

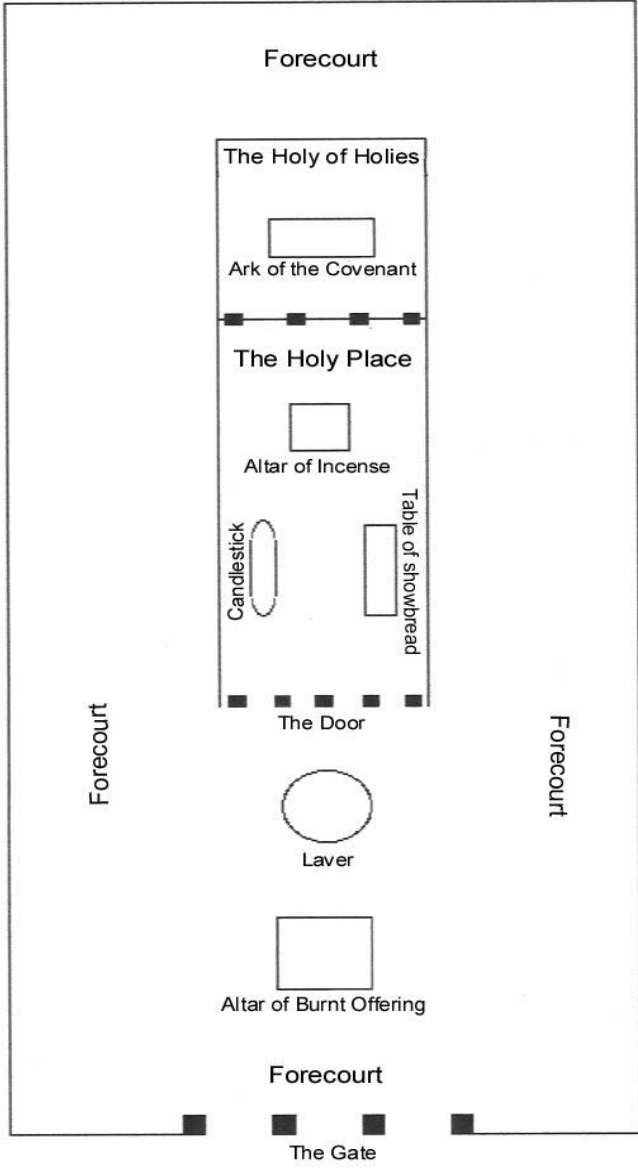
Luke (Chapter 11)

The Book of the NEW MAN in Christ

1

"Verse by verse" the deeper meaning of this Bible-book, explained in the light of the Israeli Tabernacle.

Plan of the Israeli Tabernacle



Part II

**The life in the holy place
of the resurrection person**

2

Chapter 11

Our life must be a lovely fragrance (namely as of incense) before God's countenance



In the light of the Israeli Tabernacle we must see this chapter in the sign of the altar of incense. For the altar of incense is the place where we, in prayer and worship, come to God and His Christ. When we have read all chapters so far, we have seen the divine ascent (by the which a higher spiritual level is meant) in the heavenly Tabernacle. We went from the sevenfold candlestick, which typifies the revelation of God's Good (Gospel) Message in the power of the LIVING Christ, to the table with the twelve show loaves, which speaks of communion with this powerful (and LIVING) Word of God, whereby the sinner changes into a child of God, into a show loaf of and for God, in this sinful world. By this experience of the indwelling Christ and His mighty, inner workings, the child of God comes to true worship of his great Redeemer and Savior; of his great Lord and God, with which we then (in the spirit) have come near to the altar of incense. And every time the revelation of His Word in us becomes more wonderful and glorious, we come to a deeper experience of communion with Him, which goes together with an increasing dying to self; whereby we come to glorious worship of our Savior and God.

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In this way we become acquainted, over and over again, and in increasing measure, with this divine triangle in the holy place of His spiritual tabernacle: namely with the candlestick, the table of show loaves, and the altar of incense. It is this divine triangle which sanctifies us by the power of His blood, His Word and His Holy Spirit. It is also this divine triangle which – when we will have finally been completely freed of all flesh (namely of all our sins and our sinful nature) – will let us, through the veil, into the perfect life of God's Holy of holies. And this perfect (and thus holy) life God's Bride(church) must already have here on earth in order to be able to experience the wedding feast with her heavenly Bridegroom, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Part I:

How we must come to God in prayer.

