

Message One: Works Prepared Beforehand

My other two messages are entitled:

Message Two: Judea, Samaria, and the Remotest Parts of the Earth

and

Message Three: Who is My Neighbor?

So for tonight — Works Prepared Beforehand...

I would like to deal with the topic of *good works*. While this topic is very broad and has many facets to it, please understand that time-constraints certainly limit the teaching of all the various facets of good works! It would be impossible to cover it all. And as I have thought and prayed about this topic, I have come to realize that I have passion when it comes to the work that God has fitted me to do. And in some ways, my passion is good. It propels me to do what I do, and love doing it! In other ways, I have come realize that my passions have perhaps fueled some biases with respect to the good works that I might think you should be doing, or even perhaps in some cases with respect to the good works that I might think that we as a church body should be doing.

The emotional range with which I have studied for these messages has been interesting to me, to say the least. Emotions ranging from trembling in fear, to great excitement and enthusiasm, to having to stop studying on a few mornings due to a growing angst in me that I didn't like. On those occasions I would have to go to the Lord and confess inappropriate feelings with respect to this topic, either by feeling that in times past I had been misunderstood in the area of my works, or people that I love have been misunderstood in the area of their works, taking up an offense for them (or for me). This has been wrong on my part, and I needed to confess it.

At times as I have been writing these messages, I have had to change my wording, so as not to have personal agenda in this teaching. I have had to shake my head, so as to not personalize this! All in all, I have been taught a few things by the Lord in the process. I have realized that I have needed to lay aside my biases, my agenda, my passions, and simply teach the areas that He seems to have led me in this vast topic, because there could be many!

Though there could be other areas of good works that I could teach about, I would like to be perfectly clear, I am going to focus on the facet of good works with respect to the spreading of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ and what that means. I would like to do this, because of the widespread importance this has with respect to our created purpose, and the goal of our faith! And my hope is that all three messages will present a few different aspects of this.

I have often heard the questions asked, “How do I know what works I am supposed to do?” Or “What defines a good work?”

Those are fair questions, aren't they? Especially in light of the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the understanding that we have with respect to our potential therein, we need to be asking these questions, so as to assure that we are not wasting the time that we have left.

In fact, Scripture reveals that Jesus was asked this question on different occasions during His earthly ministry. Probably most of us are familiar with the story of the rich young ruler, who ran up to Jesus one day and kneeling before Him, asked what he must do to inherit age-lasting life (Mark 10:17).

Perhaps we are not quite as familiar with a similar scenario. A certain lawyer asked Him exactly the same question:

Luke 10:25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Both of these individuals were asking what they had TO DO in order to receive something that they were in a position to either receive or to forfeit. Right?

It is interesting to note that *the knowledge of what the inheritance was* is presumed by those involved in both of these scenarios. They were not asking what the inheritance was; nor did Jesus tell them what it was! This knowledge was presumed; they simply knew!

I don't think that would be presumed today. In fact, most people throughout Christendom today would assume that *the inheritance* is one and the same as *the free gift of eternal of life* (life for the AGES), and in that assumption, they would not be asking “what must I do?” They would assume that they had already DONE what they needed to do — that to *believe in Jesus* and they would have all that was theirs to have.

Obviously that is not the case here. These men knew that the inheritance was based upon something that they could DO to get it. And I think we can know that they knew that in not doing WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO, they would forfeit it. And their understanding of this was founded in the Old Testament. So let's ask the question that is not asked in either text: What is the inheritance?

Whenever “the inheritance” was dealt with in the OT, it was dealt with as regards to a reward for faithfulness within their relationship with God. And it had to do with three things. It had to do with:

- **Being a DESCENDANT of Abraham**
- **Owning the LAND, and**
- **Having REST within that land!**

It began with Abraham. After successfully freeing Lot and his family from having been caught up in and war taken captive by the victors, Abraham met Melchizedek, and as a result of that meeting and his understanding of what was on offer to him by the God, Who possessed the heavens and the earth, Abraham turned down the offer of the earthly spoils by the king of Sodom. And as a result of his refusal, we read:

Genesis 15

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." 2 And Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what wilt Thou give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Abraham related the “reward” that God would give him, which would “be very great” to an inheritance! And immediately after these words were spoken, God promised Abram a great number of descendants in two realms — stars in the heavens and sand on the seashore. And then, right there within Genesis 15, God gave him the geographical dimensions of a LAND, which would be the inheritance handed down, so to speak, Abraham’s promised descendants.

