2. Every Word God Speaks

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2.1 Jesus as the Bible

John stated in the beginning of his account of Jesus' life that **God is Word** (John 1:1). Then John also said that this Word is Life and that life becomes light inside of humans.

Here is what Jesus said about Life and its source. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself (John 5:26). We could then say it this way – as the Father is Word Himself, so the Father has granted to Jesus also to be Word.

And thus as God Himself is Word, so we know that same Word spoken aloud into creation as Jesus. Jesus is the Word become flesh, that is, outward created appearance.

God Is Word. But what does it mean that God is "Word?"

Let me put a big thought in front of you about God. Later, we will build on this thought, but not yet. God IS words as "thoughts"; that is, God is an infinite number of infinite numbers of thoughts, which we know of as words, inside a Spirit awareness of Himself.

Jesus, then, is every word originating in God but now spoken into creation. Jesus is the speaking of God by which everything exists. – All things [appearing in creation] became through Him [as the spoken Word of God], and without Him not even one thing became that has become (John 1:3).

Jesus Is Every Word. Jesus IS every word God speaks.

And then, the most incredible thing happened. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we looked upon His glory, glory as the One-Seed alongside of Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). How on earth could the Word God speaks become human flesh? How could Word become one of us? That is the central question of this short chapter.

This lesson, however, is about the Bible. You have in your hands a Bible, God's word to us. I would recommend that you obtain a New King James version for general use, but also that you use a Jesus Secret version, from which this text quotes.

Reading the Gospel. And the best place to start reading your Bible is with the gospel of John, which we are quoting. In fact, read John's gospel twice, first in the New King James and then second in the Jesus Secret version. As you read John's gospel, consider carefully two things. Observe the human Jesus as He walks among and with other humans. And observe the words that He speaks about Himself and about the Father.

Here is the most important thing Jesus says about the Bible. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have age-unfolding life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

Our Life Is Jesus. The Bible is NOT our life. Our life is Jesus. – Christ who is our life (Colossians 3:4). What the Bible does is point us to Jesus. As Jesus said, every word in the Bible is speaking of Jesus Himself.

But where is Jesus? If we are to "come to" Jesus in order to obtain life, where is it that we find Him? At no point in our journey or in all the ages to come will we ever leave the first lesson of this book. – **Christ lives in your hearts through faith**.

In the next lesson you will learn how, just as the Bible is all speaking of Jesus, so the Bible is a complete description of your own heart. What Do You Do with the Bible? Yet "the Bible" is the book you hold in your hands. What do you do with that book?

May I suggest that you get a copy of my book titled *Knowing God by Scripture*. I wrote it to help us to understand how the Bible shows us Jesus, the One who lives in our hearts. Although the Word of God is found all through the Bible by those who seek for that Word, the Bible itself is NOT the Word of God. Jesus alone is the Word of God, every Word God speaks.

You see, the Bible says that the Bible will kill you if you read it apart from Jesus, apart from knowing the Jesus who lives in your heart by every verse found in the Bible.

Framing Your Approach. Let me put in front of you two more things to frame your thinking and approach as you read the Bible.

First is something Isaiah said in Isaiah 66:1-2. Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," says the Lord. "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

And second is something Ezra said in his long poem. Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You (Psalm 119:11).

Beware! Yes, God Himself will speak to you through every word in the Bible, but only on one condition.

You see, the question is NOT – what does this verse or that verse in the Bible mean? The question is always – what are you doing with the word God speaks? What are your intentions towards the Bible and what do you plan to do with what you read in it?

Do you know what the most frequent commandment of the New Testament is? A

commandment repeated endlessly by Jesus as well as by his disciples who wrote letters to the churches? – Watch out! Take heed! Beware!

Do Not Sin. You will find that most readers of the Bible stack up ideas in their intellects, human and mental ideas about God and themselves, about Christ and salvation, much of which is imaginative nonsense. By trying to "figure out" the Bible, they "hide it" in their minds. Do not sin like them, rather be like Ezra.

As you read every verse in the Bible, do NOT ever try to figure out what it means; instead, hide every word you read in your heart. Every Word in the Bible is Jesus and Jesus lives in your heart. You cannot know "what it means" by your intellect, but you can know the One who lives inside of you. Only Jesus can be the Word God speaks; only Jesus can be what He is.

