

Releasing the Power of God
into the Life of the Believer...
to Save, to Edify, and to Send!



Volume 2

Images In Our Souls

*"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. **And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**" (I Corinthians 15:45-49)*

Every spirit, including the Holy Spirit, must have an image to fill. No image, no spirit. What does the Holy Spirit fill? The image of Christ. By submitting ourselves to Jesus we allow His image to imprint upon our souls. The Spirit of God is then able to form up the image of Christ in us and fill us. This image of Christ is identifiable by certain character traits referred to in Galatians 5:22-23 as the nine fruit of the Spirit. "Against such there is no law" God says. We do not need a law, we need a new nature! This is what Jesus did on the cross. He made an avenue of escape for us to get access to another nature (II Peter 1:4). As we examine the affect of images in the Bible, we can see exactly what we are up against as we walk out our salvation.



Examining God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt we see that although He brought them out of that country, the Israelites were not secured until they went across the Red Sea. Pharaoh's army drowned there, but the Israelites crossed in safety. On the other side of the sea the Israelites were free from Egypt, but there was still one problem. Although God had saved them from their oppressors, Egypt was still alive *inside* the Israelites! This is why they murmured and complained throughout the wilderness experience. They were never thankful for what God provided because **they still bore the image of Egypt in their souls**. As a result, they judged what God did for them based on what the Egyptians had. "We are stuck in this desert with manna, quail, and water from a rock. But the Egyptians have wine, fine food, pleasant clothing, and are living in palaces." It was because of this attitude that God prevented all but two of the original Israelites He saved from entering the Promised Lands.



The Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land is a foreshadow of the Christian salvation experience. We come out of Egypt (symbolic of the world), go through the Red Sea (a type of the bloodline of Jesus) and enter into salvation. However, we do not immediately go into the Promised Land. Like the Israelites, we must go through a process of having worldly images eradicated from our souls. This process, called sanctification, is largely missing from the church in America today. Many are still trying to hold God captive to the what the world has. When we get what they have, then we are blessed; if not, then we are failures. If we stay in this arena, we will never see God move on our behalf because He will not bow down to these idolatrous images. Refusal to give up these images will result in many Christians experiencing the same plight as the majority of Israelites who left Egypt, being left outside of the promises of God.

Dunamis Today

Conformity to the World

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2)

Romans 12:2 says that we are not to be "conformed" to this world. Our lives, thoughts, desires, ambitions, etc. should not be shaped by or congruent with the things of the world. Throughout the Bible, the world is set at sharp contrast to God and I John 2:16 tell us why *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

People are exerting all kinds of effort and money to save the world, but this is not what God has called Christians to do. God is saving us out of the world; He is not trying to redeem world systems. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world at one moment in time and said that all of these things had been delivered unto him. Yet, according to the original Greek, Satan literally said all these things have been "betrayed into my hands." Who has betrayed them? Adam did when he gave heed to the devil by obeying Eve instead of God in the Garden of Eden.

The earth is the Lord's, but the world is under the jurisdiction of Satan (II Corinthians 4:4; I John 5:19). There are two words that are predominately translated "world" in the New Testament: kosmos and aions. "Kosmos" is an indicator of the fashions and social orders of the world; "aions" indicates the periods of time or ages associated with the world. The world systems by nature are defiled and we cannot change them because it is written. There is going to be an Anti-christ, a time of Jacob's trouble, wars, pestilence, famine, etc. Our focus must be on staying before God in prayer to receive power to walk outside of the system with God while yet operating and influencing those in the midst of it.



