempted to go astray and all true children of his who listen to Him always, hardly go astray. This makes Him the Supernatural Teacher. His everyday life and Practical examples make everybody dumbfounded and respect him as God. Here is a 'Man' who does not impute sins to all types and manners of people (recapitulate his words of exhortation). Here is someone who knows all our secrets, all our credits and short-comings. We have seen one who knows all our sins, yet does not disgrace anybody and does not drive anybody away from Him or from His fold. According to His own words, we are all naked before him, but He is not exasperated and does not impute these sins, no matter how grievous, to anybody. He does not however rejoice at people's sins and short- . comings and so He preaches indefatigably, night and day, calling on all to forsake sins in order to escape the terrible day of the Lord - the Judgement Day.

Who could exhibit this particular type of mannerism except God Himself? who on earth could expound the scriptures as He does and reveal this hidden wisdom of God which is perculiar to Him alone? Who on earth can use love alone to bind all peoples of different countries of the world together and into one fold? It is a truism that the New Covenant has come into reality in this world of our age a after about 2,000 (two thousand) years from Christ's death. It is now physically feasible? it is now completely being fulfilled in this earth plane of manifestation. This is a definite proof that God who does not impute sins to humanity is now physically present on this earth plane *It is high time we emulate Him by refraining from all sins and not impute them to others. This is the way out.* 

God is now very forgiving and merciful to us all. We cannot compare the punishments people of this age receive with those of the era of Moses, for intransigence to the word of God. If today, punishments were meted out according to those laws, the consequences would be catastrophic. If, for example, 23,000 people died in a day because of fornication alone, we should expect the death-roll to rise up to a million or more a day for our present age. But the love and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ has removed this sort of appalling and depressing effect on humanity. It has covered a , multitude of soms.

## EXTENSION OF CHRIST'S TEACHINGS TO GENTILES AND ALL

It is worthy to note that our Lord's ceachings were initially meant only for the Jews, just as the laws of Moses were. According to the instructions He gave the 12 disciples on the day He sent them out to preach, He warned them not to go to the Gentiles, but to the "Lost Sheep, the people of Israel" Matt. 10:5-10. This was so because He had not shed His blood by then. The disciples obeyed these instructions and avoided preaching to the Gentiles until after His resurrection and ascension. Gentiles, as a matter of fact, were not regarded as part of the society. The Jews had nothing to do with them. The Jews were very proud that they were the descendants of Abraham, descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel and as such, God's chosen race. They were proud that they were the custodians of the laws of Moses and Our Lord knew very well that He could not alter that trend singlehandedly during His life-time as a man. It was after our Lord's death that His teachings were extended to the gentiles and by so doing, to all mankind. How did this happen? Christ knew that it was only by the power of the Holy Spirit that the embargo on the Gentiles would be lifted. Before his resurrection, He alone possessed this wonderful power, the disciples had NONE. It was after the disciples had received this power from above that Christ extended salvation to the Gentiles through Peter whom He had described as the rock on which the Church would be built. The story is as contained in Acts of the Apostles chapters 10 and 11. A non-Jewish captain, Cornelius, of the Roman regiment, the Italian Regiment, was a very devout and religious man. He used to pray constantly and did much to help the poor Jewish people. One day he had a vision during one of his prayers and was clearly told by an angel of

God that God was pleased with His prayers and works of charity and would answer his prayers. He should therefore send some men to Joppa and invite an apostle, Peter by name to his house. The angel told him the exact place where Peter lodged and he immediately complied.

Meanwhile the next day, Peter had gone up to the roof of the house where he lodged, to pray. There he had a vision by noon. He was shown all kinds of animals and was told to rise, kill and eat. This was done thrice, and on each occassion he had argued against eating them. Finally he was told to eat, for nothing created by God was unclean. (Acts 10:10-21). While he was pondering over this vision, the messengers from Cornelius arrived and narrated to Peter the vision their master had. The following day, Peter followed them to Cornelius; some of the believers from Joppa also went along with them. When they arrived at the house of Cornelius, the latter was waiting for him, together with his relatives and close friends he had invited. Below is the dialogue which followed their meeting:- "As Peter was about to go in, Cornelius met him fell at his feet and bowed down before him. But Peter said, 'StandUp', ........ 'You, yourselves know very well that a Jew is not allowed by his religion to visit or associate with Gentiles' ....... 'why did you send for me?''' Cornelius narrated his visions to the amazement of the Jews Acts 10:25-43.

