

Something to Think About

If we, individually and collectively, did what Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do, we, our families, our nation, and the entire world would be in peace and harmony.

If we did any one of the following things, we would be perfect — the way Jesus was and the way he expected his followers to be.

- The apostle James said, “Purify your hearts, ye double minded” (James 4:8).
- The apostle James also said, “Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” The engrafted word is *truth*.
- Jeremiah said, “Wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?” (Jeremiah 4:14). *Vain thoughts* — the source of mental turmoil and suffering — come from the false, ego-self.
- David the Psalmist said, “The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him in truth. ... He will hear their cry, and will save them” (Psalms 145: 17-18). It helps to know that the Lord is within us.
- The apostle Paul said, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). People began calling upon the name of the Lord during early biblical times. Moses said, “... then began men to call upon the name of the Lord” (Genesis 4:26).
- The apostle Paul also said, “Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). We are transformed when we sanctify ourselves.
- Moses said, “**Sanctify yourselves** therefore, and ye shall be holy.” (Leviticus 20:7). In two words — sanctify yourselves — Moses left instructions for what to do to *save ourselves*. This was about four thousand years ago. The apostle James used three words: “Purify your hearts.”
- Jesus said, “**Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter**” (Matthew 23:26). Although not as clear as some of the above things, it accomplishes the same thing as doing any one of the things listed above.

Can you imagine a world in which people have a pure heart? Can you imagine a world with no evil? The world would be characterized by peace, love, joy and happiness — what everyone inherently desires. Although a loving, peaceful society is incomprehensible, it is possible — if people would do any one of the things listed above.

Moreover, doing any one of these things is comparatively simple. It helps with our understanding to think of our subconscious mind when referring to the word *heart* in most passages in the Bible.

In the sense that we must do something to be *saved*, we are our own savior. No one can do any of these things for us. We are the only one who can *clean the inside of our cup and platter* ... the only one who can purify our heart ... the only one who can sanctify us.

The apostle Paul said, “But now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation. ... For it is God which worketh in you” (Philippians 2:12-15). Thus, to be *saved*, we must work out our own salvation. Others can only shed light on what we must do.

The Buddha said, “Be ye lamps unto yourselves. Seek salvation alone in truth. Those who shall not look for assistance to anyone beside themselves, it is they who shall reach the very topmost height.” The *topmost height* is being perfect.

Notice that Jesus also said that the Father doeth the works (The *Father* and *God* being the same). Jesus’ Father dwelled within him. Similarly, *our Father* dwells within us. Jesus said, “**The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself, but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works**” (John 14:10).

Jesus also said, “**Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world**” (John 10:36). To be sanctified is to be saved. This is what Moses said to do: “Sanctify yourselves.” When we have sanctified ourselves, we are perfect; we *are saved*.

Thus, to discover the truth that sets us free — to be saved; to purify our heart — we must be still and commune — and understand — with our heart. *Purify* is another word for *sanctify*.

Have the comments by the apostle Paul and by Jesus been glossed over? Notice that the apostle Paul said, “it is God which worketh in you,” and. Jesus said, “**the Father doeth the works.**” The Father, God and the Lord are all one and the same. The God that dwells within us is the God that knows all about us ... is the *God which worketh in you*.

Can you imagine — can you comprehend — what we might accomplish if we learned to be still and commune with our heart? David the psalmist said, “Be still and commune with your own heart” (Psalms 4:4). That is how we discover the truth that sets us free. That is how we accomplish any of the things listed above.

When we do either one of the things listed above, we have a pure heart. When our heart is pure, we are as perfect as Jesus said to be. Jesus said, “**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect**” (Matthew 5:48). Notice that Jesus said, “**your Father which is in heaven.**” Jesus also said, “**The kingdom of God [heaven] is within you**” (Luke 17:21).

The apostle Paul said, “All scripture [the entire Bible] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *That the man of God*

may be perfect” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). *The man of God* is one who believes and does what Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do — one who does any one of the things listed above.

The apostle James said, “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8). When we are double minded, we are divided in our psyche; divided between our true divine spiritual self and our fearful, false ego-self. The Apostle Paul said, “There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:44).

The Apostle Paul also said, “With the mind I myself serve the law of God: but with the flesh the law of sin” (Romans 7:25) .. *flesh* being another word for the false-ego self.

We are no longer double minded when we have purified our heart. When our heart (our subconscious mind) is pure, then we can say about ourselves what Jesus said about himself: **“I and my Father are one”** (John 10:30) ... the same thing as being unified with God.

Something else that you might think about: Do you know any modern-day spiritual teachers who are teaching people how to do the thing they must do to be saved? Just imagine what we, our families, our nation and the entire world would be like if we, individually and collectively, did what Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do. The world would be in peace and harmony.

Jesus understood this when he told his disciples: **“Go ye into the entire world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”** (Mark 16: 15-16).

Note that Jesus said, ***the entire world and every creature***. That includes everyone. Jesus also said, **“He that believeth.”** From the teachings of fundamentalists, it does not seem that they believe what Jesus said. They are not teaching the gospel that Jesus told his disciples to preach to every creature in the entire world.

Some fundamentalists are teaching such things as: Take Christ into your heart; accept Jesus as your savior; Jesus walked on water; Jesus took our sins on himself; Jesus arose from being dead; heaven and hell are places where people go after they die. False teachings go on and on and on.

Moreover, fundamentalists believe the myth about the virgin birth. Fundamentalists teach the false beliefs that were drummed into them during early childhood. It is somewhat like being brain washed.

