

## Word of Life Fellowship

### Discerning Truth

*by Leland Earls, edited by Kevin Earls*

God is moving by His Spirit to bring **light** and **revelation** from His Word as never before. We are surely living in the time spoken of by Daniel the prophet: “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4). The “time of the end” of this age is upon us. Therefore, we are witnessing the “unsealing” of mysteries unknown to past generations. “Knowledge is increasing” both in the natural and physical realms of man and in the realm of the spiritual things of God.

This does not mean that we should be gullible and accept everything we hear and read, but rather weigh it with a discerning mind seeking to “test all things” and “hold fast what is good” (1 Thess. 5:21). Above all, we should heed the admonition found in Is. 8:20 “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” The **word of God** is always our standard. However, we must continually be willing to restudy and reexamine what we **think** the Bible teaches. We must realize that **many** of our past concepts have been the result of our **limited** capacity to understand as well as the **grossness** of our hearts in not being able to “look beyond” the **veil** to view the full **glory** of the Lord. As the Jews had a “veil” (of unbelief) on their hearts (2 Cor. 3:13-15) not being able to “**look**” to the end of that which is abolished (the Old Covenant), so we have had a “veil” on our hearts not being able to fully “**look**” to the end (consummation) of that which is now being fulfilled (the New Covenant).

When Moses came down from the mount after spending forty days with God, he had to put a **veil** over his face because the people were unable to view the shining “glory” of his face (Ex. 34:29-35). Thus has it been through many generations. Christ has been speaking to men through His Word, but **much has been veiled** because of our inability to comprehend and receive. But **now** the “veil” is being lifted. More and more glorious light is coming forth from the Lord as He **reveals** (unveils) **Himself** to us in these last days.

God must deal with us as we **are**. Much depends upon our **heart willingness** to receive and **obey** truth. Jesus said, “If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:17). We must be willing to restudy and rethink all that we have ever believed. And if our hearts are **too gross** for us to admit that we have made mistakes and have been in

error in many things **and change our thinking and acting accordingly**, then the Lord will have to leave us where we are and continue to **veil** much of His truth to us.

Another factor is heart readiness. The **soil** of our heart must be “broken up” and prepared to **receive** the “good seed” of His Word (Mark 4:20-28). The Lord many times has to **condition** us by experience before we are **ready** to receive more light and understanding. The Lord’s word to us is “break up your fallow ground . . . circumcise yourselves to the Lord” (Jer. 4:34). As Jesus spoke to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus he perceived their lack of readiness to receive and spoke to them: “O **foolish** ones, and **slow of heart** to believe in **all** that the prophets have spoken!” (Luke 24:25) And thus has it been ever since: **We are fools, and we have been so slow to believe all.** Do I hear a gasp? Too harsh, you say! Are you willing to be honest with yourself? Are you willing to let the Lord deal with your heart until you are conditioned to “behold with unveiled face the glory of the Lord?”

Jesus said “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). Our “seeing” of God (comprehending His reality and truth) is in direct proportion to the “circumcising of our hearts.” The **grossness** of our hearts has to be “cut away” lest it be fulfilled in us as it was in the Jews of Jesus' day; “for the heart of this people has grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed” (Matt. 13:15). God said to Moses who wanted to **see** the Lord: “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live” (Ex. 33:20). What is true in this statement **physically** is also true **spiritually**. We (the carnal self life) **cannot live** if we are to “see” God. The more we “see” of God the more of our **self life** has to **die**.

There is no occasion of **boasting** when we realize that God has had to hide us in the cleft of the rock (Jesus) and has had to **cover us** with his hand of mercy, while He has passed by and we have “seen” but a little portion of His Being (Ex. 33:21-23). But the more we are willing to die (to self) the more of His Glory (light—truth) shall be revealed to us. Increasingly we shall “see” the “light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:6).

What is presented through this ministry is with the realization that as yet we “see in a mirror, dimly,” and “know in part” (1 Cor. 13:12). All of us are still walking in some error, but we should **desire** above everything to **know the truth**, for “the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). One truth which we must all be willing to confess is that found in 1 Cor. 8:2, “if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.” With regard to many things

which may be new to us we have to follow the example of Mary who “kept all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19).

I believe one more thought should be added. What about our **heart motives**? Jesus said, “He who speaks from himself seeks his own honor; but he who seeks his sender's honor is sincere and in him there is no deceit” (John 7:18, Berkeley). If we are seeking our own honor in one way or another then we can be sure that what we speak tends to come “from (out of) ourselves.” But if we have no ambition or desire but to seek the honor and glory of the One who “sent” us, then out of a “sincere” heart will come that which is without “deceit” (falsehood).

But who can honestly say that he knows his own heart perfectly, and that his motives are completely without any “taint” of self? We can only **pray** that God will keep us free from the beguiling influences of our own deceitful hearts, and from the corrupting desire to “please” others. None of us are immune from the “wiles” of the evil one in his attempt to inflate our ego and infuse us with the “spirit” of those at Babel: “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower . . . let us make a name for ourselves” (Gen. 11:4).

If we want to keep hearing from God, and speak only that which He would have us speak, then in us must be fulfilled the words of Is. 66:2, “I will look favorably upon that man who is humble, feels crushed in spirit, and trembles at My word” (Berkeley).

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**Word of Life Fellowship**

PO Box 190

Shelton, WA 98584

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