Matthew 13:24-30 *“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. The owner's servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”*

Jesus said, **“Let the weeds and wheat grow up together”** because by pulling out the weeds the wheat could come out too. I had a hard time really grasping what the Lord meant by this. Then He gave me an example with my husband on his job. The man he has to deal with on the project he is now managing – is a dishonest lawyer who is trying to squeeze the company my husband works for of all he can get. This man is a “weed.” My husband calls on the Lord for the wisdom he needs in dealing with men who lack integrity. He calls on the wisdom of God A LOT! It’s hard to find integrity in men today. When my husband asks the Lord for the way to catch the little foxes – he gets what he asks for. The desire of my husband is accomplished; that of doing a good job for the ‘company’ he works for and in pleasing the ‘customer’ of the company he works for; proving that the heads of wheat will tower over the low growing weeds – every time. God’s wisdom is so much higher than the lowly wisdom of the world. This is how integrity is formed. Men (or women) who credit themselves with worldly wisdom are not worthy of trust; their goals are self-centered.

Weeds don’t grow up as high and straight as wheat; their ‘low-minded’ ‘low-nature’ growth is to take over the ground and choke out the wheat or any other good plant in God’s field on the earth. At first the weeds and the wheat look alike, because we are all born with that yucky sin-nature, but we each have every opportunity to come to Christ for His salvation and life-changing indwelling Holy Spirit. As the weed and wheat each grow up – what they are – becomes obvious.

The weeds topple and stay low to the ground because they are not looking up to God for anything. The wheat grows high and straight up with heads fully formed because they look up to their Lord God and His kingdom. Therefore, God ‘adds’ things to them so that the life they live is humble and abundant, having more than enough so that they can help others both physically and spiritually, making ready a people prepared for the Lord and His kingdom. (Matthew 6:33 and Luke 1:17)

Why did the Lord say that in pulling out the weeds – the wheat could also come out with them? I would assume that these “servants” would know the difference between the weeds and the wheat when both are matured for harvest, so obviously the Lord was referring to immature weeds and wheat. Before our “heads form” it is not so evident what we are, as we can have the outward appearance of godliness, but not have the power within us – where it matters. (2 Timothy 3:15) The kingdom of God begins in us.

This reveals to me that our Lord is very familiar, as well as patient, with the “immaturity” of His “wheaties.” We don’t start out in life as wheat, but rather, a weed that is not good for anything except to be burned in the fire. The supernatural born-again experience of Christ’s forgiveness and indwelling Holy Spirit turns us into wheat – miraculously because it’s a work of God that only God can do. Then of course, we must grow up and form “heads,” or, like the weed, we are not worthy of Christ’s Kingdom. We are saved from hell, but not crowned or honored for faithfulness and godliness.

I’m reminded of two “heads” in the Bible: John the Baptist and Joseph, Jacob’s 11th son whom his brothers sold into slavery. John was be-headed for exposing evil (sexual immorality) in the king’s house. John could do this boldly because John kept God’s house (his own body) clean and pure. Then there was Joseph who was given the high position of second in command under Pharaoh because of his enduring faith through his distress and imprisonment and the wisdom he received from God in knowing what was coming and what to do in a timely way. Both were faithful accomplishing the will of God on the earth – in their time – even though they were treated differently. But, it is the Lord who has the last “word” on our situations and accomplishments and hopefully we hear from Him, “Well done, good and faithful servant…..”

Oh how we need both qualities; that of John and Joseph, in our day as we see the Day of the Lord approaching rapidly.

When the harvesters go through the wheat fields they leave part of the stalk in the ground and then after they gather the heady stalks – they turn up the ground that has the remaining part of the stalks and weeds. Our sin-nature and fleshly body is not part of the Lord’s harvest. That part of us is left behind; it remains in the ground.

