

# Fellowship with order and steadfastness

This teaching is given for the church, in order that we, as His body, might have wisdom concerning our fellowship; so that we might experience an ever-increasing provision of His word through a continuing order and steadfastness in our faith. The basis for this word is found in Paul's letter to the Colossians in chapter 2 verse 5. The goal is to bring light and help us to prophesy (speak) one by one for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the body. Holding to and prophesying the truth (revelation) in love we receive all we need, that is God working in us for our growth, up and into the head, Christ.

The three parts of this letter are given first, to show us how to begin the journey, second how to give and receive within the journey and third, how to continue in the journey.

## Chapter One

### Through Our Submitting God's Provision is Received

Because a people are submitted, **order** and **steadfastness** prevail, and our complete provision becomes available to us.

Col. 2:5

“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.”

In this scripture we see the following. These were a people submitted to the working of the Spirits power because of the labors of Paul, who was sent on their behalf, to cause them to become a people perfect or mature in Christ. That is to have the full assurance, to be mature in their thinking, of the true mystery of God, that is Christ in us, and the hope of His appearing. Without their submission to the one sent true fellowship could not have followed. And because of the revelation brought to them they were then a people easily submitted to one another in that fellowship. This is obvious to us if we understand the meaning of the words **order** and **steadfast**, which follow below. The resulting order and steadfastness became a testimony to Paul even though he was not physically with them. He knew of the ability of the word to produce the Life in a people given to it. And what a testimony it must have been to those around them! For surely when one enters and prophecy is in the air he will fall on his face and testify that God is in the house. And this is an important manifestation of our submitting, the world seeing Christ.

Let's look at the words **order** and **steadfastness** and break them down in order to have a better understanding of what Jesus is telling us.

#### **Order:**

To arrange or set in an orderly manner, to put in a certain position, and that it be a regular ongoing arrangement.

#### **Steadfast comes from four words in this order:**

- 1 Seizing the head (as the part most readily taken hold of)
- 2 Stiff, solid base
- 3 Solidify, receive strength, make strong
- 4 Something established, confirmed.

In other words, these were a people who set themselves in a regular orderly position in order to receive and remain in the teaching of the one sent. Teaching and baptizing them, the one sent reveals the Head in order that they are able to recognize and grasp hold of it. The result of this order is their becoming steadfast. An example of this order is found in Acts 2:42 ...“being devoted to the apostles teaching they were in fellowship, breaking bread and praying.” This is order as God sees order. Getting into a certain order and relationship and remaining in it.

And so because of their God-ordained order they were able to partake of an ever-increasing steadfastness in the faith. Upon seizing the head they were able to stand upon the solid base, Christ. Mat. 7: 24-25. And while standing upon that base they then received from one another strength to be made strong, by receiving from one another in fellowship. Serving and receiving the bread of the word from one another caused them to become rooted and established. And this is confirmed in the testimony.

We also need to clearly understand Paul’s warning to the church concerning this order and steadfastness. His warning was not to be taken captive, taken away from the head, but rather to remain held to the Head, not to allow those who had lost contact with the head to lead them astray, back into the basic principles of the world through philosophy and empty deception. They were to only hold to that which pertains to Christ. Their steadfastness was in Christ and Christ alone. They were no longer subject to the things of the world.

So the admonition to us is to continue to give ourselves to the ones sent by God. Order is a continuing experience that facilitates God’s blessing and the working of His grace. By God’s blessing and His grace we are able to give ourselves to one another. Let’s receive from one another the bread of life by remaining held to the head. We will be strong, solidly standing upon the rock that is Christ. And our full provision for life and godliness will become available to us. And as a testimony we will shine forth as stars in a dark world.

## Part Two

### The Provision Comes Through Revelation

Our provision is experienced by the words we receive through our order and steadfastness.

Revelation: to disclose, to appear, to lighten, to manifest, to take off the cover!

### ***“In the Revelation is the Provision”***

Revelation: to disclose, to appear, to lighten, to manifest, to take off the cover!

Works speaks “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” faith speaks “believe in the One that I have sent.” The law speaks “thou shall not” grace speaks “receive the word.” That sums up the second teaching in this three part series.

The dividing line between the law and works, faith and grace is this: The former is written outside the heart. The latter is written in the heart. In other words that which is written outside the human heart -- the law and works -- brings no provision, no testimony: it hides; it darkens; it covers up (veils), it brings no revelation. While that which is written in the heart -- faith and grace -- carries with it all that is needed for life and godliness: it discloses; it illuminates; it uncov-

ers (unveils) truth through revelation by the Spirit. And the resulting testimony of faith and grace is that the words and deeds of that heart are manifested as having been wrought in God.

Paul speaks the following “...being manifested (*a testimony*) that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” A man through the flesh can only write on stone. But a man yielded to Jesus speaks into the heart.