(a) GENTILES RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BECOME BAPTIZED

We read from Acts 10:44-48, "while Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his message. The Jewish believers who had come from Joppa with Peter were amazed that God had poured out His gift of Holy Spirit on the Gentiles also." They were then baptized:

After this incident, Peter received much criticism from other Jewish apostles and believers. When he went to Jerusalem, they questioned the authority by which he extended the word of God to the Gentiles. Peter had to narrate all the circumstances and spiritual directives he received culminating in the wonderful conversions and gentiles' reception of the Holy Spirit and their baptism. Then and only then were they satisfied. They stopped the criticism and praised God for giving the gentiles the same "opportunity to repent and live."

(b) THE COMMUNIQUE AT THE CHRISTIAN MEETING IN JERUSALEM After the gentiles had been received into the Christian fold, particularly at Antioch, the origin of Christianity, a hot argument arose as to whether they could be saved without being circumcized according to the law of Moses. This law had made it compulsory for all Jews to becircumcised; even our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised - "a week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived." Luke 2:21. Paul and Silas argued very vehemently with other believers and teachers over this issue, and it was decided that the matter should be tabled for discussion at a full meeting of the Christian Council consisting of all the apostles and elders at the heaquarterss, Jerusalem. On the appointed day, Paul, Silas, Peter, Judas called Barsabbas, John, Barnabbas and all others were present. The meeting was

presided over by James. After a heated debate, the Council decided not to force the gentiles into circumcision, but rather encourage them to live moral lives by abstaining from sexual immorality, eating food offered to idols and meat of strangled animals and blood. The communique was issued as follows:-"We, the apostles and the elders, your brothers, send greetings to all our brothers of Gentile birth who live in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. We have heard that some men who went from our group have troubled and upset you by what they said? they had not, however, received any instruction from us. And so we have met together and have all agreed to choose some messengers and send them to you. They will go with our dear friends Barnabbas and Paul, who have risked their lives in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. We send you, then Judas and Silas who will tell you in person the same things we are writing. They Holy Spirit and we have agreed not to put any other burden on you besides these necessary rules: eat no food that has been offered to idols; eat no blood; eat no animal that has been strangled; and keep yourselves from sexual immorality. You will do well if you take care not to do these things. With our best wishes." Acts 15:23:29. This message was sent to Antioch and the environs. Every believer, was highly

inspired and satisfied. This is how Jehovah God and His Christ extended the Good News of salvation and redemption of man to all mankind throughout the world. It was a confirmation of the LAST INSTRUCTION our Lord gave to his disciples after his resurrection:- "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, In all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. After saying this, he was taken up to heaven and as they watched him a cloud hid him from their sight." Acts 1:8-9.

Our Lord is very wonderful indeed, because every bit of statement He made, came true, and you can see that nothing on earth will stop all other revelations of his from manifesting themselves right up to eternity. The work of God indeed. The Kingdom of God is now extended to all Spirits and all humans anywhere they may be in the entire universe. Christ died for all types of sinners and his blood saves all who honestly believe in him and truthfully obey his teachings. THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS REVEALED BY CHRIST: Our Lord Jesus Christ is the first person who really spoke authoritatively, revealing the Kingdom of His Father and clearly informing the whole world of what would happen towards the end of times, at the new age and on judgement day. He thus spoke, not as a prophet but as the Son who had the knowledge of "all the stock of goods in the store-house of His Father." available He ended His sermon on the Mount as follows:- "But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers over flowed, the wind blew hard against that house and it fell. And what a terrible fall it was!" Matt. 7:26-27. He illustrated the Kingdom of heaven by series of parables - parable of the Mustard seed, parable of the Yeast, parable of the Hidden Treasure, parable of the pearl, parable of Tennants in the Vineyard, parable of the Net, parable of the

