

When the going gets tough... the meek find... *faith*.

In [Hebrews 11](#)... they saw something. It was described as *faith*. They kept walking towards what they saw.

I've written about this before... which I'll reference some of it... but, I wanted to corral my thoughts and questions from those writings into this discussion.

So...

Jesus Christ asked... *when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth* ([Luke 18:8](#))? When He returns... what is Jesus Christ looking for? The *faith* He mentions... is He thinking of something in particular?

Noted *faith* in the Bible—are there specifics... or, does any belief(s) fit the meaning of *this faith*?

Some commentary on *faith* in [the Essay... Turn Out the Lights...](#)

Faith... those of great faith... the characteristics have been described...

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him...

For he [Abraham] looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Was their *faith* described as... they endured... *through faith, received not the promise*—a promise they could see... *a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...* ([Hebrews 11:1,6-16,39](#))? *Turn Out the Lights*, pp. 32-33.

Abraham and *the others* saw... *a better country...* *a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...* so... I asked...

Is this *city* the... *substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...* that's part of faith—to be able to... *believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him...* ?

It seems Abraham and the... *others...* saw something they were *persuaded of*—it kept them motivated to keep walking through *a strange land* called... this world—the current earth. Was this their testimony of... *they knew what they were created for... a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city...* ?

Are the Saints, today, to be inspired by the example of Abraham and the... *others...* to run same *race...* *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds...* towards the same *promise* of... *receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken* (ASV) ([Hebrews 12:1-3,23-29](#))? *Turn Out the Lights*, p. 33.

Comments from the books...

According to the English Oxford Dictionary, “speculate” means to spy out, watch, examine, and observe.

“Speculation” is converted to belief and action by faith because... faith is not blind. It requires “substance” and “evidence” to validate hope. It was said of the *Heroes of Faith...*

*...not having received the promises,
but having seen them afar off...
were persuaded of them, and embraced them...
Hebrews 11:13*

Upon seeing the “evidence”, the *Heroes of Faith* embraced their hope and... now, we read about their actions in the Family History and Constitution. [The Family Fortune](#), pp. 78-79.

My faith is made alive by my actions... they're the “substance and evidence” of my belief ([James 2:17-18](#)). [Unnaturally Cheap](#), p. 44

What is described as *faith...* that Abraham and *the others* had... is this *the faith* Jesus Christ is looking for when He returns?

What Abraham and *the others* saw... was this what Jesus Christ saw at the cross?

Does an honorable groom await his wedding day... and, the life with his wife... with *joy*? Is it unreasonable to think that Jesus... *the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross... could've been anticipating... the marriage of the Lamb... the marriage supper of the Lamb... the Lamb's Wife*—that this was part of His... *joy*... He drew on to stay faithful becoming the High Priest over the Household of God... *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth... I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people...*

the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee... In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem... The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing ([Revelation 19:6-9; 21:9; Isaiah 65:17-19; Zephaniah 3:13-17](#))? *Turn Out the Lights*, p. 33.

All this leads to the point of...

Today, I hear some... who claim to be Christians... say that we should be focused on eliminating hunger... poverty... rescuing the Earth... dominating society—establishing the Kingdom of God on earth to be able to hand the “keys of the Kingdom” over to Jesus Christ upon His return. Some seem to believe He won’t return... we’ll have the “run of the house” forever while God remains “off-site” in Heaven. Some believe the end-time events described in the Bible have already happened. These Christians appear not to see what Abraham and *the others* did. Do they have the same... *faith*... that Abraham and *the others* are described to have had?

I’ve discussed this issue relating to civil authorities in [the Series Essay... The Hope of Our Calling... Chosen for an Inheritance...](#)

In my personal opinion, having a blind eye in regard to... “*the city built by the hand of God*”—the inheritance of the righteous in Christ—has led to the bamboozlement by charlatans using the guilt of legalism to call many to give their attention to (worship) various causes and movements of religion and the state.

Whether the loss of vision has occurred through ignorance, neglect, or flat out rejection, if we do not have a “foundational” vision and hope of the Kingdom of God, we disenfranchise ourselves with the “*cares, troubles, and concerns of this world*”. Without His Kingdom to occupy our heart, we then set out to build our own kingdoms in this age; thus, succumbing to the bondage of the flesh attempting to fulfill the role of God for mankind.

Is it by coincidence that Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society”, a “progressive” ideology instituted on the road to the tyranny we are experiencing by government today, was expressed by his following remarks at the University of Michigan?

“The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice.... But that is just the beginning.

