

Our Confidence in God, Pt. 1

Ronald Weinland

August 23, 2025

Thought I'd mention the book is still in the process of being worked on. We are a little behind right now where I'd rather be, but that's life. I know, I feel extremely confident it's going at a pace that it's supposed to. So, if we understand what that means, that's good, because it will come out when it's supposed to and not before.

So, we just keep doing our part and keep working on it. There are some things being worked with. I'll just give you an example, Chapter 5 that's on there now is now going to become Chapter 6. So, when the other chapter is loaded on there, some are going to be a little confused because they're going to say, they're going to go to Chapter 6 and say, "We've already read this," and not knowing that Chapter 5 is in the process of being worked on to be put there. It's a matter of chronology. And rather than explaining the reasons for all it...

Well, I'll explain it. We're trying to approach the Holy Days a little bit differently in the sense that things of chronology are being discussed, as they have been about Passover, leading up to Passover. And then what follows that portion is the Wave Sheaf, what Christ fulfilled; and also then that process of what leads up to Pentecost, that period of time that Christ was with them for forty days.

That's the part more that's going to be put in between, because then, when you get to the Holy Days, it's a matter of explaining some of those things. But it's like, hopefully, more of an "Ah-ha" moment of being able to say, "Now I see why, because these are the things that took place that Christ fulfilled." So, I had a little bit of that out of order, and my son caught that, and I had to rewrite a little bit, which happens anyway on a lot of this.

So, a lot of different ones see different things, and that's great. It's going to make for a better book when it's all said and done. So, I really don't think that it'll be up totally until 2026, the beginning there somewhere. That's kind of what I'm feeling right now, that this is the pace we're going. And it definitely is not going to be done before the Feast because we have too much going on. I still have three sermons to get fully organized for the Feast that aren't... I know where they're going, but they're not there, and it takes a lot of work. As well as trying to keep ahead with some of the regular sermons and the like. So, it's coming along; just have to have some patience, as I have to have patience with all of this. It's a process, and it's far more intensive than it ever has been.

With that said, we're going into a new sermon today, new sermon series, at least two I know of.

When we speak of faith in God, we often speak of the ability that God has given to us to believe the truth that He reveals to us. Because that's how the process begins. God has to show us, reveal in through

the mind, whether it's through something we hear, read, or whatever, and all of a sudden we begin to see something because of God's spirit as He opens our minds to see these things.

Then, of course, it's our choice then to follow up with that. It is a personal choice to begin living what we have come to believe. God gives us the ability to believe it, then it's up to us, obviously, to begin living it (Hope I said that right.), living according to that belief that He's revealed to us. And that's, candidly, the definition of faith, which I've mentioned so many times. We need to understand that process. The ability to believe, then our choice to live it. Because so many make the choice of not progressing but a certain distance and that's it, even though their minds are opened up. And that's a choice. And then it's our choice to receive it and then to stay in it as well.

That's why I've mentioned that it's exciting, inspiring to see people Sabbath by Sabbath, especially when we're travelling to different areas, who are fighting the fight, who are staying in this. Because it's a fight, it's a battle to stay here, to be here, to be faithful to God, to seek God's help and strength to live this way of life constantly, not to give up on it.

It's insane to leave it. It's insanity. It's absolute insanity, an unsound mind to leave something so incredible that God opens the mind with the ability to believe what is true. So few on earth who have ever been given that opportunity, to understand what's happened over 6,000 years. Just sometimes just really boggles my mind what we as human beings are capable of doing, placing a greater value on something different than what God has sacrificed for so long to bring us to this point in time to have what we have. It's just hard for us as human beings to grasp how much we really have. And it's easy to begin taking it for granted if we're not careful.

So, as we grow, having mentioned these things, we come to more fully understand what it means to believe God. Because we can say we believe God from the very beginning, but we're not there yet. We're really not there yet. We might be at the beginning stages, but it's a very infant stage to say, "Oh, yes, I believe God. I believe everything He's given to me." Well, that's a beginning process, but to really believe God... Because we begin this process by being able to believe the truth. He shows it to us. But God, that's another matter. To believe God? Because that has to do with what we're going to be talking about here today.

I think of the example when I began to see, to believe the truth concerning the weekly Sabbath, which happened late one night around 10-10:30. Went home from college to work that summer in that area of Kansas. This time, not going on harvest runs where I used to run a combine year after year. Now, to go to the elevator to receive the wheat that was coming in from the harvest. So, found a good job to work in an elevator. Didn't know it was going to take up far more hours than anything else I'd ever done before, but... Because when harvest hits, that grain is precious, and what you do with it, the ability to make sure it's continually being able to be dried out, it's a long process and a lot of work, and there's no such thing as a twelve-hour day; it goes way past that. So, learned a lot from that process.

But what an incredible thing, that that night when I got home began to be told about these things, sitting down at a kitchen table with someone talking about God that never talked about God except in cursing in times past in all my memory. And then being able to believe about the ten tribes of Israel. Lost ten tribes. I didn't know anything about the lost ten tribes. But all of a sudden it was here. I just heard it, and I believed it. And candidly, most through time, if you look at time before the last, what, since before Philadelphia, they had to hear it. They had to be told about it as a whole because the printing press, there was no one out there, as a whole, printing pamphlets and *Plain Truth* magazines and *Tomorrow's World* and everything else that was out there.

So, to be able to believe something when you hear it, to know it's true, what an incredible thing to experience, something that can never be taken from you. To hold on to, to realize what an awesome thing that is. You just know it's true. You can't prove it, it's just there.

That's why I hate that when people used to talk about "Well, you can go in and prove certain things," and think, "No, you prove it by living it." That's the only way you can prove it. You cannot go to your *Strong's Concordance*, to your Bible, to all the research you want to do, and somehow figure it all out and then prove it that way, that what you're hearing is true. No, it's either up here or it's not. Incredible!

