

WHY THE TREE THAT KILLS?

Bertie Brits

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It's an honor to minister the grace of God to you. Let us just pray together:

Father thank You so much for your grace and Your mercy. Thank You that You speak through me tonight in a way that many people can understand and believe Your word. Thank You, Father, that You can communicate through me, exactly what every person needs to hear and what will encourage them to understand what You are and what You promised man and how You will bring it forth by Your doing, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen.

I want to talk about the ministration of death and how the Law could be called to the ministry of death because the Law talks about wonderful things like, "Love the Lord your God," and "Love your neighbor" and actually things that if we use it in a normal life, that it will actually promote a lot of life. If we look at a nation, if people don't commit sexual immorality and marriages don't break up and people don't desire one another's things and they love God and all of that, we will find that it will be a peaceful nation. And how can the Law which talks about all the good things and even Paul comes and he says that the Law is good and that the Law is righteous, how could such a Law be called the ministration of death? I mean that is really something that sounds so contradicting to us and how can, basically, looking at the good and doing good, kill you? How is that possible? How can that ever be possible and where does it come from?

In a previous message, I spoke about the design of man, how God made us, why God made us and we've come to see that God is a family. From this family He created a man and a woman and when He created this man and woman they were in the image and likeness of God, meaning they were also in the similitude, or in the likeness of a family that can, through union, produce fruit and had dominion. Their relationship, in other words, would have an effect on certain things that would be subject to them. They were in the image and likeness of God and what God's plan was for them to have the life He has, which is the only eternal life, and love them and be good to them and actually then project His life or live His life towards them. As He lives His life towards them they would share in His quality of life.

In the same way as a farmer would go and he would have a farm and the purpose of this farm is so that he could have his family there and that it would be inherited by his family and that they could live there. He would have all the tractors, he would have the land, he will plow, he will farm and all of that. The purpose of that is so that all of what he has done there and what he does there is actually towards the children so that the children can have his life. That would be the plan. In South Africa it is like that. Once you have land you never want to sell the land. You want to keep it in the family because that is a guaranteed life and land is so expensive that once you've lost it the chance to buy it again is almost impossible. So you want to keep it in the family and that life you want to give to your children because you know that in order for them to get that land by going and studying and becoming an engineer or school teacher, working trying to then buy that land would kill them. It would be almost impossible for them to ever gain that so you want to give them your life. You want to give them what you have. That is how God determined for us to have life because He knew that He possesses the only life. In His case, He produces the only land and He wanted to share that with us.

I've looked at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Bible many times and one of the biggest things that bothered me was, "Why would that tree even be planted?" Why would God put that tree there because if He never put that tree there then man could never have fallen and there could never have been the disaster that there is now. We need to understand that when the Bible, in the creation story, talks about trees, it is, I believe, that the whole Genesis story is a story. It's a narrative. It's trying to communicate a certain word to us. I'm not saying that the creation was not physical. I'm not saying that there wasn't a garden but what I am saying is, that God, through the story in the garden, His main purpose of that is not to try to communicate to us that the world was made in six literal days or not. That's not what He is trying to communicate. What He is trying to communicate through that story is how we relate to Him, who we are, what He is, and how we have life. That is what He is trying to communicate. For example, when the Bible talks about trees, you get the tree of life. Now, if we want to say the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was just a physical tree that Adam didn't have to eat from then what would the tree of life be? What kind of a tree would that be? Because we know that Jesus is the tree of life. Was that a tree standing there in a Garden there? Then what would the tree of the knowledge of good and evil then be? How would these gardens look?

The Bible, in Isaiah, calls us, the Church, trees of righteousness, a planting of the Lord. So, even we are trees according to Isaiah 54. So if we are trees and in the Garden there were many trees that you could eat from but there was one you could not eat from for it would destroy you. What would this tree be? How would it function? What would it be because we know that the tree of life is God, Himself and Jesus is the tree of life. So how will this whole thing work?

The way I look at the fall of man is in the following way. If we look at the prodigal son, what did he do? He was, like the older brother, a son who was born into the house of his father. In the house of his father were many things. There was a farm. There was some land, there were some animals, everything was there. Life was there. All provision was there. It was just like the Garden of Eden would have been. You know, he didn't have to create a farm by himself. He didn't have to go and cut trees and put a new field there for the first time. It was already there by the father. The farm was already created. The father was already farming that farm. That farm was already producing and these sons were born into this kingdom of the father. In this kingdom of the father, like I said, there were already servants, there were already gardens, there was already farming. Everything was already there created by the father and the purpose that the father had was that his sons would then live with him on that farm. Maybe they could have their own house on that farm, but they would live on that farm and so share in his life, in the life that he provided.

When we look at these children, we look at the youngest one, he came and he said to the father, "Father, give me my inheritance. Give me the portion that belongs to me." The father then divided the inheritance between the two sons. So he was the son, all that was his was now his on that farm and the other brother also received his inheritance and here was the son lived there. The father was now actually living with them. The kingdom became theirs and the father was living with them in what the father planned for them to inherit. So, in other words, they were now having the life that the father wanted them to have. They received their inheritance.