On the Floor. "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

If you want to come to Jesus that you might know Him as every Word God speaks, then there is only one place I know where you will discover God's intention in the Bible for you. You will not find what Jesus means in any book; no teacher is capable of "explaining" His words to you.

The only place you will know is on your face on the floor before a Holy and a Mighty God with your heart wide open and your mouth tight shut. God is a Person. And if you want to know Him, if you want Him to show you what He means by what He says, you have to deal directly with Him. And He will show you by His Spirit.

My Definition. Let me give you my definition of "the Bible."

God unfolds Himself to be known by His creation first as Word, Jesus, the All-Speaking of God. This Word comes, by the Holy Spirit, into the hearts and mouths of those to whom God reveals Himself. That Word in their hearts and mouths remains the Lord Jesus Christ in Person. These to whom God has given His Word speak that word into the hearts and mouths of their hearers; they also write it down sometimes. There the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ in Person, sits quietly upon the page.

Becoming Christ Jesus in Me. Then I, Daniel Yordy, read those words. They come into me by the same Holy Spirit through whom they were spoken and written. As I look into the eyes of my Father, I hear Him speaking the creative Word of Christ into me. I believe that word, not as something on the outside of me that I must "perform," but as Christ Jesus in Person on the inside of me now the only life I am and now fulfilling through me all the All-Speaking of God.

I love the Bible because I find a description of the Jesus whom I love on every page. And thus I find, all through the Bible, a description of the Word and Life of my heart, a description of me.

2.2 Your First Encounter with Jesus

You have considered, now, four important things about the Lord Jesus Christ. First, that He lives in your heart. Second that God intends to make you just like Him. Third, that the reason God sent Jesus into your heart is that you might know God and that God might be known through you. And fourth, that you will learn of this Jesus who lives in your heart out from your Bible, but only as you seek for Him alone.

Now, I want you to look back at the moment you asked Jesus to cleanse you of your sins and to live inside your heart. What really happened in that moment? We will be discovering the wondrous answer to that question forever!

Your Lostness. You were caught in a quagmire of hopelessness from which you could not escape when you first came to Jesus. You did not even know that you

were so desperately lost until the Holy Spirit caused you to understand your awful reality.

Yet in that same moment that you became blindingly aware of your true condition, you saw something else. You saw forgiveness extended towards you. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7).

You did not know theology, but you did know three things in that moment. You KNEW you were a sinner; you KNEW Jesus came into your heart; and you KNEW your sins were forgiven.

The Sacrifice. Yes, you knew that Jesus had come into your heart. But what that really meant was hidden from you. Many things were happening in that moment of your salvation; I want to share with you one of those things. You had entered into an agreement with God, an agreement God calls the Covenant.

How were you forgiven of all the wicked things you did? When you entered into that agreement with God, you first saw the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross and you understood that Jesus had died for you. You understood that Jesus had done something that healed the break between you and God.

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

The Agreement You Made. My purpose now is to talk about the agreement you made with God the moment you asked Jesus to cleanse you of your sins. Before you entered into that agreement, you were incapable of seeing your lostness, you were incapable of looking to Jesus, and you were incapable of receiving forgiveness of sins. Here are the words that could define the philosophy by which you lived: "I've got things under control. There's nothing wrong with me. I will figure this thing out."

Yet something else was happening in the heavens all around you, inside your absolute reality, things of which you were quite unaware. Another Person had set His intentions upon you.

In Gethsemane. Two thousand years ago, on a rocky hillside overlooking Jerusalem to the west, a Man, an eternal, all-here-now Man, had dropped to His knees in an olive grove, a garden called Gethsemane. By the end of the first hour on His knees, this Man, in great agony of soul, agreed with God: "Not My will but Thine be done" (Matthew 26:36-45 and Luke 22:39-46).

What was this agreement with God? Jesus agreed, in that moment, to become your sin, to become all the hostility of your wicked spirit against God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Crucified with Him. How could Jesus become your sin?

But of God you are in Christ Jesus... (1 Corinthians 1:20). – Or do you not know that as many as have been immersed into Christ Jesus, have already been immersed into his death? – Knowing this, that our old man was crucified together with Him, so that the body of sin might be separated [from us]... (Romans 6:3 & 6).

Where and how did you get put into Jesus? And who and what is this Man in Gethsemane?

This Jesus in Gethsemane is the embodiment in human flesh of every Word God speaks all here and all now in the heavenly realms all around. This human Jesus is the same today, yet you know Him now as a life-giving Spirit living in your heart. You, and everything else, exists every moment only by the Words that Jesus is continually and personally speaking.