Of course! The inheritance would be the Promised Land and everything connected to it! And we can know that it would not just be an *earthly* inheritance, even as Abraham knew it would also be a *heavenly* inheritance as well. Abraham understood and believed about these things, and in his belief he lived in such a way so as to reveal that he was looking for a heavenly city!

These two men, the rich young ruler and the certain lawyer, in asking Jesus the question concerning what it would take to receive the inheritance would have been able to remember the words of Moses, in so very many places in Moses’ writing. Time and time again, Moses related the *inheritance* to the *land*, and within the land there would be *rest* from their enemies. The three words were almost interchangeable, certainly interrelated. Here is just one example of many. Moses, in speaking to Abraham’s physical descendants through Isaac and Jacob said:

Deuteronomy 25

19 "Therefore it shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess...

We (you and I) must know and understand that we are heirs to this same type of inheritance! As members of the Body of Christ (Who is the Seed of Abraham), we stand to inherit the exact same type of inheritance that the two men were asking Jesus about.

Galatians 3

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, [saying,] "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

...13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law...14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

...26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

...29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Can it be more clear than that? Therefore, with some level of understanding of what the inheritance is, we too should be asking Him, *What must we do to inherit life in the coming age.* And so we can begin to grasp what is connected to such an inheritance?

It must be known and understood that the inheritance of the land and the rest therein would have most certainly been connected to an administration of a kingdom!

- In the very beginning God created man to rule.
- God promised Abraham that “kings would come from” him, and from Sarah (which would indicate kings would come through the lineage of Isaac).
- When God saved Abraham’s descendants out of the land of Egypt (adopting the Nation of Israel as His firstborn sons the night of Passover), He promised them that they would be a **kingdom of priests** if they would but obey!
- God called Saul, then David, then Solomon, setting up a THEOCRACY, wherein His people would administrate His KINGDOM over the earth.

Overall, the OT deals with Abraham’s physical descendants through Isaac and Jacob — the sand on the seashore — with the earthly portion of the inheritance, the earthly kingdom. And that can be seen over and over again through the pages of the OT.

But when John the Baptist appeared on the scene, being called to PREPARE THE WAY for the Messiah — the King of the Jews — his message was “Repent for the KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS is at hand.” Now the message would deal with Abraham’s descendants as the stars in the heavens, and the heavenly city, which Abraham had understood. And to realize that this message concerning the kingdom is what the inheritance is all about was easy for the Jews of Jesus day to understand, And these two

men — the rich young ruler and the lawyer — would have known these things when asking their question, as would have those listening to the question being asked and answered.

So the question was *not* about “what is the inheritance?” the question was “What must I DO in order to receive the inheritance?” And the answer that Jesus gave on both occasions was connected to the explicit question.

And so we must ask the same question: What must *I do...*” And to bring this to bear upon us, we have the writings of Paul, to whom was given clear understanding of the mystery that was hid from ages past until his day — the mystery that Gentiles would be grafted into the “commonwealth of Israel” through the Seed of Abraham (as we have already seen his insight into this in the passage in Galatians). Paul very clearly deals with the reward of the inheritance for us as well. In Colossians, he writes:

Colossians 3

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Here we can see unequivocally that *the inheritance is the reward!* And we can see unequivocally that the reward of this inheritance is based upon our works! This is the exact thing that Abraham understood when God offered him the very great reward back in Genesis 15. The reward was based upon *what Abraham had done* in the previous chapter; and this very great reward would be an inheritance to hand down to his own descendants, eventually understood to be through Isaac, through Christ, to us.

And as Abraham’s descendants through Christ, you and I have on offer, as children of God, a heavenly inheritance. And this is not just some ethereal promise that is left up to our imagination (or lack thereof) of what the inheritance might be. It is tangible and clearly spelled out in Scripture.