And so, anyway, to begin believing that and being able to see that most of Western Europe made up of the lost ten tribes and what happened to them as they were taken captive, and then to come to see the uniqueness of Great Britain, that was no longer great as a whole, but prophecies that had been fulfilled, to see some other nations that still held on to the belief in the royalty there – Canada, Australia, New Zealand, as an example – and to understand that this went back to King David and that that was still in existence, that lineage. Incredible.

Things about the Holy Days, to know that they were true. Awesome!

So, I was able to know what was true and believe it, but could not yet fully grasp God. Takes time. And that has to do with believing God. Even though you're able to believe the truth and God gives you an ability to begin to believe Him, in Him, it's a growing process to believe Him in all things, truly. Which is about the title of this sermon today, a new series entitled *Our Confidence in God*, this, obviously, being *Part 1*.

And the reason we're doing this is because this can help us come to see more deeply, if you will, the degree to which we are living by faith. Because that's something we need to be able to see and be reassured of in our life. Living by faith in God, believing God, trusting (which has to do with trust). Confidence in God has to do with trusting in God. And the Bible has a lot to say about that.

We're going to start in one area where it begins to talk about this a lot in the Psalms. Also talks about it in Proverbs a lot, and then in other places throughout scripture, but we're going to begin today in Psalms. So, we grow, we come to more fully understand what it then means to, again, believe God, as we

go through some of this, as I've already stated. We begin by believing the truth that He reveals to us, which is a process, yet the ability to really believe God, to have confidence and trust in God, takes time. We grow in that. As I've talked about my ability to learn to finally come to a point of having confidence in God, in believing God, to be able to say, "I love You." Took me a long time, and God had patience. Incredible.

Psalms 27:1—The Eternal is my light and my salvation. Awesome scriptures. We can relate to that. You know, sometimes, if you're having a difficulty with certain things in your life, it's good to go to a Psalm, start going through it and praying about it, praying what's said there. Because so often, the things that are said there are a matter of human life anyway. It's what we experience as we come to know God. This is what David is relating. David related things that were a matter of God's spirit working in his mind, and those things that come out of the mind as we grow, as we mature. And those things are inspired then, led by God's spirit.

God is involved in our growth. And that ability then of God working with the mind is a marvel, and yet we go through a lot of things as physical human beings, a lot of hardships, a lot of trial, a lot of anguish, a lot of pain, a lot of suffering, a lot of drama. On and on it goes. We're human beings and we have selfish nature, and these things are natural. So, these things can apply to us. As you read them, they are things we see and we relate to them, and we can pray about them then as we see it.

So, **The Eternal is my light and my salvation.** Something we grow in to see and understand. **In whom shall I fear?** There are times that people are struck by such things as this. It's a matter of God being first, of growing in that process, of realizing I should fear... Not God. That is so misused and misinterpreted so often. It's a matter of fearing to do anything other than what God gives to us, what God reveals to us. It's a fear to leave God, a fear to turn toward something different. That's what we should fear.

Once God opens the mind – to leave that? To stray away from it? The greater the fear is of something like that happening as a human being and knowing what we're capable of as human beings is the very thing that should drive us into a closer relationship to God, stir up a relationship in the sense of our minds wanting to pray, wanting to... Because that's what we have to grow in, wanting God's life in us, wanting Christ to dwell in us, wanting to dwell in the Body of Christ, and never to have any separation in that.

In whom shall I fear? The Eternal is the strength of my life. That's something we should be growing in. He's our strength. He gives us strength. That's why we pray. That's why we do the things we do. That's why we live what we live.

He is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? So, a lot said there. Of things we may go through in our lives. And there are going to be times that are coming up—part of the reason for going through some of this—there are going to be some scary things happen in life. You know, every once in a while, something happens in the news. It's like we've been looking to this time but don't want to go

through it either. But we have to go through it, and it's going to be horrifying when some things begin to happen, whatever the first thing is. Very likely, a nuclear weapon going off somewhere, and not necessarily here.

Something is going to turn Europe. Something has to shake the tar out of them in a manner that begins to force them into a certain mode of thinking. They are so disorganized. This thing of iron and clay is a marvel to watch, it really is. Iron and clay. There is strength there. They don't know how to use it. They can't use it. They can't bring it together. Very disorganized. It's a marvel that it can continue on like it is in the way that it is.

Right now, they're talking about France and how bad their finances are, and everything is falling apart. And that's happening throughout Europe. And yet, you look at the world, and the Euro is going up and the dollar is going down. It's like...? Things are really weird out there, what's happening. At a time when people are really looking at their economies over there, it should be different. But things aren't normal anymore. Things are just upside down.

And then to see leaders come together. That was quite a moment. I don't know how many of you were struck by that, but it was an awesome moment to see President Trump, Macron of France, Rutte from the Netherlands, Meloni from Italy, Merz from Germany, Starmer from Great Britain, a couple of others that I don't remember, and probably missed...should know them. All of them sitting there around a table. Oh, von der Leyen, however she pronounces her name, basically over the EU, has maintained strength for a long time now. I don't know how she's able to it, but she's staying in there.

And you think, this is incredible, they're all together. And some of those, undoubtedly, are going to be a part of what eventually transpires, and it won't be in kindness to this country. And to see things that are happening and all stirred up because of a war that's being fought over there. I was just waiting for him to say, "Peace, peace," because then is when you really need to be afraid, if you're talking about this is it. Because right after that, it's going to start.

And at some point here, something like that is going to happen. And when I hear it, I'm probably going to have chills up and down my spine, and I'm probably not going to be real excited. But knowing it has to happen, and we have to go through this, it's just a part of something that has to take place. We know what's coming; we know the magnitude of it. It's horrifying. But it's another thing to live through it, to know we're going to live through it or whatever, because there are going to be quite a few people die as well, even in God's Church.

You don't have to worry about it. Confidence in God. Trust in God. Our lives are in God's hands. What else could we want? We're very, very blessed. And for those who are going to be a part of 144,000, and we don't know who they are, not so bad, if you understand human suffering.

