THOUGHTS OF NOVEMBER, 2016

First off, there is a move of the Lord going on outside of the customary movement site of “in the church house.” It is not apart from the institutional church, but is the result of the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work on and through full-time, Holy Spirit-ordained workplace ministers often referred to as laymen and laywomen, and explained in Ephesians 4:12-16. The church is becoming spiritually effective wherever it goes.

There are many examples. One such example comes from L. and M. J. who, along with others, have a ministry to hardcore criminals in our local maximum security state prison. They report the increased presence of the Lord in that ministry: “The Lord is doing a mighty work among that fellowship of believers in that very dark place. There is a peace and change on those men’s faces that I would not have understood 8 years ago when we started with this ministry. It has been exciting to see the regulars that always attend every Monday night or second Saturday. L. gets to see that; I only see them three times a year, but the change is evident. They are hungering and thirsting for more that Jesus has to offer. They are sharing what they have learned with their cell mates and people they meet in the yard or cell bloc. There is a boldness to witness that was not there when [name of the prison -- ed.] was rated “worst in Texas.” There are now many Bible study groups being formed. Some led by “free world” men and women and some led by inmates themselves. It is exciting to see that in these last days Jesus is working amongst a population that so many have forgotten or given up on!! To see these men lifting hands during praise music and seeing tears streaming from their eyes is very emotional. Big, tough, hardened criminals don’t cry. That shows weakness. Unless the Holy Spirit shows up and touches their hearts. It’s an exciting time!!”

Perhaps more churches should consider ordaining members of their flock in their callings, following the Lord’s leading.

2. How well have you been eating recently? I’m speaking of your spiritual diet. Overcomers [which does not include every Christian, according to Scripture] eat of the tree of life – the fruit borne of taking up our crosses daily. Others of us choose to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Like were Adam and Eve, we are allowed to eat from either tree. When we eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil we are walking in the flesh where, even as Christians, we can choose to eat permanently! When we do, we have yielded to the self-life.

I think that many of us do that without knowing it; or wobble in and out of it without knowing the difference. It can also happen because we actually reject the tree of life for the tree which is described [by deceived eyes] as being “good, delightful, and desirable” – Gen. 3:6. It looks like the right way to live, to make decisions, to be successful. Looking at the world through the lenses of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the cross is obviously less desirable!! From there the cross doesn’t look like a tree of life at all! How can we blame Eve for her mistake?! But she was deceived; she was wrong; she made the wrong decision. We find ourselves in the same situation when we do not appreciate and eat of the food of our and Jesus’ crosswalk .

3. Guys, when you love your wife you will love no other woman. Likewise, when you love your Lord, you will love no other “god.” When you love the one, you will not allow anyone or anything else to take her or His place; not for a glance, not for a night. You will actually hate anything that or anyone who rises up in an attempt to take her or His place. Once that is settled within you, the battle is [mostly] over – “As for me, I will love her/the Lord.” An actual sense of despise of our flesh will arise when the temptation comes – Matt. 6:24. That’s both biblical and a personal testimony.

4. When a scientist is on track for a scientific breakthrough he will do almost anything to find the truth that is being dangled out there somewhere before him, almost within reach. In his quest, his sense of value of that truth urges him to challenge even established truths. That truth is “at hand” and his mind is open, is expansive, is guided in the direction of the new, nearly-revealed truth. The Spirit of truth does that in all areas of life, not only in science and obviously spiritual areas. Jesus told us that the Spirit of truth would guide us into all truth. He does.

In the years of my medical practice I saw Him do that many times, but I had to sacrifice something to come to that receptive place. I had to be ready to be foolish in the eyes of myself, my fellow physicians, and others. But it paid off. The Spirit of truth was conversive [new word, meaning “very willing to communicate”] and full of information. He still is. See Thought No. 22.

5. Very soon after they left Egypt, the Lord told Israel to go into the Promised Land. They decided to not go, and they actually did not go. After they had been duly chastised verbally for their disobedience, they went in hurriedly, and were driven back into their wilderness life. Their lesson for us: When the Lord says to do something, do it promptly. That’s when His iron is hot. All things are ready and lined up for victory.

When Abraham was told to sacrifice his son, Isaac, the Lord inserted the little word “now.” Abraham arose early in the morning and began the process. What an example!