Learn the truth. Although Jesus was one of the greatest spiritual teachers, he did not walk on water. The passage about Jesus and Peter walking on the sea was based on a vision. The symbolic images in dreams and visions are not reality.

Let us face it. False teachings are stumbling blocks to being saved and having peace and joy. As things are, there are more than 250 denominations in Christianity ... because of different beliefs. And, no denomination is teaching clearly how to do the things Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do. Simply put, Jesus said, “Be perfect.” Do you know of any modern day church in which people are taught how to be perfect?

Jesus said, **“Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say”** (Luke 6:46).

Unfortunately, people are doing today what Jesus said people were doing about 2,000 years ago. Jesus said, **“People honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups, and many other such like things ye do. ... Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition”** (Mark 7:6-9).

Note that Jesus said that it is in vain to worship him. Those who worship the man Jesus are not a true worshipper. Jesus explained what the true worshippers worship. A *true worshipper* is one who does what Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do.

Jesus said, **“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth”** (John 4:23). Remember, our Father dwells within us.

Jesus also said, **“Get thee behind me, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”** (Luke 4:8). *Our Father* and *the Lord thy God* are the same. In addition, whatever name we call it, it is within us. Either we are serving God that dwells within us or we are abiding by Satan within us (our fearful, false ego-self). It is one or the other. Like being wet or dry, we cannot be both at the same time.

Regarding what is within us, notice what David the psalmist said: “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and **all that is within me**; The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation; He restoreth my soul; **Forget not all his benefits**; who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me; O Lord, my strength, and my **redeemer**” (Emphasis added; *redeemer* is another word for *savior*).

Think about all the benefits to be derived from being still and communing with our *heart*. The source of mental turmoil and suffering is in our subconscious mind. In addition, the source of peace and joy is in our subconscious mind. We enjoy peace and joy

when we purify our heart ... when we obliterate the devils from our heart.

Jesus said, **“In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you”** (John 14:2). In our language, *our Father’s house* is *our subconscious mind*. Whether we are suffering mental turmoil or enjoying perfect peace and contentment depends on the way we believe and think in our *heart* (our subconscious mind).

The prophet Solomon said, “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:6-7). We could say, “As a man thinketh in his subconscious mind, so is he.” The *subconscious mind* is the *secret place of the most high* referred to by David the Psalmist.

A method I used that helped me understand the Holy Scriptures is assembling and assimilating related passages. By use of a computer and software with the Bible on it, I searched for selected words and phrases. I searched for the words *heaven*, *hell*, and the phrase *kingdom of God* (same thing as *heaven*). These words and the phrase *kingdom of God* appear 815 times in the Bible. I did not find a passage that indicates that heaven and hell are places where people go after they die ... what fundamentalists believe and teach.

Fundamentalists never seem to question their false beliefs. For example, how could *heaven* be a place where Christians go after they die? Remember, Jesus said, **“The kingdom of God [heaven] is within you.”**

The apostle Paul said, “The kingdom of God is righteousness, and peace, and joy” (Romans 14:17). There is no place we can find inner serenity, peace and joy, except within us. Ralph Waldo Emerson, essayist and poet, said, “Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.”

Buddha said, “Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.”

To enjoy peace within us — to enjoy heaven within us — we must obliterate the devils within us. Jesus said, **“If I cast out devils, then the kingdom of God is come unto you”** (Matthew 12:28) ... meaning the moment the devils are cast out. Jesus was speaking about the present. We free ourselves from the devils within us by discovering the truth that sets us free.

Let us face it! Most of the false beliefs of fundamentalists were derived from a literal interpretation of what Jesus and other biblical teachers taught. Fundamentalists *strain at a gnat and swallow a camel*, trying to make their false beliefs seem true. It is impossible to prove that a false belief is true. Thus, fundamentalists study, study, and study on and on and on and never learn to do what Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do. Instead of teaching the

Gospel, fundamentalists do what Jesus said they do: **“teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”**

Fundamentalists seem to believe that Jesus was sent down from heaven as God in human flesh. We know from the teachings of Jesus that he was *sent* by his *Father*. The prophets of the Old Testament were *sent* by the *Lord* ... same thing, just different words.

Moses said, “Hereby ye shall know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of mine own mind” (Numbers 16:28).

Isaiah said: “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek. He hath *sent me* to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound ... to comfort all that mourn” (Isaiah 61:1-2).

The prophet Jeremiah said unto all the princes and to all the people: “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard. ... the Lord hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears” (Jeremiah 26:12-15). Incidentally, John was also sent from God: “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” (John 1:6).

Jesus said, **“I do nothing of myself, but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. ... He that sent me is with me; the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”** Moreover, Jesus said, **“I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father who hath sent me”** (John 5:30).

Jesus also said, **“The word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me”** (John 14:24). And, Jesus said, **“Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me”** (John 7:33). When Jesus meditated, he went unto his Father.

In addition, Jesus said to his disciples, **“For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaketh in you”** (Matthew 10:20). Fundamentalists do not make this clear; however, *our Father* is within us.

Although the churches provide a great benefit to our society, there are serious shortcomings. There are many respectable, honorable people in the churches. Otherwise, our nation would have already been *utterly wasted*. However, hypocrites far outnumber the respectable, honorable people. The hypocrites wear their mask, pretending to be something they are not — pretending to be different from the way they believe and think in their heart. Jesus said, **“By their fruits ye shall know them”** (Matthew 7:20).

Thus, the churches have failed to help the masses do first what Jesus said to do first: **“Cleanse first that which is within the**

cup and platter” (Matthew 23:26) ... the same thing as purifying our heart, what the apostle James said to do.

Fundamentalists are long overdue for teaching true biblical teachings in a manner people understand, believe and embody.