So, we see all of them together like that, but what is going to change? They've had their moments, but they've kind of made it past some of that. They're starting to pay more now to a system that they really didn't like in the beginning, in supporting NATO, because they weren't doing their fair share, and they've addressed some of that. And then the tariffs in there, nobody really wants to get into that one. That's a can of worms. And yet something is going to have to spark their minds to want to do something, to make a certain decision that they're going to have to eventually make. And it's going to be powerful. It has to be. It can't just be a normal thing that takes place out here.

And to me, I wouldn't be shocked one day to hear about a nuclear weapon that's already gone off in Ukraine somewhere. That's where we're headed at some point. And who is going to want to start the war then? Who is going to want to fight that war? What decisions have to be made? Because then it becomes more real when you realize we're talking about nuclear weapons. We're not talking about some of the stupidity of ground warfare that's going on right now, and massive amounts of people, yes, being killed. But that's peanuts. That's nothing compared to what it will escalate into. And so many nations already know it's going to happen. There's going to be a great war. They're preparing for it.

What was, I read one thing here yesterday or today, Australia and the Philippines have made a pact, an agreement, because of the threat from China. It's hunky dory to make all those things, but it's another thing when it comes knocking on your door. What are you really going to do? How involved are you going to be? And when it starts, they're going to be involved. They have to be.

But these are some scary times, they really are. They're horrifying times. "Of whom shall I be afraid?" Well, when I read that, I think about what's coming and realize when it finally happens, there is going to be that, some of those feelings in us, especially when we see it getting worse and experiencing some of that. It's a time to draw closer to God. It's a time to be closer to God than you've ever been, truly. And you'll be able to. And it's about a confidence you have in God that you're growing in now. And it's about your life and the life of others you love, and to know, especially within the Church, we're all in God's hands. Where else would we want to be? Whether we live or whether we die. That's an incredible thing to know and to understand. Because if we do anything on our own or go off and do something else, it's so much... There's not even a comparison to it, how insane, how horrifying that is.

Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me to consume my flesh, they stumbled and fell. So, David experienced these things over and over again. He lived through things in a very incredible way to be written about, so we can learn greater lessons from it on a spiritual plane, and to write such things as this. We may have things that come our way every once in a while, enemies, people who don't like us, who don't want us, things on the job, whatever it might be, and they can be hard to go through, dealing with other human beings who don't know the truth and don't know why you do the things you do and believe or whatever.

And so, sometimes it's just not easy. You look to God. You draw closer to God. You place it before God. Because there are some things, there is nothing you can do about it; you just place it in God's hands, knowing that whatever He allows to take place in your life, it's for your good, even if it's hard, even if it's difficult. That's an incredible mindset to be able to have of peace, of confidence, because you know that your life is in His hands and if something happens, it's going to be for your benefit, to help mold and fashion something in you that you can't have... How valuable is that?

I'll tell you, that's one of the strongest things, of many. that has helped me in so many things. No matter how bad something might get, your life is in God's hands, and if you can see by going through difficult times, this is how we're made stronger, better prepared to fit where God's going to have us in His Kingdom. And whatever it takes in order to be fit perfectly into that point, that spot, so be it. Because then you're talking about all time – all time – from then on in God's Family, in a family we really can't grasp because it'll be absolutely one of peace, one of unity in a way that we can't grasp as human beings because we're selfish. A closeness, a oneness with one another, a love toward one another on a plane, on a level we have never been able to experience, and cannot experience, as human beings. We can only have a little bit of a taste of it here and there. Awesome!

Though a host should encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Because he's already said, because of what he's seen already. He's had experiences of God working in his life. He's seen some of these things. He's seen his foes fall around him. And so, that's just made him stronger. I think, how many people go up against a lion? How many go up against a bear to save sheep? Incredible! So, even experiencing those things helped prepare him.

Because he had to be prepared as a young man to go up and do what he did, picking up some stones and going up against a giant, and not just a giant, but a strong one, military, training, and power, the best they had of all the Philistines. And he went up there like... You've got to be nuts. Or trust in God. That's what made the difference. He just knew. It's like a knowing. Incredible, some of these stories, that though they happened physically, what happens spiritually in life is of that magnitude if we can see it.

Though a host should encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Even if war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. In God, in God's intervention. Because his life was in God's hands. That's what he trusted in.

One thing have I desired of the Eternal, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Eternal all the days of my life. Now, he wrote this with what he understood. How much more do we grasp and comprehend of what this is all about than what he did then? But he had a yearning, that which was inside of him in a very powerful way. This was his desire. And it's our desire; this is our life. This is where we want to be, in the house of the Eternal forever. And we understand that in a way that no one has ever understood in the Church, in the same plane. You can read about the things in John,

John 14, and Christ dwelling in us to lead us to that point of what's going to happen that wasn't revealed until a few Feasts ago, that that's God's entire purpose, is to dwell in His Family forever. Awesome!

So, we get to be blessed to dwell in God's Temple, God's Family. Awesome!

That I may dwell in the house of the Eternal all the days of my life. To behold the beauty of the Eternal, and to search out His Temple. To understand on a spiritual plane is incredible. To search out the blessings of things we don't even know that are coming our way. What it means to be inheritors of the universe. We can't grasp that. We can strive to appreciate it. We can be in awe of it. Always remembering as we see some of these things, as we read about some of them, that this is what God wants to give to us.

To understand the Milky Way Galaxy of and by itself, how vast it is, and the work that's going to be done in that long, long, long before ever going on to another one. And you know how many there are out there of those? We don't even know all that. But what we do know, when you start looking at the most meager of things to be done, is into the trillions upon trillions upon trillions of years of things our human minds can't grasp. To grasp how great God is, all the time He has spent in preparing all this for us, for His Family?

Psalms 118:1—Oh, give thanks unto the Eternal, for He is good! Should be a portion of our prayer once in a while obviously, to thank God. We've just gone through some things concerning gratitude, thankfulness. Awesome! "Give thanks unto the Eternal, for He is good." Everything from Him is good.