6. For years I have heard Christians testify of their occasional anger at the Lord. I never have been able to grasp how a child of God could be angry with Him. His non-family humans, yes; but family, no. Perhaps I have been angry at Him, but cannot see it. At the risk of overstating about myself, I think that it is at least difficult [impossible?] to blame or be mad at the Lord [to pass judgement against Him in any way] if you know Him.

Yes, there are many factors to every weakness, temptation, or life event, but to know Him means to be intimate with Him so that He is continually reproducing Himself in us. That continual process begins as soon as we have been born again. It is difficult [impossible?] to be angry at someone whom you know loves you dearly, has given His life for you, has established a unilateral and eternal covenant with you, and whom you know is continually doing only good things that are of eternal quality for you. Perhaps the problem is that we do not know those facts, so cannot live by them.

Officially, we understand that we have no right or reason to find fault with Him, but on the personal level there is an additional solid prohibition of soul in regards to challenging His wisdom and righteousness as He extends it to us. He has all things in His hands and has considered every factor of all eternity and creation before and when something touches us in any way. He is absolutely the Lord.

7. Holy Spirit life and awareness is wonderful. Without it we can settle into religiosity, which is a deceptive detour or dead end. Because we are still in our humanity, we must have some show and exercise of religion, as had Jesus, but look at His freedom from religiosity and His life in the Spirit. That freedom is for us, also. It is amazing how the Lord deals with our religiosity when we are faithful to Him. He overcomes it with humility [or does humility overcome religiosity?].

8. Revival starts with the Lord first revealing Himself, then some of His essentials for Life, and then His purposes for us individually and as the church. It seems to be a well thought out process for reestablishing some essentials for His kingdom, those that had been lost since His last Holy Spirit revival, so that a new revival can go forward with some purity and endurance.

9. John heard his Friend, the crucified, dead, risen, and reigning Lord Jesus, say to us, “To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.” He intentionally loaded that sentence with exciting attractions to the saints. It points out that we can be overcomers [a believer who allows the Holy Spirit to develop within us the character of Jesus, and allows Him to lead us into the works of Jesus], so we do not have to settle for “just being” born again and headed for heaven when we eventually die. Jesus taught that we should now labor for those rewards which will be given when we get “home.” It is clear that overcomers receive special rewards.

When the Lord spoke of giving overcomers those hidden things, He indicated that we will be surprised when we get there and receive them – sort of like surprise gifts on Christmas that we knew we would receive but were hidden from us for weeks beforehand. Again, those surprises are manna, white stones, and our new name written on our stone. The manna is Jesus, on whom we began feeding on earth, and on whom we will continue feeding forever. The white stones are the overcomers, His righteous and holy building material in His everlasting house. We are there and have a new and everlasting name/presence – Is. 56:4-5. So, there are many hidden things that the Lord uses to entice us into loving Him with the love that He has for us.

10. I enjoy organizations and organization. Things go well when we rely on our sanctified flesh, and on things the Lord has taught us. BUT, there is another way to be organized. It is by walking in the Spirit. The maturing Christian walks more and more in the Spirit, and less and less in the flesh [even less and less in the good aspects of his flesh]. An in-depth, full-time walk in the Spirit is so unnatural but only one Man has done it -- Jesus.

Paul is a good but imperfect example of that spiritual walk. When he was converted, he settled down and spent years living in intimate fellowship with other believers who had settled down for the same reason. The Holy Spirit and that group then sent him out into the Gentile world to spread the gospel. Notice that Paul did not go first to Jerusalem, to the heads of the budding Christian sect, to those who had spiritual seniority, to get their stamp of approval for his unusual ministry – the gospel to the Gentiles.

I know that this Thought can be properly criticized, especially on the basis of the current dysfunctionality of the church, but there is something being offered to us other than living by healthy, biblically informed and educated minds. It is a walk in the Spirit, in which all items of life are heavenly organized and coordinated and productive. That was Jesus’ way of living and we have been sent out like was He – John 17:18; 20:21. Being sent as Jesus was sent means much more than being sent just because He was sent; it means being equipped with the same anointing and gifts in order to accomplish the same [and greater] results. It means a life and labor in the Spirit.

