

Oil
and
wine

Benefits for Christians

Peter Michell

Introduction

Understanding the symbolism of the oil and the wine will bring a greater understanding of God's favour and of what we should do in life on earth resulting in increased assurance of the goodness of God with many benefits.

Written for believing Christians many of whom struggle with receiving the full benefit of their relationship with Jesus.

Important

Oil represents God's favour. Every born again Christian is residing in God's favour by definition. Enjoy His favour by focussing on loving the Lord above all things and His oil will surely flow in you and through you. There will be many blessings.

Wine represents fruitfulness. We are fruitful not by our own efforts and endeavours but by abiding in Jesus and letting Him live through us.

We learn to live from rest.

All references are from the New King James Bible

Contents

Oil – establishing the wonder of God’s favour

- 1 The two kingdoms**
- 2 Doubts and concerns**
- 3 The nature of God’s Kingdom**
- 4 My position of favour**
- 5 Utterly secure and blessed**

Wine – establishing the wonder of rest

- i I’m a branch!**
- ii Relax and enjoy – let the sap flow**
- iii As He is so am I.**
- iv Fruitfulness**
- v By My Spirit**

Conclusion and enjoying the benefits
The good Samaritan

After thoughts

Insights

- a Revelation 6:6**
- b Not my might – but His mighty power**
- c Entering rest**
- d Understanding**
- e Trials**

Oil Chapter 1

The two kingdoms

So that we can receive the full blessing of being God's born again children we need to clearly understand the significance of what happened when we first believed.

'Whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but will have eternal life.' Believe in Jesus and you become born again by the Spirit of God. Take this literally – your human spirit was in death and darkness until the moment you first placed your trust in Jesus by believing in Him.

A transfer took place – you were transferred from death into life. *'Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life.'* John 5:24

'But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.' 1 Peter 2:9

The two kingdoms

Now we can clearly see the two kingdoms – God's Kingdom of life and light and another kingdom of death and darkness – this world.

Death and darkness we can see all around us in this world in which we live. The world is full of evil – there is much death and darkness!

But we are told this world is passing away. We are told we are not of this world – *'If you were of the world the world would love it's own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.'*

John 15:19

(Jesus had already said, *'You did not choose Me but I chose you'* in verse 16)

Let's dwell for a moment on the word chose and choose. The Greek is from *'eklegomai'* which means 'to pick out.' It's not that we did anything great. The Lord God chose us Himself - He picked you and me out and revealed Jesus to us so that we could believe. We have been picked out by God Himself! It is worth meditating on this, *'God chose me.'*

Jesus tells us that satan is the ruler of this world and that until we are born again we are effectively his children because we are children of this world – this kingdom. (See Luke 16:8 where the scripture says the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.) We see for certain there are two kingdoms, this world under satan's rule and God's kingdom of light.

The reason there is so much evil in the world is clearly stated by Jesus when speaking to the Jews, *'You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.'* John 8:44 Take note the devil is a liar.

We have been transferred.

Jesus promise - *'I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness'* John 12:46 We who believe do not abide, dwell, live in darkness!

Jesus instructed the Apostle Paul with these words, *'Now I send you (to the gentiles) to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith'* Acts 26:18

'For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.' Ephesians 5:8 - transferred!

'He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.' Colossians 1:13 - transferred!

'You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.' 1 Thessalonians 5:5 -transferred!

'Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement , but has passed from death into life.' John 5:24 - transferred!

'We know that we have passed from death to life.' 1 John 3:14 - transferred!

Established fact - we who believe have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness and death, over which satan is the ruler, into the Kingdom of Jesus full of light and life. We will come into the full realisation when we are changed as per 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.

This world is ruled by satan, the devil, and he is a liar. In this world each one of us will be subject to many lies.

These lies masquerade as if they are our thoughts – but they are not, they are 'fiery darts' to do us harm. That is why the scripture instructs us to take every thought captive to Jesus.

Remember we are picked out for God's favour and blessing. Any thought that does not align and agree with that is a fiery dart.

Oil chapter 2

Doubts and concerns

Reading the New Testament will show us that believing in Jesus, and in the truth He taught and displayed, was a continual issue. And so it is today. Jesus was continually urging those He spoke with to believe in Him, and if they could not then to believe through the works He did.

Yet many come to believe. To Thomas Jesus said, *'Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'* John 20:29

Nevertheless doubts and concerns challenge us all the time. Because our body and soul still lives on earth we cannot avoid seeing its evil.