According to 1 Corinthians 3:9 we are also God’s field. The earth and everything in it is supposed to be dominated by the holy children of God. God gave the earth to man, but Adam and Eve gave it over to Satan when they chose to disobey God’s ‘one and only’ law of the Garden. God only gave man one law to obey with a judgment for breaking that one law, and this would be there always to test man’s heart, every human being’s heart thereafter.

When Adam disobeyed God’s command; that not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – God’s judgment fell on them. Physical and spiritual death came to man. Man could not do anything about his physical time to die, but where he ended up after his death – was his choice – based on God’s way of salvation – the cross of Jesus. Again, man was held responsible to obey the Word of God, as God provided him a way out total damnation. But, God also cursed the ground for man’s disobedience so that man’s work would be hard; heavy not light. God never intended for man’s work on earth to be burdensome or even to cause him to sweat. Imagine that. But, God will one day soon restore all things for all His children “who love Him.”

Physical weeds with thorns and thistles that hurt man – were now on the earth because the devil was now free to secretly come and sow his seeds of wickedness on the earth. They physical and spiritual are connected. So, if we are bothered by the ways and works of the weeds let us remember that we are not perfect yet ourselves – until our heads are formed by the transformation of our minds; from low worldly thinking to God’s thinking.

*“Therefore, I urge you…in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.* ***Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*** *Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”* Romans 12:1-2

We were once a weed before we became a new creation in Christ Jesus. We have the responsibility as Christ’s representatives to give “weeds” the Way to become “wheat” and end up with the Lord of Heaven’s Harvest instead of ending up in Hell with Satan and his horde.

Jesus said to His disciples not to follow the religious traditions of blind guides, but rather to “leave them,” because they do not follow the commands of God. The religious leaders questioned the Lord as to why He and His disciples broke the tradition of the elders. (Matthew 15:1-20) Jesus came right back at them asking, *“Why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?”* Our traditions do not come from God*.* God has no traditions; He has laws, commands and love in His House. He also has judgment because of what the Lord He told His disciples: *“Every plant that my heavenly Father has NOT planted will be pulled up by the roots.”* (vs. 13) Then the Lord commanded His disciples to *“leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”* (vs. 14)

Weeds are blind guides; the blind leading the blind. We must grow up knowing the difference between those we should listen to and those we should not; those we should help and those we should not; those we should unite with and those we should not. This is wisdom; the wisdom that makes us a head and not the tail of an ass. Churches are filled with the blind leading the blind. We are in a time where the Lord, who is the Spirit, is telling us to “come out of them; leave them.” Not only should we come of the worldly systems, from trusting them and depending on them, but the Lord’s people also need to leave churches that are run by “blind guides: weeds.” Why forfeit the grace, power and reward that could be yours ‘in Christ’ – for the sake of religious tradition?

Since the beginning of man’s rebellion, righteousness and wickedness are meant to grow together until the time of God’s harvest and judgment. We make our life harder and burdensome when we do not live under God’s laws and love; for His love for mankind’s eternal existence is behind all His laws. *“My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:30) *“Come to Me,”* He says, *“…and I will give you rest.”* (11:29) What an offer! But, how many of us actually take Him at His Word?

To Adam God said, *“Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the* ***sweat of your brow*** *you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”* Genesis 3:17-19

Although man’s ‘physical’ work will be “sweaty,” until God releases His curses at the end of all evil rebellion, we have the Lord, who is the Spirit, at work in us and with us as we seek His kingdom first. We have His grace; giving us what we don’t deserve, as well as His mercy; holding back from us what we do deserve.

Half-heartedly, we want the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins so we do not have to be haunted by the thought of going to hell ‘forever,’ but when it comes to following His example and teaching – that is another thing altogether.

The church, like Israel, was to mature so that evil (the weeds) would not have sovereign rule (control) anywhere. If we *resist or reject* the life of God’s Holy Spirit in us that grows us up, first on the milk and then on the meat of Christ’s teaching and instructions – we will not form “righteous heads.”