Let's look at the inheritance. What would a child inherit? If we look in South Africa, if we look at the apartheid system, we grew up and my children grew up and what they inherited was the effects of apartheid. Although apartheid is not there anymore, it was ended, legally, it doesn't even exist at all, it is just a memory, we can still see the effects of it and they had inherited certain knowledge. They had inherited a certain culture, a certain way of thinking. They inherited that. They grew up in South Africa. They were what we would call, "born free". They were born in the new South Africa but still, there is

some knowledge and some stuff that they are carrying, and they are bearing, that they inherited. In the same way, when we look at the prodigal son and the older brother, the sons of the father, they inherited certain knowledge. They inherited the know-how on how to run a farm. They had seen how the father treats the servants. They've seen how the father treats the mother. They had seen how the father goes to the market and how he does business and how he deals with people, what he sells his stuff for and how he buys and sells and does business. They didn't only inherit land. They didn't only inherit some money or some camels or some cattle, or goat and sheep. What they also inherited was business skills, the very ability and the know-how. on how to do business. What we find then is the prodigal son not long after that took everything he inherited and he went to another country.

I want to ask you, "What do you think, if you must think with an open mind, what did the prodigal son want to go and do in the other country? Do you think the prodigal son wanted to go and waste everything? Do you think that his intention was to go and become a slave of somebody in the other country? Or what do you think was his intention, with everything he knew, all the knowledge he had and all the stuff he had, what did he want to go and do?" He wanted to go and reproduce what he had with the father. That's all he wanted to do. He wanted to have a farm. He had the business skill. He had all the know-how and everything and I believe what he wanted to do, if we just take normal logic... what does your son, if he says, "Father, give me the portion of my inheritance." He's grown up in a stable home, in a loving home, what would he want to go and do with all of that? He would want to go and start his own business. He would want to go and start his own life. And what he would do would be to take everything that you have taught him, everything that you have given him and he would then apply that and try and build what he has seen and experienced in your house and he would want to go and do it there. Do you remember that the elder brother was angry? He said, "He wasted everything with prostitutes. He wasted everything and whatever!" He had what the Bible calls a wasteful or riotous living. The way he lived was a way where he could not maintain what he inherited. He lost what he inherited to point of slavery. Then he realized that his father is good. He went back to his father. The older brother complained and this was the words of the father then. He said, "Why are you upset" Your brother was dead and now he is alive!"

So if we look at those words, what we can say is that the father, when the son went into another country to have his own life and he lost all that he had inherited, in the eyes of the father he saw that as death. He saw that he died. Now, if we say that the son died, we can say that taking the inheritance, going to your own land, trying to work and build your own kingdom with everything you have seen from the father, can cause your death. That is what we can say.

When God spoke to Adam, He said, "Adam, don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and the knowledge of evil, for the day you eat thereof, of this death, you will die or dying you will die. You will die. You will not live if you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Now let's get back to the prodigal son, the younger son, and the father. The way the father lived, if you must think that is a picture of God and man, the way the father lived, the father and the mother and the servants, which in our case would be a type and a shadow of the Father and the Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and the angels and the kingdom of God, the way God lived. Do you think that His way was good? Of course! The way God lived in His kingdom and the way God would farm, is good. It's not bad. It's good. In Matthew 21, the Bible says that the rich young ruler comes to Jesus and says, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit the kingdom of God? Then Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good for only God is good." Now He comes and He says, "Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good." But there's only one that is good and that is God."

He says, "Don't eat of this tree!" Now, how do we eat according to that? If we say this tree of the knowledge of good is actually knowledge of God and evil. The word evil, if you study it in the Old Testament Greek, the Septuagint, you will see that the word, literally there, means to be full of labor or hard work. So, if you say, "I am going to take the knowledge of God and then work this knowledge," you will die. You will die. Now how can that be? How is it that working that knowledge can cause you your death? God even shows that in the prodigal son. He takes all the knowledge of good, everything he could inherit from God. Now, is what we can inherit from God good? Of course! It is good but if you want to take the good and work the good in order to have a life that looks like the life of God, or eternal life, you will die because the moment you look at good and your working of the good, the moment you do that, the source of your life is YOUR ability. It's your ability and not the ability of the Father.

You can find two people. The one is a business man in his being and the other one is not. The one that is a business man can follow business principles and do business and he will make a success. The other one who is not a business man, in his ability, in who he is, can try and copy those exact business principles but it will not work for him because he is not that. It's not in him. The one can do business in the name of the other one who is a business man in his being, and then he will be very successful because, if you want to use the spiritual language, the anointing of business rests on the one. When you come and partake of that, then you can share in that life. In the very same way, the ability to have eternal life belongs to God and only He possesses it. And now He has a kingdom where He is good towards us, and in His goodness towards us, we receive life. And as He is good to us, we find His goodness brings forth goodness in us and then we are good to others. But the moment we say, "Let's look at the good of God and now we will do the very same good and have life by the good we do, the moment you do that it's like a man that goes and does business on his own who doesn't actually have the ability to do business. And that kills you!"

When we look at the Law, the administration of death, I believe that Law talks about this tree that we eat from. **Eating means to believe.** So if I come and eat the body of Jesus and drinks His blood, how do I eat it? I believe in what His body stands for and what His blood stands for. When I believe it, then it enters what I will call my spiritual stomach, or my heart, and then it feeds my emotions, by what I believe. It would be like you would eat a piece of bread. When you eat it, it goes into your digestive system, it gets digested and from that it is broken up and forms sugar in your body and then from there you find energy and life.