Romans 12:2 also shows us that we are born with our lives conformed to the world as a part of the inherited fallen nature of man. That is why God doesn't simply say to stop partaking in carnal activities, but to be transformed! This is one of the biggest misconceptions in the church today. God is not trying to get us to just stop sinning, but to be *transformed from the image of the world into the image of His Son* (Romans 8:29). Sin is just a symptom of the problem which is that the very nature we are born with is **against God**. You can choose of your own free will to stop a multitude of sins, but only the blood of Jesus can clean a dirty soul. Too many Christians claim to be walking in new life because they no longer partake in certain sins, yet their souls are still defiled with the images of this world. It is this type of double-mindedness that allows the devil to take them captive at his will. God doesn't want us to struggle with sin, but to die to it through transformation (Romans 6:6-8). As long as those images are alive in us, the devil will continue to have an inroad into our souls. It is only after we have been transformed that we can echo Jesus' statement, *"...for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."* (John 14:30)



*For whom he
did foreknow,
he also did
predestinate
to be con-
formed to
the image of
his Son, that
he might be
the firstborn
among many
brethren.*

Romans 8:29



The Image of the Beast

Romans 1:21-32 details the stages of man's potential degradation as well as God's response to this corruption. Man changes the glory of God into the image of created beings; he perverts the truth of God to accommodate the image, worshipping it more than God; and finally tries to replace God with this image by refusing any knowledge of the True and Living God in his life. God's response to this decay is to give man over to uncleanness, vile affections, and then over to a reprobate mind. This process of reprobation can be summed up in one word: idolatry.

False images are really idols in our souls that give allegiance to things or people above God. This is why II Corinthians 10:5 calls imaginations "high things." Comparable to the high places in the Old Testament, images serve as altars of worship (Leviticus 26:30; Numbers 33:52; I Kings 14:23; II Kings 18:4; II Chronicles 33:19; Psalms 78:58). When the Holy Ghost detects an image other than Christ in our soul, He cannot fill that area because there is already another god present. Like all spirits, demons can only fill images, and it is through these images that they hold people captive. This is why God says to be careful what you hear and see. We must take care not to expose ourselves to defiling elements that have the potential of setting corruption into our souls. This is not about becoming extreme in our thinking but understanding that we are nurturing one life at the expense of another (Matthew 10:39; Matthew 16:25). "Putting off" the old man and "putting on" the new man requires **action** on our part (Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10). This is not something that God will do for us, but He is telling us to do it! Failure to do it will result in us being conformed not into the image of Christ, but into the image of a beast.



In Revelation 13:11-18, God describes the rise of the Anti-christ and specifically the abomination of desolation. We are told that *the Anti-christ erects an image and gives it the power to speak and live*. In other words, he gives the image a spirit and demands that the people worship it. Paul says in II Thessalonians 2:4 that the Anti-christ will set himself up in the temple of God in an attempt to show himself as God. Knowing that we are the temples of God, we can then begin to see the parallels between this end-time event and the condition of man. In the same way in which the temple building is defiled, Satan tries to set up images - empowered to life by unclean spirits - in the physical temples of our bodies. These images then begin to set corruption in our souls so that we will not be fully transformed by God's Spirit into the image of His Son.

The results of this demonic invasion is visible in Revelation 13:18, *"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."* The number six is the number of man, for man was created on the sixth day. The three sixes demonstrate that man has been totally given over - spirit, soul, & body - to himself. The beast is a man whose mind and personality is inundated with selfishness. Instead of having the image of God, man becomes beast-like, reflecting the image of Satan himself.



*Casting
down imagi-
nations, and
every high
thing that
exalteth itself
against the
knowledge of
God, and
bringing into
captivity ev-
ery thought
to the obedi-
ence of Christ
II Corinthians
10:5*



Building Up the Image of Christ

"But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (II Corinthians 3:14-18)

Sabbath days, holydays, rituals, regulations, etc. The blinded mind is evidence that a person is still living in the Old Testament with a veiled heart. Since they do not want God dealing with their heart, they focus on outer performance by clinging to the law. As long as you bear the images of the world in your soul and try to shield them from exposure to God, your heart will be veiled. Christ can only be revealed to those whose heart turns toward the Lord. Religion cannot change your heart. It will only have you performing for folks.

