

Overcoming Temptation September 25, 2016

Last week, we focused in on the parable of the marriage feast, depicting the offer and re-offer of the kingdom to the Jews. After they rejected the offer twice, the offer was then extended to the Gentile Nations, those who would bear fruit of the kingdom.

Matthew 22:8-10 ⁸Then he *said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find *there*, invite to the wedding feast.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with ^[e]dinner guests.

Those who answered the call of the King’s servants entered the wedding hall. This picturing for us all Christians, those who faithfully live according to the Spirit as well as those saved by the blood of Christ yet living according to their fleshly desires.

And this brings us to a pivotal point, one that is widely misspoken of.

Matthew 22:11-14 ¹¹“But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, ¹²and he *said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are ^[f]called, but few *are* chosen.”

Again, only Christians accept the invitation from the King’s servant and enter the wedding hall, evil and good. That means in these verses we just read, there will be some Christians who are dressed properly and there will be some Christians who are not dressed properly, who are not wearing wedding clothes. In fact, we are told many will not be wearing wedding clothes.

This would be what we see pictured by Ruth and Orpah. Ruth presses on to meet Boaz.

Ruth 3:3 Naomi speaking to Ruth, “ Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your *best* clothes, and go down to the threshing floor.”

Revelation 19:7-8 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His ^[b]bride has made herself ready.” ⁸ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the ^[c]saints.

Through this parable, we see that as believers in Christ, it does not just stop when we accept the free gift of eternal salvation. One day, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will be faced with the realization that we will either enter the marriage feast with our kinsman-redeemer or we will be bound, hand and foot, and thrown into the outer darkness for the duration of the 1000 year reign of Christ.

There is more that we must do in this life should we desire to rule and reign with Christ as a co-heir.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

In order to be glorified with Christ (read as: rule and reign as a co-heir with Christ), we must suffer with Him in this life. How do we do that? By dying to our flesh and living according to the Spirit. Look at the verses directly preceding the ones we just read:

Romans 8:12-15 ¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you^[f] must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery ^[g] leading to fear again, but you have received ^[h] a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

When we answered the invitation from the Spirit, when we were saved by grace, we were freed from living according to our flesh. We were given a choice, that we could now live by the Spirit. Of course, we still have our sinful nature. We can still choose to live according to our flesh, but we are no longer under obligation to live according to our flesh. We can now be led by the spirit for these are sons of God.

What do sons receive? An inheritance.

Psalm 2:7-8 "I will surely tell of the ^[e]decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the ^[f]nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.

We are not simply saved and therefore automatically rule with Christ. That line of thinking is just like the Israelites that we saw last week.

Matthew 3:8-10 ⁸Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Will we follow the path of the Israelites who thought simply being from Abraham's lineage that they would inherit the kingdom God promised him? Or will we heed their example, who because of their own stiff-necked line of thinking, could not see their Messiah who was standing right there in front of them, offering them their inheritance. The axe is right there at the root, ready to cut down any tree that does not bear fruit. Do NOT be mistaken and think that the same will not be done to us if we do not bear fruit.

Again, there is more to our life, post salvation by grace through faith. We are to bear fruit of the kingdom if we want to enter into our inheritance.

Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and ^[h]that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

We all are familiar with the first two verses, and rightfully so. The grace extended to us by our Father is truly remarkable. That He would send His Son to die and be a sacrifice for our sins. Nothing we can do to earn this gift. Simply have faith in the blood that covers us.

But the story does not end there. Christ has risen. Therefore we are His workmanship, created for good works that we should walk in them. This is fruit bearing. This is what we must do should we desire to enter the kingdom and dine with Christ.

The entire chapter of Romans 6 gives great insight into this. We are going to read a handful of the verses, but it may be beneficial this week to really go back and read this chapter in its entirety.

Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Just as Christ was buried in death and rose to life, we have been saved by grace through faith, in order that we may now walk in newness of life, dead to our flesh but alive in the Spirit. No longer slave to our sin but free to bear fruit of the Father.

The verses following this passage then go on to describe that our old self was crucified with Christ and consequently, we are freed from sin and are to live in Christ. That leads us to these verses:

Romans 6:12-14 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting ^[g]the members of your body to sin *as* ^[h]instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* ^[i]instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

We are to present our body as an instrument of righteousness to God. Sin is not to reign over us. We are to walk in the good works which God has prepared for us to walk in. Why is this vital? Because in our parable, many guests were bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness because they were not wearing wedding clothes. This is vital because the Bride of Christ in Revelation has clothed herself in fine linen, which is the righteous acts of the saints. This is exactly what we see described in these verses. Righteous acts of the saints is simply stated presenting ourselves to God as those alive, instruments of righteousness which is right living done by faith; not letting sin reign in our bodies.