In the very same way, spiritually, the way we eat spiritually is by BELIEVING, being persuaded, listening to something and being of the same persuasion. So if we are of the persuasion of Christ and what He has done for us, then our heart and our emotions and everything in us find its energy from it and we feed on that. Then we can say, "Our life is now born from Christ." So if we eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which would be, if we say, "We believe in our heart that we behold all the good in God and then do that good, then we will then produce the life of God and have eternal life. The moment we believe that we are feeding on something that is not found in God because inside the kingdom of the Father, the Father is the Source of that business, of that farm. He's the life of that farm. You get business men, you just know, like the guy who was head of Apple. He was the life of that company. In the very same way you find that God is the life of His kingdom and we are partakers of His life when we come and we allow Him to be good to us.

Let me use another example. Let's say that my wife and I have a wonderful relationship and she loves me. If she loves me, I find that from her love I feel a good self worth. I feel loved. I feel stability. I feel kindness come forth in my life. I feel friendliness towards her and all of that. Why? Because she loves me. So the source of my life is her life. Her love for me produces a life in me. This life that is in me looks like her life because that is what I behold. I see how she loves me. Her love in me produces after the very same kind and now I also walk in love. But, if I say, "Let me look at how Helena loves me and then I am going to find someone else, be it my son or be it whoever, and also love that person that way and therefore I will have Helena's life by loving the way she loves," I've made the principle of love, my god instead of being the recipient of love. I hope you understand what I am saying.

Let me not rush passed this because this is very important. The Law would be God, the way God lives, jotted down on paper. Let me use this as an example. If I go and I say, "Let me look at how you do business here in Holland and I go and I write everything down exactly. People here normally get up at six in the morning. Then they brush their teeth. After brushing their teeth they brush their hair, get in the car, grab a breakfast and then they eat on the way. When they get to their work, they brush their teeth again and then they greet one another. After greeting one another, they sit in their little group and they discuss what they are going to do that day. After discussing what they are going to do that day, they start to do it and at eleven o'clock they take a short break, drink some tea and then they have lunch. Then they have this internet and they talk and whatever. If I go and I say to people, "See what I jotted down on paper and just do this and you will have the wealth of all that Holland has!" Do you know what? They can wake up at six in the morning, they can drink their coffee, they can brush their teeth, they can sit in their group but they will not farm the way you farm! Because in order to do that it was born from a certain belief. It was born from a certain belief and in order for me to have some of the success that you have, what needs to happen is I need to partner with you and basically draw from what is already in you and so share in your life. That is the way and that is what God has come to do for us.

If we take God and we write Him down on paper, we will find the Law and we would say, "That Law is good." The Law is good. It is a good God written on paper. And now if you want to take that good God, written on paper, and do it to have the life of that God in you, you have already separated yourself from the only life, putting yourself outside of that. What you have done is you've said, "I've made these works and my ability to do God, the source of my life, and not God living His ability to love towards me as the source of my life. What that would cause is your death because we are made from dust. When we are made from dust, what that means is dust is dead. Dust is not alive. Dust is dead. Then God comes and gives that dust life. Then he says to this dust which is alive, "Your life can be preserved forever by Me loving you and so sharing My life with you as you enter into this love relationship that I have towards you, where who I am is the source of your life. And all you need to do is believe that and I am the lifeline of this ministry. I am the lifeline of this farm. I am the lifeline of this kingdom and so can you now live in My kingdom." But the moment the dust says, "Okay, I have now been in this kingdom," or you say to your father, "Father, I want what I can get from this farm, but I am going to another country and then I am going to use MY ability to farm as the foundation and the source of my life," then you will die because you have not been designed to be a farmer. You've been designed to be a sharer in the life of the farmer. That is what God has come to give us. That is what He has come to give to us.

I like to use this example of Lance Armstrong. If I, at the age of forty-three, decide I am going to win seven gold medals. I am going to win the Tour de France seven times and all I'm going to do is I am going to look at Lance Armstrong and everything he did... what time he woke up, how many hours he trained, his diet, everything and I am going to jot Lance down... everything he does. Then I am going to take Lance that I jotted down and I am going to do Lance Armstrong and Lance Armstrong will kill

me! You understand what I am trying to say. Lance will kill you not because he wants to kill you but because you or me at the age of forty-three, have not been designed or made to do that. At my age I am at the point where I can cycle and I can be fit and I can enjoy it but the world's best cyclists are there not to show me how to cycle like them but to entertain me. That's why they are there, to entertain me. I find joy from them. If I look at one winning, even in football, you know, you support your team and you say they are winning and you are so happy and you find your joy and your excitement and your life is born from how they can play football. In the very same way, we find our life out of the very ability on how God can give life and do what He had promised us and give it to us for free. That's where we find our life. But, if we behold how God loves, how God is kind, how God is merciful and we think we see all this life that flows from how God is merciful, therefore, we can have life by loving or a life by being kind or a life by anything we do, we have separated ourselves from being the recipients of life to being the originators of life. Since we are dust, we will only be able to give what we are --- which is death. I hope you understand what I am saying. Death cannot produce life or something that had no life, let's not use the word, death, but something that had no life in it, dust, cannot produce life. It can only be the recipient of life and then that life can live in it and it can be alive. It can have all the attributes of it but the moment that dust says, "I'm going to use the ability of dust to have life," you are going to die.