Only through Faith. Sustaining all things by the word of His power. – Jesus Christ the SAME, yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 1:3 & 13:8).

Gethsemane is the same today as it was 2000 years ago. Today, in that moment of your salvation, Jesus called you into Himself there in Gethsemane, Jesus, the One by whose words you exist every moment.

Here is something we must know about God. God cannot sin; that is, doing something wrong never enters into God's mind. Forcing His will on others never enters God's mind because such an action would be sin; it would be rape. God enters into the knowledge of anyone only with their express permission, an agreement to receive Him called "faith."

Speaking the Same Words. Jesus could not die for you unless God first put you into Jesus, there in Gethsemane. And God could not put you into Jesus unless Jesus gave God His permission to accept you.

When Jesus first said, "Not My will but Thine be done," you were already there inside of Him, that was you speaking those words. Jesus had become you. Jesus had become all of your sin, all of your wicked hostility against God. And you, there, inside of Jesus, spoke through His mouth the words that allowed God to bring you, one day, into that agreement with God that you and Jesus already made together.

You Died. It is for this reason that you were inside of Jesus as He hung upon the cross, this Jesus who, knowing no sin, had become your wicked spirit, your old man. And thus you died, together with Jesus. I AM already crucified with Christ... (Galatians 2:20). – For you died... (Colossians 3:3).

You were able to make that agreement with God for one reason only, you ARE always and already inside of Jesus, there in Gethsemane, a Jesus who is always carrying you all the way through the cross and into Life.

Let's look back, now, at what you really agreed to with God when you received Jesus as your Savior.

Close Your Mouth. That every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God (Romans 3:19).

The first part of your agreement with God was that you were wicked and perverse, cursed of God and deserving only of execution. The second part of your agreement with God was that you were incapable of doing anything about it. You could NOT fix yourself. – That's what "mouth stopped" means. You cannot fix yourself, and you certainly cannot fix anyone else.

But the third part of your agreement with God is something you may not have understood right away.

You ARE inside of Him. The moment you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, you agreed that God was now free to put you into Jesus, there in Gethsemane. You agreed that Jesus could become your sin dead upon the cross. You agreed that Jesus could become you.

Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ (Galatians 2:20). – In that day you shall know that I am in the Father and you in Me and I in you (John 14:20).

In that day you made your first agreement with God, you may not have known what it all meant, but you did KNOW that you, all that you ARE including your sin and your shame, were now inside of Jesus.

Agreeing with God. When you entered into Jesus you left the company of multitudes of people who are just like you once were. And the significant difference now between you and them is this. They do not agree with God; they are convinced they can fix themselves.

You agree with God; you know you cannot save yourself, you must have another Person to take all your wicked mistakes upon Himself, that you might die inside of Him.

And now that you are made alive again, that is, born again, you are able to know the full meaning of that Sacrifice, and you are clean by the washing of the Word. The Bible is now your book. Hide it in your heart.

Inside of Jesus. I realize that I have placed many things into your thinking that are not fully explained. As you continue in your journey to know Jesus as He is, you will become more familiar with these truths.

The important thing for you, however, before we can continue talking about who and what this Jesus is, is that you must know that you were there, inside of Him, in Gethsemane and upon the cross. Never look at the suffering and death of Jesus from a distance. You were there, literally and substantially, inside of Jesus, seeing all things through His eyes, every step of the way.

And it was God who put you there, and it was Jesus who intentionally received you.

2.3 Jesus as Covenant Friend

So, if God is determined that we would be just like Jesus, how do we become like Jesus?

Let me give you what might be the most important warning in this book. You <u>CANNOT</u> ever become like Jesus, and God will most certainly bring full and complete ruin to any effort on your part to "try" to become like something you do not know. This is humanity's original sin. God said, "Man is just like Me." The serpent said to Adam and Eve, "You can be like God if you try." And humans have been "trying" ever since.

So if being just like Jesus is our "goal," and "trying" to be like Jesus is rebellion, what is the answer?

Our Savior. ~ You and I NEED a Savoir. ~

Look carefully at that statement. The depths and the extent of its meaning in our lives will never end. This book is about knowing the closeness and reality of our Savior in our lives. You and I cannot become like Jesus of ourselves, but Jesus could and did become just like us.