And there's the rub. While this is simply stated, it is not so simple to live out. And this is what I want to look at the rest of this morning. This is the question I left you all with last week.

Knowing what is at stake, understanding that we as believers will one day be judged based on the quality of fruit we produced, what we see pictured in the oft quoted 1 Corinthians 3 passage, knowing we as believers have one of two outcomes at the Judgment Seat of Christ, to enter in the marriage feast for the Millennial Reign of Christ or to be bound and cast into outer darkness for 1,000 years before the rest of eternity and understanding it is based on how we live our life in this present day and age...what is stopping you from taking hold of your inheritance? What is holding you back? What causes you to be poor, blind and naked instead of clothed in fine linen? These are the questions we all must ask ourselves individually. And not just ask, but we must wrestle with until we have an answer.

While the specific reason may be different for each of us, the broad reason is the same. We all have the same issue that prevents us from taking grasp of that which God has promised us, if indeed we suffer with Christ.

I have to tell you, as simple as the answer is, it hit me like a ton of bricks when I was studying this and I just thought it was so neat. You see, I am someone who likes to have a plan. While I am easy going and quite often able to go with the flow, when it comes to work or when it comes to accomplishing a goal, I realize that I succeed when I have a plan.

This past week, Becky and I celebrated our 3rd year of wedded bliss. While the years have been very kind to her, well, can't say they have been as kind to me.

I mention this because I want to get in the gym, be healthy, exercise. My problem is I haven't been able to put together a plan. When I have been successful in the past at going to the gym regularly, it starts with simply putting it on my calendar and not taking it off. When a customer wants to meet to discuss their project during my workout time, I can't budge. When I go to the gym, I have a thought out plan. I will do cardio on certain days and weights on others, knowing which workouts I am going to do before I enter the gym. When I have been able to do this, I have been successful.

The same is true in our spiritual lives. We have the end goal in mind, just as working out, we have a goal in mind, mine is to simply be healthy. Then, before we start toward our

goal, would it not be beneficial if we thought about what it is that would prevent us from obtaining that goal? For me, not prioritizing my health over my work is an issue. If I leave it to how I feel on my way home from work to determine if I go work out or not, 100% of the time, I will drive right by the gym, two of them actually, and go home. But if it's on my calendar, and if I have mentally prepared myself to go workout after work, then I will go.

Again, the same is true in our spiritual lives. As believers, we have the inheritance, to rule and reign with Christ, as the goal of our faith. 1 Peter 1:9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of ^[g]your souls.

Now, we must consider what will prevent us from obtaining the outcome of our faith and once we know what that is, we must come up with a game plan to prevent us from failing.

So, again, I ask each of you, what is it that prevents us from taking grasp of that which God has promised us, if indeed we suffer with Christ?

Romans 6:19a I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.

The weakness of our flesh. This is the simple answer that will cost each of us our soul if we let it. In general, we all struggle with the weakness of our flesh. Specifically, well that may be different for each one of us.

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

This again, gives us the same answer. The weakness of our flesh. When we love the world, when we indulge in the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life, the love of the Father is not in us. These lusts will pass away but the one who does the will of God lives-in both the 1'000 year kingdom as well as eternity to follow.

So knowing the weakness of our flesh is our issue, how are we to live?

Romans 6:19b For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, ^[m]resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, ^[n]resulting in sanctification.

We are to present our body as a slave to righteousness which will result in sanctification. We will be slaves to one of two things: impurity and lawlessness or righteousness which leads to sanctification.

Sanctification should be the goal of each one of us here. If not, we need to start there and see why it isn't before we can continue. But I say this because of what we read in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from ^[d]sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you know how to ^[e]possess his own ^[f]vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in ^[g]lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*. ⁷ For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but ^[h]in sanctification. ⁸ So, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

It is the will of God, that you are sanctified. It is the desire of our Father in heaven that we abstain from walking in unrighteousness essentially. Therefore, again I say, sanctification should be our goal as well. And we have a choice: to accept this process, or turn our backs on it.

And make no mistake about it, it is our choice. We will either let our flesh win out and cost us our inheritance; or we will choose to walk in righteousness with the Spirit. It is a daily choice we face.

So, we know what our goal is, the salvation of our soul, entrance into the marriage feast as a co-heir with Christ and not being bound and cast into the outer darkness for 1,000 years.

We now know the very thing which will keep us from obtaining our goal: the weakness of our flesh, living according to our flesh, walking in impurity and lawlessness instead of walking in righteousness.

The question now becomes, what do we do about it? Do we just resign to the fact that it's difficult to live by the Spirit? Do we just give in? Do we just take it as it comes and hope we make the right decision more times than not?