3

Luke 11 verse 1-2a: *"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."*

1: We must come to Him in absolute acceptance of His Fatherhood, in obedience and respect for Him. In the very first place our altar of incense (in the spirit) must be characterized by **worship of our great God and His, for us, so lovely Name.**

In those days, when Israel's high priest had to enter the Holy of holies once a year, at the Great Day of Atonement, he was to do this with in the one hand the blood of sacrificial animals (for the atonement of sins), and in the other hand the smoking censer (Leviticus 16:12-14). This incense is symbolical for our worship. Before everything else, we must come to Him with praise and worship!

We will now look at seven points in total, to see how we can come to Him in (and by) our prayer-life. We saw that the first point was: come to Him in **worship**, namely in surrender of our sinful being on the basis of the shed blood of Lamb of God.

2: We must come to Him with absolute acceptance of His divine **lordship.**

Luke 11 verse 2b: *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."*

We do not come to God to, in the first place, ask Him for something, but we come in the first place to Him to **give** ourselves to Him. "Thy Kingdom come." Where? Deep within our own heart. "Thy will be done." Where? Again, deep within our own heart, in our own life! For, God must be able to, after His will and pleasing, be King (and thus Lord – Ruler) **in our own heart and life**, that He fulfill His will – in and through us – just as He can do this in heaven!

3: We must come to Him pleading upon His blood.

Luke 11 verse 3: *"Give us day by day our daily bread."*

We know that this "bread" does not only refer to the bread in the literal sense, wherewith we feed our body, but also and in particular, to the spiritual food, which is the "Bread of Life". For this "Bread of Life" is His flesh –the true spiritual food– and His blood –the true spiritual drink– (see John 6:51-58). And this is called the Word of the cross, by the which is meant His sacrifice on the cross for us (for the atonement of sins). Therefore we must look upon His finished work on Calvary, and plead upon His (atoning) blood, but we also must form **one** planting with this atoning sacrifice of His, whereby is meant that we, too, must be willing to completely die (off) to our old, and thus sinful, life (Romans 6:5; 2 Corinthians 4:10-11).

As we now know, Israel's high priest was not allowed to enter the Holy of holies without this atoning blood (of sacrificial animals), just as he was not allowed to enter without incense. If he did, he would be killed – just like Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons (see Leviticus 10:1-2), were slain by God's judgment.

"Give us **day by day** our daily bread". So we must come to Him, **daily cleansed by His blood**, and **daily sharing**, in the spirit, **His dying on Calvary.** This is what we need from Him **day by day.**

4: We must come to Him **confessing all our sins of the past** (and with all our needs).

Luke 11 verse 4a: *"And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us."*

As well as confessing **our** sins God must be able to find in our heart the willingness to forgive others, who are indebted to **us**. And it must be such a willingness, that when they come to us for forgiveness for their crime, we (in the same moment) will be able to do so with all our heart. As children of God we should not harbor any grudges and/or hatred against anyone, whatever they may have done (or still do) to us. We must have

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forgiven them in our heart already, so that when they come, we, urged by God's love, will be able to grant them that forgiveness (Mark 11:25-26).

5: We must develop a sincere desire to be (completely) purified and sanctified by Him.

Luke 11 verse 4b: *"And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."*

Herewith are meant the needs **of the future**; the time lying before us. Prayerfully ask the Lord to put a deep longing in your heart for complete purification and sanctification; it is a prayer very pleasing to God. This will lead us to a life wherein we will be completely free from (the power of) the evil one, whereby we also will be completely free from sin, and from the power of our sinful flesh and our sinful lusts! The plea: "Deliver us from evil" means: "Father, deliver us (completely) from all dark desires, so that the evil one and his temptations will have no hold over us anymore; because our sinful flesh and our sinful lusts will be dead completely through Your works of grace." Then our flesh can be no playground for the evil one anymore! He wants to take us there; and this will also happen if our heart is sincerely aimed at this.

6: We must come to Him with **perseverance and boldness**.

Luke 11 verse 5-8: *"And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth."*

We must come to Him with the same perseverance and the same boldness as this shameless friend. God will then give us what we desire (after His will and pleasing). We may come to God and boldly claim His promises, given in His Word.

This friend asked shamelessly for three loaves; and these are symbolic for **the perfection in God!** He is the type for the sinner who comes to God and claims His promise of perfection in Him... in order to, in the fullness of His nature and being, be able to serve others in the midnight hour; in the hour when the dark forces will rule (as never before)... He asked for the three loaves in order to stand (and persist) as a pillar of God in the midst of the storms of this age – storms of unrighteousness, because the majority of humanity live without norms and values, without God and His law – to be for others in this world as God's channel of salvation and NEW LIFE!