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, was criticized because he did not accept the false teachings of the church. Speaking about Jesus and his teachings, Jefferson said:

“When, in short, we shall have unlearned everything that has been taught since his day, and got back to the pure and simple doctrines he inculcated, we shall then be truly and worthily his disciples; and my opinion is that if nothing had ever been added to what flowed purely from his lips, the whole world would at this day have been Christian.” (*The Gospel According to Jesus* by Stephen Mitchell).

Still today, fundamentalists are not teaching clearly, what Jesus said.

Leo Tolstoy, Russian writer and moral philosopher, said:

“The true Christian teaching is very simple, clear, and obvious to all, as Jesus said. But it is simple and accessible only when man is freed from the falsehood in which we were all educated, and which is passed off upon us as God’s truth. ... When, at the age of fifty, I first began to study the Gospels seriously, I found in them the spirit that animates all who are truly alive. ... When I perceived that only light enables men to live, I sought the source of this light. And I found it in the Gospels, despite the false teachings of the church. And when I reached this source of light, I was dazzled by its splendor, and I found in it answers to all my questions about life.” (Source: *The Gospel According to Jesus* by Stephen Mitchell).

False religious beliefs are not sacred; they are not holy; they are not spiritual ... they are not true. False religious beliefs are stumbling blocks to discovering the truth that sets us free ... a stumbling block to understanding the Gospel that Jesus preached ... a stumbling block that impedes people from being saved and having peace and joy.

One of the greatest contributions that religious teachers could possibly make to humanity is to teach the Gospel that Jesus commanded his disciples to preach to every creature in the entire world ... teaching in a manner that people can understand and believe. Those who believe and do what Jesus said to do are saved. They have no evil in their heart.

However, Satan hangs on tenaciously, making that which is true seem false and that which is false seem true. Historically, those who preached the truth were punished and executed. Jesus and all his disciples, except John, who was in prison, were punished and executed, because they were preaching the gospel truth.

H. L. Mencken, Journalist, critic, and essayist, said:

“For the habitual truth-teller and truth-seeker, indeed, the whole world has very little liking. He is always unpopular, and not infrequently his unpopularity is so excessive that it endangers his life. ... Run your eye back over the list of martyrs, lay and clerical; nine-tenths of them, you will find, stood accused of nothing worse than honest efforts to find out and announce the truth” (From *The Vintage Mencken*, by Alistair Cooke).

A few years ago, fundamentalists burned copies of a report about the book, *The Five Gospels: What Did Jesus Really Say?* The book was written by biblical scholars: Robert W. Funk, Roy W. Hoover, and The Jesus Seminar.

The apostle Paul said, “The kingdom of God is righteousness, and peace, and joy” (Romans 14:17). This is more straight forward and clear than Jesus’ description of *heaven*. Jesus said, “**The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened**” (Matthew 13:33). Jesus also said, “**The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son**” (Matthew 22:2).

Perhaps there is no religious teacher today who will do what Jesus did. Jesus spoke clearly to Pharisees, scribes, fools, hypocrites, heathen, and *blind guides* (false teachers). Jesus said, “**Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. ... Many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. ... Ye blind guides, who strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. ... For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. ... Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity**” (Matthew 23:13-27).

Let us face it! Many people, including so-called Christians, wear a mask pretending to be righteous, loving, and helpful; pretending to be something they are not. Let us pay attention to what Jesus said:

- “**The kingdom of God is within you**” (Luke 17:21).
- “**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all things will be added**” (Matthew 6:33).
- “**Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter**” (Matthew 23:26).

- “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).
- “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).
- “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say” (Luke 6:46).
- “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

It is like being born again when we *clean the inside of the cup and the platter*. Then we are pure in heart. Then we are in harmony with the truth that sets us free — free from the Satan within us, the hidden cause of obscure fear, suffering, and destruction.

As things are, notice the conditions of our society. Note how Don McAlvany, author of *Storm Warning: The Coming Persecution of Christians and Traditionalists in America*, described America:

The United States of America, the greatest nation in the history of the world up until a few decades ago, is in decline in every way that a nation can be—economic, financial, social, political, moral, spiritual. We lead the world in divorce, violent crime, drug usage, pornography, promiscuity, illegitimate births, homosexuality, abortion, teenage pregnancies, teenage suicide, alcoholism, child abuse, and per capita prison population.

We have the most corrupt government in our history, but the great majority of Americans (including Christians) do not really care, because they feel prosperous, and because the morals of our leaders simply reflect the morals of our people.

Does that describe a Christian nation? The subject book was published in 1999. Are not things much worse now?

Think about it. All those things would eventually fade away if we understood, believed, and did what Jesus and other biblical teachers said. Our families would be stable, harmonious, functional, and they would stay together. Things would be the way they are meant to be.

In an article appearing in the July 2007, issue of Newsmax magazine, Dr. Laura Schlesinger said:

“Our American society is becoming alarmingly ugly and dangerous. ... Our society has become a meaner, harsher, and more dangerous place than ever before. I do not know what can turn it back.”

The gospel of peace that Jesus preached — and what other biblical teachers said — have the potential for turning it back ... if only spiritual teachers teach what Jesus and other biblical teachers taught, teaching in a manner people believe, understand and do what biblical teachers said to do.

Let us face it. With all the crime, violence and destruction; with about 90 percent of American families being dysfunctional; with all the false teachings of fundamentalists and on and on and on, we (individually and collectively) are not worshipping the lord thy God. Remember Jesus said, “**Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**”

Peace, love, joy, contentment, and perfection would be the norm, if people understood, believed, and did what Jesus and other biblical teachers said.