A quick review of the nature of being a human. We are made up of 3 elements - body, soul and spirit. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, *'Now may the God of peace sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* 2 Thessalonians 5:23

Our human spirit was in death and was transferred to life and His Spirit came to dwell therein as a guarantee - there is no doubt or concern there in our innermost being.

Our body is physical creation to house and carry about our soul and our human spirit so it is referred to as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Our soul is the problem area. We think too much – hence having doubts and concerns.

Thinking too much

We have been blessed with the ability to think – our brains are capable of receiving a multitude of thoughts both good and bad, pleasing and frightening. We have already seen that satan is the father of lies, so it is no surprise that this world, of which he is the ruler, is brim full of lies.

So we need, and have been given, a yardstick by which we can sort the lies from the truth. Written for us in the bible, which is 'God breathed' through His prophets is all we need for life and godliness.

It is very common for good Christian people to think they are not good enough, not worthy, and other detrimental things. These lies are planted in our minds by our enemy – and we know this is so because they are contrary to God's word. God has picked us out – do we dare think He made a wrong choice or a mistake! Let it never be said.

Every born again believer is a work in progress – like Paul we can be *'confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.'* (Philippians 1:6) Because – *'we are 'being transformed into the same image (that is the image of Jesus) from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.'*

2 Corinthians 3:18

Time to change our thinking – I am not ‘no good’ etc etc, rather I am a work in progress which the Lord is changing from glory to glory by His Spirit that dwells in me.

The antidote

The way to overcome all the lies that are thrown at us, called by Paul in Ephesians 6 ‘fiery darts’ is to become filled with more and more truth. So this simple prayer – ‘Holy Spirit fill me with more and more truth,’ is immensely valuable.

It is my constant continuing prayer.

This world being ruled by satan is full also of hatred - particularly for us as we saw in the scripture above. Whilst we cannot avoid the world’s hatred which frequently comes against us through other people, we can be built up in love. So our second antidote is to *‘love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength.’* So here is my second constant continuing prayer – ‘Holy Spirit fill me and fill me with more and more love for Jesus.

Then we will find bit by bit we desire to be a blessing to our neighbours fulfilling Jesus second statement, *‘you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’*

So now we can look at God’s kingdom and the provision He has made for our benefit.

Oil chapter 3

The nature of God's kingdom.

To live a happy, content and fruitful Christian life we need to understand the nature of God's kingdom.

It is very easy to get the wrong idea of God's nature when we look at the things of earth and when we read and consider God's judgement. So understanding is essential.

God is light

'This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.'

1 John 1:5

For us to be able to enter the kingdom of God there must be no darkness at all in us. When we first believed all our sin, past, present and future was laid upon Jesus – He took the penalty and we went free. But more than that He made an exchange, He took our sin and gave us the gift of His righteousness so that we can enter God's kingdom.

God is love.

'Beloved let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested towards us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.'

1 John 4:7-10

'God is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.' 1 Peter 3:9

He does not want any to perish. But our freewill means we have the choice to believe and be transferred from death to life or not – our choice.

The result is that we may observe seemingly good and nice people who choose not to believe in Jesus. But they are still in death and darkness and cannot enter God's kingdom. All, the obviously bad, and the unbelieving but seemingly good, come under the same judgement. They have refused God's gift of eternal life in Jesus. Our judgement can wrongly paint God as harsh in this respect. But everyone gets the same opportunity and will be judged according to their own choice.

For those who choose to believe there is no condemnation – the judgement that should have fallen on us fell on Jesus instead.

So the nature of God's kingdom is love and light. His kingdom displays righteousness, goodness, peace, joy, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness. To exhibit these characteristics we need self control and longsuffering. No wonder then that it is a life long process of being changed from one degree of glory to another by the Spirit.

Time now to consider our position of favour.

Oil chapter 4

My position of favour.

Oil is used as a symbol of God's Spirit resting on man for blessing and for calling. So in the Old Testament we find the kings of Israel being anointed with oil to show His favour and to confirm their calling as king. For example in 1 Samuel 16:1-13 we have the account of David, the youngest of 8 sons of Jesse, being anointed for kingship by Samuel. David waited many years before coming into the position of king.

Oil is extracted from the fruit of the olive tree. Our understanding of the meaning of the olive tree, and our relationship to it, will give us great comfort and strength in the Christian life.

