

1st Annual Word of the Kingdom Conference
January 15th, 2006

John Herbert:
Let Us Go On

1). Heb 6:1 ¶ *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.*

2). During the course of this conference we have received some wonderful foundational teaching concerning the Word of the Kingdom and it is without doubt clear that the Lord requires us to have the foundation properly laid. Without foundation it is impossible to build anything that will last.

a). Ps 11:3 *If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?*

b). Scripture teaches us - 1Co 3:11 ¶ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

c). And to fully understand the foundation which is laid which is Jesus, the Christ – let us compare scripture with scripture –
Mt 16:15 *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.*

(Teach this in respect of ‘the Christ, the Son of the living God’)

d). I am sure we realize that it is not just having the knowledge of the foundation ‘the elementary principles of Christ’, but organizing our lives in faithful obedience to what God requires of us in response to that knowledge. It is taking the foundation and building upon it as we go on to perfection.

e). 1Co 3:12 *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for*

the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

3). As we leave here today we all have the responsibility as individuals to go on to perfection.

a). We may be fortunate enough to meet with other believers like this every week or we may find ourselves completely isolated. Whichever it is, is really of little consequence, what matters is that we pursue the spiritual maturity that God lays before us, that we may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of us.

b). The journey we are making is on a highway of revealed truth, which comes only from the proper study of the word. Resulting in the correct organization of our life.

c). The Lord has already shown us the way - Mt 16:24 ¶ *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

i/ Heb 12:2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

d). 1Pe 2:21 *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

e). Ro 8:17 ¶ *and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

f). 1Ti 1:16 *However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting(Age Lasting) life.*

4). The way Jesus has given us to follow is characterized as suffering and is simply this – it is dying to self, crucifying the flesh – it is choosing to walk in the Spirit when every fibre of our being is crying out to do something different. And we should choose to do this for the same reason as our Lord – ‘for the joy that was set before Him’

a). Ga 5:24 *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

b). Ga 6:8 *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting (Age Lasting) life.*

c). It is the dying to self that is the works that lead to gold, silver and precious stones. It is the dying to self that is the righteous acts that make our wedding garment.

5). Remember in the book of Ruth that it is only after Ruth has committed to make the journey with her mother-in-law Naomi – a type of the Word of God- to Bethlehem, the House of Bread, committing to do everything Naomi tells her to prepare for meeting the kinsman redeemer - Ru 3:5 *And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."*

Having separated from Orpah – that she is able to work in Boaz's field. No work other than that done in Boaz's field, is of any value whatsoever.

a). Ru 2:8 *Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."*

b). Ru 2:15 *And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 "Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."*

c). Eph 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

d). Joh 4:35 *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"*

6). As we leave here today ready to go we should call to mind God's words to Abraham in - Ge 12:1 ¶ *Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.*

As it is a call to be answered by all those seeking a heavenly land and requires the death of self.

a). 'Get out of your country' – We are a new nation

b). 'Get out from your family' – We are now children of God

c). 'Get out from your father's house' – We are to be separate

d). "Go to a country I will show you' – We are to be led by the Spirit

7). In essence we are to be completely separated from the things of this world, because they are under the hand of the god of this world and we do not want to be allied with him.

a). Ro 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

8). However, the enemy of our soul does not want us to go on to perfection and will do all he can to stop those who have made such a determination.

a). 1Pe 5:8 ¶ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

b). The admonition to be sober and vigilant must be taken seriously.

c). It is a self evident truth that there will be a Bride of Christ made up of believers and together they will rule over the earth during the Millennial Kingdom, but whether we as individuals will be a part of that is not self-evident.

d). And we need to remember - 2Co 2:11 *lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

e). His means of bringing down those who have set their hearts on rulership with Christ has not changed from the beginning - Ge 3:1 ¶ *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said,*

i/ 1Ti 2:14 *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

ii/ Ga 3:1 ¶ *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?*

iii/ Ga 5:7 *You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?*

9). We could characterize the operation of deception in three areas – the world, the flesh and the devil

a). The world, this present age, under the influence of the god of this world will of necessity find itself in opposition to the word of God Joh 15:19 *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

i/ The deception is however that to conform to the world is OK, because God didn't really mean what He said. That's why Christians cheat on their tax returns, don't drive the speed limit, run God's house as a

business, divorce one another, ordain the sexually deviant and get mixed up in politics.

ii/ It should not be so for any Christian, the more so for us who have our eyes on the prize.

iii/ Let us take heart - Joh 16:33b.....*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

Remember He has shown us the way to follow.

iv/ 1Jo 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*

v/ And here is the key to overcoming the deception from the world – ‘our faith’. This is not faith in a blanket sense, but faith specifically as it relates to the word of the kingdom. Faith and believe are on and the same therefore to overcome the world we will choose to believe not what the world says, which is deception, but what God says – And then of course acting upon it - Jas 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

b). The world and the flesh are really closely related as our flesh was born into this world and has a direct connection with it. If we think of the world offering deception through its mindsets and values we could perhaps understand the flesh as bringing self-deception.

i/ This would be expressed in ways like – ‘I just can’t help it’, ‘I’m not strong enough’, ‘There was nothing I could do’, ‘No one else goes through what I go through’, ‘The devil made me do it’ – these are all lies. We give in to the flesh because we choose to, because we want to, because we choose to set our throne above the throne of God.

ii/ Look at the truth - 1Co 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

iii/ Let us not be deceived my beloved brethren –
Ro 13:11 ¶ *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

iv/ The key to overcoming our flesh is the same as that for overcoming the world – it is our faith – choosing to believe what God has said and acting upon it. Choosing to reject the lie and embrace the truth.

And if we fail remember - Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

1Jo 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

This is not an invitation to license; it is grace and mercy. Take responsibility; tell it like it is and get it right next time.

v/ Remember the warning - Ga 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

vi/ Our flesh will always lead us to pitch our tents at the gates of Sodom – the spirit will lead us to the ‘city with foundations whose maker and builder is God.’

c). And inevitably, the devil being the god of this world has his fingers in the deceptions of the world and the deceptions of the flesh. It is always his voice you hear - *"Has God indeed said,*

i/ He will always challenge or corrupt the word of God, especially in a way that will appeal to the religious. He thrives in legalism, religious ritual and the doctrines of men. Remember the words of Pharaoh, a type of Satan to Moses - Ex 8:28 *And Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away.*

ii/ The enemy of our soul is content with all religious practice that stays within the sphere of his influence – whether it would be liberal, ‘You cannot be saved unless you speak in tongues’, or ultra conservative, ‘You cannot be saved if you play music.’

iii/ God requires us to make a three days’ journey if we are to serve Him acceptably - Ex 8:27 *"We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He will command us."*

iv/ The three day’s journey speaks of death and resurrection. Dying to self and being led by the Spirit.

v/ Jas 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

vi/ Please notice the sequence – submit to God. Resist the devil. And again we are looking at our faith. Embracing what God has said and putting it into practice every day in our lives.

vii/ And with regards to the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged, we can only fight successfully in accordance with God's instructions given to us in - Eph 6:10 ¶ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

And here is a whole other message.

10). My challenge to us all today is this – as we leave here will we be committed to go on to perfection? Will we be like Ruth who will not be turned back? Like Rebekah who chose to go with this man? Will we choose to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil?

11). If that is your choice and you make that commitment even if you have done so before, please stand with me now.

Php 3:13 *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 ¶ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 ¶ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be*

conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Re 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Re 2:11 He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Re 2:17 To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Re 2:26 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' --as I also have received from My Father; 28 "and I will give him the morning star.

Re 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Re 3:12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Re 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.