Consider the condition of the church in China. In 1949 the Chinese government put an end to foreign missionaries, seminaries, Bible schools, churches, and all other things Christian. Behind the bamboo curtain all things and persons considered Christian were destroyed. 27 million people were killed, many of whom died only because they were Christians. Then, in 1978 the doors of China were again opened. The world held its breath while looking for any remnant of the Chinese church. After those years of horrendous persecution, the church in China had grown from one million believers to about 30 million. It was amazing. That growth in quantity and quality had occurred without any of the things we of the Western World church have been using, or trying to use, even as our quantity and quality have been diminishing steadily. Nothing like that in China has occurred since the days of the early church.

The gates of hell had not prevailed against the church that Jesus built in China.

As a tacked-on kindred Thought, that which happened in China was very obvious over there because it was a matter of genuine Christianity vs. atheistic communism; a very clear difference. In contrast, here in the Western world we have a battle within that who-so-ever-will organization called the church, made of a mixture of genuine Christianity, of a pleasant, all-inclusive form of religious culture, and of anyone else who wants to be a part of it. To many the parts are indistinguishable. The natural eye cannot see the difference between counterfeit religion and the real thing. Some clues: Real religion can be distinguished by the presence of holy spirituality, hunger for biblical life, and loving sinners while openly countering their sin.

11. Here is a kind of Thought that requires time to ponder. Some of you have already spent hours and years pondering it, as have I. If you gave the Lord all that you are and have, would He do the same to you? A leap in spiritual maturity will come from some “honest time” spent on that thought, perhaps writing down the ways you have, the ways you have not, and your reasons for doing or not doing so. He is offering us much more of Himself than we have received/manifested.

12. Have you ever come to the point of having to lay aside something that is vital to you – such as a theological point? Not just a small point, but a vital one. It’s hard to even be open to change, isn’t it, much less to make the change. That sort of tenacity may be admirable, but not among such as scientists, inventors, architects, and others who press into explorable areas. Closed minds are resistant to the Holy Spirit who has the job of leading us into all truth – John 16:13. He will lead us to our crosses, will help us hold still while we get nailed to them, and will bring life to us and others from those experiences -- life now on earth and life in the hereafter. The alternative? At best, blissful ignorance.

13. What is the next step after having received the revelation that God rules in the kingdoms of man, including in the individual kingdom of each one of us? If you said “living accordingly” you are on your way to a more peaceful productivity, able to get along better with the world and other believers, and even to being in harmony with all of life. If you need to first think about whether it is true, it has not yet come as a revelation. Revelation makes it real, now, for me, for all that I am and have. A revelation does not make us perfect in the matter, but revelation makes it real so that we are able to deal with it as reality and not as only an entertaining thought. It becomes greater than we are. We can see the Lord and His purpose, and us in it.

14. Let’s be careful how we live and teach the Bible. It is easy to teach Christian Law, is it not? Along with the holiness and purity of His word, don’t forget His grace and humility. That’s the balanced lesson Jesus taught the Pharisees, and it is a lesson He teaches us.

I love Scripture and love to teach it “from kiver to kiver.” Many parts seem so clear-cut that I’m tempted to think that the total truth is right there in those few verses. I have often felt that if I softened my stance on those clear verses [in order to consider the deeper issues of hearts present] I would be in danger of weakening those wonderful words. I did not want to destroy the effects of any of those honey-sweet words. But soften them I did; adding grace and humility to their holiness and purity.

Biblically informed minds submitted to the Holy Spirit can sort out that dilemma.

15. What is our first order of business as Christians? It can be said in several ways. The Lord Himself put it this way: “Love the Lord your God with everything you are and have” – my paraphrase. Mary, the brother of Lazarus, had that in proper order. Jesus’ disciples had it right, also. They knew that they had to be with Him, that all good things would flow out of their being with Him, so they left their all and made real their with Him. Mark [3:14] wrote that Jesus appointed the twelve that they might be with Him.

After He returned to heaven He could no longer be with us in His one-person physical body, so He told us beforehand that He would actually and completely be with us, always, in His previous form as Spirit! That’s great because God is a Spirit and Spirit needs the flesh, but only temporarily for important duties – such as us at this time. But He Himself does not need His human body in order to be present and to do whatever He would have done. He now has and uses His body – us. The Holy Spirit continually reminds us of His promise and presence.

As much as our flesh would rather He be here with us in His flesh, we are better off without His physical presence. Now we can walk with Him, talk with Him, and sing with Him full-time anywhere, while every believer in the world can do the same at the same time.