7: We must come to Him **with faith!**

Luke 11 verse 9-13: *"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit** to them that ask him?"*

We cannot please God without faith. We must pray to Him with the **assurance** in our heart, that it will be given to us. We must seek with the certainty in our heart, that we will find. We must knock with the assurance in our heart that it will be opened unto us! Here then is the faithful trust a prayer and worshipper must have in order to go!

We have now examined seven points; points that show us **how** we must approach God. Let us then, in faithful trust, come to Him in the perseverance of the shameless friend, with the predominant desire for (complete) purification and sanctification by Him; let us come to Him confessing our sins, pleading on His shed and precious blood; **let us come to Him in total subjection; with the plea: "Not my will, but Thine be done!"** Finally, let us come to Him with that all-surrendering worship of our great God. If we come to him in this way, He will answer our sincere prayer; If we run at His gates of heaven, they shall be opened unto us, and He will pour out His blessing over us after the full riches of His benevolence (mercy, kindness, grace and great patience)!

Let us now closer examine the last point. *"Who prays, receives!"* As you have read, the prayer is for bread. And it is also written, that, when we pray for bread, He will not give us a stone. We mentioned before, that the Bread of Life speaks to us of the broken body, and the blood shed for us. What is meant here, is a pray-

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er to share in His death, a desire to die (off) to our old, sinful life. And if we pray sincerely for it, and really desire it, He shall give it to us! *"Who seeks, finds!"* What do we seek? We want to receive a fish. The fish is God's code for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. If we pray in all sincerity and purity for the Holy Spirit, He will not give us a serpent; He will not allow a demonic spirit to take possession of our being! If we should pray for an egg, He will give us no scorpion. An egg stands for a born-again life, and a scorpion for a satanic, or fake, rebirth. If we sincerely pray to share His resurrection life, He will also give it to us! *"Unto him who knocks, it will be opened!"* What do we knock on God's door for (and the Door is our Lord Jesus Christ – see John 10:9)? **For the fullness of His Spirit, and His gifts! Compare these texts with the corresponding texts in Matthew 7:9-11. His (spiritual) gifts are only given to us for ministry in His Church.**

The predominant basis of this praying, seeking, and knocking must be **faith**; faith, that we will certainly receive when we pray sincerely. We can then be certain that we will find what we seek; we then have the faithful trust that it will be opened unto our knocking. Whoever comes to God in this way, will be born on the wings of the Spirit of God to His throne, in order to receive there what he prayed for; to find with Him, what he seeks; to, having gained access, experience the intense joy of His presence and the majesty of His omnipotence!

Part II:

The obstacles in our prayer life.

Prayer and worship are disturbed by sin.

In the above we have seen **how** to come to God in prayer and worship. In the following verses we will see what the obstacles are in this service unto God. We will discover the reasons why we pray so little (and sincerely) to the Lord, and why we so little worship and praise Him. These (often big) obstacles are formed by sin in all its forms. For sin forms a separation between us and the Lord. Scripture starts by mentioning the greatest sin: namely the slandering (falsely accusing) of God, of His Holy Spirit!

Luke 11 verse 14-20: *"And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. If satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand; because ye say, that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you."*

Here we conclude that He was false accused by the Pharisees, namely the Holy in Him, God's Power working through Him. They knew very well, that He was the Son of God. The Lord revealed it to us in the parable of the evil husbandmen (Matthew 21:33-46), wherein He revealed the depths of their heart and their evil plan: "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance" (Matthew 21:38). They did not want to lose their position of leadership in Israel to Jesus! For if they should believe in Him, they would have to obey and follow Him.

Among them we know Nicodemus who sought Jesus in secret, because he feared the other Pharisees. We know that he eventually chose Jesus' side, and he openly showed it by, after His death, bury Him, together with Joseph of Arimathea, in the grave that belonged to Joseph. Nicodemus was a teacher among the Pharisees! Yet, as Jesus' disciple, he had no prominent position. For Jesus preferred fishermen, simple people, and He made them into apostles. He gave them power and strength; He gave them wisdom and insight in spiritual matters, while the scribes of the Old Covenant, such as Nicodemus, apparently only became followers among them. In this respect, Saul of Tarsus, later renamed Paul, formed an exception. Considering all this, you may understand, why the Pharisees did not at all intend to lose their leadership, especially as they very much liked to receive honor from people, and also because they were money-grabbers.

Therefore they knowingly uttered these false accusations towards Jesus when they said that He cast out the devils by Beelzebub! This is sinning against the Holy Spirit – because it is God's Spirit working wonders and signs, etc. through Jesus – it is a sin which will never be forgiven (Luke 12:10; 1 John 5:16). Whoever is guilty of

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this, will lose **every** desire to serve Him further in truth, because the Spirit of God will have left him permanently! This sin creates an **absolute** separation from God, and makes any further prayer life **impossible!** Let us see why so little is being prayed and so very little is being worshipped.