Jesus said, “**Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand**” (Matthew 12: 25). Let us face it. We, our families and our society are divided. As things are, our nation is crumbling from within. Forces have been at work for the past several years that are dividing us more than ever. The way things are going, how long will America as we know it today last?

It seems that Kuwaiti women have observed something about our society that either we have not observed or we have not acknowledged and admitted. During the occupation of Kuwait, Iraq’s military forces rounded up Kuwaiti men, taking them as hostages and killing many of them. Many of the Kuwaiti men went into hiding. The women, *not subjected to the same danger as the men*, found it necessary to go out into the streets to find food for their family.

This experience seemed to have reminded Kuwaiti women of liberated American women. However, the Kuwaiti women are not interested in using American women as an example. A Kuwaiti woman being interviewed on TV said something like, “We put the family first. The liberation of American women has meant the dissolution of the American family.”

It is understandable why feminists have gotten on the wrong track, trying to change the role of women, trying to change society and the very world itself.

Primarily, the feminist movement began because of the intolerable conditions of our society in which women have found themselves. However, following the whims of the false ego-self is not the solution. The ultimate end of the search for perfect peace is becoming as perfect as Jesus said to be.

To begin with, the ugly, deplorable, destructive conditions in our society would not have materialized had religious teachers been teaching for the past 2,000 years what Jesus and other biblical teachers taught. If things were the way they are meant to be (in harmony with truth, God and nature), mothers would be ecstatically happy and contented caring for their babies and giving them the love and nurturing that children require for being peaceful, happy

and contented ... with no evil in their hearts. In due time, peace, love and joy would encompass the entire world.

Women have the power to transform a dangerous, risky world to one of peace and harmony.

As things are, no one seems interested in knowing why America's families are disintegrating ... why 90 percent of America's families are dysfunctional. No one seems interested in knowing what is required for having happy, loving, stable families.

Hillary Clinton wrote the book, *It Takes a Village*. The subject book was followed by a book by Dr. Stephen P. Dixon, *It Doesn't Take A Village*.

Briefly, a loving, happy, stable family takes a loving, happy, contented mother — abiding by her true feminine nature — and giving her children adequate love and nurturing. The condition of our families determines the condition of our society. Let us face it: Our society is pathetic.

The following article is in the May 25, 2016, issue of the Knoxville News-Sentinel (from the USA Today): “Study: it's OK to let baby ‘cry it out.’” According to a new study of the controversial, sleep method of letting a child *cry it out* — to cry until a child drifts off to sleep — does not cause long term emotional problems” ... according to the *new study*.

Let us face it. No one knows what such a cruel, inhumane treatment can cause in a child. The negative impact — whatever it might be — will remain with a child for the rest of its life ... unless — somewhere along the way — he/she discovers the truth that sets him/her free.

The subject study demonstrates how ignorant many are about rearing children. A loving, happy contented mother will not let her baby *cry it out*. A baby that gets adequate love does not cry unless the baby has a pain or is hungry.

In his book, *The Magical Child*, Joseph C. Pearce said, “In Uganda, bonding of the child with the mother comes easily, freely, and naturally. The Ugandan mothers keep their infants with them at all times.”

In addition, in his second book, *The Bond of Power*, Pearce said: “The problems I address in my book, *The Magical Child*, have worsened sharply in the four years since I completed it, until any hope of solution seems remote to our time.”

In Uganda, where mothers keep their babies with them all the time, a crying child is a rarity, according to Pearce.

Anyone desiring to know how to rear loving, happy, contented children should read these two books.

Babies are not born into this world with emotional problems. They develop emotional problems from parents who have emotional

problems. The screaming child, pitching a temper tantrum, try to get its way, is a child who does not get adequate love.

Love has the power to transform the world. For the most part, children learn to love from the experience of being loved. For the most part, children get this experience from being loved by a happy, loving mother — who is simply abiding by her true feminine nature.

Jesus was asked the question: “Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?” (Matthew 22:36). Jesus said, “**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind**” (Matthew 22:37).

Jesus quoted from Moses who said the same thing almost 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus (Deuteronomy 6:5). However, Jesus added to what Moses said: “**This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets**” (Matthew 22:38-39).

The problem is that we cannot love with all our heart if our heart is not pure — if we are not as perfect as Jesus and other biblical teachers said to be. The child who gets unconditional love from a happy, contented, loving mother has a pure heart ... the way a child is born into this world.

(A father plays an important role in the family; this is explained in the book: *Listening to Ourselves — The Key to Everything that Matters*).

The Apostle John said, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). Note that “fear hath torment.” Hell is characterized by a fearful, tormented mind — a mind out of harmony with truth, God and nature.

Some fundamentalists believe that we have a sinful nature. On the contrary, we were born into this world spiritually perfect, created in the image and likeness of God. Jesus said, “**Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven**” (Matthew 18:3). Little children are born into this world pure in heart; spiritually perfect. Perfection is required for loving with all our heart — the way Moses and Jesus said to love.

Perhaps the words of the apostle James are simple and clear: “Purify your hearts, ye double minded” (James 4:8). When our heart is pure, we have no evil in our heart ... we are perfect. Can you imagine a society — a world — in which people are perfect ... the way Jesus said to be ... the way everyone inherently desires to be.

If you cringe at the word *perfect*, being perfect is simply abiding by that which is true ... the only thing that brings us perfect peace, contentment and happiness ... deep within the soul of our being, what everyone inherently desires.

The Apostle Paul said, “Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you” (2 Corinthians 13:11).

