

# Heaven - our living Hope!

## Part 2

By Pastor Grant Williams

First, I want to start of Part 2 with the Words from Jesus Himself. He is telling His disciples, His followers where HE is right now... Heaven, and what He is doing.

### John 14:1-9 AMPC

1 Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely on God; believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely also on Me.

2 In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you.

3 And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.

4 And [to the place] where I am going, you know the way.

5 Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?

6 Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.

7 If you had known Me [had learned to recognize Me], you would also have known My Father. From now on, you know Him and have seen Him.

Remember, Peter told you and I, the followers of Jesus Christ in preparation for Jesus return and the days we are living in (1 Peter 1). **Jesus is our Living Hope and our inheritance is reserved in Heaven!**

### 1 Peter 1:3-25 AMPC

3 Praised (honored, blessed) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)! By His boundless mercy we have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 **[Born anew] into an inheritance** which is beyond the reach of change and decay [imperishable], unsullied and unfading, **reserved in heaven for you,**

5 Who are being guarded (garrisoned) by God's power through [your] faith **[till you fully inherit that [c]final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time.**

6 [You should] be exceedingly glad on this account, **though now for a little while you may be distressed by trials and suffer temptations,**

7 **So that [the genuineness] of your faith may be tested,** [your faith] which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold **which is tested and purified by fire.** [This proving of your faith is intended] to redound to [your] praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) is revealed. 8 Without having seen Him, you love Him; though you do not [even] now see Him, you believe in Him and exult and thrill with inexpressible and glorious (triumphant, heavenly) joy. 9 [At the same time] you receive the result (outcome, consummation) of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Now, let's read what Paul told the church in Corinth...

### **2 Corinthians 4:1-18 AMPC**

1 Therefore, since we do hold and engage in this ministry by the mercy of God [granting us favor, benefits, opportunities, and especially salvation], we do not get discouraged (spiritless and despondent with fear) or become faint with weariness and exhaustion.

2 We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); **we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly).** And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of God to every man's conscience.

3 But even if our Gospel (the glad tidings) also be hidden (obscured and covered up with a veil that hinders the knowledge of God), it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing and obscured [only] to those who are spiritually dying and veiled [only] to those who are lost.

4 For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth], preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the Image and Likeness of God.

5 For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves [merely] as your servants (slaves) for Jesus' sake.

### **Isaiah 33:22 AMPC**

22 For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.

### **Malachi 3:6 AMPC**

6 For I am the Lord, I do not change;

*6 For God Who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts so as [to beam forth] the Light for the illumination of the knowledge of the majesty and glory of God [as it is manifest in the Person and is revealed] in the face of Jesus Christ (the Messiah).*

7 However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves.

8 We are hedged in (pressed) on every side [troubled and oppressed in every way], but not cramped or crushed; we suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair;

9 We are pursued (persecuted and hard driven), but not deserted [to stand alone]; we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out and destroyed;

*10 Always carrying about in the body the liability and exposure to the same putting to death that the Lord Jesus suffered, so that the [resurrection] life of Jesus also may be shown forth by and in our bodies. 11 For we who live are constantly [experiencing] being handed over to death for Jesus' sake, that the [[b]resurrection] life of Jesus also may be evidenced through our flesh which is liable to death.*

### **John 15:18-21 AMPC**

18 If the world hates you, know that it hated Me before it hated you.

19 If you belonged to the world, the world would treat you with affection and would love you as its own. But because you are not of the world [no longer one with it], but I have chosen (selected) you out of the world, the world hates (detests) you.

20 Remember that I told you, A servant is not greater than his master [is not superior to him]. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word and obeyed My teachings, they will also keep and obey yours.

21 But they will do all this to you [inflict all this suffering on you] because of [your bearing] My name and on My account, for they do not know or understand the One Who sent Me.

*12 Thus death is actively at work in us, but [it is in order that [c]our] life [may be actively at work] in you.*

**13 Yet we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore we speak.**

**14 Assured that He Who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up also with Jesus and bring us [along] with you into His presence.**

Paul has just described how deeply he and his friends have suffered as messengers of the gospel. This proclamation is the good news that all who trust in Christ for the forgiveness of their sin can be included in God's glory forever which is heaven. He has also made clear that, by God's power, they have endured this suffering without being finally or fully defeated.