unforgiving servant and so on. These parables contain very hidden truths which the Pharisees could not comprehend. Let us consider three of them. First, the parable of the weeds. A man sowed good seeds of wheat in his field. One night, when everybody was asleep, an enemy went into the field and sowed weed seeds among the wheat. When the plants grew up and the ears of corn began to form, the weeds also showed up. The man's servants wanted to know from their master where the weeds came from as they had planted good wheat seeds, and the reply was that it was the work of an enemy. Then they wanted to go and remove the weeds from among the wheat, but the master prevented them from doing so because they could pull out some of the wheat seedlings together with the weeds. Both should be allowed to grow together until the harvest time, when the reapers would pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them while the wheat afterwards and put in the barn. gathered would be The interpretation as given by our Lord was as follow:-

"The man who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; the good seed is the people who belong to the Evil One; and the enemy is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvest workers are angels. Just as the weeds were gathered up and burnt in the fire, so the same thing will happen at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels to gather up out of his Kingdom all those who cause people to sin and all others who do evil things, and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and grind their teeth. Then God's people will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Listen, then, if you have ears'' Matt. 13:37-43. He had clearly told the world that during the new age, He the Son of Man, would send his angels to remove all wicked and ungodly people from the face of the globe. Is this not a lesson for us

The parable of Tenants in the Vineyard shows God's Master Plan for the entire world. Let us consider it. - Matt. 21:31-46. Our Lord told the Chief Priest and Pharisees that a certain Rich Landlord owned a vineyard. He planned it very well, made a beautiful fence around it, dug a hole for the wine press and built a lofty watch-tower in it. He let out the vine yard to tenants and went on a journey. When it was harvest season, he sent his servants to the tenants to receive his share of the harvest, but the tenants seized the servants, beat one, killed another and stoned another. Again the Landlord sent more servants than in the first set but this did not change the attitude of the tenants. Finally, he decided to send his own son, thinking that the tenants would respect the Son and oblige. Unfortunately, they killed him so that they could seize and own the estate. Our Lord asked the Pharisees what they thought the owner of the vineyard would do. They replied that he would come in person and kill those evil men, and let out the yard to other tenants who would give him his share of the harvest at the right time. Our Lord further commented that the stone which the builders rejected as worthless, turned out to be most important of all.

Can we ponder over this parable for a while? What is the meaning? God sent down numerous prophets to preach to man and save man from disaster, we man

jected them and killed many. God sent His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we immediately killed him at a premature age of thirty three (33) years. There is an adage which says, *When the battle is tough, the King goes to the battle-field by himself.*" Who else is God going to send? He has to come down by Himself and kill all evil and selfish men. THE TIME FOR THIS HAS COME!

The third parable I like us to consider is the parable of the Hidden Treasure The Kingdom of Heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in the field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field" Matt. 13:44. God's very precious and costly jewels are in this new Kingdom of God. By chance and out of grace, one is called into it. Once one realizes what are here, the power, the wisdom, and the conditions God has kept for entry, nothing will stop one from selling all he or she has inorder to enter, nothing will stop one from refraining from fornication or adultery, falsehood, cheating, quarrels, worshipping of idols and all manners of sins in order to enter; nothing will stop the rich millionaires from scattering their wealth, abandoning their mansions and seeking after meekness, truthfulness, simplicity, humility, gentleness, love faith, hope, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control which are all prerequisites of entry into the Kingdom. According to what we have seen in Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, we confirm, at once, that this parable is perfectly true. Non-members sometimes wonder what people discover in Brotherhood which make them forsake all their former lives and companions, reject all persuasions or grumblings against them and face the persecutions and the seeming hard conditions for the sake of the Kingdom. yes, something is here. God's very precious jewels, the Holy Spirit and the wonderful peace which, under no circumstances, worldly, pleasures can give,

are being purchased here and this is why all true children who are so called cannot withdraw from the fold.

