

# Capturing Authentic Covenant Community

## The Journey Part 11

**The Purpose of This Series-** This series is entitled “The Journey” particularly for the purpose of learning to live the affective and fruitful life of a believer. These thirteen messages are shared to give the believer, young or old, new or seasoned, a clearer picture of the life intended for them and what God has for them. I believe this series will help the believer tie up some loose end and help them walk with confidence and abundance.

**The Purpose of This Message-** As we take our journey further through I Thessalonians we find that Paul is wanting the believers at Thessalonica to tap in on the supernatural reserves of love. We are all limited as to what we can provide in our capacity to love others. As a result we find ourselves short to provide all the love that is needed to the world that is around us. As we learn to be a poster child of Divine Love, we realize that it will take on a whole different view that what we have had. You cannot love like Christ calls us to in our own flesh. We need God's intervention. All of our lives are affected by only two relationships, our relationship with God and that of others in this world. That love, that supernatural love was Paul's goal for these believers and for us today. Please dig deep and allow the Holy Spirit to birth a new work in you today!

If you are desiring God to work in your life, then you are entertaining God giving you direction for your life. God has an incredible way of taking charge. He is not in to interior redecorating, He is about relocation! If you have an open invitation for God to work in your life then He will set up His agenda as if your own life becomes His own headquarters! **Divine intervention!**

But there are just some things that are not going to happen without God's help. And in Paul's case, he mentions 3 of them in the first three passages of **1 Thessalonians 3:11-13**.

### A) Divine Connection

*“Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.”*

I Thessalonians 3:11

Paul had no doubts about it, if he was going to have the opportunity to connect with the Thessalonians again personally, then it was going to have to be the work of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Outside divine intervention, another face to face meeting was not going to take place.

There are many distractions and separations in our lives, gaps where relationships show a healthy lifeline and because of certain incidences, that relationship ends, just like rain in our forecast, it is no longer on the radar. Relationships are severed and they are broken. A severed relationship is one taken away because of circumstances, you move, you change jobs or schools. It could be because you just obey God. Broken relationships happen because of unhealthy or dangerous behavior. A relationship can become broken over stupidity, stubbornness and stress. It's not a pretty sight and it almost is always painful.

**Sometimes that's a good thing.** Sometimes you have toxic relationships that only distract you from the true purpose of God in your life.

## B) Divine Context

**May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.**

I Thessalonians 3:12

Paul is telling them, “Listen, I want God to do something for you, that you would **increase**, to have more than enough love than is necessary to function and do the work. But I want to go beyond an **increase**, I want you to **abound!**

Here is a good question: “**Why is God at work in your life?**” We all understand why He came and died for us on the cross, but why is He continuing to work on our behalf?

Many people unconsciously believe that God sent Jesus to save them, but that is not correct, it's only partially true. God sent Jesus Christ into this world to redeem our soul so the work of God could be made fully complete in us. This work of God, through the Holy Spirit is a continual work...but very specific, not just the day to day intervention of the still small voice to help us make proper choices, to have the advantage on others when it comes to the blessings of God or have a greater awareness of things around us through His gifts and empowerment. At salvation, God began His work in you and I and it has a greater scope greater than the simple, private life of the believer.

Here Paul explains what that work of God is in the believers life. Paul has a desire for the Thessalonian believers, a desire that the direct hand of God, assisted by Jesus Christ, give them, Paul, Silas and Timothy, proper direction for specific purposes:

1. That you would **increase**
2. That you would **abound**

Increase & Abound

In Love For Each Other & Everyone Else

- **Increase** (4121)(*pleonazo* from *pleion* = more) means to cause to increase or an abundance, an increase in number. It means to have or cause to have much, or more than enough. To **have a surplus**.
- **Abound** (4052)(*perisseuo* from *perissós* = abundant from *peri* = in sense of beyond) means to cause to overflow or superabound (**quantitatively or qualitatively**), to cause to excel. It means to exceed a fixed number or measure, to exist in superfluity.

Example: If I sent you out to buy hamburgers at McDonalds, I could easily compute that your hamburger and my hamburger would cost about twelve to fifteen. To be in increase, (*pleonazo*) I would toss you a \$20. But for me to give you enough to abound, I would give you my checkbook with my signature of endorsement.

I believe that it is easy to read this as saying that God distributes this love toward us. But Paul is saying, “May God and Jesus create this extravagant amount of love, in the abounding fashion toward others in you.” And Paul tells us how this love is shown.