*The Great Society is a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents... It is a place where **the city of man** serves not only the needs of the body and the demands of commerce but the desire for beauty and the hunger for community.”—* from [Hillsdale College](#)*

Does Lyndon B. Johnson’s description of the “**city of man**” sound familiar with God’s description of the “City of God”?

The City of God described:

- *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4*
- *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: Revelation 22:3*
- *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.²² They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.²³ They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. Isaiah 65:21-22*
- *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den.⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:6-9*

It seems to me the “**city of man**” is a blatant snub on “*the city built by the hand of God*” simply by the attempt to provide what God plans to, and will, in His city; the attitude of trying to usurp God as Satan thought he could leading to the rebellion in Heaven. *The Hope of Our Calling... Chosen for an Inheritance*, pp. 5-6.

Should the Church embrace the... “city of man”?

There is only one: *the city of the living God—the heavenly Jerusalem—the Lamb’s Wife*—and Her time is not yet because the marriage ceremony has not taken place. To be acting like Her today attempting to create utopia for the world through “the city of man”—does this amount to no more than being an imposter—a *strange woman*—a harlot—an adulteress? [The Family Fortune](#), p. 114

How well is the “city of man”... “conquering the world for God”... working? I would have to say... *during my lifetime... not very well!*

Let's say I was a wealthy land baron rancher (In reality... there were days I wish I was... but, I'm not... and, as I get older and grow in Christ... I'm glad I didn't—I'm content to let God determine the scope and timing in... *what Abraham saw... every one that hath forsaken... lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life... [Matthew 19:28-30](#)*) and my only son, my only offspring, has gotten engaged.

My son has come to me and said...

All my fiancée seems to be interested in is for me to pay the bill on the Lingus Family credit card I've given her. She shops... travels the world... and, parties with her friends... all the time. She is interested in seeking only good times... but, doesn't seem to want me around with her. When she and her friends get into trouble... they call the Lingus Family Office—using my name... they ask for you to bail them out. When you have... they go back to partying.

I've expressed my jealousy about her showing more excitement and affection for her male friends than for me—she tells me... not to worry... they're only helping her build a house for us to live in when we get married. I keep telling her... I'm preparing a house for us in your house... the "House of Lingus"... to be furnished and protected by the Lingus Family resources you've made available for us.

I've shared the Lingus Family Heritage and History with her—I've even left the written Lingus Family History and Constitution to for her to become familiar with while I'm away preparing a house for her. I want it to encourage and strengthen her in my absence... give her hope for her future with me and the Lingus Family.

With all this, she still mainly talks about her own plans... her own life. She rarely mentions the Lingus Family Heritage... your plans and my plans for the Lingus Family. She doesn't talk much about our wedding day... the house I'm building for us... our future... the Lingus Family Business... our future generations... our children... your grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In fact... she wants to choose the wedding day—she rejects you picking the day for us—she doesn't understand the implications within the Lingus Family as to the day... you have your reasons... you'll let me know when it's... the day.

She zones me out to listen to her friends... she trusts in mystics and clairvoyants who whisper into her ear. She's just not satisfied with the written interests of the Lingus Family I left with her to study... to plant in her heart. You told me to do this to counter these "whispering voices" impersonating a Lingus—they are trying to seduce her away from becoming part of the Lingus Family.

What should I do?

I share with you what my son has told me. What advice would you give me?

Should I tell my son...

Forgive her... look past her words and actions... marry the woman... she may fall in love with you some day...

or...

Son, her heart is not with you. You will damage the future of the Lingus Family if you marry her... unless she repents when you confront her—if you do, you'd better do it before the wedding day. If she doesn't... you need to look for an honest... faithful... virtuous... bride—one who genuinely loves you and will not betray our family—someone who is excited about becoming part of the Lingus Family and what it stands for... ?

If Abraham and *the others* were alive... what advice would they give me?

What advice would leaders and advocates of...

- the "Purpose Driven Life" movement...
- the "World P.E.A.C.E Plan" movement...
- the "New Apostolic Reformation" movement...
- the "7-Mountain Mandate" movement
- the "Word-Faith" movement...
- the "Signs and Wonders Charismatic" movement...
- the "Progressive (Social Justice)" movement...
- the "Save the Earth" movement...
- the "Spiritual Formation" movement...
- the "Contemplative Prayer" movement
- the "Emergent Church" movement...
- the "New Age" movement...
- Catholicism...
- Mormonism...
- Jehovah's Witnesses...
- 7th Day Adventists... and on down the list...