Then, Paul quotes from Psalm 116. This connects the psalmist's declaration of faith that God has delivered his soul from death. Specifically, Paul quotes from Psalm 116:10, saying "I believed, and so I spoke." He and his co-workers for the gospel of Jesus also believe and also continue to speak of their faith in Christ in spite of their suffering. In the following verse, Paul points to his own future resurrection from the dead as the motivation behind his faith and ongoing proclamation of the gospel.

*15 For all [these] things are [taking place] for your sake, so that the more grace (divine favor and spiritual blessing) extends to more and more people and multiplies through the many, the more thanksgiving may increase [and redound] to the glory of God.*

16 *Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day.*

17 **For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!],**

### **1 Peter 1:6-7 AMPC**

6 [You should] be exceedingly glad on this account, though now for a little while you may be distressed by trials and suffer temptations,

7 So that [the genuineness] of your faith may be tested, [your faith] which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold which is tested and purified by fire. [This proving of your faith is intended] to redound to [your] praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) is revealed.

18 *Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.*

What we can touch, the very things we spend out time for trying to acquire, the visible things we work for are temporal or brief, they are fleeting. Paul, in his first letter referred to the church or followers of Jesus Christ as fertile ground for God's planting and cultivating. Let's go back to Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth about what they must do to be ready for the rapture or eternity in heaven.

### **1 Corinthians 3:9-20 AMPC**

9 *For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with and for God; you are God's [a]garden and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] God's building.*

10 According to the grace (the special endowment for my task) of God bestowed on me, like a skillful architect and master builder I laid [the] foundation, and now another [man] is building upon it. But let each [man] be careful how he builds upon it,

11 **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).**

12 But if anyone builds upon the Foundation, whether it be with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done.

14 **If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test], he will get his reward.**

15 But if any person's work is burned up [under the test], he will suffer the loss [of it all, losing his reward], though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire.

16 Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, [b]collectively as a church and also individually]?

17 If anyone [c]does hurt to God's temple or corrupts it [[d]with false doctrines] or destroys it, God will [e]do hurt to him and bring him to the corruption of death and destroy him. For the temple of God is holy (sacred to Him) and that [temple] you [[f]the believing church and its individual believers] are.

18 **Let no person deceive himself.** If anyone among you supposes that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool [let him discard his worldly discernment and recognize himself as dull, stupid, and foolish, without true learning and scholarship], that he may become [really] wise.

19 For this world's wisdom is foolishness (absurdity and stupidity) with God, for it is written, He lays hold of the wise in their [own] craftiness;

20 And again, **The Lord knows the thoughts and reasonings of the [humanly] wise and recognizes how futile they are.**

Jesus told parables, showing people the way to heaven. He was always instructing, teaching and living by example in Word and Deed what we must do (habitually) to get to Heaven. Peter wrote **2 Peter 3:9 it is not His desire that any should perish (Hell) but all turn to repentance.**

**Matthew 7:24-27 AMPC**

24 So **everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them [obeying them]** will be like a [a]sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock.

25 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; **yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.**

26 And **everyone** who hears these words of Mine **and does not do them will be like a stupid (foolish) man** who built his house upon the sand.

27 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great and complete **was the fall of it.**

Remember, Thomas said “where are you going and how do we get there”?...Jesus replied

**John 14:6 AMPC**

6 Jesus said to him, **I am the Way and the Truth and the Life;** no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.

The Truth or Jesus/The Word has always been for anyone to receive...

**John 1:1 AMPC**

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word ([a]Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [b]Himself.

**John 3:16 AMPC**

16 For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten ([a]unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

**Revelation 3:19-21 AMPC**

**19 Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict and convince and reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic and in earnest and burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude].**

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and listens to and heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me.

21 **He who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant him to sit beside Me on My throne,** as I Myself overcame (was victorious) and sat down beside My Father on His throne.