With an unveiled heart and an open face, we look upon the glory of the Lord and are changed into the image of God. How? By the Spirit writing the laws of God into our hearts and transforming us into an exact replica of Jesus (II Corinthians 3:3). Then the Spirit can fill that image thereby empowering you to walk in the Spirit, not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. It is the hyssop that cleanses away the old images of the world. He splatters the blood on you to wash away the sin and the images. What is the hyssop in the New Testament? The Word of God. It splatters a bloodbath on the human soul. Once He cleanses you the image changes because of obedience to the Word of God which places Christ in you. The blood of Jesus is splattered on the human soul through the words of Jesus. Not the letter but *rhema* word, life. As you begin to rewrite the inner man with the image of Christ by sanctifying yourself from the world, another image will form in you. This new image will loose you from all of the images that the world has placed in our souls to bind you including, your perception of yourself and of others,



You have come out of Egypt by turning to the Lord. You have crossed the Red Sea by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Yet, are you prepared to cross the Jordan river into the Promised Land or will you circle in the wilderness? Are you willing to cast down every high image that exalts itself against God or will you shrink back from the challenge because there appears to be giants in the land? God's instruction to us today is the same as it was to the Israelites, *"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it."* (Numbers 33:51-53)



*Then said he
unto me, Son
of man, hast
thou seen
what the an-
cients of the
house of Israel
do in the
dark, every
man in the
chambers of
his imagery?
for they say,
The LORD
seeth us not;
the LORD
hath forsaken
the earth.*

Ezekiel 8:12



The 2003 Nehemiah Conference "Rebuilding the Walls of the Church"



*"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work."
Nehemiah 4:6*



Dates

April 10th - April 13th, 2003

Place

Marriott Renaissance Hotel
Atlanta, GA

Conference Registration Fee

\$75/person

(**non-refundable**; Does not include travel or hotel accommodations)

Hotel Accommodations

Marriott Renaissance Hotel

\$89.00/night pre-negotiated rate

(subject to applicable state & local taxes - currently 14%)

1-888-391-8724

Ask for "The Nehemiah Conference"

Confirmed Guest Speakers

Minister Howard O. Pittmon

Howard O. Pittmon Ministries
Foxworth, MS

Pastor Grant Storms

The Reformer Church
Metairie, LA

Minister David Wegener

Hope for America Ministries
Costa Mesa, CA

In the Spring of 2003, we will be hosting **The Nehemiah Conference "Rebuilding the Walls of the Church."**

The primary focus of this fellowship will be to awaken the remnant church of God and to prepare this army for spiritual warfare against the demonic forces that have invaded the church.

The name Nehemiah literally means "comforted by Jehovah." Many of God's people have been ostracized by religious organizations or have felt the alienation that often accompanies a complete trust and reliance on God alone. Yet, God wants you to know that He has not forsaken nor has He forgotten. He IS rebuilding the walls of His church for one endtime sweep across the nations.



If you are ready to have a more intimate relationship with God and to serve Him faithfully, we would like to invite you to this conference. This will be a time of prayer, fellowship, bible study, praise, and seeking God. We look forward to this opportunity to place ourselves before God to be cleansed, renewed, and given marching orders for His kingdom. To register for the conference, please do one of the following:

* Register on-line at

www.omegaministry.org/registration.html

* Call us toll-free at 1-866-316-6342

* Fill out the form on the back and mail or fax it to us at:

Omega Church & Ministries Center
P.O. Box 960146
Riverdale, GA 30296
Fax Number 678-479-8916

Please register me for the 2003 Nehemiah Conference
"Rebuilding the Walls of the Church" from April 10th
- April 13th in Atlanta, Georgia.

Name _____

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Names of Attendees _____

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Expiration Date: _____

Signature _____

Comments? _____



*"So built we
the wall; and
all the wall
was joined
together unto
the half
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had a mind
to work."
Nehemiah 4:6*



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