In Christ’s parable of the sower and the four (heart) soils that received His seed (truth about His kingdom), most (3 out of 4) never produce the Lord’s kingdom-life, and therefore, I can assume that this is why our world is in such chaos and on a destruction course.

In each there is a great potential for the ‘good’ seed of truth and salvation to take root and produce, but it’s a matter of the heart’s will to respond to the ‘full’ Gospel: the cross of surrender to God as well as Christ’s kingdom-life call with instructions; for one has to do with the other and they can’t be separated. Faith has to finish its full course, otherwise it has no prize at the end . God’s kingdom in us is spiritual but works out on the earth physically and practically to benefit mankind. The spiritual and the physical are connected. Jesus said, *“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – on earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:9-13)

My husband says often, every time he has had enough of the world’s news, “I’m tired of hearing it! It grieves my spirit!” Whether it is evil people doing evil things to themselves and to other unsuspecting people, or how completely wicked our government has become in taking advantage of its people in every way possible, or how evil is being seen as good and good seen as evil; you just get weary from the grief of it all. Every once in a while you see or hear of some good being done, but the ‘good’ we truly ‘need’ to see done; that of the weeds being converted into wheat, is the only way we can get any relief at all in the sin-sick world. As God’s people, we know the way, the truth and the life (Jesus Christ). The reason *weeds hate wheat* is that the weeds feel conviction around the mature wheat. The weeds don’t like ‘looking up’ to the wheat and ‘feeling’ beneath them.

For our Lord says to each of us: *“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned…..All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Mark 16:15-17 and Matthew 28:18-20

One morning on my walk I passed a dead owl in the street, and I assume it was a female owl as there were broken eggshells alongside the owl. It was a strange sight to me as I know that owls are pretty tough and fearless birds. But, the thought came to me at that moment: “Wisdom has fallen dead in the streets of America.” I know it was the truth; the voice of the Holy Spirit telling me this. The wisdom of our founding fathers came from God, and formed our good Constitution and laws, but no longer are we governed by that high wisdom of heaven. America has not had God’s favor and protection like it had before abortion was honored, and now homosexuality is honored. Whose fault is this? God’s people dropped the snowball and it has just kept rolling with no one (church) strong enough to pick it up and do the right thing.

What ‘intelligence’ that God gave man! Just look at all the systems and conveniences we have that weren’t there in the beginning. But, look at all the evil these the inventions of men are used for as well. Yet, we see the good being done by the faithful works of the saints of Christ that persevere in each generation, no matter what. Let the weeds grow up with the wheat! Jesus said to His disciples that the fields are white for harvest, but the workers are so few. Obedience to the will of the Lord of the harvest is what is required.

We can look back and see the results of the weeds and wheat growing up together. God brought on the world-flood in Noah’s day to get rid of the ways and works of weeds. He started His wheat over again with Noah and his family. Then He broke up the plan and work of the weeds to come before God ‘proudly’ on their own with the building of the tower of Babel. He confused their ability to communicate with each other by giving them each a different language, and so they all scattered forming individual people groups. Then He brought His seed to the land of Canaan and planted them there, but the few weeds they let live began to overtake the land again. The Lord told us what is still to come with the king of the weeds in power, even if for a short time (the Great Tribulation). We see the maturity of weeds all over the earth again, yet the kingdom of God continues to increase and the sons and daughters of the Most High God will take over – as promised.

Jesus tells us that at the end of this age the weeds will be pulled up and burned in the fire….*“The Son of Man will send out his angels and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will sine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”* Matthew 13:40-43

Jesus also said that at the end of the age the “wheat” would be gathered and brought into His barn. (Matthew 13: 30) I wonder what His barn looks like; certainly not like any barn we’ve ever seen! But, barns are where the chaff is separated from the kernels of wheat: threshed. I would imagine that this is where our works are judged by the Lord who commissioned us as His representatives and empowered us with His Spirit, Word and Name. His barn is outside His house, and both are on His land.