Because His mercy endures forever. Which is about His love, His grace, being gracious to mankind. It's just the way He is. And we have to learn about that through time and experience, and won't really even fully grasp that in a larger measure until we are changed in spirit life.

Let Israel now say that His mercy endures forever. Let Israel, let the Church learn that and say that with every fibre of our being. His mercy, His love, His grace to us. Because it's about grace. It's how it works. It's about God and how He works with us as human beings and why we're here – the whole process.

Let the house of Aaron now say that His mercy endure forever. So, it's the priesthood. See, we can read that on a physical plane, but we should grasp it on a spirit plane as well. We are a royal priesthood before God. That's what He says we are. To become Elohim it's far beyond what our minds can comprehend. A royal priesthood.

Let the house of Aaron now say that His mercies endure forever. Let them that now fear the Eternal say that His mercy endures forever. His grace, that way of thinking, which is what it's all about, of how He works with us and why He works with us this way, and the kind of love that He has for us in ways that it's hard for us to understand. The closest we can come to understand is by human life and human family, and human birth. And yet that is so far removed from the power and the might of the kind that He has because it goes so far beyond that.

I called unto the Eternal in distress. I would say that all of us in the Church at one time or another have had to do that. Maybe many times. Maybe often. And that's what we should be doing because that's a matter of confidence, growing in confidence and seeing how God works with us – even if it's something that we're going through, that it's hard and difficult and bad. If we grasp it and if we're able to see it and pray about it, and God gives us greater ability to comprehend that?

Just getting older and having pains and suffering and seeing this body decay, you can learn from that and grow in that and come to love God more. Because it takes us beyond this in our minds and to realize how blessed we are as physical human beings, regardless of what we go through on a physical plane, to be able to draw closer to God, to be able to embrace something so incredible as His Family and what it's going to be when we're changed.

I called unto the Eternal in distress. The Eternal answered me and set me in a large place. God takes care of us even in hard times. We go through difficult things, but it's a part of understanding how God works with us and the ability to be at peace with the things that we are able to be at peace in in our life, in the hard things, in the difficult things, in the times of suffering. God's always there. What a blessing.

The Eternal is on my side. What does that mean to us? Because we all should be able to say the same thing, "The Eternal is on my side." That's why we were called. That's why we have His holy spirit. That's why He's drawn us to Him, is because He wants us to be on His side, He wants to be at our side. It's a powerful thing to understand what God has placed before us, to be thankful for it, to be grateful for the opportunities that we have now. We don't have to wait a thousand... to the last hundred years. Now is our time!

I will not fear. What can man do unto me? What can anyone? And the reality is, we know the worst they can do is kill us. Human beings, that's what human beings do to one another out there. And that's the worst that can happen, someone can take someone's life. But if we're in God's hands, not unless God allows it. And if God allows it, it's for a purpose. It's a matter of confidence and faith. Truly is. Confidence in God, trust in God.

The Eternal takes my part with them that help me; therefore, shall I see my desire upon those who hate me. What an incredible thing, whether it be into the Millennium... It's not for the purpose of wanting to see that in others. I look forward to the time that those who have been evil, have been bad, that they're humbled, and hope that they're able to be humbled. Because that's the way God is toward us. He wants us to be able to be humbled to receive Him when that time comes. But we also know there are going to be many who just won't be humbled and who won't receive that. And there is nothing you can do about that. We all have our own choices. Though our heart and our desire is...

I think of all those who were scattered in the Church. I'd love to see every one of them be able to repent and be back or come during the Millennium or change and repent in the Great White Throne. But that's their choice, no matter who they are, no matter how we feel as human beings, the closeness that we feel

is there. So, not easy things. But it's a matter of dealing with things as God must deal with things in reality and truth, every opportunity given. But the choice, we only have power over this, self. We might want something for others; do we want it more than God wants it for them? No.

You think you love someone really a lot? Think God doesn't love them even more and want to see them have the opportunity, the ability to be drawn to, to be brought into a situation where they'll repent? Think God's not going to grant that, and try to work with that with different ones? But it always comes down to the choice. And the sad part is, there are just a lot that don't want God. They want something different. And we have to come to a point where we're at peace with that, no matter who it is. No matter who it is, we have to come to that point. That was their choice. I wish they hadn't of made it. Love them, but they don't love me; they don't love God in the same way. That's what it boils down to.

And if we really understand it... And there is continual growth we can all make in that, truly is. We might feel we understand that all, but we don't, and we grow in that, in understanding of it, and ability to grow in greater peace because it's about God and the mind of God and what is really just. It helps us to understand righteous judgment. We want, we desire for people to make a right choice, but judgment always has to be a part of it. It can't be any other way.

It is better to trust in the Eternal than to put confidence in man. Well, easier said than sometimes done, even within the Church. "It's better to trust in the Eternal." What a simple thing. It's better "than to put confidence in man." No one would ever leave the Church if they believed this, if they lived by this. No one would ever begin to think of leaving. No one would ever think of leaving the truth, leaving family, whatever it might be.

"It's better to trust in the Eternal than to put confidence in man." That includes self, mankind. Whether it be self and what we think and how we think, put a confidence... Who would trust in this more than God? It's insane to trust in ourselves more than we trust in God. There is no comparison.

It's like the conversation Job had with God. That's what he did. He thought he was righteous. He thought everything he'd done was righteous and right living. He raised himself up. He was strong, and he lived in a very strong, right way as far as morality is concerned in his life. But it was himself. He looked to himself, had confidence in himself and his own abilities more than God. It's what God got down to the nitty gritty, "Where were you when I created this, you of great wisdom? Where were you?" Incredible.

Helping Job to come to a point where he could finally see how small he really was. That's what God had to do with him to show him how little and how puny and how small he really was and what his nature really was like. He had to come to see his selfishness— Awesome! —before he was finally converted. Didn't happen until the end when he finally said, "Now, my eye sees you," when he really repented. "Now, I get it." Awesome story.