Luke 11 verse 21-22: *"When a strong man armed (i.e. the devil) keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he (i.e. God's servant, urged on by the Holy Spirit) shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."*

That first strong man is the evil one who guards many a court of the deep heart, unfortunately also that of many who call themselves "children of God". You may understand that, when the evil one guards the court of our heart, and makes sin to rule there, that this heart is not eager to seek Him in sincere prayer; and that it certainly will not feel like worshipping God's greatness. It goes without saying, that such a heart rather delights itself in worldly lusts, desires and pleasures, thereby showing a seemingly holy life of faith among fellow believers.

Beloved, how is it with us? Where do we stand, in truth? Do we know that intense longing for prayer, or is our life still filled with things that grieve Him?

Scripture tells us about **One**, stronger than the evil one, namely: the Spirit of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. If we allow Him to enter our heart, then He will overcome the evil one, and purify us in the blood of the Lamb. It is only when our heart is purified by this gift of grace from God, when the Holy Spirit has come to us through our faith and our repentance unto Jesus, that our life's attitude will be different; then we will turn to His throne in prayer, and we will seek the things that are above. Should we, by the tricks of the evil one and by our weaknesses, have stumbled and fallen, our heart will be filled with sorrow and we will repent anew to God, immediately and full of remorse. We will (have to) give priority to that which is from above (and thus heavenly) over that which is from below (and thus earthly).

When His divine grace fills our heart each sting of sin in our heard and life will no longer be able to exist. But, when we (still) allow sin and the evil one in our heart and life, God's grace will depart from us...! Gradually our prayers will become shorter and shorter, and shrivel up to traditional, short prayers! A sincere prayer life forms a faithful value indicator of our desire for (contact with) God: And God will give us His blessing according to the measure of our sincere longing for Him.

Lack of prayer causes our faith life to be shipwrecked.

Luke 11 verse 23: *"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."*

"He that is not with Me..." These words include a prayerless life, and such a life is always more or less anti-christian because of the more or less working of the evil one, and thus of (the power of) sin. Jesus testifies: "Such a person is **against Me!**" In fact such a person is an enemy of the cross of the resurrected Christ! For it is only when we (voluntarily and completely) accept his cross in our life, and thereby die to our sinful nature, that we could truly follow Jesus. A person who does not pray, or rarely does, is worldly indeed. His life is equal to the conduct of worldly people.

Someone who is with Jesus, and thus knows a true prayer life, has given his life completely to Him, that He work therein powerfully **after His will** and Word! And all the works of the evil one will glance off such a life, like waves crash on the strong rocks! Glory to God!

"He that gathereth not with Me scattereth!" If we do not have a faithful prayer life, the evil one, through his temptations and tricks, will get a hold on us, and we will be drawn away from God, and eventually also from God's Church... And our thoughts and desires will (again) be filled with earthly minded matters!

A child of God **must** have a prayer life, whereby he can be an open channel for all works of grace of our God, Who wants to be with us, always, through His Holy Spirit; yes, Who wants to be IN us. A true child of God knows this new **attitude of life**, whereby the heart continually seeks God's throne of grace. Hereby he experiences His righteousness, His peace, and His joy. To God be all glory! Samuel considered a life without prayer a sinful one (see 1 Samuel 12:23).

However, if our life is not filled with such vigilance, we, as already stated, will fall into the power of the evil one (again) through his tricks and temptations; this is also told in the following Scripture verses.

Luke 11 verse 24-26: *"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he*

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7

findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

When we have repented unto God, and have been delivered from the evil one by His works of grace, and when we have been washed by His precious blood (and thus purified) of every stain and wrinkle of committed sins, then we are like those who are likened here to a house, out of which the demonic power has been driven, and which thereafter was swept (clean) with brooms, and decorated. But afterwards we must turn ourselves to Him, fully alert and with faithfulness, in and through our prayer life, in order to experience, continually, His works of grace and His protection. For the cast out, angry demon, as we read that here, seeks to enter anew his "house" (i.e. our heart). That "house" used to be decorated after his taste with sinful and worldly lusts, with sinful desires and passions; but now this "house" is cleansed in and by Jesus' blood! It is decorated with spiritual decorations he does not like. It is filled with the Word of God, which he hates! Satan wants to have it back, and lies in wait for it, waiting for the right moment. If such a "heart house" is not alert and does not dwell in the hiding place of the Most High, he will attack it with other, very cunning demons, and with all kinds of temptations through people and/or things. If we say "yes" (or not a clear "no") to these tricks and temptations we will be lost! He will invade our "heart house" in that same moment, and he will again defile it; and we will again experience the bondage and the desire for worldly things. Then, as it were, "the sow will have returned to her wallowing in the mire (mud) and the dog to his own vomit!" (2 Peter 2:22). If this (unfortunately) happened, and God, in His great mercy, speaks to us again, then let us not harden our heart, but let us come to Him again with penitent repentance. Let us then again (be willing to) receive His grace which will give us the strength to say "no!" to sin and temptation, **and** to continue on **the** Way in the strength of Jesus. Yes, more than this: to receive our holy God physically that we serve Him, by His anointings, in holiness and power!