Instead of teaching us how to be perfect, fundamentalists would have us believing that we cannot be as perfect as Jesus was.

Perhaps fundamentalists arrived at their belief because of what the apostle Paul said about the Jews and the Gentiles: “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ... All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God ... Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace have they not known” (Romans 3:10-23).

While it is true that our society is similar to what the apostle Paul said about the Jews and the Gentiles, this does not mean that we cannot be as perfect as Jesus said to be. What Jesus said is worth repeating. Jesus said, **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”** (Matthew 5:48).

When we are as perfect as Jesus said to be, then we can love with all our heart ... the way Moses and Jesus said to love. Sophocles, dramatist of ancient Athens, said, “One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life; that word is love.”

The prophet Isaiah said, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee” (Isaiah 26:3). Our mind is *stayed on thee* (stayed on God that dwells within us) when our heart is pure. And, we have peace and joy.

Stop! Think for a moment! The prophets of the Old Testament knew what would save us and bring us peace, joy and happiness a few thousand years ago. As intelligent as we would like to think we are, why do we, individually and collectively, not understand and do what biblical teachers said to do? Doing what biblical teachers said to do brings us what everyone inherently desires: Peace, joy and happiness.

As things are, many people have tried many things, trying to find peace. Many have tried moving from one church to another. Many have tried personal growth groups. Many have tried psychics, astrology, witchcraft, and psychiatry. Millions have bought self-help books and on and on and on. Some of those who have tried therapy have become *lifers*. A *lifer* is one who gets therapeutic help for several years; some get therapy for more than 10 years.

In comparison with all the stuff that people try, trying to find peace, the solution that will not fail is comparatively simple. A few thousand years ago, **in two words**, Moses left us the wisdom for finding peace, love, joy and happiness: **“Sanctify yourselves.”**

When we have sanctified ourselves, we have obliterated obscure fear, hatred, anger, jealousy (the green eyed monster), mental

turmoil, suffering and destruction. All that is ugly and deplorable is replaced with peace, joy and righteousness. Again, the apostle Paul said, “The kingdom of God is righteousness, and peace, and joy” (Romans 14:17).

All that one must do to find peace, love, joy and happiness is to *be still* and commune with their heart — and discover the truth that sets one free. Jesus said, **“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:32).

The following comment is on the back cover of the first book I wrote, *Listening to Ourselves: The Key to Everything that Matters*: “You cannot follow the 30-day program in this book, practicing the exercises conscientiously, without discovering truth ... or at least be well on your way.”

Simply put, spiritual teachers are not teaching people how to discover truth ... at least, they are not making it clear. Jesus said, **“Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many”** (Matthew 24: 4-11).

Let us face it! Many false teachers have deceived many millions of people. People desire genuine peace and happiness; not just being happier. People desire to be free of their anger; not just managing and controlling their anger. Deep within the soul of our being, everyone desires perfect peace.

The apostle Paul, speaking about people who are not true believers said they are: “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ... so do these also resist the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7-8).

When we have discovered the truth that sets us free, we have purified our heart (our subconscious mind). When our heart is pure, we have no evil in our heart. Only good — peace, truth, love and joy — comes from a pure heart. There is no such person as a loving, happy, evil person.

Jesus said, **“A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things”** (Matthew 12:35).

False teachings impede us from doing the things we must do to be saved; they impede us from finding our way to God. False beliefs impede us from discovering the power within us. Jesus said, **“I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you”**(Matthew 17:20). Do you not believe that you can save yourself?

Jesus also said, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father”** (John 14: 12).

Note that Jesus said, “because I go unto my Father.” We too, can — and we must — go unto our *Father* if we are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. The power works through us according to the way we believe and think in our heart. We know more about the way we believe and think in our heart than anyone else. Moreover, we know from the teachings of Jesus that *it is done unto us as we believe*.

Dr. Joseph Murphy, internationally respected as a metaphysician and religious counselor, wrote the book, *The Power of Your Subconscious Mind*. In this book, Dr. Murphy has a chapter titled, “The Treasure House Within You.” And, he quoted from William James, the father of American psychology: “The power to move the world is in your subconscious mind.”

We would do well to keep simple things simple. Discovering truth is comparatively simple. To be saved — to be pure in heart — one must be still and commune and understand with their heart. However, *being still* is more than just sitting still and closing our eyes. We must retreat to the quiet place within referred to by David the psalmist as the *secret place of the most high*. Thus, we are to pay attention to the insights and visions coming from our subconscious mind.

Something to think about: Where did the prophets of the Old Testament get their wisdom a few thousand years ago, except from within themselves?

Perhaps one of the explanations for the prophets of the Old Testament and Jesus gaining wisdom and understanding several hundred years ago is the fact that they became still and *communed with their heart* (the subconscious mind). If you learn to tame your mind and meditate, you will see visions. If you see the image of a person, you are seeing a vision. If you remain still and pay attention, you will understand why this person appears in your vision. This is how you gain wisdom and understanding from your visions — noticing and paying attention to the insights to come to you when you *are still*.

Getting wisdom from within requires *being still*. The prophets of the Old Testament gained wisdom by being still and communing with the Lord. Jesus gained wisdom from being still and *going to his Father within himself* (the same thing that the prophets of the Old Testament did ... just different words).

In addition, Jesus gained considerable knowledge and understanding from studying the teachings of the prophets of the Old Testament. Fundamentalists seem to believe that the entire Bible is about Jesus. They seem to believe that the Old Testament is a forecast of the messiah and that Jesus is the messiah.

Two of the most significant passages in the Bible came from Moses and Isaiah. One of the most significant passages is about loving the way Moses said to love (quoted by Jesus in the passage mentioned above).