No. We look to the Scriptures.

And this is what I found so neat as it hit me in a new way. Granted, you and I have read these Scriptures many times, since a young age in fact. But with a different perspective, these verses jumped out to me. These verses complete the plan that we need in order to succeed.

God, instead of telling us that we are to live a certain way, went above and beyond. He gave us an example of how we are to counteract our weak flesh. He gave us two separate accounts of Satan tempting man and the way in which he works is the exact same in both accounts.

God has given us a blueprint to follow. He has shown us an example in which man has been overcome by Satan's tempting and another example where Satan was overcome by faithful obedience.

I'm referencing of course, the accounts of Adam and Eve in Genesis as well as Jesus in the wilderness in Matthew.

Which makes sense as it is ruling that Satan is most concerned about. He was disqualified after attempting to raise his throne above the stars of God. We read in Isaiah 14:12-14

"How you have fallen from heaven,
O [g]star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who have weakened the nations!
¹³ "But you said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
And I will sit on the mount of assembly
In the recesses of the north.
¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.'

This is his number one goal. To disqualify the one who is supposed to rule after him. Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the ^[ak]sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Man was the incumbent ruler and therefore Satan's primary target. After they fail, and Christ comes to prove He is worthy, Satan shifts his focus to tempting Christ.

We see there are three steps in which Satan attempts to overcome Adam and Eve in the Garden and has the same strategy with Christ in the wilderness. Would it be hard to reason that we too will be tempted in the same manner? So let's take a look at how Satan attempts to keep us from ruling in his place.

1) Appeals to the lust of our eyes and the lust of our flesh

In our first passage, from Genesis 3:1-7, we see a serpent in the Garden of Eden approach the woman.

Which we know Satan is the serpent in view Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world

The first angle he comes at the woman with is to appeal to the lust of her eyes. He wants her to indulge her physical desires as opposed to her spiritual desires.

Genesis 3:1, 6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from ^[a]any tree of the garden'?" ... ⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes... she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

We will get to the question he asks in a second. But right now, in this verse, Satan tempts the woman with food. As simple as that. He is attacking her when she is physically hungry. At first she has the willpower to sustain, but then ultimately, after he keeps pestering her, she sees the fruit of the tree was a delight to the eyes so she ate it. She gave in because of the weakness of her flesh.

Let's transition to Jesus in the wilderness for a moment. Matthew 4:1-3 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He^[a] then became hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Again, we see Satan, the tempter, come to Jesus when? After Christ had fasted for forty days and forty nights! You think He was hungry? You think His mind was focused in on one thing in particular? I assure you, while He was there fasting, around day 37, 38, 39, the thought crossed His mind that on the way back into town, possibly hitchhiking a ride on a donkey, He was going to make a pit stop at the drive-thru bakery to get a fresh loaf before He went and saw anyone or did anything else. Christ was hungry.

Enter Satan. The tempter. "Hey Jesus, IF you are indeed who you say you are, take these stones and make them bread to eat."

He appeals to the lust of the eyes; the physical desires that we are filled with. When we are weak physically, mentally, that is when he sees an opportunity. When he knows our flesh wants something, he comes along tempting us with that very thing. And even though the woman said no initially, instead of removing herself from the situation, that delightful looking fruit still dangling there beside her kept appealing to her eyes and the more he mentioned it, the more she reasoned with herself that it would be good for her.

Jesus overcomes this temptation in Matthew 4:4 ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

He goes back to His faith. He knows the Scripture and that is the key to His success. Not only does He know the Scripture and what it says, He truly believes that every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is more important, gives Him more sustenance than an actual loaf of bread would give Him after 40 days of fasting. That is faith.

So step one, Satan appeals to our flesh-tempting us with the very thing which we want to be tempted in all honesty, the very thing that our flesh craves. But we are to place our spiritual desires, our spiritual goals, over the desires of our flesh.

John 4:31-34 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” ³² But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?” ³⁴ Jesus *said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

This should be our attitude.

2) Appeals to our knowledge of the Scripture

If we forsake our flesh, Satan then moves to the next phase of temptation. He saw both the woman and Jesus recalled the Word of God when he appealed to the lust of their eyes. We see in Genesis 3:1, that Satan moves to appeal to our knowledge of the Scripture. Here we get to the question he asks the woman. “Indeed, has God said...”

Here comes Satan, testing our knowledge of what God has said. Do we know the Scripture? Particularly the Scripture which pertains to our current situation. He may even try to use the Word of God against itself.

The woman responds in Genesis 3:2-3 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”

Here, we see that she heard the word clearly. We will, however, see in a moment that even though she knew what was said, she did not fully understand what the command was and this is what got her in trouble.