I believe part of the tree of the knowledge of the tree of good and evil is just our design and where we come from. That's part of it. Another part of the knowledge of the tree of good and evil is when we look at Satan's fall and we read Ezekiel 31, we see that God comes and He speaks through Ezekiel unto Pharaoh and Pharaoh represents the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of the devil. He said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh, you were very beautiful the day I made you. You were a tree in the garden of God. You were in the Garden of Eden, the Garden of God. You were planted, (listen to what He says to Pharaoh), you were planted by the big stream and because you were planted next to the river, you had more water than the other trees and you became bigger than all the other trees. All the other trees were standing in your shadow. All the other trees were smaller than you and you were much bigger than they and the water made you great." What is the water? It is the Spirit of God, that which God supplies, that which comes from the throne. The Bible says in the Book of Revelation, that from the throne flows a mighty river. There's a mighty river flowing from the throne with trees on its side. So it talks about the life that flows from God is what made Satan great before his fall but what did Satan do?

The Bible writes in Ezekiel, you can read all of this in 31: 1-10, he says, "Your heart was lifted up to the length of your branches or your stature." In other words, he found his greatness not in the life God lived towards him but in the fruit the life God gave him provided. In other words, it would be like the son inheriting everything from the father. After he inherited everything from the father, he says, "As the son of the father I now have my own tractor. I have my own combine. I have my own, I've got my own, I've got my own.... I on the basis of everything I've got now, I am a farmer. So I am now going to farm and I find my identity not in my dad being the farmer and I being his son and sharing in his life, I am now a farmer based on everything I have received from the father." It would be like the Holy Spirit comes and He gives you the gift of prophecy and now you prophesy and you can heal the sick and whatever and after awhile you start to find your identity as a prophet and not a son of God. It will kill you! It will kill you!

Paul calls it being in the flesh. (1 Corinthians) He says that you are part of a body here. You can't live without each other and now you say, "I am special because I am an eye or I am special because I am a hand or I am special because of this..." This is what Satan did: he took all that God produced in him and found his life in the length of his branches or in the stature. He said, "Look at what I inherited. My inheritance defines my life!" No! We are in the image and likeness of God and Who God is, is our life.

Who God is and what He has promised us is what will bring us life. So why will I be free from sin? Because God promised me that! How am I a partaker of freedom from sin? By trying to stop the sin? By looking at what I have, I have this gift now or I have inherited something from God. I have inherited emotions. I have inherited thoughts. I have inherited a belief system. I have inherited a will. Okay, so how will I have life? I'm going to feel life and then I am just going to feel it. Then I'm just going to focus on it and I'm going to will this life or I will use the power of meditation or I will use all the abilities that God has given me which are actually things through which He lives in relationship with me... I use that as my inheritance to produce life." It will kill you! Why will it kill you? Because we have not been designed to do that. We have been designed to be a recipient of the life of God. That's why trying to do God will kill you! You cannot have life by loving your neighbor. You cannot have generosity by giving money! Let me say it again: You cannot have generosity by giving money and you cannot have life from loving your neighbor. You cannot have life by loving God. You have life by believing that God has granted you life and believing His promise which is, "I give you My life and I will live love in you. I will live generosity in you!" He makes me generous. He makes me kind and because of His kindness in me I now share in kindness and that's how we live. When we part from that by jotting all the things of God down and doing God, God in written format will kill us!

I can't explain every verse in the Old Testament concerning this but I believe that is the foundation from where we find all the scriptures in the Old Testament that says, "And God killed them." Because if we look at the Old Testament, if we look at everything that happened there, there is a story behind that! The story that says something very holy, something that was very promising, something that looks very kind and looks very good and has all the promise of life can all of a sudden kill you! That's exactly, if I come to you and say, "Listen, man, we don't have to reinvent the wheel. God has come to give us life. We don't have to reproduce the life. He has come to give us the life! He is the farmer. We are the sons. Let us not go to another country, take everything we have inherited from the Father, write it down and go and try and do it. It will be the administration, the very thing that kills us!

That's why Paul says, "There was a way that seemed unto life but the end was death." What was he talking about? He was talking about the ten commandments. (Romans 7). Talking about the tenth commandment that says, "You shall not desire..." What did he do? He desired all the more. He said, "I thought I could find life. I thought there is life in not desiring." No, there is not life in not desiring. God said, "I give you life!" All you do is, "Father, my body, my mind, my soul, my emotions is available for Your life. I believe it! I believe You could raise Jesus from the dead so You can raise me from all the bitterness, all the hatred and everything... You can raise me from that! That cannot keep me down. Your promise is stronger than all of that! And now you find life by God fulfilling His promise! And as God fulfills His promise, His promise is that He will live in you! That's where we find love then. That's where we find kindness. That's where we find mercy coming from there.

So, yes, it might look like the very same thing: kindness on paper... kindness here... But who is the Father of it? That's the whole thing! Who is the Father of your good life? Is it God promising you or is it you doing God? Remember, He said to Adam, "Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good..." Who is good? God, only God! "... evil." What is evil? To work God or to take what God has given you, what you have inherited from God and find your identity, and not just your identity, but to try and find eternal life by doing all that good! Do you know what Satan said? This is the lie that Satan told: He said to Eve, "Eve, did God say, 'You should not eat of that tree. You will die if you eat of it'?" Eve said, "Yes, God said I would die if I eat of that tree." He said, "You will not die!" So what he was saying to her was, "Listen, look at the belief system that says, 'Look at the good in God and do the good that you see in God. Look at that tree. Look at the Word, the message, that tree provides for you and then eat of it, believe in it and you will have life just like God!'" So what he was saying basically was, "Listen,

God just wants to give this to you for free because He doesn't want someone else to be a god, in being able to produce their own life. God is just lying to you. You won't die by trying to do good works. You will not die by that!" What did they do? They believed the lie. Eve believed it. Adam started to believe it and when they believed it, what happened to them? They started death! Death entered man. Now we need a tree, or something to believe in, that will cause our hearts to say, "We can be raised from the dead! We can have eternal life!" How will our hearts be able to believe it? Very simple! All of our sin and all of our death must be on one man and if he believes the Father, and he can conquer my sin and my death, it will put me in a place again where I can believe that I can have eternal life. That is what Jesus Christ came to do for us!