We meet it in Romans 11. Here we find that Israel are described as natural branches of the olive tree whilst believing gentiles, though wild, are described as being grafted in amongst them. We need to be sure to see that the olive tree is not Israel, the gentiles are not grafted into Israel. So what does the olive tree represent and what are we grafted into?

In verse 17 and 18 of Romans 11 we find that we are partakers of the root and the fatness* that comes from it. (*fatness, '*piotes*' in Greek, has the meaning of nourishment, richness, hence fatness.)

The sap that comes from the root into us the branches is the favour and blessing of God that we see in the anointing oil produced from olives, the fruit on the branches.

My position of favour means that when I follow my calling in God - that is when I am walking in the good works that God prepared for me (See Ephesians 2:10) - then I can expect God's anointing to be there in me and with me. Just as God intended it to be with the kings of Israel.

I can testify that extensively in my work (secular, I was an accountant until retirement) and in all of life I have received support and help from God - His richness has flowed into my life. See the section on insight b) and c) at the end of the booklet.

This richness is there for every believer, as we are all grafted into the olive tree. For our day to day life understanding that we are recipients of God's favour, His richness, will be a source of strength and peace. Oil represents this favour and anointing of God for us, just as it did for King David!

Conclusion

Now we understand that it is God's desire and intention to pour richness, anointing and blessing into all who believe in Him. That is me and you - God's desire is to bless us abundantly.

Oil chapter 5

Utterly secure and blessed.

To fully enjoy the abundant goodness and anointing of God it is helpful to establish and believe some biblical truth:

- 1 This world is not our eternal home – we have an eternal inheritance waiting for us. Jesus said, ‘I have gone to prepare a place for you’ John 14:1-6
- 2 Even if we were to go completely wrong in life He will remain faithful. We will miss His blessing whilst on earth but our eternal inheritance is guaranteed by His Spirit. (See 2 Timothy 2:13 and Ephesians 1:13 for example)
- 3 God’s anointing on what we do brings in His power and His understanding – so we can expect to experience His help and His presence on a daily basis.
- 4 As we love Him above all things, putting Him and His desires for our lives first the way for the manifestation of His richness and favour is fully opened.
- 5 Think correctly – who am I? I am a born again child of my Father - it is literally so, when I was born again God’s Holy Spirit fathered the new spirit within me. As His child His intention towards me is for blessing. It is His desire that I receive the richness and anointing pictured in the olive tree.

Wine Chapter i

I'm a branch

The great hope of the born again Christian is summed up in this verse – *'Christ in you the hope of glory.'* Colossians 1:27 (The meaning of biblical hope is absolute certainty and not the 'maybe it is may be it isn't' that the English has come to mean.)

Jesus said this, *'If anyone loves Me he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him.'* John 14:23

This is a great mystery which is fulfilled by the Holy Spirit who dwells within our human spirit.

So I have Jesus living in me. Then Jesus said, *'I am the vine and you are the branches'* John 15:5 I am a branch!

As with the olive tree, where we are pictured as branches grafted into God's goodness, it is the sap flowing into the branch that fulfils God's purpose in us.

The picture of the olive tree is to assure us of our position in Christ for goodness and blessing – this is who I am. The picture of the vine is for the bearing of fruit, for fruitfulness – this is what I do.

Jesus said, *'abide in Me and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.'* John 15:4

In the Old Testament we find this principle pictured for Jesus Himself. *'Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH.'* Zechariah 6:12

Jesus confirmed this by saying, *'I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear I judge; and MY judgement is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.'* John 5:30

All that Jesus did He did as the Man called the Branch – doing the Father's will.

So the scene is set for me. Jesus is the vine and I am a branch to do His will, just as He did His Father's will.

Wine Chapter ii

Relax and enjoy - let the sap flow

Wine, we know, is produced from the grapes – the fruit of the vine. The vine is designed for this purpose. It does not need to make any special effort – it is all in the design.

All that is necessary is for the sap to flow from the root into the branches. So long as the branch is attached to the vine it will be able to produce a crop of grapes.

From this symbolism we can see that as we abide in Jesus so we will be in a position to bear fruit in our Christian lives. Just as the vine does not have to make any special effort to bear fruit so it is with us – we do not need to make special effort, rather when we relax and know that God will show us the works He has prepared beforehand for us, then we can as it were, ‘go with the flow.’