These "seven other spirits, more wicked than himself" are clothed in a "Christian" garment. They do not tempt you with great and (humanly speaking) very bad sins, but with "Christian sins", if I may use this word choice. For these "Christian sins" must (and will) turn you into a fake Christian... The evil one knows that you do not want to be a sinner anymore, and neither a worldly man; for you have become a "Christian" after all. Well, he will permit you to be a "Christian", but including him. And so, because of him, you will become a fake Christian (a hypocrite). In 2 Thessalonians 2:7 Paul calls this "the mystery of iniquity".

In the twelfth chapter these "seven spirits" will be discussed at length. Verse 27 up and including verse 54 of this chapter the so-called holy worship and service to God will be described.

No Roman idolatry!

Luke 11 verse 27-28: *"And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."*

This eleventh chapter discusses prayer and worship, and so far we have learned that sin is **the** greatest obstacle for the prayer life. We now see something different, a satanic deception which began very early already, namely: the "worship of Mary". A woman in the crowd declared the womb, that bore Him, and the breasts that He sucked, "holy". Mary is being worshipped here! As we here see the devil began very early indeed with his satanic deceptions. He did (and does) this to draw us away from Jesus and His redeeming work. But the Lord immediately corrected this, and put the "hearing and keeping of the Word of God" centrally focused; with this is meant Jesus, the incarnate and thus LIVING Word; Who is a gift of grace from God, whereby sinful man is cleansed and sanctified; by Whom alone we are saved!

God's judgment comes over those who do not know the sign of the cross.

Luke 11 verse 29-32: *"And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineve shall rise up in the (final) judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here."*

> The Endtime-messenger <

8

By the sign of Jonah, wherewith (the power of) Jesus' death and resurrection is meant; by this sign of Jesus' death on the cross, we must be delivered of (and thus dead to) our old, sinful life. Our "old man" must be dead, by God's works of grace; the "NEW MAN", in God, must develop in our life by the continual stream of God's grace; by the communion with Him which we receive through a life of continual (and thus constant) prayer.

A continual working of the cross (namely a dying to the old and sinful nature) should be noticeable in the life of a child of God; from the beginning of the life of faith unto its fullness... In this way, in due time, in the perfect union of the divine marriage, we will not be called to the marriage supper of the Son of God, but to the marriage supper **of the Lamb** (Revelation 19:9). Because Jesus was slain for us **as the Lamb**; and we must follow Him; **also** in His death (namely the dying [off] to our sinful nature) in order to come to the resurrection! The "scarlet (red) cord" of the blood of the Lamb will always be a sign to the children of God, and it will also be their protection against sliding back into the power of sin and the devil! Glory to God! Well then, this Lamb of God demands the central place in your life (2 Corinthians 4:10-11). If you give Him this central place, then He will give you the NEW LIFE in His strength and joy. But be it known, that hereby you will lose your own sinful ego, your own earthly ideals, to Jesus. Know that all this will die, disappear, by His power. And you are to accept this, for "what will it profit you if you gain the whole world, and lose your soul" (Matthew 16:26). Therefore, beloved, you must give all this to Jesus, voluntarily... For only then will we receive a different life from Him, a different (i.e. heavenly) soul; other ideals, other strengths; namely, those of heaven, from above. This way "this sign of Jonah" (namely the desire to die to our old and sinful nature) will be "branded" (and thus known) in your personal life.

If we reject this sign of Jonah, namely **this** work of grace of God, in our life, then God's judgment is bound to strike us, because by nature we belong to a wicked generation, and, if we want to be saved, we must come to Him often for the forgiveness of our sins, and confessing our guilt! Do open your heart and inner being for this divine sign, this divine brand, and you will experience a gentle God, a merciful God, a God rich in blessings. You will experience deliverance upon deliverance; anointing upon anointing. Beloved, be a child of Him that is eager to receive the sign of Jonah; that loves the life of the cross! The old and sinful life will then completely fall off you, and He will make you a child of God without any spot or wrinkle.