Let's start with some verses. And the Word [Jesus] became flesh [a human just like us] and dwelt among us and we looked upon His glory, glory as the One-Seed alongside of Father, full of grace [the Father in Him] and truth [honesty – I can do nothing of Myself] (John 1:14 – expanded). – For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

Just Like Us. Therefore, since the children have shared blood and flesh, Jesus also in the same way actively partook of the same... He never took on [the form of] angels, but He took upon Himself [the form of] the seed of Abraham. Therefore, He ought to be made just exactly like His brothers [and sisters] in every possible way, that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest towards [connecting us continuously with] God, into being the pardon for the sins of the people. Since He himself has suffered, having been tested, He is able actively to come to the help of [rescue] those who are being tested (Hebrews 2:14-18 – condensed and expanded).

We never think of Jesus as an angel of heaven or as anything like an angel of heaven. We think of Jesus only as a Man, a human just like ourselves.

A Life-Giving Spirit. Yet this human Jesus lives now inside your heart in Person and as all that He is. He is able to do that because He is also a life-giving Spirit. Paul, in talking about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead made this statement, calling Jesus "the last Adam." The last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving Spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45). Jesus remains human (I am the same yesterday, today, and forever), yet He lives in your heart as a life-giving Spirit.

I want to talk about three things this human Jesus, living in your heart, now is to you – first, your Savior,

second your Friend, and third, your every connecting Bond with Father.

On Jesus' Breast. Most of what we know about how Jesus lives in our hearts comes to us through Paul and John. Paul always brashly talked about himself, but John was a bit more modest. In fact, in writing his account of Jesus' life, although John included his part among Jesus' disciples, he liked to refer to Himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

Here is how he put it. **Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved** (John 13:23). No matter what God might ever teach me about Himself in me or about myself in Him, I will never ever leave this picture. Jesus, my Savior, the One upon whose breast I always lean my head.

He Cares for You. Cultivate this knowing of Jesus in your own mind and heart. This human Jesus, your precious Savior, living now in your heart, always with you. And, always needing Him as Savior, your Wisdom and your Strength, you live now in every moment with your own head leaned against His breast.

Peter said it this way: Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). And Isaiah said it this way: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4). Jesus always carries you, inside His heart, all the way through death and into life. Always see yourself carried by Jesus, always envision yourself leaning upon His breast.

Your Friend. Jesus is not just your Savior; He is also your Friend.

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you (John 15:13-15).

We can reduce what Jesus "commands us to do" down to three primary things. First and most important, we are to believe in Him. Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent" (John 6:29).

Obedience to Jesus. All through this book, I will show you how to believe in Jesus.

The second thing Jesus commands us is to love one another. Loving one another will come later in this discussion. And the third thing Jesus commands us to do is to accept the fulfillment of the law. We looked at Paul's version of the beginning of our obedience to this command of Jesus. **That every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God** (Romans 3:19). The cross is our most wonderful guardian, for through the cross, we step into and live inside of all that Jesus is.

It is in our obedience to these three commandments that we are able to know Jesus as He is and thus to be just like Him.

Spending Time with You. Do not be concerned about your ability to "do" what Jesus says. I can assure you right now, you are entirely incapable of such a thing. Jesus Himself, alive inside your heart, is and does all that He speaks. And this Jesus IS your closest and dearest Friend.

Why is Jesus inside your heart? A very large part of the reason is that He LIKES to be with you. Jesus loves spending time with you; He likes doing everything together with you. He enjoys hearing you talk; He loves sharing His own self with you. Being with you as your dearest Friend is more important to Jesus than His own life.

Your Bond of Connection. Finally, you must know that Jesus Himself is your Covenant with God, that is, the fulfillment of all that God speaks in your life. Jesus is the Bond connecting you with Father God and Father with you.

You began this journey towards knowing Jesus as He is by embracing the wondrous reality that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Sustainer of everything, the One-Seed Son of God, lives inside your heart. Think, now, about this fact, one of the primary parts of our "believing in Jesus." First – "You believe in God, believe also in Me" and then – "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me" (John 14:1 & 11).

Your Continuous Connection. So, if Jesus lives in your heart in all that He is, and if the Father, that is, God the All-Carrying One, lives inside of Jesus, then – God Himself lives inside of you. The Father is in Jesus in you. Now that's a big deal. – God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29).

You see, we can know Jesus, for He is just like us, knowing fully our weakness. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). That word "High Priest" means "go-between," Connector, Mediator, the One who makes God and us able to live together – a merciful and faithful High Priest towards {connecting us continuously with} God.