**Paul Shows Where Godly Love Abounds:**

1. **Love For One Another-**

Why? Because we get on each others nerves. We go through in's and out's with people. We want to pull back and take offense and lose a yoked life with each other and move more into co-existence. We have to constantly find a love for one another or we will find an opinion of one another that will become a final and permanent stance we take.

2. **Love For All Men-**

Why? Because we get in a rut only loving on the people we are most like, people we are most safe with, people we prefer or want to identify with. There are no demographics in God's Kingdom, but we can keep drawing all the lines that separate us from having any connection. This love is outward and sharing life beyond our own styles, tastes, experience, education, preferences and familiarity. This love takes risk, brakes routine. It goes beyond social justice, an unjust action toward a sector of people, it is filing claim to corporate love over everyone, rendering everyone under the same umbrella. Love is not a statement or impression, not even a feeling. It is a commitment, if necessary, to see everyone with colorblind eyes. And if you could cross that over to realize that we are all missionaries, not ministers. I believe that a minister is someone who does the work of God among those most like himself. A missionary constantly attempts to fine the connecting factors at sharing their faith with those of a different culture or social structure.

3. **Love They Exemplified-**

Paul and companions not only showed love, they exemplified it! It is important to understand, if you are going to live right, remind yourself that it's not just for you, but for those watching watching you to learn and listen from your example. Paul was not afraid to say, "Look what we've done and follow accord." Paul ties this thought up with a personal example of how to get the job done, "Do what I did." Do you know that many of us live for God, and in that we are living examples of how to love. A proper example of love today is under great scrutiny, especially against the church.

As a matter of fact, we, (Christ followers) are accepting and responding accordingly to the worlds attack and definition of Godly love. Something is wrong, the worlds definition of love does not line up with God's definition of love.

Here is an example: "If you really loved me you wouldn't judge me." I can't tell you how many times I have heard that statement in one form or another. In other words, "If you loved me, you would not have any opinion about how I conducted my life." No, I shouldn't be pointing fingers and picketing on the opposite side of the street as you, with a free-for-all opinion fest. I'm not out to shame or demean you. I am truly out to love you. But, I will not agree with not only your opinions of how I should

act, but of your misinterpretation of God's Word. I am not not in a position to judge you, but to help define sin which separates you from God! There is an incredible amount of grace that allows us to grow in Christ. His love draws us over many failures and traps along the way. But to ignore those failures and traps is the crisis that we live in today. There is sin, why is that such a denial of love to admit it? My love should not be limited by your behavior and your behavior should not limit God's pre-set statement of love.

There is a conformity into the image of Christ. Of course there are several who believe that they have tapped into the full "revelation" of what that is to look like. According to many in the world, they believe that this "revelation" is based upon one scripture, "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). This has become the most popular scripture today. It is misinterpreted so drastically that many who follow this misinterpretation fail to live in a healthy/biblical way before the Lord and reinterpret the true definition of God's love.

There is a way to live as an example of God's love and it is not to live from the position of anonymity. Biblical love does not ignore sin! God's love points out sin so you can find resolution, you can find restitution! To fail at this point is to bring Christ's work upon the cross to ruin. And how Satan so enjoys the destructive failure of this philosophy...a religion, but not of God's Word.

Paul was confrontational, specific, demanding and had high expectations for change when a person came to Christ. Paul say, "Love like we loved." He didn't say Christ "accepts you as you are." The work of Christ sets us free from the toxic abuse of our destructive definition of love. You can't any more bottom line than this. If you get love right you can practically get life right! We are to follow and observe his display of love, his actions, a life devoted to God and full of love.

### **C) Divine Continuum**

***"May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."***

**I Thessalonians 3:13**

**A Continuum is referred to as anything that goes through a gradual transition from one condition, to a different condition, without any abrupt changes.** Well, once the great exchange is made and our live has converted to Christ, to become blameless and holy is a continuum of gradual transition. We need divine strength to activate in our hearts to assist us in living blameless and holy lives.

**Strengthen/Establish** (4741) (*sterizo* from *histemi* = to stand as in 1Peter 5:12- "stand firm in" the true grace of God) This means to **make firm or solid, to set fast, to fix firmly in a place, to establish** (make firm or stable), to cause to be inwardly firm or committed, to strengthen. The basic idea of the verb *sterizo* is that of stabilizing

something by providing a support or buttress (a projecting structure of masonry or wood for supporting or giving stability to a wall or building), so that it will not totter.