You must remember that here is Jesus living in heaven living a very good life. He becomes a man. He receives the likeness of sinful flesh. He receives our death and the Father and the Son were in agreement about this! The Father wasn't grudgingly giving His Son saying, "I don't actually want to give My Son but I have to!" No, the Father gladly gave His Son. The Son came to do the will of the Father. He said, "My food is to do the will of My Father." which means, "I only want to do His will. That's all that I want to do." Jesus even said He endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him." What was the joy that was set before Him? It's your life! It's you having the opportunity to have life. That's the joy that was before Jesus.

So, it was difficult for Jesus yet it pleased Jesus to take that sin upon Him. The very same with the Father. It pleased the Father to see Jesus being bruised upon the cross. The Father bruised Jesus on the cross. How? By saying to Jesus, "Jesus, will You go and take this sin. Will You go and take their death upon You?" "Yes! Let Us do it together!" "Will You go and do it?" "Yes!" Then it pleased the Father to give Jesus to receive the bruising and the death which sin brings and which death brings. That's what I believe Isaiah 53 says. It pleased the Father to bruise Him. It didn't say, "The Father beat Him." The whole context of Isaiah 53 is very, very clear the way I see it. It says there, "We esteemed Him stricken and smitten of God and afflicted." But He was carrying our iniquity so what it means is, we look at Him on the cross, beaten. Then we say, "Oh, He's being punished! He did something wrong. He's punished. He broke a law therefore He's punished." But, no! He was not punished for anything! He was carrying the end of my sin which is death! He became sin. After He became sin, the sin had a body that it could kill. because remember, the wages of sin is death. So God said, "I don't want anybody to be lost so I'm not even going to use a man. I will provide My own Man so that no one will have to die! I'll create a body again from dust." So from Mary He created a body of whom He was the Father. He provided His own body. This body had no sin. This body took all sin upon Him and once sin is upon Him, the end of sin is death. So, God provided this body. It pleased God to have this body bruised. The punishment or the wages of sin, to have it in this body and not in you! It pleased Him!

He didn't think, "Oh, I'm now so happy because somebody's punished!" He says, "I am seeing your death dying here and it pleases Me!" That's what I think Isaiah 53 means and He comes and He says, "I love you. I embrace you!" Now we can come and what we can do is we can hear the message that says because we live in this world, we say, "I've got this sin and that sin. I'm busy dying. My body is becoming older. We struggle with sickness. We struggle with disease. How will we ever attain onto eternal life!" We've got a word now! What is the Word? It was from the beginning, "I promise you eternal life!" Adam didn't believe that. He implemented a system that brought in death to everybody but inside that system Jesus came in. He conquered that system and He conquered our death. He conquered our sin by becoming it, receiving all the consequences of it and then the Father still raised Him! Why? Because He believed the Father and He was in union with the Father through belief! When He was raised by the Spirit of God, what can we now have? A Word that the Spirit that raised Jesus is now made available to all of us and as we have that Spirit which has already conquered my death and my

sickness and my sin, what can I expect now? I can say, "All I can expect from this Spirit is the resurrection life to manifest the life that is in Jesus in me and so the Father is now again the Father of my love, joy, peace, kindness, long suffering, gentleness and all of that and I am not the father of it by jotting it down and trying to do it. I hope you understand what I am; trying to say because this bring great life to me. What is brings to me is a heart addressed at the integrity of our Father towards us. What it brings to me is a heart that can believe God is kind and trust God to bring forth His life in me.

All of a sudden I am now, again, a son who has come home. I'm not trying to build or every day I go to the Father's kingdom and see again, "How does he farm?" and then I'm trying to do it. Trying to produce a farm that looks like the Father's farm. No, I've come home! I said, "You are good, Father! I cannot produce life by myself but You provided a way back home and I am home to be Your son." What does the Father do? He takes him and he puts a ring on his finger, sandals, a robe, slaughters a fatted calf and restores him completely into sonship. What does that mean? It means that as we come back and believe that the Father is good and that we can just freely receive life... that means, kindness and everything including immortality in the return of Jesus, from the Father. As we believe that, we are restored as full heirs in the very life of God and He then lives in us. I believe that is the Gospel. I believe that was God's original plan with man. That's what He wanted for us.

So if I live in this world, how do I live my life? What do I do every day? What is the practical thing that I have? Number 1, I believe that God has promised me His life. When I believe that and I can then see that Jesus died. I believe that Jesus is Lord. That means is that I believe that He conquered, He rules over sin and death. I believe that He was raised from the dead. That means that a human, who believes the Father, was raised from the dead and that death was my death because He didn't have a death of His own. He could only have my death. So He had it upon Him. He had my sin. He died. The Bible says in Romans, "He condemned sin in the flesh." That means He ruled against sin in the flesh or we can say that He destroyed sin in the flesh. That means that the sin in the flesh, the inability to have God's life by human works, that whole system, He destroyed all of that by becoming part of that system, dying under that system and then the Father raised Him! When the Father raised Him, it means the following: the life He possessed now, since He died my death, it is now my life! So what can I believe? I believe that when He poured out the Spirit, which is the very same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, that Spirit can now raise up my life, which is the life of Christ, in me!

