

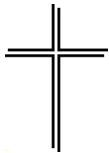
Excerpt: It Is Finished!
By: Patricia Marlett

CHAPTER ONE

THE FOUNDATION

*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar,
he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head,
and gave up the ghost.*

John 19:30



Christ's final words on the Cross before He released His Spirit were: *It is Finished!* In nearly two-thousand years, what is the significance of these three omnipotent words in our life today? The answer is everything. When Jesus hung on the Cross at Golgotha, just outside the gates of Jerusalem, all that was planned during the seven days of God's Creation was declared finished. *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.* Colossians 1:16-17

It was four-thousand years from the finished work of God in the beginning for Christ to hang on a piece of wood and proclaim the work of the Father is finished. It came full circle from Creation to Cross; God declaring it and the Son fulfilling the plans God had for man.

The Kingdom of Heaven and Earth was established prior to Adam. On the sixth day of God's Creation, He formed man from the dirt of the Earth and

breathed His Spirit into him creating man with a body, soul, and spirit. *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* Genesis 2:7 Man was named from the very place he came from which in Hebrew *Adamah* means earth; however, the English translation is *Adam*. God created Adam and Eve to be His children. They were spirit persons of His Spirit within a physical body.

Why is this important to you? Because what God spoke and the Word manifested has come to fruition in preparing an eternal life to those who believe. Once man was created, the first Adam, generations followed; however, it required the second Adam, Christ, to fulfill God's plan. Adam brought carnality upon man through sin with his disobedience to God, while the second Adam redeems man of sin. As Adam was a spirit person living in the Garden of Eden, so are we born a spirit person in Christ as it was in the Garden. Without this happening, man would not exist for sin would be the death of mankind.

Therefore, everything in the following generations as depicted in both the Old and New Testaments is about the redemption of man and is only possible because of the Word becoming flesh for man's sake. God left His throne as the second person of the Trinity and became the Son of Man and dwelt among men to reclaim the children lost through sin. *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.* Philippians 2:7-8

In the Old Testament, there is the celebration of Yeshua shown in the seven feasts with the Jews honoring the Messiah as a *shadow of things to come*, until the Word is born of flesh; a man living among the people. Though Jesus is reflected throughout the Old Testament, we relate to Him as Christ in the New Testament.

What does this have to do with you? The very same it had to do with the Israelites. In those words, *It is Finished*, is your beginning, literally. The work has been completed like an artist painting a masterpiece, and we are the recipients of all that God planned and Christ fulfilled. It is the beginning of our eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven where peace, joy, and harmony is an unconditional lifestyle. A life whereby love is the very essence of our existence. However, this is not only a future event in the New Jerusalem, but a life that begins the day you are born of the Spirit of Christ for the Spirit Kingdom of God.

It is far more than believing Christ is the Son of God, but living it as your reality knowing He is within you. You are a new spirit person born of the second Adam for the Father as it was with the first Adam in the Garden of Eden. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* 2 Corinthians 5:17 Your old sinful self has died on the

Cross, and you are sanctified by the blood of Christ to be a child of the Almighty King, our Most High God.

The sinful nature of your natural life has been put to death on the Cross, so in newness of your spirit life you have the promises of the Father. To know how to receive what God and the Son have given, requires understanding what Christ's death represents as the Son of Man.

How do we obtain something we cannot see? First, we have to believe that it does exist and this is done through faith; trusting in the intangible, not visible to the eye. For example, we know of oxygen; however, we cannot see it but without it we wouldn't be here. We understand radio waves and electricity to run our devices and appliances, but we can't see them; and yet, we easily accept their existence. God's Kingdom functions on His Word. Today, we have authority in the Word through His Son which is why we ask on the authority of Christ's name. *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.* John 14:13-14

When we abide by His Word, we will experience the promises such as healing, miracles, and prosperity; pro-visions for our life. *My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* Proverbs 4:20-23 It requires believing the things that are invisible to be more real than what we experience through our senses. We acknowledge God's truth over anything the earthen world reveals. For many, this is a tall leap of faith but that is exactly what faith is, believing in what you can't validate with the typical worldly measures.

God's world isn't meant to blend into our earthen one, but rather we are to step out of the natural by renewing our mind to the spirit realm. *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Romans 12:2 Know the precepts of the Kingdom, so that your thoughts and decisions are based on truth; thereby, relying on the *Spirit of Truth* to teach you.