So, "It is better to trust in the Eternal." Shouldn't have to be said. The vast majority who have left since the time of Christ in the Church, massive amounts of people, thousands upon tens of thousands, who have been called, who have turned against Christ and the very reason why He died. Became antichrist. Mind-boggling!

It is better to trust in the Eternal than to put the confidence in princes. No matter how much we might esteem someone, and people tell us various things or who they are, it doesn't matter. If it's against God, if it's different from what God says, they're nobody, they're nothing before God, nothing. No one is if that's their mindset. And so, to trust in them?

And yet, that's how the majority of people, when the Apostasy came, made their choices. It's by what others did. Whether it be a minister that they looked up to, were taught by, or whether it's a family member that had great sway within the family. Because God called and worked with a lot of families. And so, people left. Or because it was a close friend and you had respect toward them, and so you made your choice because of that relationship rather than because of what was true and right before God. That happened a lot. People put their trust in others, princes, people that they raised up in their mind of importance, so much so that they thought they should listen to them rather than what they'd been given.

That happened to the majority of ministers in the Church who began to feel... Some just totally turned against him, God's apostle, Herbert Armstrong. Others would at least bring themselves to say, "He was a good teacher, and I learned a lot of good things from him." Every time I go through that, I just feel like blowing up inside.

"It is better to trust in the Eternal than to put confidence in princes." What does that mean? Human beings, put confidence in human beings. So, we might think we have confidence in God and put all our trust in God, and sometimes we have to be tried and tested and go through things in order to learn how to do that, in order to learn what's really inside. And hopefully, we humble ourselves, prayerfully we humble ourselves to the point where we do learn how to do that more and realize God is great and all-powerful, and where else would we want to put confidence and trust? That's the confidence that your life is in His hands. You strive to do all you can to accomplish what needs to be accomplished, or conquered or overcome, but the reality is, the bottom line is the outcome of that is in God's hands as to whether it's able to be accomplished, as yielding to God's spirit and God's life. So again, something that we grow in.

So again, it's one thing to believe in the Sabbath day or in the Holy Days or in the truths such as the Apostasy and yet look how many went through what they did and never grasped that they lived through an apostasy. Of all things written, of what happened to the Church in a massive... How could even a carnal, physical mind deny the reality of what took place and the result of it?

So, we can believe that antichrist is about anyone who leaves God that's been baptized. Because there was a time in the Church where people, we thought antichrist was someone who wasn't even a part of God's Church. And we had to come to learn, no, it's about someone that has to be a part of God's Church to become this, the antichrist, and anyone who turns against Christ is also antichrist, so... Anyway, we go through a lot to get where we're going. But to think of how much God's given to us of this kind of ability to see, grasp, and understand, this kind of knowledge, this ability for judgment.

You are a unique group in whatever you're being molded and prepared for is unique, it truly is. It'll be exceedingly fulfilling in God's Family, truly, more than what you can begin to grasp.

So, all these things are truly a matter of being able to truly believe God, which is a matter, again, of trusting, of having confidence.

Proverbs 3:1—My son, forget not my law. Now, the word "son" is used, and again, we understand "children of God," we're God's. It's not a matter of sex; it's a matter of terminology here that God uses toward His Family for us to grasp and comprehend His plan and purpose for His Family. Because when we're in God's Family, there is no such thing as male and female. So, this is the normal terminology that's used.

My son, forget not my law, but let your heart keep my commandments. So, it has to be something that's dear to us and we're the only ones who can measure that and ask ourselves the questions and hopefully, deal with this in a sound way, and asking God for help to see the things that we don't yet see, that aren't in agreement with this.

For length of days and years of life and peace, they shall add to you. Length of days. Does that mean you're going to live longer in this physical life? Is that what this is about? You know, I get to a certain point, I don't really want to go much farther. I really don't. I see the suffering of what it's like to get old, when you get up to your mid-eighties, when you get up to your nineties, you start into your nineties, and all the things that begin to happen. The body is dying. It started dying long before, because that's just the way we're made. We're made to be temporary, physical human beings, temporary life, so we can learn when we're given the ability to see it what truly is great, which goes on forever.

So again, this is saying something in a manner that's almost tongue in cheek, but it's like, what is really valuable, what really counts? You can't compare living into trillions and trillions of years and never having an end of life with this temporary little time we have. Because if this is all there is, and that's what people choose? And sadly, there are going to be a lot of people at the end of the hundred years, that's what they choose. They'd rather be dead than to have that life. Mind-boggling, but I can understand it in part for such a mind.

For length of days and years of life and peace shall they add to you. Why? Well, that's what God's giving us, Jerusalem. That's what it's all about, the city of peace, finally. I can't comprehend, candidly. I believe

it, I see it in part, but to be without any drama, none whatsoever, to me, it's awesome. I look forward to that time with great anticipation. Have 1,100 years to get there but... Because there's going to be a lot of drama with mankind for the next 1,100 years.

We think it's going to be... Used to have this concept of utopia, and it's not that way. It's an awesome world, incredible, with truth everywhere, with justice quick on the earth, with powerful government that we can't even begin to comprehend, and yet people, when it's said and done, right here, it's not in the heart. It's going to be millions of people; it's never going to be in their heart. Just because you have that kind of a world doesn't mean that you're going to choose it. And that's the sad reality of it all.

"And peace shall they add to you." Who doesn't want peace? Think of all the misery on this earth, all the suffering, things you see today because of news that's just, it's painful, the kind of suffering we go through as human beings, the kind of suffering that people put other people through. And can never learn until God calls us and calls us out of that kind of garbage and that cesspool.

Do not let mercy and truth forsake you. So, not only do we hold on to God's way of life as far as the grace we receive and the truth that we receive, to treasure them, but to do what we can to live that toward others. So, we're not to forsake them. We're to live what God has given us the opportunity to live.