So what am I expecting every day? How do I live every day life? I make my body available as a living sacrifice. The Bible says: "Present yourself as a living sacrifice." This is what present means: If you are a presenter, you take somebody, you put him on a stage and then you present that person for who he is. So what you do is you take your body and you say, "Body, I present you as a life and available for the life of God. I don't present you as a life available for works. You are the place made available, sacrificed or put aside for God to live in. That's what you are. You are not going to produce life by yourself! You are the recipient of life!" And the Bible says, "And so we will prove (prove means to prove, like in Afrikaans bewys) what God's original plan was for us. That is how we do it.

So I present my body, not just my spirit, but this body wherein sin dwelled, I present it as a place where God can live. We have made little of the body and yet Paul calls it the temple of God. Yet Paul says that the physical body shall be raised. God didn't make light of the physical body. He became a physical body. He dwelt among us. He died in a physical body and then He was raised up, in a physical body that can never die to forever be in a physical body and never be apart from a physical body, to give a message to everyone that has a physical body and that God has conquered sin in the flesh.

He promises you the fruit of the Spirit. He promises you immortality and eternal life. What the devil wants you to do is to separate everything from the physical body and always just make everything spiritual. No! Our bodies shall be saved. We are receiving salvation today. We are seeing the first effect of salvation which is the fruit of the Spirit and then the last thing we will see is an undying body. Amen! That is what I believe the Lord has come to give us and I trust that this will bless you.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Why was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden?

Answer: It is part of our design because we are a being that has a will and emotions and we can look at that. Satan's fall, his belief, was that he was this tree and he came to a fall before we were there. He was also like an angel and that knowledge wherein Satan did that was then available. So I believe that was the planting of that tree. Now, this is what I believe. When God made Adam and Eve, He made them in His image and in His likeness. He even said to Adam, "Give all the animals names." You will notice that the animals were made before Adam was made and the animals were not without names. It's not as if God didn't know the names of the animals. God knew the names of the animals but the Bible says that He said to Adam, "Name them so I could see what you would name them." And then the Bible says, "The names that Adam gave the animals were the names of the animals." So he was correct.

Where did he get this knowledge? From God. In other words, everything that God knew, he knew and God also knew that there is a being that found his life first from God and then started to believe in the ability of his inheritance and to produce a life of himself and he knew that was an existence in the mind of God as well. So, Adam would also have the ability to then have knowledge that there is a system like that and he says, "Don't believe in that." The same as we have today. Today we have the system planted in this world that says, "You can have life by your works."

Why is it planted here? Because of our design, because of the relationship there was between God and man. It wasn't God deciding to plant the tree like we plant trees. We have to see those trees as beliefs, different beliefs, and different persons or whatever we want to call it. I think that is how that planting was there. It was part of our design and because there was a being that came to a fall before we were made and therefore that knowledge was also in the earth. That's what I think.

We've had the thing that God planted that tree to test man to see if man is going to be faithful or not. It would be like I have a business and in that business is a certain way of living and now I have children. As I bring them into this business I know that there is the opportunity that they would say, "I'm going to do business on my own." because in this business is the freedom that you can leave if you want so you could say that I planted that there by making that available. It was not a testing. Actually it also talks about our design and the freedom we are in. It's actually beautiful because if it wasn't there I don't think we would have been in the exact image and likeness of God, having a knowledge of God and the liberty of God, free will and all of that.

Question: How did Jesus become sin?

Answer: I was in America and somebody came to me and asked ,”How did Jesus become sin?” That was a difficult question because how do you actually become something? How can Jesus become sin and how do we become the righteousness of God? BY BELIEVING! WE BECOME BY BELIEVING.

So I believe that Jesus became sin, or He took sin if you want to call it like that, the moment He believed that He became the High Priest of man and that was in the baptism of John. When Jesus was baptized by John, this is what happened: In Leviticus 16, it talks about the scapegoat. The Bible says that the priest would go and confess all the sin of the people on the head of the goat. Then the goat would be sent into the desert. The one goat would die and the other one would be sent into the desert signifying the carrying away of sin. So when Jesus came into the Baptism of John what baptism was it? It was the baptism of the sinner. You had to be a sinner to be baptized by John. John came and baptized Jews. The Jews didn't believe that they were sinners but he was saying, “Even Jews are sinners. And you all need the Messiah! ” He was baptizing people with the baptism of repentance so in order to be baptized by John you had to say, “I am a sinner.”

Then Jesus came to be baptized by John but John, just the previous day said, “This is the Lamb of God Who has no sin.” Then John said, “I cannot baptize You because this is the sinners' baptism. This is not the baptism of the righteous. I need to be baptized by You! I need to get into Your holiness! You can't get into what I preach. I am preaching that these are sinners!” So when Jesus did that, He said, “Let us do this to fulfill all righteousness!” So when Jesus was baptized there, I believe it was the signifying of all the sin coming on to the head of this scapegoat. The head is the understanding of Jesus, the belief of Jesus. So when Jesus believed that He was now representing man under sin, when He believed it, it is so because the moment God believed something it is so. So He believed it and that is what I believe how He became sin.