Another hidden truth about the Kingdom, our Lord revealed to the disciples was when Peter spoke to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'You can be sure that when the Son of Man sists on His glorious throne in the New Age, then you twelve followers of mine will also sit on thrones to rule the 12 tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters of father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times more and will be given eternal life. But many who now are first will be last, and many who now are last will be first." Matt. 19:27-30. Did He not reveal that He would be the Chief Judge? Was He not displaying a wisdom beyond human comprehension, a wisdom that projected into eternity? Here is another revealtion about the Kingdom. It illustrates a wisdom limited to the Father only. The wife of Zebedee brought her two sons to our Lord and requested that they be given the right to sit at our Lord's right and left when He became King. The reply was, "I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my

right and my left. These places belong to those for whom my Father has prepared them." Matt. 20:23. Here we learn that people cannot struggle for positions in this Kingdom. Everything is fixed according to the Father's divine will and plan. Did our Lord Himself not reveal what would happen at His second coming? Read this from Matthew 24:3-44. "Be on your guard, and do not let anyone deceive you. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will some and say, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will deceive many people. You are going to hear the noise of battles close by and the news of battles far away; but do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but they do not mean that the end has come. Countries will fight each other, Kingdoms will attack one another. There will be famines and earthquakes everywhere. All these things are like the first pains of childbirth. Then you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and be put to death. All mankind will hate you because of me. Many will give up their faith at that time; they will betray one another and hate one another. Then many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. And this Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all mankind; and then the end will come. You will see 'The Awful Horror' of which prophet Daniel spoke ------ For the trouble at that time will be far more terrible than any there has ever been, from the beginning of the world to this, very ddy. Nor will there ever be anything like it again. But God has already reduced the number of days; had he not done so, nobody would service. For the sake of his chosen people, however, God will reduce the days. ------ For the Son of man will come like the lightening which flashes across the whole sky from east to west. Where-ever there is a dead body, the vultures will gather. ---- The Son of Man will send his angels to the four corners of the earth, and they will gather his chosen people from one end of the world to the other.----NO ONE HOWEVER KNOWS WHEN THAT DAY AND HOUR WILL COME - NEITHER THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN NOR THE SON; THE FATHER ALONE KNOWS. The comina of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. -----So then, you also must always be ready, becuause the Sun of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him." Brethren all these signs of the end of times have shown themselves. We, in this fold, are categorically telling the world that He has descended already into the world with great power and glory; He is already in the world with pomp and pageantry and is sending millions of his angels to all corners of the world to gather His chosen ones together, so that there may be one flock and one Shepherd. THE IMPORTANCE OF RESURRECTION TO MANKINU Our Lord Jesus Christ has given the whole world an insight into a mystery beyond all mysteries. He has demonstrated a mystery which no other human being has been able to do. We have seen that Enoch and Elijah were translated, body and soul to heaven without passing through physical death. Our Lord, on he other hand, died a physical death. St. Luke, a witness, recorded His death as follows: It was about twelve O'clock when the sun stopped shining and darkness overed the whole country until three O'clock; and the curtain hanging in the

Temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Father! In vour hands I place my spirit!' He said this and died.'' Luke 23:44-46: St. John, another witness described the same incident as follows: Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, ' I am thirsty.' A bowf wus there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips. Jesus drank the wine and said, 'It is finished!' Then he bowed his head and died." John 19:28-29. He was buried and after three days and nights, He resurrected flesh and bone,

body and soul, together. It is a phenomenon which has never happened in the history of the human race. Christ is the first person to overcome death, the first person who resurrected. The amazing thing about him is that He lingered around Palestine for 40 days and nights, appearing and disappearing here and there; only his chosen disciples could see and talk to him. Yet He existed as a human being in flesh and bone. (Acts 1:3).

