

LET THE WEAK SAY, "I AM STRONG"

Our Father in heaven help us your people to glorify you on this Sabbath day and listen to our words and educate us and instruct us in the way of life everlasting. Be with your people around this world and prepare us for the days that are coming and to prepare for your kingdom and to meet Messiah at his return. Search our hearts that we might be reflective of your Holy Spirit. Bless this service and enlighten us that we might be overcomers and prevail as Jacob did and become part of your coming kingdom. Amen!

Greetings, Brethren! This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it and be glad. It is remarkable to me that this program is being telecast live on U-stream around the world right now as I speak on teleconference from Omak, Washington. This is one way God has provided to get the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and his coming kingdom out to the whole world. His coming is going to be soon in this age, in just a few years. We need to be ready to stand before God during the great Day of Judgment that is also coming. For those who die before his coming and are in the grave know nothing until the resurrection day at his return when they are awakened and will be like the next moment of breath.

Paul admonishes us to redeem the time—making the best use of our time. All of us have our likes and dislikes. I like some basketball and football. The state of Washington is my home state and the home of the Seattle Seahawks football team. Particularly sweet for Seahawk Head Coach Pete Carroll was lifting the Denver Lombardi Trophy four years after taking charge in Seattle and eight years after the Seahawks lost their only previous Super Bowl to Pittsburgh. I am not against Denver Broncos, but really hoped to see the Seahawks win and felt there was a real vibrancy in the air. The Seahawks beat the Denver Broncos in the NFL Championship Super Bowl game Sunday 43-8. A mere 12 seconds in, Seattle led 2-0 with the quickest score in Super Bowl history. No Super Bowl had been played outdoors in a cold-weather city and it was 40 degrees at kickoff. Punctuating ‘Seattle dominance’ were a 69-yard interception return touchdown by linebacker, Malcom Smith to make 22-0, and Percy Harvin’s sensational 87-yard kickoff return to open the second half. The Seahawks stayed true to their mantra to make each day a championship day and they played inspired. They made Super Bowl Sunday one of the greatest performances in an NFL title game with a masterful defense disarming the highest –scoring offense in league history. The Seahawks credit their success to their fans. The impact of their loud and relentless support has become a Northwest tradition. Seahawks fans might cheer from the sidelines, but on the field they give the Seahawks a 12 on 11 advantage every play for every yard. If a team has more than 11 on the field there is a penalty. It is almost as if they have 12 men against the other team’s 11. The 12th man gives them the advantage on the field. The fans are the 12th MAN. As you can tell, I thoroughly enjoyed that thrilling and exciting Super Bowl game that shows the “under dog” can win.

Joel 3: 9-12 (NKJV) — the war that is coming. “Proclaim this among the nations: *‘Prepare for war!* Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up (attack). Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; **let the weak say, ‘I am strong’**. Assemble and come all you nations, and gather together all around, Cause your might ones to go down there, O Lord. Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for *there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.*” Christ is going to come down from heaven with his mighty ones (angels and

the saints resurrected). **Verses 13-17**—“Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow—for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the *valley of decision*! The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness The Lord also will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem. The heavens and earth will shake, but the Lord will be a shelter for his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling Zion my holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall “ever pass through her again.”

Notice **verse 10**: “**let the weak say, ‘I am strong’**.” This shows an attitude of very positive thinking and strength, not of weakness. The Apostle Paul was a messenger sent to the Gentiles throughout the Roman Empire. The majority of the books in the New Testament were written by Paul. **2 Corinthians 12:7-11**—“Lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in my flesh was given to me, *a messenger of Satan* to torment me. *Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me*. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in your weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

God allowed him to have that thorn in the flesh to keep him humble. Although no record is given in the New Testament as to what Paul’s infirmity was, it is possible that his eyes were in some way affected (Gal. 4:13-15). **Galatians 6:11**—Perhaps this is the reason he ordinarily dictated his letters; but now, urged by the spiritual danger of his dear Galatians and having no scribe at hand, he says: “You see what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand (NIV).” Satan afflicted Job and Paul says this affliction was a messenger of Satan. On the other hand it could have been some human being following Paul like Simon Magus (heretic of the generation of the first Christian Church) contradicting what Paul preached. Three is God’s number of decision. We all have our afflictions and weaknesses that we strive to change and overcome. Diabetes is an affliction that I would like to be rid of. I pray to God about it and work at the things that will help control it. My wife encourages me and watches my diet more closely than I agree upon because she does not want me to suffer dire consequences and die prematurely. I do need my wife’s positive attitude and appreciate her help. An Arby’s ad this week about “really truly wild caught fish” tempted me to buy the *two for the price of one* special. I did not stop to consider the big white flour buns that came with the fish, so the price I paid was a three pound gain by the next day. I enjoy wheat products even though I fare better without gluten. Losing weight is a battle and does not happen overnight.