...give me?

Whose advice should I consider?

If they don't see what Abraham saw and embraced... are they... *His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant... ([Isaiah 56:9-12](#))?*

Maybe the following from [the Essay... Hearing...](#) provides an answer...

Said another way... God describes through His Word... how... when... He will establish His Kingdom... and, what it will be like. To ignore this part of the story... seems... from what I've experienced... and, read in the Bible historically (i.e. King Saul, King Solomon, the rogue Kings of Judah and Israel, the Sadducees and Pharisees, the Romans, the Greeks, etc. Also see [the Essay... Doctrines.](#))... is where idolatry and cults develop. They incorporate occult practices to establish... *a kingdom of their imagination...* that will eventually *burn up being reserved for darkness* ([2 Peter 3:10; Jude 1:12-13](#)). They reject the promises of God—His Kingdom... *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables* ([2 Timothy 4:1-4](#)). (Also... see the [Essay... What's Love Got to Do With It?](#))

The other side of the story—Abraham... his heirs... his Seed... know... believe... accept... God's Word... *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness...*

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...

they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city ([Romans 4:2-4; Hebrews 11:8-16](#)).

When we see the destination... the road map makes sense... *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he* ([Proverbs 29:18](#)). *Hearing*, pp. 8-9.

The Church today... as an engaged bride... do we want our marriage finalized at the marriage supper... do we want to live with the Groom in His house?

Those that do...

We have an example of preparation for leadership. And, we're also to lead when... *what Abraham saw... comes into existence... Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him... And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever...*

God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee... Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour...

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?...

*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And **hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father**; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen...*

*And **he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father...***

*And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and **they shall reign for ever and ever** ([1 John 2:15-17](#); [2 Chronicles 1:7-12](#); [1 Corinthians 6:1-3](#); [Revelation 1:5-6](#); [2:26-28](#); [22:1-5](#)).*

Yes... it's a BIG job... requires trusting a BIG GOD... uhhh... maybe trusting the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of wisdom) to lead us so we can lead others. Kind of like what we're learning to do... today. It also seems like our Lord and Master... the King of kings... Jesus Christ... operates in the same manner (see the [Essay... Fill 'er Up](#); the [Series Essay... The Spirit of Wisdom](#)).

If we seek first... *the Spirit of the fear of the Lord... wisdom from God... the Good Life of the Lamb's Wife...* will also be added (see the [Essay... Fill 'er Up](#); the [Series Essay... The Spirit of Wisdom](#)).

I think from time-to-time... *if I can't trust God today... how can I trust Him in the New Jerusalem?* I didn't say it was easy... but, I'm still learning.

What Abraham and *the others* saw... and, *the joy set before* Jesus Christ at the cross—what they embraced—did it help them to “stay on track”? Were their actions motivated by... the hope of the New Jerusalem?

If people reject, and attempt to replace, what Abraham saw... will they ultimately be shut out from the celebration of... *the marriage supper of the Lamb...* ***“But you who forsake the LORD, Who forget My holy mountain* [the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem... [Hebrews 12:22-23](#)], *Who set a table for Fortune, And who fill cups with mixed wine for Destiny, I will destine you for the sword, And all of you will bow down to the slaughter. Because I called, but you did not answer; I spoke, but you did not hear. And you did evil in My sight And chose that in which I did not delight.”* Therefore, thus says the Lord God, *“Behold, My servants will eat, but you will be hungry. Behold, My servants will drink, but you will be thirsty. Behold, My servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame. “Behold, My servants will shout joyfully with a glad heart, But you will cry out with a heavy heart, And you will wail with a broken spirit. “You will leave your name for a curse to My chosen ones, And the Lord GOD will slay you (NASB)... I***

create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people... ([Matthew 25:1-12; Isaiah 65:8-19; Luke 16:11-13](#))?

Will they hear the Voice that calls us... out of death to Life... out of a barren hot desert to green pastures... out of Babylon into the New Jerusalem—the Kingdom of God... *Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live...** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation...***

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first...

*And when he thus had spoken, **he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth...***

*And when he was come in, he saith unto them, **Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.** And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, **Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose...***

*He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, **“Young man, I say to you, arise!” The dead man sat up and began to speak.** And Jesus gave him back to his mother (NASB)...*

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose...

*To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and **the sheep follow him: for they know his voice...** Then said Jesus unto them again, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture...****

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake...

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit...