I am also a “seed” that when sown in the ground, it dies and roots to produce many more seeds. On my walks right now (harvest time) I see lots of sunflowers. Those heads are so full of seed – they can hardly hold their heads up the older they get! Harvest time is their hope!

Jesus was the good seed that died and produced many seeds. The apostles and disciples carried on with His work of the kingdom. They in kind, produced seeds as they died to their sin nature and selfish will, and then they also died physically. Many ‘physically’ died on account of preaching Christ’s cross and kingdom. A martyr’s death will produce countless seed. Their testimonies of the grace of God through their time of faithful suffering have empowered thousands of believers to not give up their work of faith, but to finish their faith’s course too, as our early church fathers did.

Jesus replied, *“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”* John 12:23-26

We enjoy so many things today because of man’s intelligence and productivity, but look at what evil men and women have done with all that intelligence and freedom. I’m always asking myself what I love more than Jesus, and then ask the Holy Spirit to help me overcome it. I want the work of my hands to produce for the glory of His kingdom, not the glory of this worldly kingdom – because the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of the Lord. And, He will reign with His saints on earth for one thousand years before He turns it all over to the true sons and daughters of God. (Revelation 11:15)

We are to use our intelligence and freedom in the right way, for Christ and His kingdom since everything rooted in wickedness and produced for wickedness – will not remain or even be remembered. What we need to see more of in our world is the knowledge of good (godliness) being put to all practical uses. We need the “wheat” to for their heads; the mind of Christ!

John the Baptist said, *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* (John 3:30 KJV) John understood what it meant to die inwardly to pride and sin, so that Christ’s Spirit could live in him to do the Father’s will.

My husband puts out daily devotionals on his blog on our website. Here’s 8/8’s:

“Lord, I rise early before the sun is up to talk with You and get hope from Your word. Sometimes I stay awake through the night, thinking about what You have promised to me and my family. The very essence of Your word is truth, and it gives me great peace and discernment. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Your word is my only source of hope, so help me to find joy in Your word today!

“Son, move forward and do whatever you have in mind, for I am with you. I have been with you wherever you have gone. Share your food, give shelter and clothing to those I send to you. I will give you all you will need continually. You and your family will be known as rebuilders of walls and a restorer of homes, so never give up.

“You are like fragile clay jars containing My great treasure. Sometimes you will be pressed on every side by troubles, but you will not be crushed. Sometimes you will be perplexed, but I will never abandon you. Sometimes you will get knocked down, but I will help you up. Because you and your family believe in Me, be bold, speak up, and never give up. Though your bodies are dying, I will renew your spirits every day. For your troubles are small and won't last very long. But, they will produce for you a glory that vastly outweighs your problems and that glory will last forever! So don't look at the troubles you can see now; rather, fix your gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things you see now will soon be gone, but the things you cannot see will last forever.

“Lord, I have taken all my troubles to You in prayer and You answered me! For You know what me and my family are really like! So do as you have promised concerning us. Please continue to confirm Your promise to us, for Your words are truth. Thank You for Your promises of good things because when You grant a blessing, it is an eternal blessing!” (end of quote)

*“Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the* ***tree of the knowledge of good and evil.****”* (Genesis 2:8-9)

I had a thought and question for the Lord: Why was it not the tree of good, and the tree of evil; two trees instead of one? Why one tree that contained the knowledge of good and evil? The reason God’s field (the earth) has both wheat and weeds growing up together is the result of Adam and Eve rebelling and eating the fruit of this “one” tree.

This disobedient act of Adam and Eve opened the door for the devil to do all his evil works on the earth in and through people; the next being Adam and Eve’s son, Cain, murdering his brother Abel. Jealousy and envy in our heart, if we do not condemn it and overcome it with “love for God and for each other” – will result in the taking of innocent life, in one way or another. This is God’s number one hatred; the killing of innocent life whether it be by a courtroom jury condemning an innocent man, or by a woman’s act of abortion; or even by His own Son’s crucifixion (even though it works for our good future). It’s all evil and God will have His Day of holy judgment.

