

## The Upward Call – Part 4

Welcome to The Upward Call, Part 4, November 21, 2007. This will be the last part of The Upward Call and I'm going to a different subject the next time that we meet. We left it last time reassessing the upward call of grace and I spoke that grace produces humility and humility accesses the greater grace; for God gives His grace to the humble. When we begin to function in that crescendo of delight of grace and humility, coming closer into oneness with God, we begin to taste the freedom that we have in Jesus Christ. But the fullness of that freedom in Christ is only accessed as we progressively grow into summing up all things in Jesus. But we only continue on that pathway by entering the crescendo of grace, leading to humility, accessing grace, leading to humility, and so on. And that's part of how we come to abide in Him. Now in that burgeoning awareness of freedom, each step along the way, we reexamined Jesus Christ and ourselves compared to Jesus Christ. And we begin to get an increasing revelation of how it all is summed up in Him in a way that we didn't have early in our Christian journey.

Whenever I need something on which to stand, He is it. Whenever I need hope, He is it. Whenever I need a promise of God as part of my vision of what God has in store for us; that promise is yes in Jesus Christ as we're told in II Corinthians 1:20. Whatever I need to know about the plan of the Trinity, it's all summed up in Jesus. When I begin within the beginning, I learn later it's Jesus. When I see the essences of God, they're all revealed in the person of Jesus. When I look at the law, it is completed in Jesus. When I look at the prophets, they're summed up in Jesus; because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Whatever I need to understand about the key components of the Christian walk in regard to faith, love, grace, righteousness, obedience, humility, truth, joy, peace, and so on; it is invariably always summed up in Jesus and particularly Jesus Christ on His cross. When I look at death, He is the resurrection and the life. When I look at judgment, He is the judge. When I look at creation, He is the creator. When I look at salvation, He's the Savior. When I look at the fall, He's the solution and the restoration. When I look at where it begins, He's the alpha. When I look at where it ends, He is the omega. When I look at a question, invariably He's the answer. When I look at my past, He is my justifier. When I look at my present, He is my sanctifier. When I look at my future, He is my glorifier. When I look at my eternity, it is all summed up in Him because He's gone ahead to prepare a place for me so that I may be with Him where He is for all eternity as we're told in John 14:2-3. There is a definite upward call in seeing that it is all summed up in Jesus as we're told in Ephesians 1:10.

Then we moved into the topic that we're finishing today called The Upward Call. There's an upward call at each step from creation to cross and from cross to the Kingdom. As I reflect and meditate on these spiritual truths from the Word of God, I begin figuratively speaking to converse with Him. Now this is not a literal conversation; but it is a meditative conversation drawn from various Scriptures.

I turn to Him and say, "Master, what do I do now that I'm learning about these things?" And Jesus says, "It's simple my child—simple and pure. Be sure to remember II Corinthians 11:3 and do not be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Me. Because if it seems complex, you have been led astray from my plan for you. Simply let go of everything that is anti-Me. Only the pure in heart can see Me as I told you in Matthew 5:8. Only he who has clean

hands and a pure heart can climb My mountain to see Me as I told you in Psalms 24:3-4. An impure heart and unclean hands at this stage of your walk simply mean that you yet continue to sum up some things in something other than Me. Simply stated, anything that is anti-Christ is anti-your knowing all of Christ. Self is anti-Christ. That is why it is to be denied. You cannot be devoted to two masters. Sin is a lie. Sin is rebellion. Sin is unbelief. And sin is judging Me and sin is all rooted in self when you see yourself as self determined. Simply repent of it and be cleansed. Recall that I told you in I Peter 5:8 Satan roams the Earth like a lion looking for someone to devour. His meal, the one he will devour, is determined by his access to you and his access to you is by self, thus, flesh, thus sin. The world system is anti-Me. You are in it, but don't be of it. You overcome the world while in it, but not by controlling the world. You overcome the world by dying to the world. That's why the fruit of the Spirit is self control; because as you come progressively into Me, and self is controlled, your appetite for the things of this world will diminish and the world loses its control over you. So you do control the world but not by the mechanism of the world. You die to the world; then the world will die to you as I told you in Galatians 6:14."

"Recall Jeremiah 29:11 – I have plans for you, plans for good and not for evil. Everything that I reveal of myself to you is for your good and not for pain. The pain is only the revelation of the part of you that yet resists Me. If your flesh rooted in self is not screaming, then it probably is not dying. Do not regret the screaming. That which is screaming is what is keeping you from My abundant life. So the scream is the revelation of the resistance that you have to summing up all things in Me. There's an upward call even to the screaming of your flesh as it is denied in Me."