Beloved, do you long for these streams of mercy of God? If so, He is the Lord in heaven, and He will fulfill His Word in your life! He will strengthen you, and then, having done so, He will say: "Get up... and walk"! Then (in faith) you must get up and walk, and go with Him that wonderful holy way (see Isaiah 35:8), which otherwise would be too wonderful for you, and which will lead you to fullness in Him, **here on earth already!** You then will speak, live and act in that wonderful Name of Jesus, and nothing will be impossible for you any longer, for... you speak, you live, and you act at the impulse of that great and mighty "I AM"; you are afloat on His omnipotence; you do only what He wants!

The (daily) worries of life form obstacles in our life of prayer and testimony.

Luke 11 verse 33: *"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel (a measuring cup for measuring corn), but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light."*

Although told differently, you see the same thought conveyed here. Lighting a candle means, leading a life unto honor and glory of Jesus. And this must not be hidden, not under a bushel either; this is "the measure" of our daily sustenance.

If the prayer life is the basis of a life in honor of Jesus, then that life will also be expressed in the glorification of that sweet name of Jesus. Of course such a life is not to be obstructed by the worries of our daily sustenance. However, if our life is ruled by all this... then our eye will be diverted from God's throne of grace, and will (increasingly) be fixed on the daily worries, activities and circumstances of this life, whereby the life of prayer and faith will slowly, but surely, deteriorate and die! Well then, this candle, this life unto honor and glorification of Jesus, must be put upon a candlestick. The candlestick is the symbol of God's almighty Spirit, Who will increase our life of faith, and strengthen our testimony life. He will give you and me the divine power for a life of prayer and testimony. He will cleanse and sanctify our body, our soul, and our spirit and make them unto a testimony of His redeeming, glorious name; for the "Lord Jesus Christ" Himself is the strength of our cross and resurrection life (1 Corinthians 1:30)!

Luke 11 verse 34a: *"The light of the body is the eye; therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light;..."*

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If our spiritual eye is focused on God's throne of grace, and we are open to His divine grace, then our whole being will be lit by Him. Then we will walk in His light. Then we share the cleansing in and by His blood; then we (actually) walk in union with Him, and with His priestly and royal people. Then we can testify of this Light (i.e. Jesus), because this Light fill us!

Luke 11 verse 34b: *"...but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness."*

If our spiritual eye is not focused on His throne of grace, and our life is not filled by Him through our attitude of prayer, namely with His nature, then it is evil. It is focused by the evil one on the "bushel", on the worries of our daily sustenance; and our thoughts will be filled with envy, jealousy or hatred, or even with murder, as happened to Cain (Genesis 4:3-8)!

9

Luke 11 verse 35: *"Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."*

It is put so subtle here. Jesus warns us here: "Look out! You think this is from God, but it is from the evil one, of your self-willed, self-centered heart, which received its motives and motivations from hell!"

Beloved, let us not be deceived; and let the evil one not trick us, but let us truly have our spiritual eye focused on God's throne of grace, that His light may enlighten us with His truth, His grace and His peace!

Our heart often is so deceitful, full of evil intentions, and it is often tempted unto a "careful covenant with hell"! It does not want to lose the Lord's grace, but it nevertheless casts covetous eyes on the lusts of "the flesh" and the world, and it often wants to be religious after its own will. Beloved, do not do this; remember Samson's fate!

Luke 11 verse 36: *"If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."*

O, that wonderful light from above, when the sign of Jonah will be completely fulfilled in us (and we will have died to [the power of] sin within us), and this light dwells in us! Then Ephesians 5:27 will have been fulfilled in us: "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be **holy** and **without blemish**". Then God's work is fulfilled in us, and He, Who Himself is the Light, will dwell in us in all His perfection! Glory, yes, glory to God!

Part III:

The false worship and service.

We will now better acquaint ourselves with a religious group of people who outwardly do their best to seem (very) religious, but who in fact are hostile towards God and His Son. We will discuss Babel, the (idolatrous) Babylonian (public) worship (see Jeremiah 50:8 and 51:6, 45).