First, the OT gives us a picture of what our inheritance is, by revealing what the earthly inheritance was, and using this as a tangible example of a heavenly inheritance. Just like the earthly inheritance, our heavenly inheritance will consist of:

- Being a DESCENDANT of Abraham (through the Seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ),
- A LAND to receive as an inheritance (a heavenly city over an earthly land) and,
- REST from our enemies in the heavenlies.

Also the NT is replete with passages that explicitly tell us what our inheritance has to do with, if we would have ears to hear. It is a heavenly land — the heavenly city, which has foundations, and whose architect and builder is God! This is the place that Jesus went to prepare, in His own words He says:

John 14

2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also..."

Jesus clearly says that in His Father's house... Do you think this is literally a "house"? No. It is a literal city in which Christ will dwell with His co-heirs, but a house in Scripture, most often refers to an administration within a system of rulership.

In His Father's house there are *many dwelling places...many positions of authority* to be filled, many positions of rulership! And due to this, Jesus goes to prepare this place for us in the heavens. And if He goes, HE WILL COME AGAIN, to receive you and me to Himself, so that we might be together with Him. And if these things were NOT SO, He would have told us!

What is the place that Jesus went to prepare? He went to prepare a place wherein when He comes again, we might be able to live together with Him! It is a place wherein many believers — faithful believers — will receive as an inheritance in the heavenly city, which will be tangible real estate. The description of it may seem surreal, but is very literal and real none-the-less!

Revelation 21

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names [were] written on them, which are [those] of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

13 [There were] three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them [were] the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And the one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. 16 And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, [according to] human measurements, which are [also] angelic [measurements.] 18 And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third...

Twelve foundations stones in all...each specifically named in the text. And —

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

This will be the future location of the Throne of Jesus, which He is presently seeking to fill with faithful believers all the while waiting to ascend, as He sits at the right hand of the Father's Throne. Jesus is preparing this place, this heavenly city, so as to offer it as an inheritance to His Bride, who will become His Wife, once her earthly inheritance is redeemed out of the control of Satan and his angels.

This heavenly city will be the dwelling place for the King of innumerable kings — for Jesus and those who will be His co-heirs! And it is from this heavenly city that rulership over the earth will emanate in that coming day.

And to see that the inheritance has to do with the coming kingdom is easy. We have record of what Jesus says concerning the inheritance to faithful Gentiles in their judgment at the end of the Tribulation:

Matthew 25

34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Then again, in furthering our understanding of what it will take to inherit, we can read a list of sins of the flesh that Paul identifies as sins that would cause Christians to forfeit the inheritance, we read again that the inheritance *is the kingdom!*

I Corinthians 6

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor [the] covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And...

Galatians 5

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

So the inheritance has to do with the kingdom, and that has to do with the coming age, not the eternal ages; it has to do with the Age (singular) of the Ages, and not the Ages (plural) of the Ages. The reward of the inheritance based upon *works done in faith* and has to do with *life in the coming age* as opposed to death (separation) in the coming age.

Look at how Paul lays out works within *the scope of salvation*. He says:

Ephesians 2

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

We all know that works can in no way enter into our salvation by grace. We have been saved by grace through faith, not by any work that we might do. But we have been saved by grace through faith in the work of Another, the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Jesus saved us from eternal death, eternal separation. This is our *free gift*; our *spiritual birth*; our “eternal” life — *life in the ages of the ages!*

Knowing that, *now we must also understand* that we *have been saved to do good works*. Let’s look at the very next verse, paying close attention to the wording:

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

This is referring to the work that a person, once saved, has been created to do. And as we can see, these works have been prepared from beforehand that we should walk in them!

Let’s look at it like this:

<p>The Free Gift -- Based upon Faith alone (in the work that Jesus did)</p> <p>Life for the Ages of Ages (Eternity)</p> <p>"Spiritual Birth" Salvation with respect to eternity</p>	<p>The Inheritance -- Based upon <i>faithful</i> works (works that we do through faith)</p> <p>Life in the Age of the Ages (Coming Age)</p> <p>"Salvation of the Soul" Salvation with respect to the coming age</p>
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And if these works *have been* prepared before the foundation of the world, specifically for us to do (and they have), then wouldn’t it behoove us to DO them?