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**John 14:15-21 AMPC**

15 **If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.**

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—

17 **The Spirit of Truth,** Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. **But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.**

18 I will not leave you as orphans [comfortless, desolate, bereaved, forlorn, helpless]; I will come [back] to you.

19 Just a little while now, and the world will not see Me any more, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

20 At that time [when that day comes] you will know [for yourselves] that I am in My Father, and you [are] in Me, and I [am] in you.



***21 The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me;** and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]*

**John 16:8-13 AMPC**

*8 And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment:*

*9 About sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me];*

*10 About righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer;*

*11 About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged and condemned and sentence already is passed upon him.*

*12 I have still many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear them or to take them upon you or to grasp them now.*

*13 **But when He, the Spirit of Truth** (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].*

Let's go back to the beginning of time as we know it and read about how we were made - God's Word said we are made in His image, in His likeness.

**Genesis 1:26-28 AMPC**

*26 God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.*

27 **So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

28 **And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth,** and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth.

### **Genesis 2:7 AMPC**

7 Then the Lord God formed man from the [a]dust of the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being.**

### **Genesis 2:7 KJV**

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, **and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

### **Genesis 9:1-3 AMPC**

1 **And God pronounced a blessing upon Noah and his sons and said to them, Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.**

2 And the fear of you and the dread and terror of you shall be upon every beast of the land, every bird of the air, all that creeps upon the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are delivered into your hand.

3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you;

### **Luke 24 AMPC**

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had made ready.

2 And they found the stone rolled back from the tomb,

3 But when they went inside, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And while they were perplexed and wondering what to do about this, behold, two men in dazzling raiment suddenly stood beside them.

5 And as [the women] were frightened and were bowing their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you look for the living among [those who are] dead?

6 He is not here, but has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee

7 That the Son of Man must be given over into the hands of sinful men (men [a]whose way or nature is to act in opposition to God) and be crucified and on the third day rise [[b]from death].

8 And they remembered His words.

9 And having returned from the tomb, they reported all these things [taken together] to the eleven apostles and to all the rest.

10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who reported these things to the apostles.

11 But these reports seemed to the men an idle tale ([c]madness, [d]feigned things, [e]nonsense), and they did not believe the women.

12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; and stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths alone by themselves, and he went away, wondering about and marveling at what had happened.

13 And behold, that very day two of [the disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, [which is] about seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 And they were talking with each other about all these things that had occurred.

15 And while they were conversing and discussing together, Jesus Himself caught up with them and was already accompanying them.

16 But their eyes were held, so that they did not recognize Him.

17 And He said to them, What is this discussion that you are exchanging ([f]throwing back and forth) between yourselves as you walk along? And they stood still, looking sad and downcast.

18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, Do you alone dwell as a stranger in Jerusalem and not know the things that have occurred there in these days?

19 And He said to them, What [kind of] things? And they said to Him, About Jesus of Nazareth, Who was a Prophet mighty in work and word before God and all the people—

20 And how our chief priests and rulers gave Him up to be sentenced to death, and crucified Him.

21 But we were hoping that it was He Who would redeem and set Israel free. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things occurred.

22 And moreover, some women of our company astounded us and [g]drove us out of our senses. They were at the tomb early [in the morning]

23 But did not find His body; and they returned saying that they had [even] seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive!

24 So some of those [who were] with us went to the tomb and they found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see.

25 And [Jesus] said to them, O foolish ones [sluggish in mind, dull of perception] and slow of heart to believe (adhere to and trust in and rely on) everything that the prophets have spoken!

26 Was it not necessary and [h]essentially fitting that the Christ (the Messiah) should suffer all these things before entering into His glory (His majesty and splendor)?

27 Then beginning with Moses and [throughout] all the Prophets, He went on explaining and interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning and referring to Himself.

28 Then they drew near the village to which they were going, and He acted as if He would go further.

29 But they urged and insisted, saying to Him, Remain with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is now far spent. So He went in to stay with them.

30 And it occurred that as He reclined at table with them, He took [a loaf of] bread and praised [God] and gave thanks and asked a blessing, and then broke it and was giving it to them.

31 When their eyes were [instantly] opened and they [clearly] recognized Him, and He vanished ([i]departed invisibly).

32 And they said to one another, Were not our hearts greatly moved and burning within us while He was talking with us on the road and as He opened and explained to us [the sense of] the Scriptures?