All you men love your wives and exercise patience with them. **I Corinthians 11:1-3**—Paul said, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.” So the man is the head of the home within the law of Christ and God, never contrary to that.

Luke 26:39; Mark 14:32--When Christ came to the Garden of Gethsemane, he said to his disciples Peter, James and John who were with him, “my soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death, sit you here and watch (tarry)with me while I go yonder and pray.” “And he went forward a little, and fell on his face on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible the hour might pass from him. And he prayed, ‘**Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will but what you will.**’” “And he came and found them sleeping and said ‘Simon sleepest you? Could you not watch one hour? Watch you and pray, let you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready but the flesh is weak.’ He went away the *second* time and prayed and spoke the same words.” “O my Father, if this cup

may not pass (be taken away) from me, except I drink it, your will be done.” Christ prayed: “O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as you wilt.” “And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy (sleepy). He left them and went away again, and prayed the **third time**, *speaking the same words*. Then came he to his disciples, and said to them, ‘Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough the hour is come; behold the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; behold he is at hand that betrays me.’ ” He prayed three times, the number of decision. He still had to go through it, didn’t he? Betrayed by Judas for a value of 30 pieces of silver, Jesus was taken before Caiaphas the high priest where the scribes and elders were assembled. Even though the high priest condemned him of blasphemy worthy of death, Jesus held his peace and answered nothing. Many *false witnesses* testified against him, he was tormented; some spit in his face, and others smote him with the palms of their hands. The chief priests and elders accusing him of many things bound Christ and delivered him to the governor, Pontius Pilate.

Pilate found no fault in Christ, but knew that **for envy** the chief priests had delivered Christ to him. The multitude, being moved by the priests, shouted “crucify Christ, release Barabbas” a prisoner who had committed murder during insurrection. Christ was led into the hall called the Praetorium. The soldiers clothed him in purple and put a platted crown of thorns on his head and saluted him “Hail, King of the Jews!” After being scourged (whipped) and mocked by the entire band of soldiers, they removed the purple from him, put on his own clothes and led him to Golgotha to be crucified. There he was nailed to the cross and crucified for our sins.

Disciples Peter, James and John were human and fell asleep even though they willed to stay awake and watch with Christ in Gethsemane. They were weak in the flesh, even though the spirit was willing. As humans we have the will to do what is right even though we are weak in the flesh. **Romans 7:18-25**—“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for “*to will*” is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would do, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I THANK GOD” – it will be through Jesus Christ our Lord. Christ delivers us.

2 Corinthian 12:9—“My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” My grace, whatever I chose to give you is sufficient for you. If you have to battle weaknesses, remember that “**my strength is made perfect in your weakness**. It is enough to have my grace.” Think about it. When you see how weak you are, then you will see how strong Christ is. He is able to deliver you. In turn, God’s holy divine strength builds greater faith and greater wisdom in spiritual growth, power and might that comes through Jesus Christ himself, the Messiah. *Through, and in and because of our weakness we cannot boast and claim that we earn our salvation, it comes through the mercy, grace and help that God gives us through the Holy Spirit to overcome the flesh.* **Romans 8:37-39**—Paul says: “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Timothy 6:12-13—we have to do our part. “**Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto you are also called, and have professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give you charge in the sight of God, who quickens all things, and *before* Jesus Christ who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession.” Be like Jacob who wrestled with the angel and would not let go, “until you

bless me.” Jacob prevailed with God and his **name was changed from Jacob to Israel**, which means champion of God, prince of God. Jacob persevered and fought the fight of faith and endurance. We have to lay hold on eternal life and the blessings of God—they do not just come automatically.

Romans 8:28-29—we can say we are strong—strong in Christ by the Holy Spirit of God in us.

2 Corinthians 2:9-10—“Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong (spiritually).” Paul says, “Because of your attitude, you have compelled me to boast about what I have gone through for you. In nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles (that means Peter, James and John), though I am nothing in my own estimation.” He was equal to the others, but in some respects his labors were more abundant than all of them. Paul was a fierce advocate of a strenuous life in Christ. Sin is a weakness of human nature.

President Theodore Roosevelt was an advocate of living a strenuous life. He had asthma as a child, wore glasses for poor vision, and was a weakling. Cappy says her decision to marry me was based on (1) love of God (2) intelligence, and (3) good looking legs. She also prayed for someone who would endure to the end. Our marriage commitment to each other has endured for 46 years. Both she and I have endured tests and trials as well as great joy and happiness. Becoming one flesh and one mind is always a challenge, especially when you start out as polar opposites. There was enough to bring us together in love, appreciation and respect, yet we had a diversity of opinions and desires upon which we did not always agree. This is probably true of every couple since Adam and Eve. God made us in his own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26) and he wants us to be in his image spiritually, as well as physically, and minds to think and create. Through the process of creation we are becoming creators in the family of God and will become children in his family and be in his kingdom if we faithfully love and humble ourselves to follow Christ in serving and glorifying God the Father by keeping his commandments by our works—that the power of Christ may rest upon us.