What makes the spirit world different? If you believe in God, then you could conclude that He has a home, the Kingdom of Heaven. If you believe in His Son who made it possible to be a child of God, then presumably you want the privilege of living within the Kingdom, especially when it is offered to you now. There can only be one reason anyone would refuse and that is because they don't accept Christ as their Lord and Savior; they don't believe.

However, for the believer, you have gained entrance into a spiritual world with wonders you can only desire to imagine. God and the Word became the Father

and the Son to you and for you. You are given access to the Kingdom, spiritually, if you accept what Christ did when He took your place on the Cross.

Christ's purpose on Earth was to return the lost children to the Father. He is the *Good Shepherd* who gathered the flock and taught of the Father and His Kingdom to all who gathered to hear Him. He is also the sacrificial *Lamb of God*. *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* Galatians 3:13-14 In Christ, we are sanctified for the Father.

Christ gives you passage into the Kingdom of Heaven. Can it be this simple? Absolutely. It is man who complicates the things he doesn't understand. We create a chasm between God and ourselves with our self-righteousness. *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* John 14:6 Only the righteousness of Christ makes us worthy to be in the Kingdom of God.

It was all done for you, for it has always been about you before you were conceived in your mother's womb. God has a plan for your earthen life and wants you to live it, to trust in Him. We begin by accepting what we cannot see to be more real than what the natural conveys. We search for the essence of the Kingdom by not being drawn to the earthen things, for they are temporal. There is nothing of this natural world that is permanent. As children of God, we yearn for the intimacy of a relationship with our heavenly Father because we are connected in spirit. We know our true home, today and forever, is within His Kingdom.

How does all this manifest into your earthen life? It requires gaining knowledge of how the Spirit Kingdom functions and rely on the tutor God has given to you. All gifts and supernatural power come into our life through the Holy Spirit, our teacher and advocate. We have witnessed this to be true with Jesus. He performed no miracles or healing until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit at Jordan. If He required the Holy Spirit, and His disciples were sent forth with the Holy Spirit to continue Christ's ministry of the Kingdom, it is no different for you, today.

Though you are born into the Kingdom, have a covenant with the Son, and privileges to the spiritual treasures, you can abort it all even in your belief. If not practicing the truth of God's Word, belief can become tainted with unbelief; unbelief negates belief. Nothing is being withheld by the Father or the Son; however, belief, or lack thereof, denotes the outcome.

God's blessings flow through grace, and grace is forever present. God's Kingdom functions on mercy, grace, and faith. God's provision is mercy and grace and our part is faith. It is our faith that releases the blessings through grace.

Therefore, there is no combining the spiritual and natural worlds. Like oil and water, they don't mix because one world is of God and the other, the earth-en, is under the rule of Satan. So how do we receive what the Father promised? The answer is our position in Christ. It is living our new birthright of the Son's Spirit with faith in the Word of God. We place our trust in the finished work of Christ.

Recalling the story Jesus told to His disciples of the father with two sons and their inheritance is an analogy of our relationship with our heavenly Father and what He desires to give to His children. In the story, the father loved both sons equally as revealed when the prodigal son returned home after having squandered his inheritance and the father ran to him; hugged and kissed him. The father gave him gifts and celebrated his return, for he never stopped loving his son even when he strayed.

The older son who remained and worked beside his father spoke angrily, claiming an injustice had been done to him. What did the father say to his elder son? *And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.* Luke 15:31 Everything the father owned belonged to both his sons, but the oldest son didn't accept the unconditional love of his father. The elder son believed he needed to work and earn his father's love, so when the younger brother was disobedient, disrespectful, and undeserving of coming back into the family, the elder son rebelled with anger and resentment. The elder son's inheritance was there for him to take at anytime, but he didn't realize it because he didn't see the father's love. In reality by His behavior, he was a prodigal son also.

There is no favoritism with God for He loves all His children. *For there is no respect of persons with God.* Romans 2:11 This is where many believers are today. We aren't aware of our heavenly Father's love; and thus, aren't receiving the inheritance that is ours for the asking. The younger son asked and received, but the elder son never asked and didn't receive; and yet, nothing was withheld from him, nor did the father expect him to work to gain it. The elder son believed he needed to perform to please his father in order to receive. We should be trusting and faithful children who ask for our inheritance knowing that the Father delights in giving to His children.

The Kingdom is the home of every believer and we have a joint-ownership in Christ for an inheritance. Your heavenly Father is not expecting you to work to receive, for the work was done by His Son on the Cross. God's desire is for you to accept what He has prepared for you.