‘For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.’ Ephesians 2:10

We can note from this scripture that we are expected to walk in the works that He has prepared and not in anything else – particularly not works of our own volition. So called ‘good works’ that He has not prepared are not ‘good works’ in His sight but just ‘filthy rags.’

We are told to stay in the calling we were in when we were saved. (This would not apply to such occupations as thief for example.) The Lord God is well able to tell us if and when He wants us to change occupation.

It is a tragedy that so many when saved then think they must do something 'religious' or spiritual as their job. Many lose their way by giving up the job they had when they were saved to become a missionary or pastor or something that appears worthy but without instruction to do so from the voice of God. So not God's calling.

Just after my conversion I observed just such a case. In the church I went to there were frequent visits from missionaries and some 'pressure' that this was a good way to serve God. A young man a few years older than me, and quite unsuited for missionary work, married and he and his wife went to the mission field. It was disaster, and within a couple of years they were back and divorced. The sad thing is that it was entirely predictable!

The only good work is that which is prepared for us by God Himself. For the majority that will be working in secular positions.

One of our enemies fiery darts is to tell us that secular work is not pleasing to God so that, if we believe that lie, we become unsatisfied.

This chapter is headed, 'Relax and enjoy.' Know this for a certainty the Lord picked each one of us out for His own purposes. His purposes are that we walk in the works He has prepared. Relax, He is totally able to lead you into the things He has prepared - it does not require effort from you. Rather it will require abiding in the vine - a close relationship where the sap flows, where we hear His voice, where we know the leading and guidance of His Spirit.

Wine Chapter iii

As He is so am I in this world.

'Love has been perfected among us in this; that we have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is so are we in this world.' 1 John 4:17

The apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians: *'I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.'* (2:20)

That Christ lives in me can be difficult to understand so we look a bit deeper.

When one of His disciples (Philip) asked Jesus to *'show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us, Jesus replied, have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, so how can you say, show us the Father.'* John 14:8-9

Jesus said this, *'If anyone love Me he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.'* John 14:23

The emphasis is on the fact that God is One. If you have seen Jesus you have seen the Father. If you love Jesus He and the Father make their home in you.

Paul says Christ Jesus live in him. John teaches, as He is so are we, quoted above, and *'whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son God, God abides in him and he in God.'*

1 John 4:15

When you have been born again the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in your human spirit - then it is God who abides in you. You have the Spirit - you have the Son and you have the Father because God is One.

Paul was born again so he could say, 'Christ lives in me.'

We come back to understanding of two kingdoms because Paul also referred to life in the flesh. Flesh meaning our own effort from our human resources - i.e. from our body and soul rather than from the Holy Spirit.

Flesh can only act in the temporal and cannot inherit the eternal kingdom and cannot bring

The emphasis is for us to be like Jesus - 'As He is so are we in the world.' That is doing the will of the Father. Jesus did what He saw and heard His Father doing. So it should be with us -we do what we see and hear through the Spirit. (Not what we want or imagine the Spirit to be saying.)

Wine chapter iv

Fruitfulness

When Jesus taught saying, *'I am the true vine and My Father is the vinedresser,'* His message was all about the bearing of fruit as we see from the next statement, *'Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He lifts up* and every branch that bears fruit He cleanses* that it may bear more fruit.'* John 15:1-2 [*alternative translation for greater accuracy - *airo* to lift up or raise and *katharizo* to cleanse.]

'Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me.' (verse 4)

Jesus teaching is very clear - to fulfil His purpose we abide in Him. This is the recognition that we can do nothing of ourselves - Jesus was the example stating that He could only do what He saw the Father doing.

Somehow a large number of Christian people and Christian churches have missed the point, thinking and teaching that we must try very hard to do good works rather than abiding in Jesus and letting the sap flow - thus failing to enter God's rest.

It is by doing the works the Lord has provided in advance for us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10) that we demonstrate His wisdom to principalities and powers in accordance with Ephesians 3. This is God's eternal purpose. This is fruitfulness.

Being fruitful comes through a close relationship with Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

A close relationship will need some special time spent together. In addition that awareness of His presence throughout each day will bring fruit. It is very easy to be absorbed in the day to day ways of the world - we can lose that sense of His presence. It is definitely worth cultivating the relationship in the daily round.

'By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit.' (v8)

Wine chapter v

By My Spirit

It is the only way! As we have discovered we cannot bear fruit of our own volition - it remains that the only way to be fruitful is to be led by the Spirit of God Himself.