33 And rising up that very hour, they went back to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven [apostles] gathered together and those who were with them,

34 Who said, The Lord really has risen and has appeared to Simon (Peter)!

35 Then they [themselves] [j]related [in full] what had happened on the road, and how He was known and recognized by them in the breaking of bread.

**36 Now while they were talking about this, Jesus Himself took His stand among them and said to them, Peace ([k]freedom from all the distresses that are experienced as the result of sin) be to you!**

**37 But they were so startled and terrified that they thought they saw a spirit.**

**38 And He said to them, Why are you disturbed and troubled, and why do such doubts and questionings arise in your hearts?**

39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself! Feel and handle Me and see, **for a spirit does not have flesh and bones**, as you see that I have.

40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 And while [since] they still could not believe it for sheer joy and marveled, He said to them, Have you anything here to eat? 42 They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, 43 And He took [it] and ate [it] before them.

**44 Then He said to them, This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything which is written concerning Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**

**45 Then He [thoroughly] opened up their minds to understand the Scriptures,**

**46 And said to them, Thus it is written that the Christ (the Messiah) should suffer and on the third day rise from ([l] among) the dead,**

**47 And that repentance [with a view to and as the condition of] forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**

**48 You are witnesses of these things.**

**49 And behold, I will send forth upon you what My Father has promised; but remain in the city [Jerusalem] until you are clothed with power from on high.**

**50 Then He conducted them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He invoked a blessing on them.**

**51 And it occurred that while He was blessing them, He parted from them and was taken up into heaven.**

52 And they, worshiping Him, went back to Jerusalem with great joy;

53 And they were continually in the temple celebrating with praises and blessing and extolling God. Amen (so be it).

What was the instruction for at the time of the blessing in Luke 24? Acts 1 is the continuation of (further information/instructions) the latter portion of Luke 24 summary of the events before Jesus was raptured.

### **Acts 1:1-11 AMPC**

1 In the former account [which I prepared], O Theophilus, I made [a continuous report] dealing with all the things which Jesus began to do and to teach

2 Until the day when He ascended, after He through the Holy Spirit had instructed and commanded the apostles (special messengers) whom He had chosen.

3 To them also **He showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross) by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations [unquestionable evidences and infallible proofs], appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of God.**

4 And while being in their company and eating with them, **He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak.**

5 For John baptized with water, but not many days from now **you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit.**

6 So when they were assembled, they asked Him, Lord, is this the time when You will reestablish the kingdom and restore it to Israel?

7 He said to them, It is not for you to become acquainted with and know [b]what time brings [the things and events of time and their definite periods] or fixed [c]years and seasons (their critical niche in time), which the Father has appointed (fixed and reserved) by His own choice and authority and personal power.

**8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.**

9 And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], **He was caught up**, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.

10 And **while they were gazing intently into heaven** as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them,

11 Who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? **This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven.**

This clean slate that was given also came with a command to be fruitful and multiply yourself in the image of God is found in Genesis from the beginning with Adam and Even. This clean slate and command to be fruitful and multiply yourself in the image of God is once again given after the flood with Noah and His family. The same clean slate and command to be fruitful and multiply yourself in the image of God in the book of Acts to the New Testament church - that command is to be His Witness and go make disciples.

Jesus said, if you love me, the Father, the Word then keep my commands. Not just the “do not’s” but the “do’s” which is go make disciples, go be my witness and replicate yourself as you follow Christ or be fruitful and multiply. My life is not my own, I have been created for His pleasure. I am not to consider this life in my earthen vessel my final home but to look forward to Heaven, my living hope. We are to pursue Him and His desire which is to be His witness, make disciples, to love People as God first loved us by sending His son to die for us.

We have the very breath of God, His Holy Spirit inside of us and Jesus has atoned for our sins and now, Heaven awaits you and I if we are habitually obedient to His Word(s) and then “our spirit shall return to God Who gave it.”( Ecclesiastes 12:7)

God's Word tells us that we are spirit, soul and body.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 AMPC**

*23 And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).*

The never wrong prophet Daniel in his book of visions said that his spirit was grieved in the midst of his body...