Knowing Father. Only as you believe in and know Jesus living in your heart are you then able to know Father inside of Jesus. And knowing Father ourselves is the first purpose of our existence, with Father being known by others through us as the second purpose. Knowing Father is the life that Jesus gives us, springing up in us as fountains of Life.

So, it's very simple, really. Jesus is just like you, Someone you can know; Jesus lives inside your heart. As you know Jesus as He is, so you know Father – the fullness of your Salvation. As you think about Jesus as He is, the One who lives in your heart, your Savior, your Friend, the One who is always connecting you with Father, then remember that Jesus is every Word God speaks as well.

Written on Your Heart. One more verse to think about. – It is fully made visible that you ARE a letter of Christ, with us under your service, having [already] been written, not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God – not on tablets of stone, but inside tablets of hearts of flesh (2 Corinthians 3:3).

In the Old Testament, God wrote His covenant on tablets of stone. This book you are reading is filled with words marked by ink. But this Personal Jesus alive in you is also every Word God speaks written with Spirit ink upon and all through the pathways of your heart.

Not a different heart – your very own heart of flesh made brand new by being filled with Jesus! – Every word in the Bible, speaking of Jesus, is a description of you.

2.4 Jesus as the Pattern

I realize that I have given you quite a lot to think about really fast. Please forgive me for that. You have an enemy who has been speaking against the Lord Jesus from the beginning. His effort is to convince you that your failure and inability places you into "trouble with God."

Paul said, If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies (Romans 8:31-33). Yet the evil one is always bringing such accusations against those who belong to Jesus, even to the extent of tempting them to see sin all through themselves and the Bible and not to see Christ.

God's Blueprint. And so, my hope is to move you quickly through these first essential things you must know about who and what this Jesus is who lives inside your heart. In the next chapter, I hope to connect you with God's own knowing of Himself, that is, the only

One who can enable you to know this Jesus alive in you – God's Holy Spirit. But first, I want to establish one more absolute in your present understanding of just what this Jesus really is.

Jesus is the pattern of everything. Jesus is the blueprint by which God designed everything in the spiritual realms, everything in the physical, and everything in His design of you as a human.

Sustaining All Things. All things [appearing in creation] became through Him [as the spoken Word of God], and without Him not even one thing became that has become (John 1:3).

God... has... spoken us inside His Son, whom He appointed heir of all, through whom He formed the ages, who, being the radiance [expression or revelation] of His glory and the character or exact expression [image] of His substance, carrying [upholding or sustaining] all, moreover, by the word of His power, having made through Himself purification of sins, He sat down inside the right hand of the Majesty inside the high (Hebrews 1:1-3 – condensed).

Much more than being the pattern or design of all things that exist, this Jesus who lives in your heart is also sustaining all things every moment by His own good-speaking.

Figurative Language. Here is something very important to understand when we read about God in the Bible. Here is almost the last thing Jesus said to His disciples before His death. – These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when... I will tell you plainly about the Father. (John 16:25).

"Figurative language" means that when people speak of God, they must use symbolic words like "before" or "on high" for us to even begin to understand Him. God is all here now. That means that in every place and in every moment, God IS ALL that He is. God cannot be chopped up, part of God here

and another part over there. God is ALL here. God is ALL now.

The Right Hand of God. And so, when the Bible writers state that Jesus is seated "at the right hand of God," they are not speaking "geographically." If God is inside of Jesus, and if Jesus is inside your heart in all that He is, then, "seated at the right hand of God" is speaking only of Jesus in you.

Here is how I define Jesus "seated at the right hand of God." – "Jesus is the becoming known of Father in every heart where Father is becoming known."

Yet here is the most extraordinary thing. This same human Jesus, your Friend and Your Savior, who lives in Person inside your heart, lives also inside mine in the same way. And this same Jesus also sustains all things that exist every moment by His good speaking!

It Shall Prosper. I must continue to take your breath away. Here is one of the most important verses in the Old Testament. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:10-11).

God is giving us a very important way by which we are to picture the Lord Jesus Christ written as Word all through our own hearts of flesh.

Our Only Response. Jesus as every Word God speaks has come into your heart to live. This same Jesus is commissioned by God to accomplish all that the Father intends. It's not up to you to "make God's word happen," but only Jesus. Your part is to believe in Him.