"You must embrace My paradoxes. They are only paradoxes to the world, but not to Me and they will cease to be paradoxes for you when you fully embrace them. They remain paradoxes to you only when you insist on interpreting them through your unrenewed mind. The natural mind, which is what your unrenewed mind remains, cannot understand the things of the Spirit. Recall Luke 14:11 – For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled and he who humbles himself shall be exalted. Humility is simply the response in someone who is seeing Me as I am and not as they previously thought Me to be. In simple terms so that you can't miss it, you must go down to go up; because I cannot exalt that which resists Me. Self is anti-Christ. How can I fulfill My purposes if I exalt that which exalts itself against Me?"

"Recall Acts 20:35 – It is more blessed to give than to receive. Why do you think that is? It's because of II Corinthians 9:7 – for God loves a cheerful giver. Why do you think I do love a cheerful giver? Because I love what I am; and I am a cheerful giver. I am love. I love what I am and love gives cheerfully. The cheerful giver is simply the one who is seeing Me as I am. He knows that he has only what he has received. He knows to possess, but not possessively. He knows that I have blessed him to bless others. That reveals my heart toward them. That's to be an earthen vessel of blessings. I blessed you to meet your needs and to bless others, not to have your needs increase to match that with which I have blessed you. You do not give to get more prosperity to fill the lusts of your flesh. You give to get more of Me. This is what I told Abraham in Genesis 15:1, at least as preserved in the King James Version, when I told him that I would be his great reward. The cheerful giver is the one who sees Me as I am as a God of abundance Who gives cheerfully. Then he moves progressively from the psychology of scarcity

into the psychology of abundance. In simple terms so that you can't miss it, he must give to get. As he seeks Me, he gets to see more of Me and I am a rewarder of those who seek Me. There's an upward call in giving. The more that you see Me, the more that you give because you become what you behold. And when you behold Me and see Me as I am, as a cheerful giver, you will become that which you behold. The more that you give, the more that you see Me. This is to enter the crescendo of delight of giving cheerfully. Again, so that you can't miss it, cheerful giving is simply seeing Me as I am."

"Then recall Matthew 16:25 – For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. The one who wishes to save his life is the one who lives a life devoted to the fulfillment of self by seeking satisfaction in his cocoon of carnality. You note that I said the one who wishes to save his life; because he's still thinking in terms of owning himself as opposed to seeing how I view reality that I have owned him by virtue of creation even apart from salvation. That is simply to continue self worship. For the Christian, that's life in the flesh and not in the Spirit. And I probably don't need to remind you that that is anti-Christ. It does not fulfill My purposes. That one presents himself to Me cloaked in his own righteousness. He loses his whole reason for having been created which is to bring Me glory and bring Me pleasure and reveal Me to all of creation. On the other hand, the one who turns to Me for salvation and sanctification has My life in him and receives the revelation that his prior walk in the flesh, removed from his destiny that I had planned for him, profited him nothing. I am the only thing—the only thing—the only thing in all of existence worthy of glory. Why should I share My glory with anyone else? If I did so, it would be to live a lie and I am God and I cannot lie. The one who loses his life for My sake glorifies Me and comes to fulfillment of his whole purpose for having been created. He thus finds his life because I am life and he has tapped into My life. I only give you two options at each step of the Christian journey so that you don't get confused. Your choice is the life of God or life in the flesh based on self. In simple terms, you must lose to find. These paradoxes that I'm giving you I will review because they're easily summarized. You must go down to go up. You must give to get. And you must lose to find. The upward call of each is to become one with Me; and thus, to fulfill My love for you and to display Me and not self to the world thereafter. That's what it means to be My living epistle. You cannot be My living epistle to tell a true story of Me while clinging to your life based on self, testifying to the world of you and how the world should revolve around you."

"Then recall II Corinthians 4:11 – For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. Mix that with Galatians 2:20 in the King James Version – I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God Who loved me and delivered Himself for me. This paradox you must understand and embrace. You are to put self to death because self is anti-Christ. Make no provision for it. The more that you do so, the clearer that you will see Me in My all sufficiency. The clearer that you see Me, the easier it will become to put self to death. The goal is that only My character be released through you. You are the earthen vessel; but what you bring is Me; because you only have two choices and that is to bring Me or yourself to planet Earth. You cannot glorify Me and be a living epistle to tell a true story of Me when you bring self and not Me to others. My life is to be in you and it is. But My life is also to be revealed through you. This is the abundant life. It is in you, but it must be released. The hindrance to its release is your insistence on living with

self on the throne. In simple terms, you must die to live. I told you this when I told you about the outer shell of the seed dying to release the life within. I am the life within. The outer shell is your resistance in the flesh with self as the basis. I gave you that simple story because I wanted to make it so simple that you could not miss it. The summary of all these paradoxes when they're lumped together is that the ultimate self interest is to die to self interest and to live to Jesus' interest. I say that because all of creation was created to display My glory, not yours. You give up everything and nothing; because apart from Me, everything is nothing. Thus, denying self is not putting you down; it is calling you up; because you can either have My life or your own life, but not both."