In the previous verses we have seen how sin, like yeast, turns the whole religion sour, and because of that makes prayer and worship impossible. It is this sin, in its different forms, which has its roots firmly in this religious people: namely that of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' days. Let us therefore be watchful, and realize that sinful situations are dangerous and deadly for us, and we should avoid such situations. Let us not play with them, like Samson did, otherwise they will cause us to sin... Eve, too, experienced how dangerous a sinful situation was... Looking at the fruit of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil", through satanic suggestions, aroused a desire for it, and caused her to disobey God. Let us therefore, having learned from this, avoid **all** sinful situations, in whichever form! My sincere plea is that God will grant you and me the wisdom for this.

But let us now further investigate the life of faith of the scribes and Pharisees, for their religion and worship were far different from the true spiritual life, and this was caused particularly by their hidden, sinful ways of life.

Luke 11 verse 37-41: *"And as he spake a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat. And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner. And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you."*

> The Endtime-messenger <

10

Jesus ate, and, before He began to eat, He had not washed His hands. This irritated the Pharisees. They had a religious law, which they themselves had introduced; namely, that one must first cleanse one's hands before eating. They blamed the Lord Jesus terribly for this, and considered Him a sinner! Now, if we should look at this with anointed eyes from heaven, then we would conclude, that by sinful Pharisees the **pure** Son of God was labeled a sinner! These were the ones, who knew only an **outward** religion; and who never had wanted to cleanse their sinful inner being in the streams of grace of their merciful God, Who wanted to be merciful to them as well, if only they had come to Him with sincerity. Outwardly they were pious, but their innermost being was "full of ravening and wickedness".

If we, too, are unwilling to banish the sinful works in our life, which actually means that we reject the gracious gift of the NEW LIFE in Jesus, then we, too, will sooner or later know such a religious life, such pious actions, without any true spirituality. Then we, too, will (primarily) be focused on all kinds of religious laws and actions, whereby we (consciously or not) only show an outward piety. Paul pointed out to us this (large) group of apostates and hypocrites, which would be present in the last days, and this is the time we now live in; they will be people with "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:5). They deny the power of the anointed Word; they in fact do not want to know it, because this Word condemns the sin in them, and wants to banish it; therefore such "believers" rather keep up the appearance of godliness.

"But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and behold, all things are clean unto you"; was the Lord's advice. In other words: "Confess the unrighteousness which is in you: put it at the foot of the cross, put it all on the altar of His grace, and He will cleanse you in His blood."

We cannot experience the NEW LIFE, which is given us in Christ by grace, if we have not been truly washed, and thus cleansed, in His blood; if we have not first escaped the corruption, which is present through lust (2 Peter 1:4), by the redeeming power of Jesus' blood. We could not serve Him in His strength if we not first possess this NEW LIFE! We could not worship Him, if our heart has not truly turned to Him in faith and subjection. The Pharisees **did** want to serve God, but, **without** inward change of their heart and life; hence this complaint of the Lord:

Luke 11 verse 42: *"But woe to you, Pharisees! for ye tithe (of the proceeds of) mint and rue (these are herbs) and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: **these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**"*

The Pharisees and the scribes were very precise in paying tithes of everything and they did this as obviously as possible, that people might see it, for they were eager to be honored by people. But they passed over the **judgment of God**, whereby is meant the fear to sin before God (and His law); and they also passed over the love of God, namely the nature of God which would be given to them by grace. So Jacob – by grace – received God's NEW NATURE, whereby he was allowed to call himself Israel (struggler with [and for] God) (Genesis 32:28). But the Pharisees and scribes were unwilling to do this, for they sought, as mentioned before, the honor of people, which shows in the following verse:

Luke 11 verse 43: *"Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets."*

How many Christians conduct themselves just like these? They do (sometimes many) "good works", but continue their sinful conduct, whereby they (try to) justify themselves in a deceitful way. Let us not deceive ourselves, beloved, for the sole reason of appearing righteous in one's own (and/or others') eyes. It would be much better if we, like that tax collector in Scripture, would confess our sins before God, than, just like that Pharisee in the same parable, to justify ourselves (see Luke 18:9-14). The right place for us is at the foot of the cross, for by nature we are sinners, that have found grace with God. We ourselves are useless servants; who could only be useful if His mighty anointing prompts us to act and speak. An unrepentant "Christian" laborer in the Church of God will seek the people's honor, and (often) is greedy for money. For, by nature, a person always serves his own self. Let us not be that way; let us not have a heart wherein still the "ego" lives, but a heart, where henceforth the prayer: "What would You, Lord, that I do?" will dominate.

Luke 11 verse 44: *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not (are not visible, hidden) and the men that walk over them are not aware of them."*

Deep within their (still completely) sinful heart, and thus also their spiritual life, death, that is to say: spiritual death, already had the upper hand, but they hid this from the people. Therefore they formed part of the

> The Endtime-messenger <

"mystery of iniquity" (2 Thessalonians 2:7), but they tried to hide this by their pious behavior. They did not want to leave or surrender their hidden unrighteousness to God, because deep in their heart they worshipped these like as many idols... But Jesus, of course, was wise to them.