The other passage is by Isaiah: “Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; so that they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and **understand with their heart**, and convert, and be healed”(Isaiah 6: 8-10).

Jesus said essentially the same thing; however, he concluded his passage with: “**should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them**” (Matthew 13:14-15)

In the statement by Jesus, we can replace the pronoun *I* with the word *truth*. To understand some of the things Jesus said, we must pay attention to his use of the personal pronouns *I*, *me* and *my*. We are saved by *truth*. Jesus said, “**Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth**” (John 17:17).

The subject passage by Isaiah is significant because it is the *secret* for discovering the truth that sets us free. The key for discovering the truth that sets us free is *understanding* with *our heart* (the subconscious mind). To understand with our heart we must be *still*.

Regarding visions, a huge portion of the Bible is based on visions. Most all (if not all) of the biblical book, “Revelation to John,” is based on visions. The *red-lettered* passages (in red lettered editions of the Bible) in the “Revelation to John” are not the words of Jesus. These are things that came to John in visions. Jesus was not in prison with John.

Most likely, we will never know the meaning of some of those visions. Once you learn to be still and enter the quiet place within that David the psalmist referred to as the *secret place of the most high*, most likely, you will see symbolic images in visions. No one other than you would understand some of the symbolic images unless you explained your vision.

In addition, you might have trouble understanding some of your visions. Like the Apostle Peter when he went upon the house top to pray, he saw symbolic images in his vision. After seeing the vision: “Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean” (Acts 10:17).

Similarly, the prophet Daniel had difficulty understanding his visions. Daniel said, “... when I, *even* I Daniel, had seen the vision, and *sought for the meaning*” (Daniel 8:15).

Never the less, we too can gain wisdom and understanding from visions. However, we must be still, pause and pay attention. Without pausing and paying attention, the insights pass us by like

the white puffy clouds that pass by overhead; we do not notice them unless we pause and pay attention.

Visions are similar to dreams. The symbolic images in dreams and visions are not reality. Similarly, the *angels* that appear in visions are not reality; however, they have meaning for us, if only we are still and pay attention and get an understanding of why an *angel* appeared.

Know this to be true: If you are not living in harmony with truth, God and nature, you have the potential for learning one of the most important lessons life has to offer ... if only you will be still and pay attention. You have the potential for discovering the truth that sets you free; the potential for saving yourself; the potential for finding perfect peace, joy and happiness.

Jesus said, “**Seek, and ye shall find**” (Luke 11:9). Jesus also said, “**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all things will be added**” (Matthew 6:33). *All things* include peace and joy. Jesus was speaking about the present. If we do not seek *now*, when will we seek? The inner serenity, peace, joy and happiness that everyone inherently desires is discovered by seeking within us.

The prophet Solomon said, “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom; and with all thy getting, get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7). We get wisdom and understanding by being still and communing with our heart.

The apostle Paul said, “Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). We have been transformed— we have renewed our mind — when we purify our heart. It is like being born again.

David the Psalmist said, “In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me” (Psalms 120:1), and “O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me” (Psalms 30:2).

The only way we can *cry unto the Lord* — the only way we can *call upon the name of the Lord* — is by *being still*. Jesus said, “**When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly**” (Matthew 6:6).

Our Father which is in secret is in our subconscious mind. When we have *shut thy door*, we are *still*. That is when we can commune with our Father.

David the Psalmist said, “Be still and commune with your own heart.” *Being still* and communing with our heart (our subconscious mind) is how we:

- Discover the truth that sets us free.
- Become as perfect as Jesus said to be.
- Gain wisdom and understanding for being as perfect as Jesus said to be.

- Do what Jesus said to do first: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God.”
- Clean the inside of the cup and the platter.
- Cast the devils from our heart.
- Change the way we believe and think in our heart. Solomon said, “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”(Proverbs 23:6-7).
- Find peace, joy, and happiness.
- Are transformed by the renewing of our mind: What the apostle Paul said to do.
- Do what Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do (any one of the passages listed at the beginning of this essay).

Doing the things that Jesus and other biblical teachers said to do is comparatively simple. Think about it. All we must do is be still and pay attention. Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29).

There is nothing as simple as living in harmony with truth, God and nature ... the only thing that brings us the perfect peace that everyone inherently desires ... the way things are meant to be.

On the contrary, there is nothing that causes us the most stress, struggle, mental turmoil, suffering and destruction than serving the Satan within us ... our fearful, false ego-self.

As it is, fundamentalists have complicated that which is simple. We would be saved if we became still and communed —*and understood* — with our heart. It is that simple.

Things became complicated by fundamentalists letting false beliefs lead to other false beliefs. For example, Jesus did not walk on water. Moreover, he did not arise from being dead.

Most of the false beliefs about the death of Jesus and arising from being dead evolved from visions that women saw (women who were early at the sepulcher).

“It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not” (Luke 24:10-11).

Notice that the apostles, who were devoted followers of Jesus, did not believe what the women said. Yet today, fundamentalists seem to believe what the women said.

Also, note this passage: “Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulcher; and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive” (Luke 24:22-23). They were talking about a vision, not reality.

In a vision, an angel said, “I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen ... go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead.” (Matthew 28:2-7).

If fundamentalists believe that Jesus actually became alive after he died, it seems that they also believe that the disciple John became alive after he was beheaded. King Herod said, “It is John, whom I beheaded; he is risen from the dead” (Mark 6:16).

The disciples did not understand the meaning of the word *risen*: “And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean” (Mark 9:10).