Then with weak knees I began to ask some questions. I asked, "How will I know what to value?" And Jesus replies, "Simply recall Who I am. I am the only thing whose value is intrinsic within itself. Everything else has its value assigned by Me. When you see that I am the only thing of true value, then it will be clear to you what to do. Your reluctance and seeming difficulty is only because you insist on assigning your own value to everything instead of coming to Me to let Me tell you how I view reality as what the value of every other thing truly is. Paul is your example as he progressed in his view of everything other than Me as I told you in Philippians 3:7-8 – as he progressed from everything else being worthless, then loss, then rubbish, then dung."

Then I asked another question. "How can I know that this can even be done?" And Jesus replies, "Just recall what the Father told Gideon. Go in this your strength; did I not send you? I am sovereign. So when I send you, your strength to do what I have asked you to do is from Me in My omnipotence and not from you in your earthly capability. So when you say, 'How can this be done?' the question only arises when you're focused on your own capability. That's why I gave you that simple statement about Gideon in Judges 6:14. I am with you; I am in you; I will never forsake you; I am God, and with God all things are possible. Notice I said that all things are possible with God, not for God; because whatever you try to do for Me, apart from Me, you do not tap into My omnipotence. So with God all things are possible; not all things are possible apart from God functioning in your own self proclamation of what you think I should want you to do. All things are possible with Me as I told you in Matthew 19:26."

Then I feel beaten down and I say "This seems so hopeless. How can any man live that way?" And Jesus says, "Anytime that you feel that way, it's the revelation that your hope is in something other than Me. That's why I don't want you to walk by feelings. I want you to walk by faith; because feelings are unreliable in determining how I view reality. I am love and love does not fail. Recall that I told you in I Peter 1:13 to fix your hope completely on the grace brought to you at the revelation of Myself. It seems hopeless because you're seeing Me dimly through the prism of self. To deny self is to see Me more clearly; and thus, to fix your hope more completely on Me and My all sufficient grace. There's an upward call to the feeling of hopelessness; because the feeling of hopelessness simply reveals that you are rooted in self and not rooted in Me."

I then say, "I still do not see how I can do all this." And He says, "Do you recall when I asked Job a series of questions? Let Me use that technique to ask you a series of questions to see if you can figure this out." So then He asked a series of questions followed by my reply. And I gave a

series of correct answers. He asked, “How did creation occur?” To which I replied, “By grace.” “How were you created?” “By grace.” “How were you created in My image as an eternal spirit creature?” “By grace.” “How were you called to Me?” “By grace.” “How were you justified?” “By grace.” “How will you be glorified?” “By grace.” “Then I ask you, how will you be sanctified?” And I reply with hesitation, “Is it grace?” And Jesus says, “See, you know more than you thought, you clever boy.”

“The solution is always the same. I made it simple so you couldn’t miss it. Everything, and I repeat everything, is summed up in Me. This journey that you’ve been on to the cross is summed up in Me. The cross is, of course, summed up in Me. The Kingdom of God that you enter after the cross is all summed up in Me. The beginning is by Me. Holiness is seen by looking at Me. Your sin is revealed by looking at Me and My holiness, by seeing Me as I am instead of how you wish that I were. Your judging in any fashion is by Me. Your salvation is in Me. Your justification—in Me. Your sanctification—in Me. Your glorification—in Me. Your eternal destiny—in Me. Are you beginning to get the understanding of why I said abide in Me? I am love; love is expressed as grace; and my grace is sufficient for anything that you are, for anything that you aren’t, for anything that you face, and for anything that I call you to be. The Trinity is itself, summed up in Me. The Father told you, ‘Behold My Son, listen to Him.’ The Spirit came to bear witness of Me and to bring glory to Me. So, yes, We function as the Trinity, but there is no confusion in the Trinity because God is not a God of confusion. The Trinity focuses on its one plan to sum all things up in Me as the one mediator between God and man. The essences of God, the essential characteristics that you know that God possesses, are all summed up in Me. Since all things are summed up in Me, then simply look at Me. I cannot help you when your gaze is fixed on other things. That’s why I told you to fix your gaze upon Me, the author and perfecter of your faith. When your gaze is fixed on other things, you glorify and worship and attach value to that which you gaze at. The most common thing that you gaze at is yourself. And in that context, you gaze at circumstances as they pertain to yourself. For instance, when you fear, you are not gazing at Me. If you were, you would see My sovereignty and My love and My faithfulness; and My perfect love would cast out your fear; because your future is determined by Me, not through your contemplation of circumstances which could be adverse to you. When you doubt, you’re not gazing at Me. If you were, you would see My sovereignty, see my love and see my faithfulness and your doubt would be cast out.”