Barclay writes that *sterizo* means to make as solid as granite. Suffering of body and sorrow of heart do one of two things to a man. They either make him collapse or they leave him with a solidity of character which he could never have gained anywhere else. If he meets them with continuing trust in Christ, he emerges like toughened steel that has been tempered in the fire. (Barclay, W: The Daily Study Bible Series, Rev. ed. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press or Logos

There is an encounter with God that provides you with additional support that causes you to stand firm without change, or exchange. In this daily walk of ours, an increased strength through God supports us in Christ, to look like Him and live like Him. If your heart is not strengthened/established by God then you will have a difficult time living in the context of righteous living. Listen, God did come only to save you, but to activate His power to work within you, to bring His Kingdom into power. That is under fire today.

In Christendom today, a blameless and holy life is being washed out by and an extended, obese view of grace or a resistant, misinterpretation of judgement, "don't yoke me or don't judge me." Listen, unless God is active and at work in your heart, you will not be able to live a blameless and holy life but only live under the constraints of a religious burden that takes the life out of you, not breaths it into you. This is a divine life. It is not a life of rules and restrictive process that lives in denial. It is a life that is without restraints, given over to a greater call. The Divine Context of living here is not one without it's differences. But it is not about living different in reflection of a world, but it is living in reflection of Christ, which will become different. We are not trying to look white in a black world, we are allowing Christ to make us look like Him, and no matter what, when we look like Him we look different, even when we are doing the same thing! On the job, in giving to our community, while serving, loving on people. When Christ is reflected in us, blameless and holy, our actions are different and it is obvious. I know this because I am part of the Chamber of Commerce. One of my concerns is that I would only look like the rest of those who want to serve our community. But it is Christ in me, I don't have to tell everyone, there is something different in me, what will make me the same is pride that I got there all by myself and that I have an agenda rather than God. He told me to go there and that makes me different. If I refuse to be obedient, I soon become like everyone else trying to look good through their own works.

**I am different because I have allowed God to establish divine connections within the divine content of love that can only exist through God's provision in an ever increasing fashion. And this leads to the divine context, blamelessness and holiness is in reflection of the divine content...love. If that is properly places, so will my disposition before God. When He sends His Son to come back for me with His holy ones, He will not look at my religious behavior as a marking for approval, He will look to see if my life has been defined within the context of His love! According to this scripture, I am acceptable, can be appealing in the eyes of God when He returns, blameless & holy, because I have allowed love to abound and flourish.**

Love is the essence of holiness, and not law. Love is the new law, but it does not do away with the law, it improves it. It makes it more livable. We obey God's Word because it brings life, not restriction. I can't tell you how much favor, amazing grace and blessing has come my way to which I contribute to the submission I have placed within the confines of God's Word. I cannot tell you what my faith would be like in a third world country or if I were born in different circumstances. But what I do know is that I have said "No!" to things that did not line up with God's Word and I did that out of my love for God, not just a fear of His wrath! I don't live a fasted life because of fear, I live it out of love.

I don't mess around on my wife and I don't mess around on my God! Why do so many people think they have to prove God's amount of grace and love by going out on the town without Him? I will never get that, except, that is the extent to which they have found God, someone you marry but you have to leave the house without to enjoy life. What a sad, distorted view of the relationship. What my God has done for me is amazing. God is constant, but I am not. And when I contribute to a committed lifestyle on my part, I experience a life of blessing because of my covenant commitment in relationship with God. Too many young people are experiencing life, casting off restraints, having God on the side and don't even know it. It is a silent arrogance that can and will eventually intoxicate them. Before long there is no taste in their mouth for God and they will wonder where He went. Yes we need Divine intervention. There is no logic that can make a man truly hungry for God. There is a logic that can manipulate him into religious slavery. But this real love for God is first generated by the work of the Holy Spirit that raises the reality of hope of a covenant relationship with the almighty!

If I fully grasped this I would be found crying out to God, "Give me your strength oh Lord! Fill my heart in a way that would elevate me to a life of blamelessness and holiness! I cannot do it without you. I cannot live this life with you only in a portion of it. I want and need you my God!"