Satan’s desire and only work is to hurt God who cast him and his evil angels down, out of their heavenly glorious positions their Creator gave them; cast down for thinking they could take over the position of the Father’s Son. Killing, enslaving, afflicting and limiting – God’s children is how Satan plans to hurt God and take over this planet for his evil purposes, and we can easily become a part of Satan’s plan and success. So, as the Bible instructs us: Do not be caught unaware of the devil’s schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

We live in a country where its leaders protect (by law) the “taking of innocent life” in the wombs of women especially, who neither love God nor love the ‘unwanted’ child in their wombs; those innocent human beings they produced by disobeying God’s laws of marriage and sexual union. Our nation is being judged for this law that protects the taking of innocent life, but will all His judgments on our land change that law or any other law that opposes God’s laws? The heart is the problem; the heart in man.

Where are the godly men today that can bring America back under God’s favor and protection? What on earth are they doing instead of speaking up for those ‘innocent ones’ without a voice, and defending those who cannot defend themselves? God help us! Help men with their wives to rise up and do the works of righteousness, instead of wickedness.

It was Satan who came to the weaker partner in the first marriage on the earth with a question that put doubt in her mind about the “goodness” of God; who He really is. Here is where the “shame,” the “pain” and the “loss” begins. And, this is the tactic he has used on each human being ever since; the tactic of putting question in our minds that God is for us, or that God exists at all. And, it works! We know it works because of the condition of our nation and world is in.

Broad is the road that leads to destruction and most people go through that gate of lies and deception (Matthew 7:13-15) and just I wonder if Adam and Eve would have chosen to eat from the tree of the knowledge of evil if it were a tree different from the tree of the knowledge of good. What if God had created two trees, not one? Who in their right mind would choose to eat from the tree of the knowledge of evil with the ‘other’ true there – and probably much more fruitful and pleasing to look at? BUT, they had no idea what the word “evil” meant. At this point, all they knew as children was that God is “good” because God had given them all they needed for life and happiness. God knew what they needed in order to thrive and to be fulfilled all their lives. All of what they saw around them and for them – taught them the meaning of “good.” There was no doubt, no shame, no pain, no loss - yet.

Look at what we do with our child-like faith over years of false teaching and bad choices! Every child born has faith in God because we come straight from the Father who creates us all. The womb is His vessel! Ha! And you thought your body was your own?! It’s not! It’s either the temple of the Holy Spirit or the temple of demons. We make that choice.

Evil men make evil appear good and good appear evil, but Jesus said that one day [soon] these evil men, these *“weeds will be pulled up and burned in the fire.”* Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father! Imagine if Jesus had not given us this promise; this hope that faith in His Word makes very certain in our hearts. Thank you Lord!

God and His truth is what sets us free from the lies, snares and schemes of the devil; believing in what Christ has done for us and called us to do - day by day. It’s only the few that take this narrow way with Jesus - that leads to eternal life with God. (Matthew 7:13)

The “tree” being “one” tree that God planted in the Garden of Eden, with both the knowledge of good and evil, reveals that being ‘obedient’ to God’s laws and commands is what protects the human race from the devil’s deadly work on the earth. Our development and maturing in the righteousness of God even overrules and overcomes our own personal sin nature. Jesus said that He came to overcome the works of the devil as well as to give us the forgiveness of sins and overcoming power for eternal life with God.

*“He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.”* 1 John 3:8-10

The fact that the tree was “one” and not “two” shows us that God would not have held back His goodness to His ‘obedient’ children; they would’ve known all they needed to know simply by continuing to listen to their LORD GOD’s ‘voice.’ They would’ve lived the good abundant life that God intended for them without knowing about the realm and schemes of evil angels. They would only have had to be concerned for what they could see of God’s goodness to them, not for what they couldn’t see that Satan had up his sleeve. They would’ve had the simple fruitful life as the children of God doing what they should do as good and faithful rulers over all God’s “good” creation.