Remember that the Christian’s central project is not to minister, or to learn the Bible, or to fulfill our role in the church, or even to learn about Jesus, but to learn of Jesus from Jesus. He is with us for that purpose.

16. This is certainly not a new Thought, but it needs to be spoken again and again. James [4:6] wrote that the Lord resists the proud. I doubt that James understood that only by revelation. He experienced the Lord’s resistance to his own pride.

Do you recall times when you thought you were resisting the devil but instead were resisting the Lord? It may have been that the devil was doing the work, but the Lord was the architect behind the action, like with Job. A helpful clue, and there are several, is that when we resist the devil he flees from us, but when we resist the Lord He never flees. We are His workmanship, not the devil’s. The devil is a deceived, defeated tool. The Lord God is the All-Mighty. All authority in heaven and on earth has been earned by and given to Jesus the Man who is the eternal Son of God.

God’s resistance may come even when we are on the Lord’s assigned project, but getting off course. It may not be that we have become unrighteous, but that we are simply off course. We may or may not yet be in a tough spot because of our tangent. Thank God for His resistance at those and other times as He carefully watches over us. He resists the proud – that being every one of us, some daily and some only occasionally. Wrestling against Him is a waste of time, effort, resources, etc., because He is on our case for His reasons and our betterment. Isn’t that wonderful!

17. When you look at your wedding ring do you think, “What a downer!?” Of course not. When you look at your being called to bear your cross, what do you think? Is it, “What a downer!” Both our wedding rings and our crosses are reminders of relationships that are full of life and love.

Paul said he died daily – 1 Cor. 15:31. The same opportunity is offered to every believer. Our well-organized and well-supplied lives prevent our living a difficult full-time cross-bearing life, but we have many brief opportunities to choose loving something or someone over loving ourselves. At the same time, we have many brothers and sisters who live their entire lives under the weight of their crosses. I have seen some of them turn their lemon-lives into lemonade, which continues to amaze me. The strength and endurance of their love and God’s grace are unimaginable to my flesh and are beyond my experience. Their cross-bearing lives makes God’s presence obvious. They are testimonies to the availability of God’s grace whenever the Potter calls us to the same.

At the same time that we see others pressing onward into their perfection, some of the more saintly among us may fret at being left to bask in our non-cross bearing comfort zones. If so, fret not! There are “ages to come” during which the Lord will extend to us the ongoing opportunity to be further sanctified – Eph. 2:7.

The work of sanctifying us will be accomplished. He is more glorified by the more we give ourselves over to Him while we are still here in our humanity, needing to feed on love, faith, hope, etc. How, why, and when He does His work are remarkable even in the small amounts we see and understand them, but the best of seeing and understanding are yet ahead. They are part of the “times and seasons” that are reserved in our Father for our later revelation and experience – Acts 1:7. He picks “fullness of time” ripe fruit only.

18. Here is the straight story. We were chosen by the Lord; we did not choose Him – John 15:16(a). Then our soon-to-be Father began drawing us to Himself – John 6:44. Then we became aware of the on-going process and admitted that Jesus is the Lord – 1 Cor. 12:3(b). Just like Jesus came to Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus, the Lord came to us. It was not of ourselves, no matter what the outworked natural process appeared to be – Eph. 2:8-10. Each believer has his/her own testimony of how the process worked in its situational and theological out-showing.

That was just the beginning. Immediately began the process of learning to be led by the Spirit instead of by our newly acquired spiritual, humanly tainted zeal. He, the Spirit, gave us information [the truth] and the power to rely on His information [faith] so that we could be emptied of that which had filled us and instead be filled with that of which we were empty. Fortunately, the process is long for most of us, meaning that we have years to grow into His likeness [lots of question about lots of time being helpful or hurtful], because His project for us is to be made into the fullness of Jesus, both individually and corporately [the church united] – Eph. 4:13.

19. This Thought can be labeled, “So what’s new about that?” The fastest growing churches teach and live the literal interpretation of the Bible. Here are some supporting facts:

 1) Growing churches hold more firmly to the traditional beliefs of Christianity and are more diligent about prayer and Bible reading.

 2) Only half of clergy from declining churches agree that it is very important to encourage non-Christians to become Christians, compared to 100% from growing churches.

 3) 71% of clergy from growing churches read their Bibles daily, compared to 19% from declining churches.