*"May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."*

I Thessalonians 3:13

**Heart** (2588) (*kardia*) This is not addressing the physical organ but is always used figuratively in Scripture to refer to **the seat and center of human life**. This is where the center of our personality lays, **it hosts our intellect, emotions, and will**. There is no beneficial outward obedience if the heart does not turn to God. The heart can conjure actions that look righteous as well as sinful. That's why the conversion to Christ must take place in the heart, not the head.

*"Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders..."*

Matthew 15:19

**The Heart —**

1. **Center of intelligence**, Romans 1:21; 2 Corinthians 3:15; 4:6; Ephesians 1:18.
2. **Center of moral choice**, 1 Corinthians 7:37; 2 Corinthians 9:7.
3. **Center of impulse and action**, Romans 6:17; Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:22. (The work of the law is written on the heart, Romans 2:15). The Corinthian Church is inscribed as Christ's epistle on hearts of flesh, 2 Corinthians 1:23.
4. **Center of faith**, Romans 10:9
5. **Center of the Divine Spirit**, Galatians 4:6; Romans 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:22. This is where He operates from, directing, comforting, establishing, etc., Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:17; 3:5.
6. **Center of encouragement for believers and spiritual praise**, Ephesians 5:19,

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."*  
Colossians 3:16

### **An Established Heart Can Be A Blameless and Holy Life**

Unless God does a work in your heart, you will never see real fruit from your life.

**Unblamable/Blameless** (273)(*amemptos* from a = negates following word + *mémphomai* = find fault) means **irreproachable, faultless, without defect or blemish**. In other words, not being able to find fault in someone or some thing. *Amemptos* signifies that whatever charges might be made, no charge could be maintained.

**Holiness** (42)(*hagiosune* from *hagios* = holy) **to separate from what is common or unclean**, and consecrate to God. **It means to be set apart for a specific use or purpose**. Includes the idea of taking something filthy, dirty and washing it and setting it apart as something brand new and useful for a different purpose--salvation

*"But I said to you, "You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations. " 'You must therefore make a distinction between clean and unclean...You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."*

Leviticus 20:24-26

Holiness is more than keeping away from sinners, it also means to stay close to God. It's more than avoiding sin, it is drawing near to God.

### **The Great Review**

***"May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."***

1 Thessalonians 3:13

It is our hope as a believer to stand in the presence of God, to once and for all declare us as His own. Actually, the way that Paul describes it, we will have three different people we will stand in front of:

1. **God**
2. **Jesus Christ**
3. **Holy Ones-** He will bring with Him all His holy ones, which I think without a doubt refers to believers but could also include angels. Saints is often explained as angels; but the meaning is the holy and glorified people of God.

Every chapter in I Thessalonians ends with a reference to the return of Jesus Christ. What Christ's coming meant to Paul and the Thessalonians:

1. Turning from the wrath of God- 1Thessalonians 1:9-10
2. A reunion of believers- 1Thessalonians 2:17-20
3. A heart of preparation- 1Thessalonians 3:11-13
4. A word of encouragement 1Thessalonians 4:18
5. Confidence that you can make it! 1Thessalonians 5:23-24

*"He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
I Corinthians 1:8*

In more than 500 verses throughout the Bible, His coming, His arrival is spoken of. This is our great hope, the coming of Jesus Christ and He will come for those whose hearts have been invaded by the Holy Spirit and changed forever!

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."  
Ephesians 5:25-27*

## Getting It Right!

*"Finally, brothers, we **instructed** you how to live **in order to please God**, as in fact you are living. Now we **ask** you and **urge** you in the Lord Jesus to do this **more and more**. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus."  
I Thessalonians 4:1-2*

Again, here is this good question: "**Why is God at work in your life?**" We all understand why He came and died for us on the cross, but why is He continuing to work on our behalf? "...in order to please God..."!

Listen, it is possible to live in a way that does not please God!?

The scripture here uses the word, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, but it might be better rendered **request and exhort**.

**Ask/Request** (2065)(*erotao* from *éromai* = ask, inquire) means to ask for. Paul is speaking to the believers at Thessalonica as a fellow believer and not as someone who is "holier than thou" as we often say. Paul is calling for them to seriously strive to walk holy, worthy and without blame.

**Urge/Exhort** (3870)(*parakaleo* from *para* = side of + *kaléo* = call) calling one alongside to assist, help or give aid. Its urging someone to do something, more specifically.