Are you aware of the power of Christ and his power resting on you? Have you ever thought about it? God wants us to think about the power of his Holy Spirit resting upon us. **Philippians 4:11(NIV)**—“**I have learned to be content in whatever the circumstances.** *I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*” Paul learned to take whatever comes with the spirit of equanimity (acceptance/calmness) and not losing faith and going off into extremes of anger and bitterness. God’s Spirit calms our mind and attitude if we exercise worship toward God in thankfulness, joy and love. God is working out his purpose in our lives. Respond with joy. It is going to be glorious.

After graduating from college, either the first or second article I wrote in *The Good News Magazine* was “How to Overcome Frustration”. That article was written based on my own experience. I wanted to serve God abundantly and powerfully and be used of God, but felt like I was being ignored and not accomplishing anything. The basic core of the article was that we have to overcome our own human nature which is hostile to God and the law of God. We need to learn to endure, keep our eyes on Christ and thank him for the trials we have to go through to develop our character. Christ prayed in the garden of Gethsemane not for his own will to be done, but for his Father’s will to be done. Christ gave the example as we ought to pray: “**Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory and the honor forever.**”

1 Peter 2:15-20—“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: live as free men, yet not use your freedom as a cloak for maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Show proper respect (honor) for all people. Love the brotherhood of believers. “Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. It is commendable if a man because of conscience toward God endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it, if when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But if when you do well and suffer for it, you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow in his footsteps: **he committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.**” If you suffer for doing right and are patient beneath the blows, God is pleased with you. **22**—“When he was insulted he did not retaliate (hurl back insults). When he suffered, he did not threaten, but **committed himself to Him** who judges righteously (God the Father): who himself bore our own sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, might live for righteousness: by whose stripes we were healed.” **25**—“for you were like sheep going astray, but now have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” “It is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil (**1Peter 3:17-22**).”

1 Peter 3:1—“Wives, in the same way, submit yourself to your husband (accept the authority of), so that if any obey not the word (do not believe), they be won over without words when they observe your purity and chaste (godly reverence) behavior.” Your godly lives will speak to them better than any words. Maybe by setting a good example, wives may win over their husbands. Character building takes time and has to be built. It is not just a sudden change or transformation, as in a magic trick in which it goes one, two, three, *presto change-o* and voila – immediate *perfection*. Character is a state of being and is not built by *fiat* – just saying “it is so” does not make it so. There is more to building character than some human philosophers would have a person believe.

Exodus 3: 14—“God said to Moses: I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites. The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.” The Hebrew translation is: “I AM the ONE WHO IS, WAS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE.”

John 1:1-3, 14—“in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of me. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” **John 8:12**—Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”

John 6:54-59—“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.” **63**—“**The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life.**”

Christ **said these words to the Pharisees. John 8:18**—“**I AM** One who bears witness of myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness of me. **Verse 26**—He who sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.” **Verse 58**—“Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” Christ, the only begotten Son of God willingly took on a body of flesh. The Pharisees knew what Christ meant and they picked up stones to stone him. We have been called to be children of God, part of

the family of God with his universal Holy Spirit and will also become I AM, like Christ. We are begotten of God by the Spirit of Jesus Christ in a fleshly body at present. Our flesh battles against the Spirit.

Philippians 4:11—"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." **13**—"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." With the power of God's Holy Spirit resting on you, within the positive law of God, you can do everything with the help of the Spirit of Christ who strengthens you. **Verse 20**--How does he strengthen us? We are strengthened by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. Christ lives in us through the Spirit of God. **Galatians 2:20**—"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 4:19—"My little children for whom I labor in the pains of childbirth **until Christ is formed** (fully developed) in you." **Ephesians 1:7-14**—"In Christ we have redemption through his blood in accordance with the riches of God's grace which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fullness to gather in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also, we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having *believed*, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

When a person signs a purchase agreement to buy a house, they make a deposit along with their offer to open Escrow. This is called the earnest money which is to show the seller of the property that the buyer is in earnest by giving him a check which will go toward the purchase price of the house and future possession of the property. Theoretically, if the buyer backs out and breaks the contract after putting the money down in Escrow for no valid reason, the seller gets the Escrow money. God give us his Holy Spirit as a down payment of what we are going to have at the resurrection at which time we will be changed to 100 percent immortal Spirit beings. **John 4:22-24**—Jesus said to the Samaritan woman: "You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the father in Spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." We are in the process of becoming spirit beings in the family and kingdom of God.