**Daniel 7:15 AMPC**

*15 As for me, Daniel, **my spirit was grieved and anxious within me**, and the visions of my head alarmed and agitated me.*

The wisest man ever said...

**Proverbs 20:27 AMPC**

*27 **The spirit of man** [that factor in human personality which proceeds immediately from God] is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts.*

Jesus said...

**John 7:38 AMPC**

*38 He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, **From his innermost being** shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water.*

When you and I were created in our mother's womb, we were made of spirit, soul and body. The moment of conception...

At conception the spirit and soul link together with the body or the seed and life begins in the bodily form as we know it.



### **Hebrews 4:12 AMPC**

*12 For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the **dividing line of the [a]breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature]**, exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.*

The soul and spirit are together but they can be distinguished as 2 separate entities. Then, the body is formed containing the soul and spirit. Paul went on to write....

### **Hebrews 10:5 AMPC**

*5 Hence, when He [Christ] entered into the world, He said, Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but instead **You have made ready a body for Me [to offer]**;*

### **Hebrews 10:5 GNT**

*5 For this reason, when Christ was about to come into the world, he said to God: "You do not want sacrifices and offerings, **but you have prepared a body for me.**"*

Many people think that after the body is formed for a period of time that spirit and life or the soul and spirit come into the body... that's not true, it is at the moment of conception. This is the story of Elizabeth (pregnant with John the Baptist as was prophesied in the Old Testament) meeting Mary (mother of Jesus) who was just told she would give birth to Jesus by the angel Gabriel.

### **Luke 1:41 AMPC**

*28 And he came to her and said, Hail, O favored one [[w]endued with grace]! The Lord is with you! [x]Blessed (favored of God) are you before all other women!*

29 But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean.

30 And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace ([y]free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God.

31 And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

32 He will be great (eminent) and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David,

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob throughout the ages; and of His reign there will be no end.

34 And Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I have no [intimacy with any man as a] husband?

35 Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God.

36 And listen! Your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.

38 Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her.

39 And at that time Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country to a town of Judah,

40 And she went to the house of Zachariah and, entering it, saluted Elizabeth.

**41 And it occurred that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit.**

42 And she cried out with a loud cry, and then exclaimed, Blessed (favored of God) above all other women are you! And blessed (favored of God) is the Fruit of your womb!

*43 And how [have I deserved that this honor should] be granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*

*44 For behold, the instant the sound of your salutation reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.*

*45 And blessed (happy, [z]to be envied) is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of the things that were spoken to her from the Lord.*

*46 And Mary said, My soul magnifies and extols the Lord,*

*47 And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

*48 For He has looked upon the low station and humiliation of His handmaiden. For behold, from now on all generations [of all ages] will call me blessed and declare me happy and [aa]to be envied!*

You can't be filled with the Holy Spirit unless you have a spirit to be filled with. God's Word tells us that life begins at the moment of conception...body begins to form with our spirit and soul. So every child conceived (including miscarriages) in a mothers womb, there is a spirit and soul wrapped in the body.

**Psalm 139:13-14 AMPC**

*13 For You did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*14 I will confess and praise You for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awful wonder of my birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well.*

**Jeremiah 1:5 KJV**

*5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

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## **Ecclesiastes 12 AMPC**

1 Remember [earnestly] also your Creator [that you are not your own, but His property now] in the days of your youth, before the evil days come or the years draw near when you will say [of physical pleasures], I have no enjoyment in them—

2 Before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened [sight is impaired], and the clouds [of depression] return after the rain [of tears];

3 In the day when the keepers of the house [the hands and the arms] tremble, and the strong men [the feet and the knees] bow themselves, and the grinders [the molar teeth] cease because they are few, and those who look out of the windows [the eyes] are darkened;

4 When the doors [the lips] are shut in the streets and the sound of the grinding [of the teeth] is low, and one rises up at the voice of a bird and the crowing of a cock, and all the daughters of music [the voice and the ear] are brought low;

5 Also when [the old] are afraid of danger from that which is high, and fears are in the way, and the almond tree [their white hair] blooms, and the grasshopper [a little thing] is a burden, and desire and appetite fail, because man goes to his everlasting home and the mourners go about the streets or marketplaces.