## The Lean Mean Serving Machine

Paul brings us to a point where we are not only asked but urged, pressed in the corner, pushed on the chest, pointed in a direction...walk this way, again and again. Keep up this pattern of living.

**Excel** (4052) (*perisseuo* from *perissós* = abundant, exceeding some number, measure, rank or need, over and above, more than sufficient from *peri* = in sense of beyond) means to **to exceed a fixed number or measure and so to exist in superfluity**, to cause to superabound, to be superfluous, to be in excess, to overflow, to be in affluence, to excel or to be in abundance. The implication is that there is considerably more than what would be expected. **The idea is to overflow like a river out of its banks!**

**If you are excelling at pleasing God you will not find time to be pleasing your flesh!** The Thessalonians were excelling at serving God. They were doing it! Paul was proud of the and was recognizing them for it. So he brings in a key thought that is obviously a killer to this process...

***"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable..."***  
***1 Thessalonians 4:3-4***

**Sanctification** (38)(*hagiasmos* from *hagiazō* = sanctify from *hagios* = holy, set apart, consecrated) literally means sanctification and includes the ideas of consecration, purification, dedication and holiness. The dominant idea- separation from the secular and sinful and setting apart for a sacred purpose, for God's special use, all made possible by the atoning work of Christ.

When a couple gets married, one of the things that is said in the wedding vows as the ring is placed on the bride or grooms finger is...

If it were the man saying it: "I now consecrate my life to you, you will be my wife from this day forward and I give you this ring as **the pledge of my love** and commitment. This ring is the symbol of that unity and with this ring, I marry you. I take you as my wife. I take you to become one with me."

Do you want to know God's will for your life? Be sanctified, don't just be withdrawn, but enter in to the relationship of God. Allow Him to invade your heart with a different passion and agenda.

**To be sanctified is to be connected to something as much as disconnected from something!** Paul goes right to the heart of the main destructive force of sanctification, sexual immorality. It is going out on God! More than that, it is adulterous affairs on Him. The context of this scripture is that to be sanctified with Christ, I am actually in a married covenant relationship with Him, acknowledged all through the New Testament.

The greatest weapon from being torn apart from this painful and distracting evil is to be in the Word of God daily.

*"Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word*

*that comes from the mouth of God."*

Matthew 4:4

You will not experience significant sanctification if the Word of God is not in you and/or you are not (as you are enabled by the Spirit) obeying God's Word. Peter charges believers, exhorting them to lay aside growth stunting sins:

*"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind."*

1 Peter 2:1

Paul's command was not abstinence, it was activate under control in a way that is holy and honorable. In other words, the greatest way to practice safe sex is to activate, control your own body, in a holy and honorable way.

*"It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**: that you should **avoid sexual immorality**; that each of you should **learn to control his own body** in a way that is **holy and honorable...**"*

*1 Thessalonians 4:3-4*

**Abstain** (568)(*apechomai* or *apecho* from *apó* = away from) Put some distance between; serves as a **marker of dissociation**, implying a rupture from a former association + *écho* = have) means to be away or be at a distance.

In the Screwtape Letters, C. S. Lewis says that each time a man and a woman enter into a sexual relationship a spiritual bond is established between them which must be eternally enjoyed or eternally endured! Look what Paul has to say about this:

*"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."*

*1 Corinthians 6:18-20*

**Flee** (present imperative = **not a suggestion but a command to make it our habit to flee**- continually flee and keep fleeing until the danger is past) When the sensual commercial comes on at halftime of the game, excuse yourself and leave the room!

**Immorality (4202) (porneia)**. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body *Porneia* is more destructive to the sinner than other sins because the one who engages in it cannot undo their act.

**Jesus made it quite clear that we don't have to touch a woman to be guilty of the sin of adultery. Although masturbation is not a popular subject, it should be addressed. The Bible does not specifically discuss masturbation, but it is a sin in one's heart against God when it involves fantasizing (as it usually does) over a pornographic image for the sole purpose of gratification of self. Jesus said, "...everyone who looks (present tense = continues to look) on a woman to lust (manifest a strong depraved desire or drive) for her has committed adultery with**

*her already in his heart. (Mt 5:28) Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own!*

### But Live This Way

***"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable..."***  
***1 Thessalonians 4:3-4***

**Holy/Sanctification** (holiness) (38) (*hagiasmos*) means to be **set apart from sin to God, for the purpose of living a pure and holy life.**

**Honor** (5092) (time from *tío* = pay honor, respect) This is the value ascribed to a person or thing. It refers to the worth or merit of some object, event, or state. It is a valuing by which the price is fixed, an estimation of the value of a thing. To think more of yourself than that. Looking at yourself as better than that.