 4) 100% of clergy from growing churches agree that God performs miracles in response to prayers, though only 44% from declining churches agree.

 5) Churches that require more of their members tend to grow and do better than those that ask little from their members.

 6) People flock to those congregations that offer a strong critique of prevailing culture because they offer something that cannot be found elsewhere, which is a message of repentance, transformation, and new life.

You noticed, as did I, that the real stuff was left out of that report, things like Jesus, the gospel, faith, sacrifice, unity, community, love, and other realities. Those are the things that the Lord uses to bring forth the above findings.

20. One of our biggest challenges is in needing to give up something or someone dear in order to receive something or someone more dear. Letting go of that which we have before receiving is contrary to the usual idea of good sense. Usually the challenge is that we may not receive the replacement. So, it boils down to how trustworthy is the one who is making the deal with us. Of course, that One is often invisible, often silent, and never shares with us the whole picture. To respond properly we must make unwise decisions; at least they are unwise in the natural sense.

When dealing with the Lord [or, better said, when the Lord is dealing with us] the wisdom of our humanity is foolishness and leaves us in the weakness of our humanity. Yielding to the Lord produces power through humility. To receive His power we must become weak. That is a life choice and is called the way of the cross. See 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. That which cannot be accomplished by a lifetime of effort is promptly and only accomplished through following Jesus’ call to take up our crosses daily and following in His path. Along that path we find that everything has already been accomplished.

21. This is Thanksgiving Day. When the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock they had a vision for the sharing of their lives, including common ownership of property and its products, and of the wealth to be expected. Their brotherly expectations were shattered. Their problem: they yet possessed their human natures, which rose up and almost put an early end to their community. They found that the sharing of all bred confusion and discontent. There was less incentive to work, there was less production, and everyone was miserable and worse off.

They were a small group, they shared values, they cared for each other, and they had willingly joined in the whole process of life together. Their problem was, and ours still is, that socialism fails in practice wherever it is tried. Where it is tried lightly, it fails lightly and slowly; where it is tried intensely, it fails heavily and quickly. The Plymouth colony had to abandon its communal life in order to survive.

More than two centuries later, Winston Churchill came to the same conclusion, saying, “Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. Its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.” The best insight I have into socialism is that until the righteousness of God adequately subdues the unrighteousness of man [which He has done from time to time], personal responsibility, private property rights, and a free market are necessary for life on our present Earth. The Pilgrims learned that lesson and survived. Nations have not learned it and failed.

22. So, following up on Thought No. 4, the Lord takes pleasure in hiding things so that we will search for them – Prov. 25:2. Then He delights in letting us find them, dangling them before our eyes, if necessary. The key to that process is to put our eyes on Jesus, to look to Him. Remember that He is involved in more than religious things; He is the source of all knowledge and authority and power. He created all that is created [that means all except Him/Them]. He keeps all creation in existence by the force of His will and word. And He will receive all creation when His and our Father tells Him to receive it. In short, He is the key to all wisdom and knowledge – Col. 2:3.

He wants us to be like He is, to know what He knows, and to have what He has [and the next step in the fulfillment of that situation is closer than we might think]. The more we understand/perceive of Him, the more we know of the things of our callings in Him – of family, work, the weather, all times and places and things. The same applied to Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He would have been the best scientist, the best husband and father, the best merchant, the best potato farmer, the best anything – if any of that had been His calling. Why? Because He faithfully did only that which His father told Him to do, which brought with it all that was needed of His Father’s knowledge and power. That means He was informed and led by the same “all truth” Person who informs and leads us.

We cannot circumvent Him in our search for knowledge; the most we can do without Him is to learn from and copy those who have followed and do follow Him. That is shown in such simple ways as the theft of information and copyrights that have become so commonplace, especially internationally [read “other religions or no religion”]. Notice who/which nations are doing the stealing of basic discoveries from Christian nations. [America steals information mainly in order to stay informed about other nations, especially enemies, but our enemies steal information from us mainly in order to learn our newest inventions.]

 Yes, He is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Those nations most embedded in God’s Word by the Holy Spirit over generations, centuries, and millennia have had their overall thinking, biblically informed and spiritually sensitive minds formed toward God’s mind. The Lord told the Jews that He would make them the head of the nations, not the tail, if they would obey Him. They did and didn’t, have and haven’t, but overall they are the sharpest inventive people group in the world, followed by the Christian segment. That includes more than the intentional influencing of laws and mores; it includes logic and subconsciously yielded, spiritual mental structure and thought processes [whether we know it or not, including from the atheist raised in Judeo-Christian culture to the most pious believer in Jesus Christ].