6 [Remember your Creator earnestly now] before the silver cord [of life] is snapped apart, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern [and the whole circulatory system of the blood ceases to function];

**7 Then shall the dust [out of which God made man's body] return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God Who gave it.**

8 Vapor of vapors and futility of futilities, says the Preacher. All is futility (emptiness, falsity, vainglory, and transitoriness)!

9 And furthermore, because the Preacher was wise, he [Solomon] still taught the people knowledge; and he pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs.

10 The Preacher sought acceptable words, even to write down rightly words of truth or correct sentiment.



**Hebrews 13:14 AMPC**

14 For here we have no permanent city, but we are looking for the one which is to come.

**John 15:19 AMPC**

19 If you belonged to the world, the world would treat you with affection and would love you as its own. But because you are not of the world [no longer one with it], but I have chosen (selected) you out of the world, the world hates (detests) you.

**Colossians 3:2 AMPC**

2 And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth.

**Philippians 3:20 AMPC**

20 But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we [a]earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior,

**Colossians 1 AMPC**

1 Paul, an apostle (special messenger) of Christ Jesus (the Messiah), by the will of God, and Timothy [our] brother,

2 To the saints (the consecrated people of God) and [a]believing and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace (spiritual favor and blessing) to you and [heart] peace from God our Father.

3 We [b]continually give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), as we are praying for you,

4 For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus [[c]the leaning of your entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness] and of the love which you [have and show] for all the saints (God's consecrated ones),

**5 Because of the hope [of experiencing what is] laid up ([d]reserved and waiting) for you in heaven. Of this [hope] you heard in the past in the message of the truth of the Gospel,**

6 Which has come to you. Indeed, in the whole world [that Gospel] is bearing fruit and still is growing [e][by its own inherent power], even as it has done among yourselves ever since the day you first heard and came to know and understand the grace of God in truth. [You came to know the grace or undeserved favor of God in reality, deeply and clearly and thoroughly, becoming accurately and intimately acquainted with it.]

7 You so learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ in our stead and as our representative and [f] yours.

8 Also he has informed us of your love in the [Holy] Spirit.

**9 For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray and make [[g]special] request for you, [asking] that you may be filled with the [h]full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [[i]in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things—**

10 That you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and [j]desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, [k]acquaintance, and recognition].

11 [We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy,

12 Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the [l]portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light.

13 [The Father] has delivered and [m]drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son [n]of His love,

14 In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins.

15 [Now] He is the [o]exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation.

16 For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in and for Him.

17 And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together).

18 He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent].

19 For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him [p]permanently.

20 And God purposed that through ([q]by the service, the intervention of) Him [the Son] all things should be completely reconciled [r]back to Himself, whether on earth or in heaven, as through Him, [the Father] made peace by means of the blood of His cross.

21 And although you at one time were estranged and alienated from Him and were of hostile attitude of mind in your wicked activities,

22 Yet now has [Christ, the Messiah] reconciled [you to God] in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in His [the Father's] presence.

23 [And this He will do] provided that you continue to [s]stay with and in the faith [in Christ], well-grounded and settled and steadfast, not shifting or moving away from the hope [which rests on and is inspired by] the glad tidings (the Gospel), which you heard and which has been preached [t][as being designed for and offered without restrictions] to every person under heaven, and of which [Gospel] I, Paul, became a minister.

24 [Even] now I rejoice in [u]the midst of my sufferings on your behalf. And in my own person I am making up whatever is still lacking and remains to be completed [[v]on our part] of Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church.

25 In it I became a minister in accordance with the divine [w] stewardship which was entrusted to me for you [as its object and for your benefit], to make the Word of God fully known [among you]—



*26 The mystery of which was hidden for ages and generations [[x]from angels and men], but is now revealed to His holy people (the saints),*

*27 To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ within and among you, the Hope of [realizing the] glory.*

*28 Him we preach and proclaim, warning and admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom ([y]comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One).*

*29 For this I labor [[z]unto weariness], striving with all the [aa]superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me.*