### You should be sanctified...

***"...not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you."***  
***1 Thessalonians 4:5-6***

Not- Passionate Lust

**Passion** (3806)(*pathos* from *pascho* = suffer, basic meaning is **"to experience something that comes from outside, at first usually bad, idea of suffering evil remains**) Experience of a strong desire. Hence, an affection of the mind, a passionate desire. It is a drive or force that does not rest until satisfied.

**Lustful** (1939) (*epithumia*) from *epi* = at, toward {the preposition "epi-" in the compound is directive conveying the picture of "having one's passion toward" } + *thumos* = passion. The root verb *epithumeo* = set heart upon) is a neutral term denoting the presence of strong desires or impulses, longings or passionate craving.

One one hand it is attracting you, passionate toward you. But lust is you passionate toward it. When these two collide you are in for it.

### Two Ways To Look At This:

#### 1. Wrong His Brother

- **Wrong/Transgress** (5233)(*huperbaino* from *hupér* = beyond + *baíno* = to go) means literally to step over the line, or go beyond. The idea is to step over a boundary, to break over a barrier, to go beyond prescribed limits.

#### 2. Take Advantage Of Your Brother

- **Take Advantage/Defraud** (4122) (*pleonekteo* from *pleíon* = more + *écho* = have <> *pleonektes* degrees one who wants more, person covetous of something that others have, a defrauder for gain) literally means **to have more than another and then to take advantage of any one.** To claim

more. To covet. To have more than one's due.

***“The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.”***

**I Thessalonians 4:6b**

***“He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”***

**Revelation 21:7-8**

### **The Result Of Unhealthy Relationships**

As we read Revelation 21:7-8 it is important that we keep this in mind, all of the things that will cause a person to be placed in the fiery lake is in response to bad relationships with other people and with God. We do wacky things because we don't know how to walk in Divine Love. The scripture here reveals eight ways we live out unhealthy relationships. We...

- Become cowardly and withdraw in a relationship rather than confront issues that are glaringly out of order, both privately and publicly,
- Become unbelieving because our capacity to trust has been broken because of past pain and disappointment, resentment and/or unforgiveness has contaminated your heart to even trust God,
- Become vile in unlimited lust and passions, incapable of limiting your thoughts words or actions because of the perverseness of your heart,
- Become murderous within your own heart or literally because of a hatred that Satan has so well watered and fertilized. You have not limited yourself from seeking someone else's destruction weather it be in reputation, financial, happiness, well-being, opportunity, success or growth.
- Become sexual immoral because you struggle in having the ability to wait on God or exchange you heart for the things of God.
- Become involved in Magical Arts because we can learn how to manipulate others and get our way rather than having real love and relationship,
- Become an idolator by having a hobby, supported talent, special interest in things that take your worship from God. You worship them and there is no trust in God.
- Become a liar. Your words betray you and others because you don't know how to relate to others you have to lie and fabricate opinions about yourself or those around you. You have a huge fear of man, in great need for truth.

### **What Does All Of This Mean?**

I need the Divine Connection in my life. I need God's Divine deposit of His love to be placed in my heart, that I would be strengthened abundantly to overflowing so I can connect with others beyond their capacity to connect with me. It is truly a key point to say that “without Him I can do nothing!”

I don't want to be manipulated by the worlds passions, the luring, tempting, seductive world

nor do I want to yield to ungodly lust and appetites that I have yielded to in the past. I want to be free, but not just free, not just living in “No.” I want to living in the “Yes” of the work of the Holy Spirit. I want to be activated as a vessel set apart, but not just set apart, but for the Masters use. I don't live to be withdrawn and unstained, I live needing the work of the Holy Spirit to constantly purify and cleans my heart because of my encounters in this world. I don't see how close I can live in this world knowing God's grace covers all. I live in a world that needs to be drawn to an almighty God, to be free of the flesh and appetite of this world.

Prayer: Oh how I long for you God! How I desire to have your love and compassion. I desire that today my life will reflect that of Christ's and that His power would enable me to have more than enough love to share with the world around me. God, use my heart and life for your glory. Live through me and may I learn to expand my capacity of love through your supernatural strength. Amen!