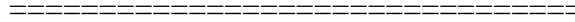


**kingdom of man**  
**as layered humanity**

**Part Five**

(Sustenance -- Focused)

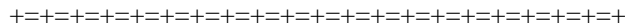


**Meditating on the Bible**

**Philippians 4:8-13**

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.



Some gifts come with choices: to use them, or, not. The life that the LORD gifted to the kingdom of man was not of that sort. Once that gift was delivered, it took control of the first place of activity in the kingdom of man. Though; God did not give this gift absolute control of the kingdom of man--for, life, too, has to operate in a span. Life's span is complete when it releases control to another of the gifts of God: death. Wait; before we answer that question you just raised, here is our introduction to death.

*And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

(Genesis 2:15-17)

Okay; now, back to that question. You ask why I say that, death is a gift. I say so because; in an extension of its charter, death was enlisted to deliver us into this fulfillment.

*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved,*

*we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.*

*Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

(2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

Yes, I know that, there is some debate about which ones of us will flow into this intended event; but still, it is the highest resultant product of the gift of death. No, we cannot achieve that state by a continuation of this life. The transaction with death is required (or, by one other way, which we will share, in a moment). The transaction with death brings about a blessed transformation, which is required of each one of us (almost).

*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

(1 Corinthians 15:50-54)

This is a good time to reveal the one other way to enter into that building of God, as described above. To do that, we present this: the first recorded instance of when that, one other way, was activated in the kingdom of man. This is a substitute for the negotiation with death; but, it is reserved for a chosen set of humans.

*And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*

(Genesis 5:21-24)

What is the chosen set, as in the fashion of Enoch? This one . . .

*By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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.*

(Hebrews 11:5-6)

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Here, we shift from consideration of, the gift of death as in its participation in the transplantation of our soul. Now, we return to the consideration of the span that is life. While we are in the span, of life, we must take hold of another of the outflows from the Kingdom of God: sustenance. The Psalmist gave life to the mental image of the LORD'S multi-faceted sustenance, here . . .

*A Psalm of David.*

*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.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

(Psalm 23:1-6)

Now, let us explore more of that transverse section across the kingdom of man--sustenance--as brought out of the kingdom's history.

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In the Beginning, in the time of Adam, sustenance had a somewhat limited footprint in history. The process had to be that way because, we are a progressive being: we need to be able to move from the simple, to the complex. All you parents, out there; you know what I mean. So, in the Beginning, sustenance was concentrated in physical satisfaction. Even then, though; sustenance had two impacts on the kingdom of man. These two impacts are presented here.

*And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food;*

. . .

(Genesis 2:8-9a)

Forgive me, for being a party pooper, so to speak, but; this just does not seem expansive enough for the kingdom of man. It appears that, all the work was done by the

LORD. As coming from that arrangement, I am not sensing the tension that is required to build those strong bones and teeth of human civilization.

Oh, wait . . . here is something that I should have considered.

*And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

(Genesis 2:15)

Still; that does not seem rigorous enough, so as to press upon us, the fact that, we must have tension to grow. Pressure helps us move with purpose, as we navigate in the collective body that is adam (mankind). Wherefore; as from that beginning, we needed to slide along to some of the more pressing situations of life. Eventually, fate has to stop carrying the baby, and it will set it down in the crib of reality.

When fate sets mankind down, the kingdom of man meets another of the gifts of the LORD: adversity. Additionally; since, adversity also sits in the crib; therefore, it is wise for us to acknowledge it. Actually, it is not possible for us to ignore adversity: it is like the child with the little hammer, which he wants to use, deliberately. Sometimes, we will be in the path of that hammer of adversity. Here is a recommendation about our demeanor, for such a time.

*If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*

(Proverbs 24:10-12)

In the Beginning, adversity was sitting in the path of sustenance. In that time, though; two forms of sustenance were being pressed into action. One was the kind that could be safely consumed, while the other was not suitable for mankind's consumption, at that time. They were set in place, here . . .

. . .  
*the tree of life also in the midst of the garden,  
and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

(Genesis 2:9b)

In time, we would be allowed to partake of the fruit of one of these trees. This is that time . . .

*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew*

*that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

(Genesis 3:6-7)

In due course, we would be pressed to extend our potential source of sustenance, as we were instructed in our need for the bounty of the earth. Our effort to obtain this bounty is one of the more rigorous of the, lessons as from the Beginning.

*And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.*

(Genesis 4:16-17)

We missed a golden opportunity, as we moved in the Garden. We "could" have been an agent of extended sustenance. We could have . . . well, let me show you what opportunity we missed.

*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

*Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

(Genesis 3:21-24)

Here; let me give you a distant, mental taste of what we missed out on, in that; we did not *take also of the tree of life*. This is a reference to a distant time when, sustenance is richly extended. We will mark the path to this concept, next.

*And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

*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.*

(Revelation 22:1-5)

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**Next, in  
kingdom of man  
as layered humanity  
(Sustenance - Focused)**

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