I will add that the human power of observation of things of God’s creation is God’s gift even to the natural mind, and will result in insightfulness if that mind follows the logic of creation into the perception of God’s nature. That rudimentary route, which has been available since the beginning of humanity [or perhaps only since the fall of humanity], will keep the non-Christian in the fruitful hunt for at least a taste of truth in all matters of creation, plus the nature of God the creator – Rom. 1:18-32.

23. This Thought is along the lines of being in this world but not of this world – John 17:6-19. The Lord said He wanted us to continue in this world until it came His time to get us out of it. We were to be involved in building a kingdom, not meaning the kingdom of this world. There is much to say about believers also working to bring success into our worldly kingdoms [businesses, nations, politics, finances, military, etc.], but we are to be zealous for the revelation of and establishment of His spiritual kingdom in these worldly kingdoms.

While we humans work for these secular kingdoms, His over-arching, parallel, spiritual kingdom is being constructed by its spiritual citizens. His has been the focus of our life from the time of our rebirth and will be until our homegoing. While we pray and work for our earthly leaders, some of whom are obviously God’s gifts and others less obviously, the only Messiah we recognize is the One who has come, died for us, been raised from the dead, reigns on high, is with us by His Spirit now, and is coming again.

His present kingdom by faith will become His humanly obvious kingdom on earth for 1,000 years. Those whom He is now using in faith to build that humanly obvious kingdom even now can see it from afar, as did Abraham – Heb. 11:10. According to our degree of reality of that vision, that “now” taste, we show forth that our invisible kingdom already exists.

We do not yield ourselves to unrighteousness nor do we receive Life from the world. Our happiness depends on natural events but our unshakable and unspeakable joy is only in the Lord. We eat and drink of natural food and engage in common activities but do not allow them to become our idols; they do not control us. The Lord rules in us, through us, and around us and it shows more and more the longer He leaves us here, despite occasional contrary appearances. That kingdom is the Lord’s.

24. A religious spirit motivated the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus’ day. The church does not label them as such today, but Pharisees and Sadducees are present. I don’t like it when I see myself being one, and neither do you, but it seems like some cherish that position [but not the label]. Having been there, and still going there occasionally, I understand them and have a good measure of compassion for them. So did Jesus. He started off meeting them on their ground, teaching them and having fellowship with them such as at meals or in their wokplace, but the closer came His time to depart, the more His love for them pressed Him into confrontations with them about their darkness and its effects on the people -- those already in covenant with God and those who would soon be called into His New Covenant.

I can see the same process going on in the church today as the time nears for our departure, individually and the church corporately. His call for believers’ separation from the religionists is not a new call – Is. 52:11; Jer. 50:8; 2 Cor. 6:17; Rev. 18:4. When the time comes, our being understanding and compassionate will not be enough. It’s not enough now, either, but when the time for separation nears we will need to confront them with the darkness and death they spread among the sheep and how they prevent others from entering the flock of Christ. Their spirit is Christless except for routine use of His name, does not hunger for and submit to His word, and denies the power of both Christ’s cross and our daily crosses. When the time for confrontation comes, their responses will range from genuine repentance, to insults, to heavy judgments, to murder. But why should we expect better than the Lord received?

Here is the crunch point. Separation calls for a high level of righteousness, of broken heartedness, of sacrifice in the going. Having the best doctrines will not suffice for going’s motivation. Neither will impatience or self-righteousness. It will be a time of wanting to stay longer because perhaps another friend, loved one or stranger may yet repent. It will be a time of loss, not relief or escape. Work now.

25. The concept of liberty is that we get to define the meaning of our own existence. The higher levels of human wisdom know that liberty cannot be maintained by human effort; that human wisdom has not accumulated nor could it apply the level of knowledge that never changes, and that such would be necessary for establishing and maintaining liberty. There, where the best of humanity falls short, the Lord has and is the answer. He defines the meaning of our existence, His presence within us supplies the knowledge that never changes, and His is the power. We are free within, having been set at liberty. Now, what are we going to do with it? No quick, snippy, or shallow answers, please.