So, alongside the rich young ruler and the certain lawyer, we might ask:

- “What must I do to inherit LIFE in the age to come?” Or to put it another way —
- What must I do to receive the reward of the inheritance in the kingdom age (which is the age to come)? And then,

- What are the good works that I *have been created* to do from before the foundation of the world?

Let's go back to Ephesians 2:10, and reread it.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. This is to be compared to the creation of Eve within Adam, with Adam being a type of Christ, and Eve a type of the Bride of Christ.

Genesis 1

27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

God created the woman within the man, and later took a part of the man's body, and with that part, and that part only, He literally built the woman! In the same way, we have been created in Christ Jesus, and at a later time, God will take a part of the Body of Christ and build the woman, to be his wife.

So we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. And just as Adam and Eve were created to do something, so we have been created TO DO SOMETHING! Let's go back to Genesis and read the next verse:

Genesis 1

28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Adam and Eve were given work to do. Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue the earth and rule over the earth. "Subdue the earth? What does that mean?"

That word *subdue* is used many times in the OT in the way of "treading down" or "trampling". It has to do with walking in the way of having dominion over... Hang on to this thought for a moment, while we go back to our Ephesians verse.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The word "works" in our Ephesians passage is from the Greek word "ergon" and it means (to work); toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication, an act:--deed, doing, labour, work.

And as we can see, these "works" or acts, or deeds, or labors, are something that God has prepared beforehand!

The phrase “prepared beforehand” means to “fit up in advance” and it is connected to an internal fitting, a preparedness which He makes *intrinsic within each of us*.

And these “works” or acts, or deeds, or labors, being something that God has prepared beforehand are things “that we should walk in”.

The word walk to tread all around, to walk at large (especially as proof of ability); -- go, be occupied with, walk (about).

This is an interesting verse because of the implications within it. Adam and Eve were told to “subdue” the earth. That Hebrew word implies a treading and trampling down.

So one might wonder...if we have been “**created** to do good works” — **prepared**, fitted **beforehand**, to **walk** in these good works, then does this have anything to do with the *created purpose of man* — that to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and rule over it? And if it does, then what can we learn *from the beginning* about the doing of these good works? What can we know about all of this, from the beginning, since these things have been prepared for us to do “beforehand”?

So let’s look to see what the Bible says *at the beginning* about GOOD WORKS and try to grasp a correct perspective of it. Here at the beginning, it must be noted that the very first mention of the idea of WORK is connected to the very purpose for man’s creation.

The steps laid out in Genesis 1:28 are:

- **To be fruitful,**
- **To multiply,**
- **To fill the earth, and**
- **To subdue, or tread upon the earth, then**
- **To rule!**

Man was created specifically to do these things. But man’s procreation (multiplying and filling the earth) in and of itself would not be the thing that would allow him to rule. In order to ascend the position to rule he would have to OBEY. We must understand this! Man would have to OBEY God within the realm of WORK in order to fulfill his created purpose. Apart from obedience, man would not be able to fulfill his created purpose, no matter how much he became fruitful in populating the earth.

Genesis 2

7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

And a few verses beyond:

... 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

Two trees are specifically identified — one tree has to do with LIFE, and the other tree has to do with DEATH! And the man was given a command, along with free choice to either obey or disobey. Herein we see that God gave the man work to do with exact ramifications if he did not obey. If he disobeyed, he would die, and the implied ramification of death was that he would not be able to rule.

And so we see that man **would have to OBEY God within the realm of WORK in order to fulfill his created purpose.** In essence this can be said: God created man to rule, but in order to rule, he needed to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue the earth and rule, and in all of this, he was given a command to obey — do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Obedience to this command, would allow LIFE *to continue*; disobedience would bring forth DEATH. And one would not be able to rule in a dead state! One can only rule if he or she is ALIVE.

These are issues that have to do with our topic in dealing with the question: What works have been prepared beforehand that I am to accomplish? The principle is this:

- OBEY—LIVE—FULFILL CREATED PURPOSE, or
- DISOBEY—DIE—DO NOT FULFILL CREATED PURPOSE

This has been God's principle from the very beginning. God created man an eternal being in order to rule; continued obedience would allow for continued LIFE, but disobedience would bring forth death.