Fasten them about your neck. They should be the way we think, the way we live.

...write them upon the table of your heart. It's the way we live, with passion, with great desire, as we work to fight against this. Because this is what fights against it – self, selfishness.

Then you will find favor and great understanding in the sight of God and man/mankind. So, the more, in other words, that we can grow in God's way of life, obviously, the closer we draw to God. And even in the world around us, you treat people in a certain way that they're not accustomed to being treated, as a whole, how can they be against that? Now, if they do because of what you believe, that's another matter. But to see the fruit of something, of how you live toward them, maybe on the job, maybe as a neighbor or whatever, people should be able to see something different in us.

Trust in the Eternal with all your heart. Shouldn't be a hard thing to do, but sometimes it is. We go through hard things, and we wonder about the suffering, and yet we shouldn't because we're in God's hands. He knows what we're going through.

That's why when someone has asked for anointing, that's why we generally have... You know, candidly, it only needs to be asked once, and not the three times that we've kind of used within the Church because of the example of something that Paul wrote that has been totally misunderstood, that I'm not going to go into.

But anyway, the reality is we ask for anointing once, and that's it. We're in God's hands, we obey what He said we should do, and we don't have to go back a month later, two months later, because a flare-up comes back. You know, it's one thing if you had Covid and that's gone, and three months later you catch it again and you ask for anointing. That's fine. But sometimes we go back and forth with the same thing over and over again because of whatever it might be.

And the reality is, you're in God's hands. The first time you ask, you're in His hands, period. And if God doesn't change that? You know, there are just a lot of things that God doesn't change for us, He doesn't say yes, He doesn't make okay for us. Because that's how we learn. I hope we understand that. This is how we grow. We learn that there are things we go through and suffer through, and there's a confidence in that as well that we should grasp and comprehend, a relationship with God.

We don't turn against God. We don't become upset with God. Because I've known of people who have done that. Think, what a stupid thing to do, become upset at God because He didn't intervene when we wanted Him to. I mean, that's totally lacking understanding of what it means to have confidence in God, to trust in God, to know that God knows what's best for us. I mean, where is our mind? It just shows we don't have confidence in God. That's where the mind is, and that's what it reveals. But sometimes, because it's so blurry, we don't see that, we're not shocked to repentance of such thoughts, which should never be there. But anyway, they happen because of human nature.

Trust in the Eternal with all your heart. Do not lean upon your own understanding. I've known of so many people who lean up to their own understanding of certain things in their life. It's one thing to strive to do the best you can, to have the best diet you can and have for yourself, but when people begin to judge others, which I see too often, which happens... And everyone out there who does this, don't do it. Don't try to help/tell other people how they should live their life.

I know one individual who has done it in a pretty good way in the sense of suggesting something that's helped them. And frankly, I started doing some of it, and it's helped me. And I appreciate that. But that was my choice. And the information, I felt, was good. Well, then that's fine to share something with people. But sometimes people go so far as to begin judging others because "You're not doing it this way..." or that way, and "If you'd just do what I said..." I've known of too many people in the Church who are not with us anymore because that's what they've done. And it's like, "If you just listen to me, I have the understanding. Don't you understand, I've got it. Just listen and your life will be so much better!"

There are a lot of things I'd like to tell certain people what to do when it comes to some of those kinds of things, but it's not my place. Sometimes we just have to learn the hard way. That's a part of life. Your life is in God's hands. So, we have to be careful how we address all kinds of things in life, and we strive to do that. That's good.

So again here, **Don't be wise in your own eyes.** So, whatever it might be. Somebody starting up a company and... I think of things like this when I see it happen. Or start a different venture, and all these

suggestions that begin to come out. "Oh, you shouldn't do this, and you shouldn't do it that way." Well, did they come and ask you? Are they looking for help? And if they make a big mistake because they didn't come ask you, and if you do throw something out because of something maybe they recognize you have some knowledge of, then that's fine if you share something. But they have to make the choices.

I hope you understand what I'm talking about. Because sometimes we try to interject ourselves into other people's lives when it's not our place. We have to be careful of that. And a lot of it has to do with how we think about ourselves, too. I've had criticism about this in times past, and me not putting myself into a position sometimes to address certain things in the Church and feeling like it should be addressed or whatever.

And some things I have realized, chosen, know it isn't my place. I can be taking away from someone what it is they're to experience in their life, and in a slow and methodical process as God works with them. And if there is a need be that something comes to the surface where it becomes obvious it needs to be addressed, I have learned long ago how God works. Then it's to be addressed. Because the reality is, we all go through different things, and there are some things that have to take their course. Why? Because God is molding and fashioning them. I'm not. You're not. God is. That's a confidence and a trust in God, knowing how God works.

A lot of things we can see in life because of experiences we have. You know, the more you've grown, the longer you've been around God's Church, in many cases this is a part, the way it should be, there are going to be things you see and comprehend that others don't see and comprehend because they haven't gone through certain experiences yet or haven't had an experience with it. Because a lot of what we grow in and learn is through the experience. And until you have the experience? Knowledge is one thing, but it's, in so many cases, not even useful at times because of how we use it as human beings. But it's the experiences of learning what works, what doesn't work in life that...

Anyway, it'd be another series in itself that I wouldn't even want to touch because it gets into human nature and how we deal with things in life. And there are so many, because we are so many different kinds of people, we do many different kinds of things. But the reality is, sometimes we should just have a peace within the Church of God that God has patience with all of us, and you can't make someone get to where you are in all that you see and understand until they go through certain things. And maybe they're not meant to understand and see everything the way you do it because you're being molded and fashioned for something else. And maybe they're being molded and fashioned for something that they need to come to see and understand because of where God is going to be using them. How can we judge such things on a spirit plane?

So, so much must be left in God's hands, and when things get to a point where it's a matter of sinning, that's a different matter. That's a totally different manner than how we get from one point to another. Because there are many different ways of doing things in human life and within the Church as well, and

getting to where we are going. And how did you get where you are? Trial and error. Proving. Proving God's way. Proving things that aren't God's way by what we live.