Something else to think about: Several hundred years before the teachings of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah left the wisdom for achieving peace with other nations. Isaiah’s wisdom would help our elected leaders achieve peace with other nations, if our leaders are honest, trustworthy, truthful and humble – and desired genuine peace.

Moreover, Isaiah’s wisdom for achieving peace involves no bloodshed, no destruction, no loss of lives, no preconditions. In addition, the cost is nil.

Genuine peace is achieved by peaceful means. The peace achieved by fighting wars is not the same as genuine peace. Achieving peace by fighting wars stimulates nations to build up their military and prepare for war. This approach has resulted in the world being stock piled with enough nuclear weapons to kill everyone in the entire world.

Because of the power of this great nation and the manner in which our leaders negotiate (requiring preconditions, keeping options on the table, having a hidden agenda, and so forth), our nation has played a huge part in the stock piling of nuclear weapons of war.

An example of how our leaders operate occurred when the President of North Korea (the father of the present president), requested a meeting with our nation's president. The Secretary of State would not agree with a meeting, unless about a half dozen of our allies were at the meeting. The president of North Korea was not interested in that type of a meeting.

Later, the former president of North Korea explained why North Korea developed nuclear bombs: “to deter a U.S. attack” (According to an article by the Associated Press, January 1, 2010).

Even if our nation has no intention of attacking North Korea, a question remains: Why does North Korea fear an attack by the United States?

Would the vast majority of the citizens of the United States prefer that our leaders try reasoning together with leaders of other

nations before engaging in war with them? Everyone hates war. Everyone desires peace.

Incidentally, former Iranian President Ahmadinejad tried three times to meet with the President of the United States to reason together about “critical international issues.”

In 2007, President Ahmadinejad said: “Before coming to New York, I announced that I am ready, in the United States, to engage in a debate with Mr. Bush, the president of the United States, about the critical international issues. So that shows that we want to talk, having a debate before the world public – before all the audience, so *that truth is revealed*, so that misunderstandings and misperceptions are removed, so that we can find a clear path for brotherly and friendly relations. I think that if the U.S. administration – if the U.S. government puts aside some of its *old behaviors*, it can *actually be a good friend for the Iranian people*, for the Iranian nation.” (Emphasis added).

President Ahmadinejad was rebuffed. The leaders in Washington would have us think that President Ahmadinejad is an evil leader ... an enemy of this nation.

From hearing him speak and reading three of his speeches, I found nothing to indicate that Ahmadinejad is an evil leader. On the contrary, he is an honorable, respectable, intelligent leader who is genuinely interested in having peace in the world.

Would we not like for *truth to be revealed*, so that misunderstandings and misperceptions are removed, so that we can find a clear path for brotherly and friendly relations, rather than being on the brink of war with Iran? Would we not like to know what our old behaviors are that other nations resist?

Although Ahmadinejad was rebuffed three times, the U.S. Secretary of State said: “Iran ... has rebuffed U.S. and international efforts to engage in serious talks.” This comment was in an article by the Associated Press, dated, February 15, 2010.

Do our leaders have to remain in the catbird seat and get everything their way? *Their way* has contributed to the world being on the path to the *end of mankind* (the italicized words are from former President Kennedy, mentioned below).

The previous requests of Iranian President Ahmadinejad were for *serious talks* to solve problems, *so that misunderstandings and misperceptions are removed, so that we can find a clear path for brotherly and friendly relations*.

Instead of possibly finding a *clear path for brotherly and friendly relations*, think about the quagmire in which we find ourselves with Iran – bringing us closer to a war that could be the end of mankind.

In addition to a possible war with North Korea and Iran, China has manufactured 100 ICBMs with the capability of striking America ... primarily because we are committed to protecting Taiwan. Why did our leaders make such commitment? Of course, we prefer that China not interfere with Taiwan. However, our elected leaders would do well to think about something former President Kennedy said:

“Unconditional war can no longer lead to unconditional victory. It can no longer serve to settle disputes. ... For a nuclear disaster, spread by winds and waters and fear, could well engulf the great and the small, the rich and the poor, the committed and the uncommitted alike. Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind” (*Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations* by John Bartlett).

Wars beget wars. Peace begets peace. Achieving peace by peaceful means is the only way we will ever achieve a genuine lasting peace. There is a peaceful way to achieve genuine peace. At this perilous time in the history of the world, Isaiah’s wisdom is supreme for achieving peace. Isaiah said, “**Come now, and let us reason together**” (Isaiah 1:18).

By far, the best way to end the insanity of preparing for wars and fighting wars is by following the wisdom of Isaiah. If applied with truth, honesty and humility — with no preconditions, no options on the table and no hidden agenda — this gem of wisdom has the potential for bringing peace and harmony to the entire world. The leader who requires preconditions knows nothing about achieving peace by peaceful means.

Although former President Ronald Reagan might not have known that he was following the wisdom of Isaiah, **he did**. And, the results were incredible.

Disregarding the advice of the Washington crowd, President Reagan met with Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union. At that time, the Soviet Union was by far our most formidable foe. President Reagan met with Gorbachev in spite of the fact that his senior adviser wrote him a letter, trying to persuade him not to meet with Gorbachev.

Incidentally, President Abraham Lincoln said: “The way to destroy our enemies is to make them our friends.” This is exactly what President Reagan did.

In an article written by Gorbachev (titled, “Reagan and Me”), Gorbachev said:

“In a dangerous world, and against all odds, the president and I became good partners ... in the best sense of the word. ...I am proud of what we did together

because it brought us closer to abolishing nuclear weapons. And it opened the door to a new kind of cooperation in the world” (Source: Newsmax, February 2011; emphasis added).