One common difficulty is in hearing God speak. If we can't hear we can't follow. A thorough understanding of our new covenant with the Lord will be very helpful in discerning what is of God and what is not of God. We will not be told to do anything which is contrary to His written word.

Then the requirement is sensitivity - becoming sensitive to how the Spirit leads from within and from without. Jesus said of the Spirit, *'He dwells with you and will be in you.'* John 14:17

From within the Spirit often 'speaks' in that still small voice. Sometimes He speaks more loudly, even in what seems to be an audible voice.

The subject of hearing God speak is dealt with more fully in my booklets 'Hearing God Speak,' and in 'And God spoke.'

Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find, knock and it will open for you. Three promises from Matthew chapter 7. In each case the tense is continuous present - that is ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking.

When we ask for more sensitivity to the Spirit we are asking in accordance with God's will, for He desires us to be fruitful.

Then more and more we will fulfil His eternal purpose – *'to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* Ephesians 3 :10-11

Conclusion

Understanding the symbolism of the oil and the wine and applying the truths that they contain to everyday life will greatly enhance our lives and bring stability, certainty, blessing and fruitfulness.

Oil represents God's favour. Every born again Christian is residing in God's favour by definition. Enjoy His favour by focussing on loving the Lord above all things and His oil will surely flow in you and through you. Change your mind - the Lord God intends to bless and favour you.

Wine represents fruitfulness. We are fruitful not by our own efforts and endeavours but by abiding in Jesus and letting Him live through us. Abide in Him and let the sap flow!

Time to live life considering ourselves like branches - abide in Him day by day and reap much fruit. It will bless us and bless others abundantly.

Absolutely lets get this settled -
I am a child of God for blessing, for favour, for fruitfulness.

The oil and wine are two of God's great and precious promises. (2 Peter 1:4)

Enjoying the benefits

Now established - our spiritual position as 'branches.'
How do we receive the benefits?

The answer is by faith. Faith has both a general and a specific application. The general application can be summed up by thinking 'I know what I know.' It comes from knowing and understanding the scripture and developing a relationship with Jesus in the Spirit - so we know that we know Him as Saviour and Lord.

Knowing and resting in the goodness and richness of God, shown by being grafted into the root of blessing and fatness of the olive tree, is the fundamental truth of Christianity. No need to question 'will God bless me?' Or 'does God love me?' Or any question of that ilk.

Knowing and abiding in the vine - realising that Jesus life will flow into and through me is the fundamental truth of Christianity. No need to continually question 'what should I be doing?' 'am I doing enough?' and questions of that ilk.

We are called to rest in Jesus. The Spirit of the Lord dwells within and will communicate His will and desires for us if only we stop trying to work things out ourselves and we stop trying to please God by our own feeble efforts. Rather relax, love the Lord and know that you are being changed from glory to glory by the Spirit. Let Him do His perfect work within.

The enemy wants to frustrate the purpose of God as much as he can. His principle method is to feed into our minds his thoughts. Because these thoughts come into our minds we think they are our thoughts - that is not so.

So when any thought that is contrary to the word of God comes into our minds we are told to take it captive. Look at the scripture:

'The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds (deeply engrained thought patterns), casting down arguments and every high thing into captivity to the obedience of Christ.'

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Every Christian has this continual 'battle.' Because every thought that comes from the enemy is a lie, disobedient to the truth, we are all to engage in this process of renewing our minds. The more we know and understand of the truth the more able we become.

'Holy Spirit fill me with more and more truth.' God is light!

The truth can be summed up as, God is love and God is light. The first commandment is to love the Lord with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength. Being filled more and more with love of the Lord is a source of strength.

'Holy Spirit fill me with more and more love for Jesus.' God is love.

The specific application of faith is that faith that comes by hearing God speak. *'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds (is proceeding) from the mouth of God.'* Matthew 4:4

The better we know Him and the truth the better we are equipped to act on what He tells us, instead of dismissing His word. (Often people experience the devil denying any such word from God with accusations such as, 'you don't think God speaks to you do you.)

The benefits of the Christian faith are clearly seen in the oil and the wine - blessing upon blessing and guidance for life.

The good Samaritan

The parable of the good Samaritan has much to say. Here is a traveller who falls among thieves on his journey. He is stripped and beaten and left half dead. (we can liken that to what the enemy desires to do to us - he comes to rob and kill and destroy as we journey through life on earth.)