The significant thing about this wonderful phenomenon is that, just as God raised His Son from death, He will also make all those who have died in this world rise from death at the appropriate time He (God) has set for Himself, a time no human being or any other spirit knows, not even the son. Some will rise into eternal life, while others will rise into eternal condemnation and punishment. All who fear God and believe in His Son, the Christ, as well as abide by His teachings and practices will resurrect into eternal life, exactly as the Son, resurrected Jesus. Here lies the hope of all true A believers. St. Paul who was a wonderful spiritual writer has elaborated on this matter as follows: But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as a guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised. For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ. | v But each one will be raised in his proper order: Christ, first of all; then, at the u time of his coming, those who belong to him. Then the end will come; Christ | t will overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and powers, and will hand over h the Kingdom to God the Father. For Christ must rule until God defeats all , enemies and puts them under His feet. The last enemy to be defeated will be death." 1 Cor. 15:20-26. Another significant point about Christ's resurrection is in connection with his reincarnation. From Romans 6:9-10, we read, "For we know that Christ has been a raised from death and will never die again - death will no longer rule over him N And so, because he died, sin has no power over him; and now He lives his life in A fellowship with God." Since, in his first advent, He was sinless, (except in the case of religious provocation, where he was angry and flogged the Jews or cursed the Scribes and the Pharisees), When He reincarnates into the world during his second advent, He will overcome what He could not overcome in the first advent?

that is, religious provocation. In other words, He will be spotlessly perfect and as such, physical death will have NO power over him anymore. He is not going to mingle himself, as before, with sinners and be addressed as friend of sinners anymore, but to judge and separate the goats from the sheep. This topic is fully discussed in the next chapter of this book. If you believe in Jehovah God and His Christ, you will realize that in like manner, there are other sons who will be born into this world; they will similarly overcome physical death and rule with him eternally as the Priests of Christ.

What does our Holy Father, the Lord of wisdom, say about resurrection? Here are comforting words He gave a bereaved family and the whole congregation during the memorial service of one of our brethren: When somebody dies, you weep and cry and mourn as someone who has no faith and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. You keep mourning houses and wear black clothes as unbelievers. In this Kingdom, we do not cry or keep mourning houses because of the hope we have in Christ. The Scriptures read out to you have confirmed that whether we live, we live unto the Lord; if we die, we die unto the Lord; so whether we live or die, we are in the Lord. The Father, God, raised His Son from the dead after three days of his death, and the hope of all believers is that God will equally raise them up exactly as He raised Christ. There is therefore no death at all. Death is a mere transfer from one Country to another. Some of the people you thought had died, are now living and transacting their businesses in other parts of the world like America or Europe or Asia. Those who died in those countries are now in , Africa, in Nigeria, or other countries of the world. Some who died in Calabar are now living in Lagos or elsewhere in Nigeria. I tell you emphatically that there is no death.

The brother, whom you said had died is now rejoicing and singing and dancing in our midst. You cannot see him but he sees you. He is not dead but very alive working. Christ said, 'My Father worketh hitherto and I work!' He is not in any resting place very far away from here; he is right here in our midst, rejoicing and working. All your brothers and sisters whom you said had died are all here among us rejoicing with the Lord. You cannot see any of them now. At the appropriate time when God will open your eyes, you will see all those people you had said had died, face to face; then you will believe that there is no death. In this Kingdom, we do not wear black mourning dresses or keep mourning houses because of the hope and belief we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. Some people would say, 'even Christ died!' and I ask them, 'where did He go to?' Have you not heard that He resurrected and defeated death? He is alive now and is present everywhere in the entire universe. You people know him as Jesus of Nazareth, Son of Joseph and Mary, Son of David, but we know him as the Son of Man, the Son of God and God Himself, one who made the heavens and the earth. He created you and He is the Holy Spirit as well. He is alive and is working verywhere. We believe in him and the fact is that just as He was raised, all his fildren will equally be raised into eternal life. Christ was the first person to surrect and all his children will be fruits of the same resurrection.

At the last day, everybody will resurrect. Some will resurrect into eternal life; others will resurrect into eternal fire and condemnation. This is why we believe in him and obey his commandments. Practise his words and love one another for whoever loves, has passed from death into eternal life. Whoever does not love is still under the power of death.' 1 John 3:14. I assure you that God will finally destroy death at His own appointed time. See Rev. 21:3-4, 'There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared. God will not fail to fulfil his promise. We pursue eternal life in this generation; that is why we do not accept any form of medicines or drinks; we do not commit fornication or adultery; we do not steal or kill; we are taught to abstain from all manners of sins. Instead of crying for your departed ones, weep for your own sins. Whoever sins is under the bondage of death. Believe also in reincarnation. It is a fact. Many of you have come into this world several times. The truth is that you must abstain from all kinds of sins in order to inherit eternal life. One stroke of the cane is sufficient for the wise. Those who have ears to hear, let them hear."