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God... (John 5:24-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; John 11:43-44; Mark 5:39-42; Luke 7:11-15; Matthew 27:46-53; John 10:1-16; Psalm 23:1-3; Jeremiah 17:5-8; Matthew 25:33-34; John 8:47; also see the Essay... The Holy Highway)?

*This is the Voice the Spirit of God... the Holy Spirit... responds to... In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light...***

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...

*Through faith we understand that **the worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear...*

The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew...

*The LORD of hosts... **He hath made the earth by his power** [The Holy Spirit of power? See comment below.], **he hath established the world by his wisdom** [The Holy Spirit of wisdom? See comment above.], **and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding. When he uttereth his voice**, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures...*

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. **The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.** The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory. The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever. **The LORD will give strength** [The Holy Spirit of power?] **unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace** [the kingdom of God... righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost... [Romans 14:17](#)]...*

*Howbeit when **he, the Spirit of truth, is come**, he will guide you into all truth: for **he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak**: and he will shew you things to come... ([Genesis 1:1-5](#); [2 Corinthians 4:6-7](#); [John 1:1-5](#); [Hebrews 11:3](#); [Proverbs 3:19-20](#); [Jeremiah 51:14-16](#); [Psalm 29](#); [John 16:13](#)).*

In other words... to be part of *the first resurrection*... invited into *the marriage supper of the Lamb*... to become *the Lamb's Wife*—the New Jerusalem—do we have to have the Holy Spirit, who responds to the *Voice of God*, thriving in us? Think... *wise virgins having oil in their flasks for their lamps*... *This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years*...

***It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life** (NASB)...*

*if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you** (NASB)...*

*And God hath both raised up the Lord, and **will also raise up us by his own power** [The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of power... [Micah 3:7-8](#) ; [Isaiah 11:1-2](#); [2 Timothy 1:7](#); [Luke 4:14](#); [24:49](#); [2 Corinthians 12:9](#); [John 1:11-12](#).]...*

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps... And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.... they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut... ([Revelation 20:4-6](#); [John 6:63](#); [Romans 8:9-11](#); [1 Corinthians 6:14](#); [Matthew 25:1-13](#)).

And... yes... God's Voice does proclaim the New Jerusalem... ***For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth**: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, **behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy**...*

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain...

*Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? **Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness...***

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband ([Isaiah 65:16-18; 66:22-24; 2 Peter 3:12-14; Revelation 21:1-5](#)).

Are those “leaders and advocates” listed above listening to this same Voice? If not... is their “spirit of man” hearing the voices of *familiar spirits* that are speaking to them... and then... they speak to you what they hear... *Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God...*

the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people. Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God...

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD...

And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?...

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness... ([Leviticus 19:30-31; Leviticus 20:5-7; Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:18-20; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15](#))?

Whose *voice(s)* are you listening to? Is reading and listening to the mystics... the new agers... the gurus... really innocent?

*The reason that “guru” is such a popular word is because “charlatan” is so hard to spell.—
William Bernstein*

Some of those who say... *God... Jesus... is speaking to me...* may not be listening to the same Voice the Holy Spirit listens to and then speaks to us through God’s Word—of course, that’s if we’ve been sealed with Holy Spirit by accepting Jesus Christ’s sacrifice at the cross... and, have not run the Holy Spirit “out of town” by grieving and squelching Him.

To pursue the *other voices*... it is said... *quiet and empty the mind... passively look inward... listen to what is spoken there*. You'll hear words that "pat your back" ... you won't hear a word of rebuke... correction... conviction.

Said another way... *the other voices* encourage you to focus on... worship... the "self" ... not God. You're looking into yourself for an answer... right?

"Gurus" sell a better life... while living a worse one.

Why would God use conviction... doesn't He love us? Yes... He wants to save us from our broken and fallen "self"—from His coming wrath on... and destruction of... a fallen world that wants to stay that way. He will correct us... we all mess up ([1 John 1:7-9](#); [Proverbs 3:12](#); [Hebrews 12:5-8](#)). He's "all knowing" ... we're not.