However our traveller is in luck - along comes a priest and along comes a levite. (Here the emphasis is on religion). But No - neither the priest nor the levite offer any help at all, they pass by. (religiosity and religious observance have no value).

Finally along comes a Samaritan - he has compassion and goes to injured man. He bandaged his wounds pouring on oil and wine, set him on his own animal and took him to an inn. (Oil representing favour and wine representing the work in the Spirit.)

Next day He leaves. He gives the innkeeper two denarii to take care of the man saying if it costs more I will repay when I come again. (Two denarii could be looked on as representing the 2,000 years between Jesus time on earth and His later return to rule a King of Kings.

From this parable we can see that it is the intention of Jesus, here represented by the good Samaritan, to pour into our lives God's favour and His direction and anointing.

After thoughts **Insights**

a Revelation 6:6. In the period known as the tribulation, dealt with in Revelation chapter 6 onwards, the wrath of God on an unbelieving world is being worked out. Verses 5 and 6 speak of scarcity of wheat and barley (food), but the oil and the wine are to be left untouched.

Now that we more fully understand the symbolism we can see that the favour of God and the fruitfulness of abiding in Jesus will be fully available to those who come to believe during this period and many will.

b Not my might - but His mighty power

A most important thing to understand - whatever we do as led by the Spirit will be fruit, whatever we do not led by the Spirit counts for nothing.

If intended by us to be serving God with our ideas and plans then that will just be filthy rags.

c Entering rest

This is the reality of b) above. We are not to try to please God in our own strength. Rather we enter rest by ceasing from our own works. *'Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall'* that is disobedience. Hebrews 4:11

d Understanding

Following on from b) and c) many of us will need to call out for understanding in accordance with Proverbs 2:3 *'Lift up your voice for understanding.'* Because we have been brought up in the ways of the world which are contrary to the way of God,

e Trials

'In this world you will have tribulation.' It is inevitable because of your own flesh, the world and the enemy. But, count it all joy because through the testing of our faith that trials involve, God, Himself will produce in us patience which will have its perfect work in us. Patience makes us perfect and complete. (Refer James chapter 1)

Other titles:

The ICCC – Transformed Working Life series:

Inherent Power

Work is a 1st class calling

No one can serve two masters

Hope - the certainty of future blessing

Faith or presumption

Hearing God speak

Working from rest

Renewing the mind

Be strong in the battle

Anointing

Fruitfulness

Other booklets written for ICCC

Powered by grace

Works of power - now is the time

Stand tall - take your position

Transformed Working Life - quick view

Inspiration from word for the week - 1 to 52

Inspiration from word for the week - 53 to 104

Inspiration from word for the week -105-156

Inspiration from word for the wee – 157 to 201

Other publications

Will the church be caught away?

Explaining the future.

Rightly dividing the word of truth.

So that's what it's all about (overview of the bible account)

*Daniel (introductory level)

*Revelation (introductory level)

Ostrich Christianity

Israel and the church not in competition
Favour - enjoying the children's bread.
What should we do with money?
Going for Gold - the testing and stretching of our faith
After Brexit - the nature of the battle ahead
Last Orders
Wisdom
The King is coming
Health and Healing
The sign of Jonah - solved
Understanding the parable of the 10 virgins
The Kingdom Way
The Persistent Widow
Can I lose my salvation?
Meet the Teacher
Love, 153 fish and seven signs
Paul's thorn in the flesh - its message for today
Deception and how to avoid it
Chosen and Choice
The end is not quite yet
Amazing numbers
Blood - the blood of the New Covenant
Building spiritual strength
Grace and judgement
The believer's authority
God's eternal purpose
And God spoke - hearing God speak today
Understanding Hebrews
Reigning in life
Inspiration from Word for the week
Jesus said Watch
Creation? Evolution? Difficult to choose.
Made in God's image - why and what does it mean

Grace and peace from the seven spirits
James and the meaning of faith
The story of time
Is the bible reliable?
The way of the moon
Practical spiritual warfare
Parables
Jesus pathway through life
Sons, Children, servants
The fear of God and the love of God
Keep your heart with all diligence
Demolishing strongholds
Qumran 7

To access printed copies at Amazon - type peter michell in the search box.

* Not in print

All booklets are available as free PDF downloads at
www.freebiblebooklets.com