And this personal Jesus is not just written on your heart as every Word God speaks, this Jesus alive in you does not just accomplish all that God means by what He speaks, but He is also the pattern and design by which God forms you.

Here is the ONLY response God ever wants to hear from you as you read any and every verse in the Bible. – "Behold, I am your handmaiden, let it be to me according to Your word" (Luke 1:38).

Every Word Is Jesus. Shout these words out loud.

Look at me God. I belong to You. Let Your Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, be fulfilled in me

in all that You mean by what You say.

And as you speak these words in response to every verse in the Bible, without trying to "figure out" for yourself what God "has to mean," then believe in Jesus, believe that Jesus does in you what He is. Every word in the Bible is Jesus, the all-speaking of God. To every word, we respond only with "Let it be to me according to Your word." And thus every Word that is Jesus, He Himself fulfills in and through us as He shares form together with us through our faith.

God and Us Together. There are many ways by which Jesus is our pattern, that is, the design by which God forms us. One of those ways is as God's purpose and desire, from the beginning, to work together with humans in all things.

We know moreover that those who are actively loving God are working together with God to turn with purpose all—all things, all entities, all circumstances, all moments—into pure and intrinsic goodness, that is, into the knowledge of God. These are those who are continuously being called as and by the precise details of God's ProThesis, His set-forth purpose from the beginning, the Blueprint of His House, the Lord Jesus (Romans 8:28 – expanded).

Sharing the Same Form. A second way in which Jesus acts as our design is in our sharing together the same form as the image and revelation of Father to all.

Because, these who are summoned out from God's Pro-knowing, knowing God's knowing of them, God Pro-Determined them, with all the passion of His Being, as already symmorphosed with, merged together with, sharing one form with the image of His Son, the revelation of Father, into the reality of Christ Jesus being the firstborn among and in many brethren, the first one of our kind (Romans 8:29 – expanded).

"Symmorphosed" is the Greek word Paul invented, usually translated into "conformed," but far more powerful.

A Man on His Knees to Serve. And inside of our sharing the same form with the Lord Jesus, we discover that Jesus is also the design of our own relationship with the Father. Just as Jesus relates together with the Father, so He causes us to relate with the Father in the same way.

Now, as part of God's "figurative language," by which He helps us to know Him, God has given us specific "pictures" or images regarding the Lord Jesus, that is, how we are to know Him. At the same time, the evil one has developed his own "images" of man and of God to counteract Jesus at every point.

Here is the picture God gives us of the Christ who reveals God. A Man on His knees to serve (John 13:3-5). A Man taking children into His arms to bless them (Mark 10:13-16).

He Humbled Himself. Man in weakness is the image of God, the pattern of all that God creates. He humbled Himself (Philippians 2:8). I am gentle and lowly of heart (Matthew 11:29). He that has seen Me has seen the Father (John 14). Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13).

In complete contrast, from the very start, the evil one contradicted God at the level of speaking. For every word God speaks, the serpent speaks, "Did God really say that?" (Genesis 3:1). You will sometimes hear it this way – "You don't really believe that, do you?" And humans respond with "All that the Lord says, we will do" (Exodus 19:8). Except they are ALWAYS lying.

"You Can Be." Even further, however, this FACT, that Jesus is the pattern by which Adam, that is, all mankind including yourself, is fashioned, is the primary target of the serpent. God said to Adam, "I have made you like Me (that is, like God's pattern, the Lord Jesus) and you are My image inside of creation." And the serpent said, "You can be like God IF-."

By dealing his mighty blow against Jesus as God's design of us, the serpent eliminated every other word God might speak. Over and over, when God says, "You ARE," the serpent inserts the words, "You can be," meaning, "You obviously are not, loser."

In complete contrast, we respond to every Word God speaks only with "Let it be to me according to Your Word." And then, we believe in Jesus.

Three More Parts of Knowing Jesus. Let's restate some of the critical things we have learned in this chapter.

- 4. The Bible can be the Word of God, but only as the words of the Bible enter through your faith and by the Spirit to become Jesus Himself alive in you as every Word God speaks.
- 5. Jesus is our Savior and Friend, the One who carries us, the One upon whose breast we always lean our heads, connecting us together with God our Father in every way.
- 6. Jesus is the design and pattern of everything that exists, sustaining all things by His good speaking. Jesus, especially, is our design as humans, fulfilling God's intentions to work together with us, making all things good, and to reveal Himself to all through us.