This is the wonderful result of our right order, our submission to those God sends. It is those that proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that they may present every man complete in Christ. It is for this purpose they labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within them. And we know it is in our corporate completeness that we have the ability to recognize, grasp, and stay held to the Head. And this brings full provision to the body of Christ through our mutual submission to one another. Yielded to the Head and serving the bread (*word*) to one another ***our provision is fully received.***

Two examples of these thoughts are Col 2: 21-22 and 1 Co. 2: 1-10

A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. So words spoken from the flesh carry no provision, they can never be received or taken hold of by the heart. They are as words written on paper. Col 2: 21-22 speaks “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” These are matters that have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Words spoken by the Spirit carry within them the full provision for their creative work. They are received, and taken hold of by the heart, because they are being received from heaven.

1 Cor. 2: 1-10 speaks “When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom (*flesh*), but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written, “**THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.**” For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”

And what is the result of all this? It is God working in us for His purpose. It is not by our trying to do something to please Him but it is by revelation of truth, through the Spirit that we are enabled by grace to walk. So our salvation is worked out from within, with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in us, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

So sit back and relax. Enter into His rest as ye cease from your own work. God’s will shall be done in this earth as it is in heaven. For ye are called by Him into sanctification. We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He fore-knew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. This is the result of His graceful work in us, our wonderful inheritance.

Lets continue in the revelation!

## Part 3

### **Spirit and Fire: Continuing In The Revelation**

God has made a way for us to continue in the revelation.

Matthew 3:11 He will *baptize* you in the Holy Spirit and *fire*.

**Baptize:** To immerse, to plunge into, to surround or cover. To come into contact with something that produces a change in that which contacts it!

**Fire:** *As lightning*

Acts 2: 1-3

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing *wind*, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of *fire* distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Our baptism is a continuing experience for us in all aspects, it is not meant to be a one time experience. This is proper, a continuing order. We could compare our baptism to a piece of cloth owned and loved by its master that is put into hot water with dye. It should continue in the water until the process of dying or change is complete. If it were removed from contact with the water and the “dying” process halted, then the change would not have been completed. It then would not be as useful to its master as planned, even though it still belongs to the master and he would never discard it. And so we, like that cloth, are put into the baptism of change by our master. Our master’s desire is for us to be changed into a vessel of honor, useful to Him for His work. In other words, all aspects of baptism is for the old cloth (the flesh) to experience dying, so as to experience the new life, putting on the new man, which is made in righteousness and holiness of the truth. For all who are baptized into Christ have clothed themselves with Christ.

And so how does our baptism into fire change us? How does it equip us to continue to experience the new man, Jesus?

If we think about the word fire and what it means we might think of heat, light, and consuming, and these ideas are right. But the word fire in the Greek means as lightning! Now think of heat and light and consuming and they take on a greater measure of importance in the light of lightning. And the word lightning comes from the word lighten. This is very important because there are two aspects to the word lighten. One aspect is to illuminate intellectually or spiritually (lighten), to disclose (revelation). The other aspect is to relieve of a load, to make less burdensome (lighten), to cheer or gladden.

All of mankind, is in darkness, in obscurity and error. Man walks in the futility of his mind, and is darkened in his understanding with a hardened heart. The flesh nature and all its works are also heavy-laden and wearisome, giving no rest. While we are in the tent of this flesh we groan, being burdened because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed. Man in his darkness and burdensome work is naked before God and has no cover.

In giving consideration to the woes of darkness and heavy burdens, let’s look at how fire brings light to our darkened hearts and lightens our burdens.

Concerning our darkened hearts, God, who says, “Light shall shine out of darkness”, is also the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light (revelation) of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. So the baptism of fire baptizes us into the Light of His Word so that our darkened hearts can shine forth His light as we can walk in the full assurance of understanding the true mystery of God, namely Christ. Through this we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which we do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place.

Considering the heaviness of the flesh Jesus says that if we continue in His word we prove to be His disciples and we shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free. To be made free means to be unrestrained, to be a citizen not a slave, to be exempt from moral ceremony and mortal obligation. It is freedom to come or go! And His invitation is to come to Him all who are weary and heavy-laden (working of the flesh) and you will find rest for our souls. So as we walk in the fire or light of his word, we are promised a continuing and deepening experience of freedom from the heaviness, burdens, and death of the fleshly nature and all its works. Through Him we go in and out and find nourishment and rest for our souls.

So the fire brings light where there presently may be darkness in order to give understanding, and to free us from the works of our fleshly nature. If we think of the lightning in the natural, during the light of day it does not light up the sky, but where there is darkness the sky lights up as the noon day sun. And so by His grace and love Jesus is delivering us from fruitless activity in order that we might speak forth the word that is in our heart( walk in the light of the Today). And the provision is in the word (revelation), ever increasing from day to day, from glory to glory, unto the final day of His appearing.

So together let's encourage and exhort one another, (prophesy) even as we see the day approaching. For the Father is looking for those who worship Him in Spirit and truth. Let's continue to come to Him, to embrace His work in us together, and walk as one new man, having the same mind and voice.

And we will see Him now!