Then He proved for three years that the sin was on Him and not on the people, by healing the people because the people thought that if you have sickness it means that you have sin. So Jesus comes and He says to a man, “Your sins are forgiven.” They say, “How can You say his sins are forgiven?” Jesus said, “What's easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven or to be healed?” because the Jew understand healing as forgiveness. So Jesus said to the man, “You are forgiven!” They said, “He's not forgiven! He is paralyzed!” How can You say he is forgiven..... he is paralyzed. Jesus said, “To prove to you that I have the ability to forgive (that word forgive means to separate), that I have separated their sins from them.” (He separated their sins from them by Him taking their sins in the Baptism.) That's why He could come and now heal these people because the Bible says that you must first bind the strongman before you can destroy the house. So Jesus said, “I am not casting out devils by the finger of Beelzebub. I am casting out by the finger of God. You first bind the strongman so the devil didn't give Me authority here. I took sin, the strongman, that brings sickness captive, by becoming the High Priest of man under sin... becoming the Lamb, becoming the Scapegoat.”

That scapegoat in Leviticus 16 was sent into the desert immediately... immediately! The Bible says that there must be a ready man to take the goat into the desert. That means he must be immediately taken. When Jesus came out of the water, the Bible says, “Immediately the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert.” That signifies the carrying of sin. So now He is carrying this sin and for three years He is proving to people, “Your sin is not on you! It's on ME!” Then He said, “Now the time has come for sin to bring forth its consequence, which is death, to the body provided by God.” And then He went to the cross and He started to bear the wages of sin which is death. Since all sin was in that body, all death

came to that body and when that body died, sin died, death died and God, in Christ, conquered sin and death. raised a human from the grave that still represents you, to bring the message of life to you that you can have freedom now from sin and death... because we are human.

Now when we believe upon that then the Spirit of that truth enters our heart and it becomes the food that supplies the emotions and the kindness and the life that we need. That is how I believe Jesus became sin. That's the only way He could become sin. The Father couldn't make Him sin because the Father doesn't have sin to give Him. He had to believe unto, we have to believe unto righteousness. How do we become slaves? When we believe onto slavery. In the same way Jesus believed onto becoming sin because He believed, "If I am baptized by John, I am baptized as the scapegoat therefore sin comes to Me."

Even if you ask Jesus, "Jesus, by what power do You do these miracles?" Jesus said to them, "Tell Me about the Baptism of John. Was it from God or was it from man?" So, He was saying, "Where I found the authority to heal somebody was not in My super anointing. The authority to heal somebody is that their sin is not on them! That gives Me the authority to heal them!" It's not the innocence of Jesus that caused Him to heal people. It's the innocence of people that caused Jesus to heal them! Otherwise it was not a legitimate healing.

QUESTION: How does the Holy Spirit live in us?

ANSWER: I think the Holy Spirit is a Person because of just the vitality and the life and vitality that there is but I also believe the Holy Spirit, a very good way that we can define the Holy Spirit, is a principle. That is difficult for us to take because we have always heard that He is just a Person but I believe in the Person of the Holy Spirit but I also believe there is a spirit even if you study the Greek it says that the spirit is a vital principle that is animated. So I can be in a spirit of bitterness or I can be in a spirit of joy.

In 2010 we had the Soccer spirit in South Africa, you know, the football spirit. Why? Because everybody now plans everything around the football. In the very same way, the spirit of God is kind, loving, caring, believing and all of that. So the moment we enter into, we allow that spirit, in other words, the spirit where we trust, the spirit wherein we rely upon, when we enter that, that spirit brings forth certain things in us. It's powerful! Like you would say in a spirit of soccer has certain attributes and a certain power. You can find somebody who is always just a staunch German, not jumping or doing anything and you can find that once the spirit of soccer enters him, it is powerful onto the manifestation of things he could never do before.

In the very same way, I believe once we come to a place where we trust God, when we believe God, when we enter into the spirit of rest and kindness and being loved by Him, that Spirit which is so full of life that we call that Spirit a Person, that's what Jesus called the Spirit, that it brings so much life to us that, all of a sudden, we can also heal because all of a sudden we have the Spirit of the resurrection! What is the Spirit of the resurrection? Christ has come and conquered death. That means that there will be a day when all the dead will be raised. I'm of that Spirit so let me pray for a sick person! That Spirit of the belief of a resurrection flows through me and heals some people as signs of what will take place.

To explain spirit as we as physical beings, is very difficult. But that is my understanding of it. We find that many people start to veer away from the Spirit and the gifts and those kind of things. I'm not fond of that because I believe the moment I find this Spirit of life, this Spirit of resurrection, the life

principle of God giving man life, start to enter my heart, I find this personality of not wanting to see death but life. Not wanting to see sickness but healing, not wanting to see sin but holiness. Once that Spirit entered me now when I preach, I preach by the Spirit of life to produce life in people. You will see that when I pray at the end of a meeting I pray over everybody for healing because there is something in my heart that says, "Let there be signs of this truth that will take place. That is the Spirit of God.

I believe that Spirit has different manifestations in different people. Like if I come and tell you that Holland won the soccer then that spirit of victory will have different effects on different people. One will jump, the other will smile, and one will just feel peace or whatever. So in the very same way this Spirit of God to the one it causes him to evangelize, to another it causes him to go and heal people, to another it will cause him to serve in the church.. To the other one the Spirit of the life and the resurrection causes generosity in giving. That's how the Spirit lives in us. That's what I think.