With Christ in the wilderness, we read in Matthew 4:5-6 Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and *said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; And ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”

Again, Satan knows what God has said, but he twists it to try to divert, in this case Christ, away from how He should respond. Christ, with what one could say is a solid knowledge of the Scripture, responds in Matthew 4:7 Jesus said to him, “[b]On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’” He compares Scripture with Scripture in order to know the true meaning and how He should live in that moment. Had He taken one Scripture, that which Satan gave Him, and did not place

it in context or compare other Scriptures He knows, then it may have made sense to do what Satan said. But Christ, clearly, knew better.

The woman on the otherhand, while knowing what God said, did not understand what He said. She did not properly compare the Word of God with the Word of God if you will. Genesis 3:4-5 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Her knowledge of what God said has now been brought into question and her lack of knowledge and understanding is what causes her to give in. This also leads us right into the third way we Satan attack us and that is by appealing to our pride.

3) Appeals to our pride

In these same verses, we see Satan make the woman think she is invincible. “You surely will not die!...You will be like God, knowing good and evil.” He knows we as humans like to be in control. We like to be in charge, looking down over our peers. We like to be the one with all the answers that people go to. It feeds our ego, makes us feel better about ourselves. So he goes to the woman, even though she properly understood what God had commanded her, she did not have a proper understanding of what it meant to die. She ultimately, did not have a proper understanding of her purpose and role. In her moment of weakness, she then saw that which appealed to the lust of her eyes, that good looking fruit and it was too much for her to say no to twice.

How often do we do the same thing? We either don't have a proper understanding of the Scripture, or we don't understand the severity of what He says and the consequence that will follow, and our flesh thinks how great it'd be if we just gave in. In our moment of weakness, that is exactly what we do. We give in. We sin. We are assisting with the death of our soul. And worse, we think that we can indulge our flesh AND still rule and reign with Christ.

Instead, we should respond as we see Christ in Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; ⁹ and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and ^[c]worship me.”

Satan comes to Christ and offers Him to rule all the kingdoms of the world, an offer which He had authority to give by the way, if Christ would simply bow down and worship him. Talk about appealing to our pride. Christ would not have had to endure the shaming and the embarrassment and the harassment that He received from those who mocked Him. He would not have had to be crucified on a cross and hang there in front of everyone with a sign above His head that mocked who He was. He could have foregone all of that, if He would simply bow down at that time and worship Satan.

But Christ knew He had to endure the suffering and overcome before He could rule and reign. On the road to Emmaus, we see Him ask two disciples, in Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary for the ^[f]Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

We see His response to Satan's final attempt in Matthew 4:10-11 Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND ^[d]SERVE HIM ONLY.'" ¹¹ Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

Satan knew that Christ had come to prove He was worthy of ruling the kingdom. If he could get Christ to want that right then, if he could tempt Him just the right way, make Him think He could rule the kingdom without having to suffer, Satan knew that ultimately, it would disqualify Christ from ruling in the age to come.

That, that right there is at the heart of every sin we commit. We try to rule our little world right here and now instead of humbling ourselves. We want to as the saying goes, have our cake and eat it too. Spiritually, I would venture to say, we want to rule and reign with Christ. We want to be found faithful at the Judgment Seat. We want to bear good fruit.

But when it comes to denying our flesh, all of those spiritual goals somehow lose priority. Whatever we worship, we will serve. If we worship our flesh, we will serve our flesh. But Christ says, "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."

I have been asking what will keep us from entering the marriage feast, what will keep us from bearing good fruit. We have seen the answer. The question I know have is what will help us to bear good fruit? What will help us to be overcomers?

1 Peter 5:8-9a Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith...

That is the answer. Standing firm in the faith. Whatever it takes, whatever you have to do in order to remove temptation to sin, do it. Do it now.

As we wrap up, I pray that you are able to answer the question I have been asking. I pray that you realize the very thing that will prevent you from being properly dressed at the marriage feast and ruling and reigning with Christ. Because if you don't know what it is that sidetracks you, then you cannot prepare to overcome it. We know our enemy, we know his tactics. We must remain faithful, we must remain vigilant in our pursuit of the kingdom.

I want to close with a familiar Scripture from 1 Peter. Listen to the words. Realize the gravity of the situation. Understand the shortness of time.

1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various ^[c]trials, ⁷ so that the ^[d]proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which ^[e]is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and ^[f]full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of ^[g]your souls...
¹³ Therefore, ^[k]prepare your minds for action, ^[l]keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace ^[m]to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As ^[n]obedient children, do not ^[o]be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but ^[p]like the Holy One who called you, ^[q]be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."