Do not be wise in your own eyes. And so much of that then has to do with judgment and how we judge others. We have to be so careful of that.

Fear the Eternal and depart from evil. That's the smart thing. Do it yourself. Strive to get away from sin. Strive to conquer and overcome.

It will be health... "Medicine" is what this word is about. **It will be medicine to your navel, and marrow to your bones.** What an incredible thing to understand when they wrote some of these, when some of these things were written. "What do you mean 'marrow to your bones'? What does that do?" Well, we haven't understood that until the last hundred years or so, the importance medically and the power that's there about marrow and how incredible it really is. That's really been better understood in the last forty years in ways that we haven't ever comprehended as far as science is concerned.

Honor the Eternal with your substance, and with the firstfruits of your increase. So, with our substance, with what we have, to strive to be pleasing to God, to strive to use the things we have in a right way, in a way that, again, honors God.

Something as simple as making your bed. God has given us the ability to have one. Think back a few hundred years, two hundred years, and before that, you know, the beds weren't like they are today. There's a big difference. Or whatever you want to look at. Stoves. So different than what people used to have. How we take care of what we're blessed to have reflects the mind. If God's given us a home to live in, it doesn't matter if it's a one-room home.

Some of us have different experiences. I grew up, in the beginning, until I was about thirteen, I guess, when we finally had an indoor toilet and indoor plumbing. So, you go through things like that, and you can learn to appreciate more so when you have it. It's nice to not have to take a stick and rub it around in this hole that's made of wood when you go outside in this little cubicle, whatever the thing is, outhouse. And you do the stick part because of black widow spiders or those other nasty little ones. I can't think of what they're even called. Yeah, the recluse.

But we did that. I so hated spiders that I kind of learned how to stand on the thing and... Hey, unless it's the wintertime... I was a kid. That's what I did. There is no way I wanted to be bitten in the you know where. And so, fully with the stick part, because there were always cobwebs. There are always spiders in there in those areas. And you take the stick... How many have ever had that experience, just taking a stick and just clearing it out? Okay, see, you know what I'm talking about. And you probably know what I'm talking about if you have a dislike for spiders to stand up there, of prop yourself up there in a manner that people did for ages. That's how people went.

Anyway, how did I get trailed off on that one? But it's this matter of realizing time has changed, what we're blessed with, and to do the best with what we have to honor God.

I think of Europe so often when we're travelling over there and how well, especially in the Netherlands, more than some of the others, even, of how beautiful they keep their land. There is a pride in that, in a good way, of keeping things beautiful. And you don't see things that are trashed up and things that are old that are just out there rotting away. They dispose of. They have ways of... Because they want to have things of... It has to be in them to want to have things look good.

I respect that mightily because I grew up in parts of the world and have seen it all over this country, where you see trash piling up and people... It's like, why don't you do something with it? God has blessed you to have something that's nice. You've got land, you have how many people that lived before you, hundreds of years, struggled to have in your own family line, to have a meager portion of what you have now, and never had as good as you do?

So again here, when we're in the Church, we should honor God with what we have, truly. It's like I've talked about on the Sabbath and so forth, and how we come before Him. And how much more then if we recognize that God has given us everything we have, the ability to have everything we have in physical human life, to be thankful to God about them all.

And if it's a matter of the bed, we want to live that way, "Well, it's so much easier to get into at night because it's already... everything is down." I can't take that up here. It has to be made, and be made well. For me, the sides have to be straight. It's just the way I am. And I'm grateful for that. The things we do to make them look nice.

Outside, around the house, I want it to look nice. I want it to be nice for others who see it, so that people can enjoy a part of life. There's an enjoyment in that kind of thing. And if we do everything we have in life like that, we're honoring God, because He made it all.

I think of the expression "to dress and keep" what we've been given. That's honoring God. And I think about the things He's given to us, to dress and keep it, to maintain. It's a mindset. So, a part of what it's talking about here.

It will be health/medicine to your navel, and marrow to your bones. Honor the Eternal with all your substance, and with the firstfruits of your increase. So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine. So, God explained that there are laws in motion, in essence, and if people will give to Him and have an attitude of that, that it has an effect even in fruit and life that's produced. And I've seen incredible things that God has done in the Church.

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Eternal. So, sometimes we go through things, and you know what, it can be hard. And we might want something, a different outcome, and sometimes we learn

there's a matter of chastening involved, and we can learn from it. Ask God for help that we can learn and see the things as we go through, that...

I think of David. I can't think of the individual's name. It starts with an "M" was it... the one that threw rocks at him, at King David? Anyway, he was cursing him and throwing rocks at him and the aide beside him, military, I can't think of which one it was even there. It's been a while since I've read the stories. But anyway, he wanted to know, "Do you want me to kill him?" You know, "Shall I put him to death," basically, is what his attitude was. And David said, "No, leave him be." He said, "There may be something here from God that I need to learn." He was willing to listen to something that someone else said who was treating him in this manner, rather than taking vengeance out upon him. Because he had the power to have his life taken if he wanted to, as a king, or leader, or whatever at that point. But anyway, I'd better go back and read that right away.

But what an incredible story, an attitude. And that's the way David was, and that's the way we're to be, to have an attitude of mind of what is it I can learn from what I'm going through, what I'm suffering? What lessons? How can I grow? Maybe then even ask God, "Are there things here more that I can see, that I can learn? Help me to learn. Help me to see."

...neither be weary of His correction. For whom the Eternal loves, He corrects. And who does He love? Everybody He's called He obviously loves. That should go without saying. The incredible love. Because that's what grace is all about. It's the love we're finally able to have as human beings from God. Most have to wait until the hundred years to receive that love from God, but it's not His plan and purpose to save the world yet. It's later on. And that's when He can pour out His love, His truth, His mind to human beings. That's why we're so awesomely blessed, if we can grasp that.