Many Christians only behave piously when they are surrounded by fellow Christians. But as soon as they are alone, of amongst strangers, their true nature appears! Beloved, let us not behave this way! "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven (the symbol of sin which spreads more and more), neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness (evil); but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8).

Let us sincerely long to be delivered by Jesus from all leaven of sin, that we, in all truth, have communion with Him, Who is the true Bread of Life. It is only in this way that we can serve and worship Him in spirit and truth! We will see that the Pharisees and the scribes not only lived unrighteously (although they hid this), but that they were also hostile towards everything that came from God, because their motivations came straight from the depths of spiritual death (thus from hell)!

11

Luke 11 verse 45-46: *"Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also. And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous (too heavy) to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers."*

These lawyers claimed to possess the wisdom of God, but because this was not so, they often put (heavy) burdens upon the people, namely by human laws introduced by themselves, which appeared to be wise. They appointed themselves to be "the voice" of God, and in so doing put "the will of God" in a human and unbearable light;... while they themselves did not want to obey these laws. They not only laid heavy burdens upon the people, but they attacked (physically or verbally) the true servants of God, and even took pleasure in their death!

Luke 11 verse 47-51: *"Woe unto you! for ye build (here: decorate) the sepulchers of the prophets, and your (fore)fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your (fore)fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchers. Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zechariah, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation."*

These religious people were hostile towards everything that came from God, or was sent by Him, because they were in fact children of the devil. Therefore they also attacked His anointed. It is from this (essentially god-less) generation, namely the generation of the devil's children, that all this blood (of prophets, etc. which were killed by them, or with their approval) is to be required.

One day the false church of the end-times "will be drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Revelation 17:6), because they too belong to the "mystery of iniquity". "And upon her head was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:5). So the true priests of God were and are persecuted and killed (some of them) by these priests of darkness, who had appointed themselves, and still do, as angels of light! This group of false laborers made (and make) their own laws and institutions, and made (and make) it appear to the people as if they came (and come) from God. As we already saw, they also attack(ed) God's anointed. Moreover they twist(ed), by their false teachings, God's Word in such a way that it became (and still becomes) powerless, because of which people did (and do) not find "the key to salvation" anymore. We read this in the following verse:

Luke 11 verse 52: *"Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered."*

For us, Christians of the New Covenant (i.e. the period which indicates the relationship between God and man **after** Christ's [first] coming), that "key of knowledge" is in the first place the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, that wonderful name. Secondly, that "key of knowledge" is the wonderful light (and thus insight) of God's Holy Spirit on everything concerning Jesus, God's (LIVING) Word. Have the "Pharisees and lawyers" of our age not also taken away this key, so that many were and are hindered to enter into the promised salvation of God? Are not they, too, hostile towards the **full and eternal** gospel in Jesus Christ? (Revelation 14:6).

> The Endtime-messenger <

It is only when we, by faith, have received Jesus in our heart and life, and – by Him – the baptism with the Holy Spirit, that this Spirit will lead us in all truth (John 16:13) and convict the world (also that world still remnant within us) of sin, and of unrighteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8). Let us be willing to know this gift of grace of the Father (namely Jesus, the Son) very intimately, that we come to the full knowledge of His overflowing grace! "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). "He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). Let us not keep our hearts far from Him, but let us give Him the place of honor therein! He is for us the **only** key, "the key of David" Who grants us access to **all** the holy places of God!

In this last part of Luke 11 we have briefly mentioned the false church, namely the "overspreading of abominations" of the church (Dan. 9:27). It is our sincere prayer that no one of us will ever belong to that. But if we are not watchful we will be, slowly but surely, drawn into it by the devil's diversions (intentionally leading by an other, **wrong way**).

12

Luke 11 verse 53-54: *"And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth (urging him to make statements), that they might accuse him."*

The Lord had showed the Pharisees and lawyers their true (spiritual) condition. This was the only chance they still could be saved. But they hardened themselves and resisted Jesus, and sought to catch Him in His statements. The same way the "Pharisees and lawyers" of the end-time will have itchy ears, when the sharp call to sincere and complete repentance (after the Scriptures) come through to them; and they will leave the meetings to go to places where they are spiritually "pampered" by a "gospel" that continually promises them grace, in spite of their sinful way of life!

Beloved, let us separate ourselves from such Christians, preachers and teachers!

The end of Chapter 11

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