## THE WITNESSES ABOUT CHRIST - SPIRIT, WATER AND BLOOD'

"Jesus Christ is the one who came with the water of his baptism and the blood of his death. He came not only with the water, but with both the water and the blood. And the Spirit himself testifies that this is true, because the Spirit is truth. There are three witnesses: the spirit, the water, and the blood; and all three give the same testimony." 1 John 5:6-8.

Our Holy Father has revealed the hidden mysteries of God and will ever continue to do so. These mysteries have confounded the wisdom of the whole world. In one of his gospels, he had revealed the fact that when God becomes man, He is water, blood and spirit. This he expounded in a two-hour sermon, the text of which was the above passage from 1st John 5. Space does not permit me to publish the whole sermon, but here is a precis of it:-

"When God Personifies here on earth, there are three things that you can use to identify Him. That is water, blood and the Spirit. Water cannot say that He alone is God. Blood alone cannot claim to be God nor the Spirit The trinity God is water, blood and the Spirit. There is never a time that Spirit will appear before you.

It is only water and blood with spirit that can appear before you. That is why it is said that I and my Father are one. When God comes into this mundance plane, He will appear as a human-being. In the Spirit, He will appear in the form of an angel. That was the reason angel Gabriel said that he was angel Gabriel who stood before God. Our Lord Jesus Christ also said that I and my Father are one.. This is the hidden Gospel also that confounds the whole world. When people keep on saying that man is not God, what is man? The three witnesses, water, blood and spirit bear witness that man is God.

When He was nailed to the Cross, He said, 'Father into thy hand I commend my Spirit.' As soon as the Spirit left Him. He died. When the Soldier came to inspect

whether He was really dead, He used his sword to pierce His side. What came out was water and blood. *It is that water and blood which is used in washing away all our sins and the sins of the whole world*. Remember that water which existed everywhere at the very beginning is used for baptism. Water and Blood cleanse, while the spirit quickens or gives life. Every work done on the whole surface of the earth until the end of time, is done by blocd, water and spirit. With Blood and spirit do not exist alone, the three of them are one. That is the reason Our Lord Jesus Christ, when He speaks, always uses the word We and not 1.

This Gospel, if you were to write it and give out to people who are very advanced in the secret societies, they will wonder where this doctrine comes from. You do not understand what is meant by the past, present and future. The life you live now is directed by the flesh but it had been written that the spirit will lead. The water in your body has got his own assignment because it is spirit. The future is the spirit of God or the Chairman - anything he does not sign cannot happen. It has been written that the spirit of truth will lead the world. If you act according to what the flesh directs you to do, you will never succeed. The flesh is blind and deaf; it is God that is spirit that is Omniscient and controls the whole body. It has been written that flesh and blood will never inherit the Kingdom of God. We must realize that God exists in a dual nature. You will see an angel with wings but he is a human-being. You will see another human-being saying that he is a prophet or the son of God. You will observe a human-being coming up to you to say that he is God Almighty. When you are united with the Spirit, He will reveal all things to you. If you have two people, you must have one who is the head. Of the three entities, water, blood and spirit, the leader is the spirit. That is the reason when a doctor operates on a person, he will find water and blood. He will not see the spirit because the latter is God. Always include God in whatever business you do because God is the Father. He is the Spirit. You will find that the flesh will begin to tell you to go and steal, for ficate, hate, rebuke the flesh, tell him, he should allow the spirit to direct you. Water will also direct you to sin or look for mundane things of this world. Rebuke him. Allow the Spirit to lead you. Water and blood are the instruments used by the spirit to cover himself. When our Lord said, 'I and My Father are one!' the people did not understand the implications of this statement. They thought he was mad. But He was telling the truth and since truth is bitter, people regarded him as a madman. Ever since I told you that you are in God and God is in you, there is no one person who has believed Me There is no one person who knows where blood goes when it leaves your body! You are eating but you observe that blood is getting less in your body! Where does it go? You discover that water is no more in your body eventhough you may drink up to four or five cups of water daily. Now that water has left your body, where has it gone? Water and blood go with the spirit. Water and blood cannot do anything by themselves. The three must be combined together before they can perform. If there is no water in you, the Spirit If there is no blood in you, the same spirit can give you blood. When there is no water and blood in your body, call the Father (pray to God) and the Spirit will be sent to provide water and blood. The blood leaves your