For whom the Eternal loves, He corrects. Who hasn't been corrected in the Church? Who hasn't had to go through things that are difficult to learn there's a right way or a better way, a correct way, or whatever it might be, that there is a wrong way, and there's a right way, and to learn what that balance is. We all go through things. But the learning of it is what is valuable. Incredible! And God, when we repent of sins that we have in our life, God forgives us. They're gone. We don't have to worry about them anymore. Foolishly repeated again, you go repent quickly, because you realize what your human nature is like, again, it's gone. How incredible is that? How would it be if we could all live that way toward one another?

For whom the Eternal loves, He corrects, even as a father the son in whom he delights. It's way beyond that. But this is the only example it can give in that respect, in a carnal, physical way that a human being might possibly be able to see. Just as Herbert Armstrong tried to explain what the greatest kind of love that he could express and show is a mother's love for her own child and showing that it's still selfish as a human being, and that God's is far beyond that.

Proverbs 3:13—Happy are those who find wisdom. That which is of God, the word of God, the mind of God. What an incredible thing that He's shown us in the Church this is what wisdom is, when it speaks about it in Proverbs. It's the word. It's the mind of God, the way He thinks that He communicates. It is God. And this is to be our trust and our confidence. So, we grow in those things.

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. And when I read this, I can't help but feel bad and think of those who turned their back, who go away from this, not understanding the value. In their mind, something else is more valuable. What? What? What on earth could be more valuable than family, than this family? And sometimes it involves physical family. To love them, to be able to continue to love them in the same manner, because of the truth. Not understanding the value of what God has given to us.

She is more precious than rubies. I think... We've got time. I'm going to tell a story. Live in Kansas. Before that, we lived in Colorado until I was about three and a half. Ancestry basically, that part, earlier part, came out of Kansas. And so, my father went back after living in Colorado for a time, because I was born out in Colorado. And while we were in Kansas, and I was probably around tenish or so, through there when it happened. But we had a neighbor. There were three houses in that area where we lived on the west side of Fort Collins, Colorado, next to the mountains. That if we'd just kept that real estate, it became the most expensive real estate. Had cattle, milk cows there and quite a bit of land. But you never know what's going to happen. And sure enough, houses went that way toward the mountains. Can you imagine?

Anyway, someone travelled through who was a geologist, who was one of those neighbors. He'd grown up, become a geologist, went through university, and he had some rocks. Well, they looked like rocks, about six or eight in his hand. And he didn't even want to let anybody hold them. And they had, seemed like an octagon shape to them, about yeah big. And I still don't know the... But they're the only type that have only been found in North America. And I don't know what they were, but they're precious gems of some sort. But he didn't know until he took them with him, because he was working for the government in finding uranium in the mountains, looking for whatever it is they do to search for.

And he'd taken pack horses and mules up into an area that you could only get into once in a while when the snow would melt, and he happened to get into this area. And he said, these were just lying on the ground, but he didn't know what they were. So, he picked up a few, and it wasn't until several years later when he was at a university down in wherever he was travelling to, because this was on his way back. He was so excited. He was looking forward to going back and finding this place again. Could never find it. He said they were just lying on the top of the ground.

And I don't know what kind they were, but you think the excitement that he had, I still remember, and then finding out a few years later that he never could find them again. And you think, the kind of thing

when people go for treasure, look for treasure, that's the kind of thing that gets into the mind. We can raise that to such a high value.

And yet to understand what God has given to us is on that plane, if we grasp it. But it's so far beyond that if we can see it in that light. Precious, there is nothing more precious. You want to talk about precious, precious gems, precious stones, nothing compared to what God has offered us. Why would we ever let it go?

I'll tell you what, of all things that have ever happened in the Church, those are the things that cut me the deepest, because it involves friends, it involves people you know, it involves people you've walked to God's house side by side with, people you've sat down at lunch with and smiled at you and been kind to you. And then all of a sudden, they don't love you, they don't love God. To understand that? Kind of hard sometimes as a human being. But the choices made there are so horrible because they don't value what we have, which in itself has a lot to do with confidence and trust in God if we grasp it.

She is more precious than rubies. And all the things that could be desired are not to be compared to her. Not to be compared. **Length of days are in her right hand, and in her left hand, riches and honor.** Beyond what? I can't grasp, but I'll tell you, because of writing some things in this book toward the end, especially, I've become more excited about realizing the awesomeness of God saying we're going to inherit the universe. That's why it's there. Inheritors together of the universe. There is so much work to be done and it's going to be so exciting.

I love construction. I love seeing things built. I love being a part of it. Or things done outside, especially, too. To me, it's a marvel. It's exciting. And to think the potential, the possibilities of things into the future, well, this can go a long ways but science hasn't even come up close to capturing, hasn't even tried, what it's really going to be like. You see a spaceship going "to where no man has ever gone before," and all these things people get excited about, and you see these different creatures and... There is nothing out there, but there may well be one day.

There's a purpose in all this, brethren, of what God has given and what He's going to give, the excitement that's going to be there, the ability to do things. But that's why I say science hasn't even come close. They don't even know, have an inkling of what God is doing. What an awesome thing that we do.

Length of days are in her right hand, in her left hand, riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold on her; happy is everyone who retains her. Awesome!

The Eternal by wisdom has founded the earth. By understanding, He's established the heavens. It's about the universe. **By His knowledge, the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. My son, do not let them,** speaking of wisdom and understanding, **depart from your eyes.** You know,

when God's opened our eyes and our minds to see things that are so far beyond human comprehension, and we can latch hold of it, the truth, the way of God.

...keep sound wisdom and discretion. Which is a word for "purpose." There's purpose in everything that God has done and what He's leading us to. And this involves our trust, again, and confidence in God, the excitement in God, and God's plan.

So shall they be lively unto your life and grace to your neck. This is a thing that excites, stimulates, encourages in ways that are hard to express. Awesome!

I'm going to stop there for today. No news, sorry. Continue in *Part 2* next Sabbath.