Psalms 16:18—David said: "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope. For you will not leave my soul in Sheol (the grave), nor will you allow your Holy one to see corruption (returned to dust), but you will show me the path of life. In your presence is *fullness of joy*. At your right hand are pleasures forevermore." If we have the Holy Spirit of Christ in us, we will be filled with joy and our primary characteristic even under stress and trial will be joy. After our youngest child had turned three, Cappy returned to work in nursing, caring for an older lady from a well-to-do family who had 24 hour RN care. The supervisor told Cappy the reason she chose her for the job was because she was so full of joy. My wife does exude joy and happiness and strives to be a Proverbs 31 wife. That does not mean she is perfect, which she knows better than anybody else, yet we do not have to be perfect to have God's Holy Spirit and joy. David says, in God's presence we can have fullness of JOY. Keeping our minds prayerfully on his word and law and asking his will to be done in our lives, does not mean it will be

smooth sailing. We may have to go through the rapids at times. We will be tested to strengthen our faith and to help us overcome the human nature that is totally contrary to the Holy Spirit. It will take patience and endurance. Search and memorize his word today so you will be able to answer, “It is written”! Set the Lord before your eyes. We haven’t even begun to see how great it is going to be in the Kingdom of God.

When you are serving God and doing his will and “need to move mountains”, he will do what is necessary for you to save your life. Israel *walked through the Red Sea on dry ground, by faith!* It took faith to step forward when God said “go forward”. When Nashon of Judah went forward in faith, others marched forward in faith following his example. Jewish tradition recounts that Nashon waded into the Sea up to his neck before the water began to part. We can be in the middle of a trial, but we must hold onto our faith regardless of the situation. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were bound and cast into the midst of a fiery furnace made “seven times” hotter, for refusing to worship king Nebuchadnezzar’s idol. The heat killed the soldiers who threw them into the fire, but the king was astounded to see them walking around in the fire and a fourth person who looked like the Son of God was with them. God’s intervention so impressed the king, he called them out of the fire. The ropes had dropped off, but nothing on them was affected or smelled of fire. Because they trusted in God who sent his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him and defied the king’s command—willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God, the king praised the true God and decreed a death penalty on all who dared speak anything amiss against their God. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Abraham was justified by **FAITH. Romans 4:3—“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”** Abraham is known as father of the faithful and obeyed all that God commanded. **Hebrews 11:1-40—“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** For by it the elders obtained a good report. Abraham went out when he was called to the place which he would receive as an inheritance not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested offered up Isaac and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.” **6—“Without faith it is impossible to please God: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”**

Romans 4:13—“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all. As it is written, “I have made you father of many nations) in the presence of him who he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendents be. And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about 100 years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness. Nor was it written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in him who

raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered over to death because of our sins, and was raised to life for our justification.”

Romans 6:23—“**The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” This body of ours is prone to sin and earthly appetite, so we have to resist sin and commit ourselves to the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, salvation is of faith that it might be according to grace that the promise might be made certain that all the offspring—those taught the Law (Jews) and those who have not been taught the Law—Gentiles living away from Judea who are of the faith of Abraham who is the father of us all.

Genesis 16:3-4—“After Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife took Hagar her maidservant the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband to be his wife.” Hagar had a son Ishmael, but he was not the promised seed. God said to Abraham who was 90 years old, “Your name shall now be called Abraham and Sarai your wife’s name shall be Sarah. You shall keep my *covenant (everlasting)*; therefore, you and your seed after you in their generations. Every man child among you shall be circumcised and every newborn on the eighth day.” Abraham was 100 years old when Sarah became pregnant with the promised son, Isaac. Isaac was born when Ishmael was 16 years old. There has been strife from that day forward to today between the children (nations) of Ishmael and Isaac.

Titus 1:2—“**In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.**” God Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome and be more than conquerors, to make the weak strong. Let the weak say, I am strong in faith. **Romans 8:2**—“there is now no condemnation of those who are in Christ who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the leading of God’s Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death (pulls of the flesh). For what the law could not do God did by sending his own son who condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, *who walk not after the flesh*, but after the Holy Spirit.” Verse 9—“you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. If Christ is dwelling in you, the body is dead because of sin; but if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he that raised Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.” Then you are the spiritually begotten child of God.

Verses 22-28—“For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man sees, why does he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helps our weaknesses: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. And he that searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because he makes intercession for the saints according *to the will of God*. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.” “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” There was no other to bring many sons to glory—through Christ man might be saved (John 3:16).

Who shall separate us from the love of God which in Jesus Christ? Nothing! We are called out from Babylon. Not by might, nor by power, **but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts** (Zechariah 4:6). Amen!