body, when you have disconnected yourself with the Spirit. I am giving this Gospel to the whole world, all those who have ears to hear, will hear.

When the Father is in heaven, three things represent Him. They are, the Father Himself, the word and the Spirit. (See Chapter one, from the beginning.) When He on earth,. He is represented by the water, blood and spirit. is Since we are looking for God with pride and arrogance, we cannot see Him You believe that God is in the sky and you vow never to worship a human-being. Now that you have projected yourself to heaven to see God, have you seen Him? You can see how ignorant the human-beings are! They keep on looking at the sky to see when our Lord Jesus will come back. These three properties, water, blood and spirit prove the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ Tell me which human being has this wisdom in the whole world? God has no other form than water, blood and the Spirit. The fact is that you do not believe in Him. He had said, 'Let us make man in our own image.' The trouble is that you do not worship God and do not respect anybody because you cannot worship a human-being. When you beat up somebody, do you know that you are beating God? When somebody is hungry and you retuse to feed him, how do you know that you have not denied God food? If "this house begins to leak and you do not repair it, it will affect the person inside. You are God's temple and this is why God leaves you.

When God created man, the latter's food was vegetable or fruits, because He knew that fruits and vegetables would supply blood and water to your bodies. When God created fishes and other animals, these were also His body. Man now attaches importance to eating meat, fish etc, man has become carnivorous and so lacks water and blood in his body.

What drives out water and blood from the body is fornication. When you are intimate with a woman, the one second discharge of sperms into the woman will make you loose blood that could sustain your life for fifty years. Now that you and the woman cannot do without sexual intercourse, you loose so much blood during each act, that the stock of blood in you soon becomes exhausted. When this happens both of you collapse and die. Then you attribute the cause of your death to witch-craft or juju. If a man or woman stays without becoming intimate with one another, their blood remains pure and they will not taste of death. The wine you drink, the medications you take defile your blood. It is exactly as if you bring fresh palm wine from the tree but add water to it. The wine becomes adulterated. You have heard that Adarn lived for 930 years. The reason is that after the wife of Adam had three pregnancies, he prayed to God to remove the desire for sexual intercourse from him. God did so, and they lived as brother and sister for that long period of time. In your own case, you jump from one woman to another, When the blood in you is exhausted, you drop dead. The snuff that you take dries up the blood from your body. You are God's temple and when you adulterate it with drinks, fornication, falsehood, smoking, or live an abominable life, God will destroy you.

Never say that you are alone. Whenever you are, you are with God. The water cannot say that it is not spirit and therefore not from God. The blood cannot say that since it is not Spirit, it is not from God. Nevertheless the three of them have different assignments but the trinity is composed of water, blood and the spirit. This signifies the presence of God on earth. When our Lord Jesus Christ ressurected, the disciples were afraid because they thought that He was a Spirit. He asked them to touch him because He was flesh and bone, for the Spirit has no flesh and bone.

When the word of God is given to you, that is spiritual food. When you eat feast such as bread, rice etc., this is to feed the flesh. You are all witnesses that when you undertake the three days dry fasting, by the third day, you become very weak and emaciated. If you fast for a longer period, the skeleton of your body begins to show. That is to say that the flesh has been demolished but the spirit is still very strong. Do not forget that when the flesh collapses, the spirit goes away because both of them are one. In the same token, when you steal, fornicate, drink and indulge in vices, the spirit is affected. When the Spirit leaves, the flesh also collapses. You have to give to the flesh what belongs to the flesh and to the spirit what belongs to the spirit.----- All those who have ears to hear, let them hear.''

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