To pursue God's Voice... He seems to describe... *actively looking upward engaging the mind in prayer in the name of Jesus Christ to the Father* ([1 Thessalonians 5:16-17](#); [Luke 21:33-36](#); [John 15:15-17](#); [16:22-24](#); [Matthew 6:9-13](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#); [Ephesians 2:13-18](#))... *actively looking outward engaging the mind in study of God's Word—yielding to the Father's pruning—growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ—the renewing of the mind* ([2 Timothy 2:14-16](#); [John 15:1-2](#); [2 Peter 3:16-18](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#))—*not quenching the Holy Spirit in the "heart of flesh of the New Covenant" by our actions* ([1 Thessalonians 5:16-22](#); [Ephesians 4:29-31](#); [Titus 2:7-14](#); [3:1-11](#))... *and, as the Father and Jesus Christ speak, the Holy Spirit acts on our behalf* ([John 14:28](#); [10:17-18](#); [5:26-27](#); [3:33-35](#); [12:49-50](#); [14:9-11](#); [8:27-29](#); [16:13-15](#)). The Holy Spirit will speak to our minds and hearts what the Father and Jesus Christ speak... and, God has... through His Word—the Holy Bible. God is the center of focus... not the "self".

If we're filled with the Holy Spirit... we'll hear God's Voice... *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit...*

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him ([Ephesians 5:17-19](#); [1 John 2:26-29](#)).

I once had boarded the *looking inward* train—I started to neglect *looking upward* and *outward*. Today... why would I look *inward*? To nourish and maintain the Life of Christ in me, the Holy Spirit, requires me to look *upward* and *outward*—the Holy Spirit even looks *upward*... and, *outward* at my actions... *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God...*

I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength ([Romans 8:25-27](#); [Proverbs 8:12-14](#)).

Finally... in looking upward... does God listen to the “prayer tricks” ... or... does He hear... *the prayer of the upright is his delight... The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous...*

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth....

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry...

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much ([Proverbs 15:8,29](#); [John 9:31](#); [Psalm 34:15](#); [James 5:16](#); also see [the Essay... Praying](#))?

And... remember... *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God ([James 2:22-24](#)).*

To wrap it up...

In the world’s eyes, Jesus was nothing to be desired... *when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not... ([Isaiah 53](#)).*

However... the world doesn’t have the last word.

When the Great... *I am...* Christ Jesus returns... the world will bow down in reverence of His glory and majesty... and, shake in fear of His wrath... *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth...*

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand...

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing ([Philippians 2:9-11](#); [Revelation 6:12-17](#); [5:11-13](#)).

All to say... let’s not get bent out of shape when we experience some kicking around... passing over... rejection... from the “in-crowd” of the world. The King of kings... His time is coming. The Saints... the faithful... our time is, also—be patient... *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass... For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth...*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time... Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ... Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls ([Psalm 37](#); [1 Peter 1:1-9](#)).

Okay... why discuss so much about the New Jerusalem—the Lamb’s Wife? I’ll answer with... *as Saints... where will we be forever?*

What about Jesus Christ... isn’t He our desire... our hope... our joy... who we worship?

Yes...

Jesus Christ is the only *door... the only Way... to the... city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God... where... **the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and **the Lamb is the light thereof.** And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it...*

*Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought... Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. **The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.** Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for **the LORD shall be thine everlasting light,** and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, **the branch of my planting, the work of my hands,** that I may be glorified ([Revelation 21](#); [Isaiah 60](#)).*

He is the Creator of goodness... but... Adam and Eve chose foolishness. He is the Redeemer... so... His Wife will be a “keeper”.

And...

Where God the Father... Christ Jesus... the Holy Spirit—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of Israel—will be... is where I want to be. A Life with Christ is my hope and focus—I want to live in the Light... where righteousness shines.

Jesus Christ is called... *the Branch of righteousness... The LORD our righteousness... the Sun of righteousness...* His... *countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength* ([Jeremiah 23:3-6; 33:14-16; Malachi 4:1-3; Revelation 1:16](#)). *Turn Out the Lights*, p. 35.

Unless we're in *the Book of Life...* our beliefs... our faith... were just... worthless noise ([Revelation 20:15](#)).

In context, *the faith* Jesus was asking for was... praying... believing... not giving up... that God is listening to the cries of His elect and will avenge them ([Luke 18:1-8; Revelation 6:9-11; Luke 21:35-36](#)). When He does... what does He ultimately do... *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband* ([Revelation 21:1-3](#))? Is this the city Abraham saw afar off... *was persuaded of... embraced... therefore, lived accordingly?*

So... I'll end with...

Like [a boll weevil... I gotta have a home...](#) *he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain...*

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit... ([Isaiah 57:13; Jeremiah 17:7-8](#)).

Just my questions and thoughts... it doesn't mean I'm right... I'm still learning... checkout the scriptures in context.

All text reference scripture quoted or discussed is King James Version unless otherwise noted. Bold, colored lettering, brackets [my understanding of things right now], and underline—mine.

Updated 7 & 8.17: *voice* comments and scripture added.