Notice the part: “against all odds.” This demonstrates the power of simply meeting and reasoning together; simply desiring genuine peace ... being honest and truthful with no hidden agenda and not requiring preconditions. And the *new kind of cooperation is meeting and reasoning together...* so simple, yet so powerful.

Soon after the meeting with Gorbachev, President Reagan said to Gorbachev, “Tear down this wall.” Soon thereafter, the wall came tumbling down.

President Reagan also said: “We will never stop searching for a genuine peace.” Notice that President Reagan used the words *genuine peace* —by far, more satisfying and beneficial than war, and the cost is nil. The entire world would favor genuine peace, rather the war.

Former President Kennedy also said, “The United States is only six percent of the world’s population, and we have no right to impose our views or even our system of government on the other 94 percent.”

In one of President Ahmadinejad’s speeches to the General Assembly, he used the word *God* thirty three times and with the pronouns referring to God, President Ahmadinejad referred to God 51 times in that 30-minute speech.

The news reporter that I heard about the speech did not mention one word about what President Ahmadinejad said in his speech. Instead, the reporter made it seem like President Ahmadinejad is evil.

In addition to the foregoing, following his speech to the U.N. general assembly (2008), President Ahmadinejad was the guest speaker at a dinner meeting in New York City. This dinner meeting was sponsored by a coalition of Christian organizations, including the *Religions for Peace*, which is active in more than 70 countries. This organization is dedicated to “achieving peace, respecting cultural differences and promoting peaceful co-existence among all people.”

The four following selected comments (from a page full of selected comments) by President Ahmadinejad provide light on his admirable qualities.

- “The only way to the betterment of mankind is by returning to the teachings of the divine prophets.”
- “We do not believe in nuclear weapons. Period. It goes against the whole grain of humanity.”

- Further, President Ahmadinejad suggests that people cleanse themselves from impurities and submit to the will of God. [Note: *Cleansing ourselves from impurities* is the same thing as doing any one of the things listed at the beginning of this essay. If we, individually and collectively, *cleansed ourselves of impurities*, we would be perfect, the way Jesus said to be. In due time, the entire world would be in peace and harmony.
- “All nations are inherently good and can co-exist peacefully.” [Note: Would not it be positive and constructive if our leaders entered into negotiations with this thought in mind?]

As things are in Washington, a goal of our leaders is lowering the number of nuclear weapons. That goal should be abolished. **The new goal should be: Freeing the world of all weapons of war.** This goal would be welcomed by the vast majority of people in the entire world. This goal would be easier to accomplish — and far more desirable — than lowering the number of nuclear weapons.

When elected leaders change the goal and follow the wisdom of Isaiah for achieving genuine peace, in due time, the world will be as Isaiah described: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

Something that fundamentalists should think about: Jesus said, **“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones who believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea”** (Matthew 18:6).

Those words coming from Jesus are almost enough (if not enough) to jolt false teachers (who think they are teaching the truth) into changing their beliefs and their teachings — enough to cause spiritual teachers to do what Jesus told his disciples to do: **“Go ye into the entire world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”** (Mark 16: 15-16).

As things are, fundamentalists teach such things as: Jesus ascended up into Heaven, standing at the right hand of God. And, Jesus came down to earth as God in human flesh. In addition, Jesus arose from being dead. And, Jesus will return ... and so forth.

These things are not based on the things Jesus taught. Jesus said to his disciples, **“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”** (Mathew 28:19-20).

Many people are interested in the topic about the end of the world; yet, they have not bothered to study and understand what Jesus said. The entire world needs the message Jesus left for us.

The Apocalypse captures considerable attention. TIME magazine has a cover article, “THE BIBLE & THE APOCALYPSE — Why more Americans are reading and talking about THE END OF THE WORLD” (July 1, 2002). TIME lists 10 books about the subject, and every one of the books has sold more than 2,000,000 copies. Further, TIME states, “59% believe the prophecies in the Book of Revelation will come true.”

The last statement points to a serious misunderstanding. For the most part, the Book of Revelation is based on visions that the apostle John *saw* when he was in prison. It is highly unlikely that we will ever understand most of the figurative images in those visions. Thus, it is a mistake to predict the end of the world based on those visions.

In view of all the interest expressed in the article in Time, it is somewhat puzzling that fundamentalists do not seem to have an interest in what Jesus said about the end of the world. I have explained clearly what Jesus said in the book, *Perfect Peace: What the Bible is All About*. What Jesus said about the end of the world seems to have been glossed over.

In summary, a top priority of the churches should be teaching people how to sanctify themselves — how to purify their hearts.

Simply put, we purify our heart by being still and communing — and understanding — with our heart. Purifying our heart is the key to *being saved*. When we are saved, we are as perfect as Jesus said to be. Everyone inherently desires perfect peace. **The secret for enjoying perfect peace is being perfect ... the way Jesus said to be.**

When we have obliterated all that is fearful and false from our heart, what remains must be true. Truth saves us. We are saved by discovering the truth that sets us free. Jesus said, **“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth”** (John 17:17).

When spiritual teachers begin teaching people how to purify their hearts — how to be perfect — in due time, Christianity will spread like a sage-brush fire on a dry windy day. Everyone inherently desires peace, joy and happiness. And, the only place to find peace, joy and happiness is within ourselves. And, the only way to find peace, joy and happiness is by being still and communing — and understanding — with our heart.

We would do well to pay attention to what Isaiah said: “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near. ...For ye shall go with joy and be led forth with peace. The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands” (Isaiah 55:6-12).

This beautiful expressive language of Isaiah must refer to *heaven*, which is characterized by peace and joy.

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