“When you doubt, it’s simply the revelation to you that you’re seeing Me as less than I am. And you see Me as less than I am only when you insist on looking at other things in addition to Me. When you envy, covet, or have jealousy, then you’re not gazing at Me. If you were, you would see that I’m the only thing of intrinsic value in all of existence. You have Me. So if I’m the only thing of intrinsic and ultimate value and you have Me, then of course, there’s nothing left for you to envy, covet, or to be jealous of. So when you envy, covet, or have jealousy, it’s simply the revelation to you that you’re gazing at something other than Me; or if you gaze at Me, you’re insisting on seeing Me as less than I am.”

And then I asked the question that probably most humans would ask. “What happens if I do none of what You want?” And He replies, “You are still My child, but a disobedient one. What you sow, you will reap. Your tomorrow will be like your today, only more so. I will allow your pride to go before a fall; but it is not to harm you; because the pride leading to the fall will lead

to brokenness, will lead to openness, will lead to your turning back to Me. In the meantime, I will discipline you because I love you. I will discipline you sometimes specifically, but always generally by the absence of My abundant life. Even that is covered by grace. Recall that I gave you choice that it could be of love and not of robotic slavery? Even your wrong choices and My reaction to them are part of the revelation of My grace for the ages to come. You're always testifying of Me either by the reciprocation of My love when you choose Me, or by the revelation of My ever sufficient grace when you do not choose Me. So all things will work together for good because I have ordained it so as I told you in Romans 8:28. But when you do not choose Me, you will lose some of the plans for good that I have for you as I told you in Jeremiah 29:11. You then build with wood, hay, and stubble which I will consume because they have no eternal value. But even someone who insists on doing this is still a trophy of My grace. You will be saved, but so as by fire as I consume your worthless works that you insisted on building. In the meantime, if you live your life that way, you will produce death because sin causes death. You will produce dead works, dead testimony, and death to the abundant life for yourself. That's why I told you simply in Romans 8:6 – The mind set on the flesh is death.”

Then I say “All of this is a bit overwhelming. Do you have any summary for me about the journey, the cross, and the Kingdom?” He says, “Simply respond to My upward call. Arise, oh sleeper. I am God. Everything is summed up in Me. Seek My face to see Me as I am. Gaze at Me to absorb that which you see and then abide in that at which you gaze. And everything else will be fine. I am God. I am love. I love you. My love is expressed as grace. It is all by grace. And My grace is sufficient. Do not ever be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Me. Oh yeah! And tell others about Me because I love them too. Tell them the truth that I long for them.”

“And one last point to make for you my precious child – ask yourself constantly ‘Why am I piddling with Jesus?’” And I was a bit taken aback. And I said “That doesn't sound like theologic language that I would expect omniscience to produce.” And He said “Because I'm not communicating with Me; I'm communicating with you, and I'm speaking a language that you can understand. In your everyday language, to piddle means to trifle with. So if I am the truth, why do you piddle with Me only part way? If I am not the truth, why do you piddle with Me at all? So in your own vernacular, ask yourself constantly the question: Why am I piddling with Jesus? If He is Who He says He is, then why do I piddle with Him part way? If He is not Who He said He is, why do I piddle with Him at all? In other words, why do you call Me Lord and not do what I say? To trifle with Me is its own form of insanity my child; because insanity is to be divorced from reality. And to trifle with Me is a form of insanity because it is to be divorced from Me as the ultimate reality which I am. I tell you these things because I love you. Love is a passion for oneness and I have a passion to be one with you. I have a passion that no part of yourself remain outside of Myself. Simply reciprocate My love by choosing Me with each thought. That's why I told you to capture each thought in obedience to Me; because your obedience will flow out of your love. That will set you free. You will be free from self and its limitations. You'll be free from what I call the flesh. You'll be free from what I call the system of this world. You'll be free from the kingdom of darkness. And you'll be free from Satan having access to you. Because all of those options end in death; the only option which ends in life is Me. I did not tell you to deny self to deny you; I told you to deny self so that you could be

complete in Me to have the full revelation of what you are with Me. That freedom is the prize for those who respond to the upward call.”

So we'll begin to explore that freedom in Christ to see if we can maximize our pleasure in it the next time that we come together. So my time is up and I thank you for yours.