I believe that when Jesus went to the Father .. here's a human raised from the dead seated in the Trinity. Only when He was seated there, the spirit of man united with God could be poured out... only then. So we then receive the Spirit that says we can receive the Spirit and a Word (the Bible says that the Spirit is the Word or the word is the Spirit), we can have a word, now, of a man seated at the right hand of the Father. When we believe that Word, that spirit of our union with God, our innocence, the spirit of our death and resurrection, that message, that Spirit, can then be poured out to be alongside us. As we believe that, it helps us to conquer sin, to live the life He's promised.

That is the one side of Spirit that I think I understand fairly well and I do believe, like the Holy Spirit, you know, the Bible talks about the multi colored, the multi faceted grace of God. There is so much that I still need to learn about the Holy Spirit but that's how I see it and how it works for me and how I see the fruit of the Spirit and signs, wonders, and miracles in my life.

QUESTION: Matthew 7:21-23 "Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name have cast out devils" and in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess to them, I never knew you. Depart from me, you that work iniquity."

Are these workers of iniquity really produce miracles and cast our demons?

ANSWER: Yes! What I think of that verse is that they said, "I must enter the kingdom." What was the reason they felt that they had to enter the kingdom? So they could produce these works. That is called iniquity. Jesus even said to Satan, "Iniquity was found in you!" What was that iniquity? That iniquity was to look at the very ability and to say, "From this ability, it gives me access to the kingdom of God which is eternal life. So, I'm going to have eternal life by being able to produce signs, wonders and miracles and take my inheritance, that I have in Jesus, and by that inheritance I will create a life that is worthy of the kingdom of God." That's what I think.

Some of you might be shocked but I don't believe in "Once saved, always saved!" I believe in, "You believe in Jesus until He comes," and by that persuasion in your heart that Jesus will produce it. So if the Lord appears, what will you say to Him? "I produced miracles in Your name, Lord. That's why I must go into the kingdom!" or are we going to say, "Thank You for Your generosity! I am part of Your kingdom!"

So those are people who believed that by miracles, signs and wonders, they have access into the kingdom of God. And now they come, in the name of Jesus, because I tell you now that you can go in the name of Jesus, preach a message and pray for people and you will find the Lord producing miracles in those people's lives because they believe upon the Lord.

What we have done is, we have said, "If a miracle happens through a man, the miracle affirms the man." No, the miracle affirms the message! It affirms what Jesus did upon the cross and not the man. That's what they believed. They believed, "I am what I do!" That's what I think. That's why Paul said, "Aren't you in the flesh when you do all these things. One says, 'I am of Paul.' One says, 'I am of Apollos.' One says, 'I have a bigger gift because I can do healings and all of that.'" Paul said, "Do we all do that? No, but all of us are part of the Body." He says, "You are in the flesh! You are trusting in human ability. You are trusting again in the inheritance of gifts!"

And another thing I want to say about miracles. We need to realize that miracles is not complete salvation. It's not complete. It's a partial thing. Everybody Jesus prayed for eventually died. They are all dead today. Even Lazarus who was raised from the dead is dead today. That means that miracle of Lazarus received was not what God planned for Lazarus. God planned for Lazarus to be raised from the dead. There is a difference of being raised from the dead and being glorified. Lazarus was never glorified. He was just raised from the dead as a sign that Jesus IS the resurrection. That is what we would call a sign or a wonder or the Bible said, "We know in part. We prophesy in part." So we also just heal in part even if someone is raised from the dead, he's healed in part because he will die unless Jesus returns.

What we have done is we have taken the gifts that are actually a sign onto the truth which is the resurrection and we have made that the end goal. It's like going to a sign that says Amersfoort and you stand there and say, "I am in Amersfoort." No, you are just at the sign,. You are not at the town. You have just arrived at the sign. Let us see the sign for what it is. It just points to something. We have taken the scriptures concerning eternal life and signs and wonders, and confused it with each other and we've come to a place where we've made the end goal of Christianity the ability to do miracles and that has hurt more people than healed people.

LET'S PRAY

Father, thank You so much for Your love and kindness! Thank You so much for the care that You have towards us. Thank You that You love us and that You have come to just wash us in Your kindness and in Your mercy.

Thank You that I could minister this Word here in Holland. Thank You, Lord, for those for what they have arranged here and for the people who are here. Thank You that You have come to bring understanding to us and that we can say today, "You are good! You are the source of our life! We believe You! We trust You! Thank You for freedom from sin. Thank You for freedom from death. Thank You for signs, wonders and miracles and the fullness of Your life in us. We believe You live in us! Thank You for that Father! We see how You've conquered our sin and our death and we say, "The life of Christ is our life! We await Your return! Thank You, Lord, Jesus!

I declare every person here, blessed. I declare people healed. I thank You, Father, that You stretch forth Your hand to signs, wonders and miracles... signs, wonders and miracles of this Truth and this Word. Confirm this Word of the resurrection by signs, wonders and miracles in these people. And as they go home and they see these miracles in their lives and as they hear this word, and are reminded by You,

Holy Spirit, of this, they will just rejoice and have gladness and peace. Thank You, Lord!

I also want to pray for the Grace Church in Holland. I thank You, Father, that there will just be unity, and love and peace and that these brothers will stand together and that this message can be spread all over this place.

Lord, I make myself available to minister this message in this country and just let it spread to people so that people can be set free. Amen!