And of course we must remember that LIFE means to be in union with God, and DEATH means to be separated from God. It is that simple, really. *LIFE means to be in union with God, and DEATH means to be separated from God.* Not only do we see that principle in the Garden, we can also see it in connection with the Children of Israel as they were being taken out of the Egypt.

Once God saved His people out of the bondage of slavery, He told them that they had been saved in order to be taken into another LAND wherein they would be HIS people, and become a *kingdom of priests*. He would be their KING, and they would be the KING'S people, being elevated above all other peoples, and will rule with Him. Of course a kingdom implies rulership! Remember this very familiar passage:

Exodus 19

5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'...

The first five books of the Bible are absolutely replete with this principle. Over and over again, God emphasized this to His people — obey and LIVE in the land as your inheritance, being a part of the Theocracy (the kingdom of priests); disobey and DIE being separated from the land, the inheritance and the theocracy. And He showed it to be true! He does not deny Himself. He will do what says He will do; we must not ever think that He will not follow through on what He says.

And of course if you run the Scriptural storyline of the first generation of Israel, you would see that they DID NOT OBEY, and therefore DIED in the wilderness; though saved out of the bondage of slavery, their bodies were strewn in the wilderness, short of their inheritance in the land. Simply put—they did not do the good work of obedience and therefore could not perform that which God had created them for---to rule.

Then the second generation was also faced with the same call for obedience which leads to life. In speaking to the second generation, the generation of Israel who would go into the land to receive their inheritance, Moses said:

De 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Innumerable times God presented His people in one way or other the principle of this choice! Obey and you will LIVE and rule; disobey and you will DIE and lose the right to rule.

Again, obedience is connected with LIFE, and disobedience is connected with DEATH! The principle was obviously in force during the times of the JUDGES, those 350 years or so during which time God's people spiraled down over and over again in unbelief and disobedience. And of course it is no different during the days of the Prophets. In fact each of their messages was replete with the same thing!

We see the principle working out in King Saul's life, don't we? There was an expectation of his obedience with attendant blessings to follow, but did Saul obey? No. And what was the outcome of his disobedience? He forfeited his right to be rule, and ended up dying at the hands of none other than an Amalekite!

On and on we could go with picture after picture in the Scriptures of God giving His Word succinctly to His people and living up to exactly what He says therein. He has done it in the past and He will do it in the future.

At this point, you may be asking what all of this has to do with knowing what good works God prepared for us to do from beforehand. May I just say that it has everything to do with it. Because it is a true statement: People act according to what they believe. A person's words may or may not depict the way a person believes, but their actions always do! A person acts according to what they believe.

As so with what we know *and believe* about the coming kingdom and our potential therein, we must also grow into a solid grasp of *what we must do to inherit LIFE* in the coming age. It is not enough to KNOW about the kingdom, we must also act within our knowledge.

There are many facets of good works that we could talk about, more of which we will touch upon in my two upcoming messages. But one thing we need to know about works that will be endure the fire at the JSOC bringing forth our reward of the inheritance is that our works will fall into two broad categories:

- Inward works (with respect to our inner self (if you will) — that of continually dying to the flesh, and
- Outward work (with respect to our outer self (if you will) — that of laying our life down for others.

Here at Cornerstone, we have been well taught about things concerning the work that we must allow the Holy Spirit to do *within* each of us individually in order to bring about the transformation, that metamorphosis that can only be done through the renewing our minds with the Word of God. The emphasis of these things must be ongoing. And we **must do** what we have already learned concerning this inward transformation, being continually reminded of these things, and encouraged to keep on keeping on. Now with this in place, we must also grasp the answer to the question: *What are the outward things that I must do in order to inherit life in the age to come?* What are the outward works, the “ergon” the toil, the labor, the things that I should be occupied with, in order to receive my inheritance?

In the beginning...there was the command to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth, subdue it (tread upon it)...and within the doing of this work the man and woman were to be obedient to the command of God! For disobedience would bring forth death, but walking in obedience would allow LIFE to continue, thus allowing the ultimate fulfillment of God's created purpose for man.

In the striving to allow the Holy Spirit to change us, we must also be mindful that we have been called upon to take the Good News to others. We also must be fruitful, multiply, and (in a sense) fill the heavens!

So how do we do that? That is the subject of my next message! See you then!