Life for mankind was to be simply wonderful because of God’s love for them and all the endless generations after. And it will be just that - when our KING has thrown all His enemies in the lake of fire forever, the last two enemies being *Satan and death* at the end of His thousand year reign on earth. (Revelation 20:10 and 14)

God only gave them one law to obey, just one. They had freedom to do what they wanted as managers of their Father’s creation, but only one law from Him that brought a life-changing judgment with it. In our world we have many (man-made) laws that when broken and judged (by man) change nothing. In fact, man’s [weak] laws have caused the world to get worse and worse; man is more depraved than ever because we ignore God’s higher law.

We have free-will because we are God’s sons and daughters, so that each of us is responsible for our own heart’s condition and choices. We have all been created equal; equal in free-will and the ability and opportunity to know God and live in obedience to God with all His blessings eternally. When the whole human race, from beginning to end, stands before the Father there will not be one ‘legitimate’ excuse for not having a choice in the matter, or for not having the opportunity to know the LORD GOD and His Christ and Kingdom.

What will you do with Jesus Christ who died on the cross to forgive your sins? Where you end up ‘forever’ depends on what you chose do with God’s Son, Jesus Christ. What will you do with His teaching and instructions for your faith? What you receive from God for eternity, having grown up in faith and righteousness depends on what you do in this life with the seeds of truth, provision and children.

You can enter heaven with the smell of smoke, having just made it by the seat of your pants; having nothing to show for so great a salvation given to you so freely by Christ’s suffering and work on the cross. Or, you can enter heaven with a rich welcome from the Lord; entering as one He knows intimately and is pleased to honor, reward and crown in His kingdom. It depends on what you do with His teaching and call of duty; your faith’s work on behalf of Christ’s kingdom. The Lord Jesus will be crowned with many crowns, and these are ‘our’ crowns for ‘our’ faithfulness that we place at His feet in unspeakable gratitude for all He did for us.

As God’s field, the Lord sows in us (our hearts) the seeds of truth for righteousness to develop and mature us, to “form heads.” His kingdom starts in us, but will have its fulfillment when the Lord returns to the earth and where these “heads” will reign along with “THE HEAD,” the KING of kings and LORD of lords.

As Jesus brought out in another parable, these seeds are to produce a good ‘kingdom’ crop; some 30, 60 or 100-fold. (Matthew 13:18-23) The Lord said that the wheat grew up and formed heads. We study and memorize God’s Word so that our thinking is trans-“formed” from the thinking of lowly weeds. We are righteous heads in our societies and not tails. As God’s people we don’t compromise the truth or condemn anyone. Judge nothing before its appointed time; for we will judge all things, even the angels. (1 Corinthians 6:3-4) We judge ourselves first, each and every day in accordance with truth and godliness. For this we need to be in the Word of God each and every day. We do not compare ourselves with other people; we compare ourselves to the Lord Jesus. In this way we stay humble and patient with others. (1 Corinthians 4:4-5)

So for now, we simply need to “GROW UP” in Christ and keep in step with Holy Spirit.

Here’s my husband’s daily devotional on 8/7:

“Son, people of integrity will follow My instructions and not compromise with evil. They ponder the direction of their life, and only walk on My path. They are just and fair to all, and do what is right and good. They know I am coming soon, and that I am watching them.

“Lord, You made me; now give me the sense to follow Your commands. Open my eyes to the wonderful truths in Your word. Help me to understand the meaning of Your word so that I am encouraged. Keep me from lying to myself; by giving me an eagerness for Your word in place of an eagerness for money. Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through Your word. Then I can walk in freedom. With all my heart I want Your blessings! My eyes are straining to see Your promises come true.

“Son, come to Me with your ears wide open and listen. Seek and call on Me, for I am near. Remember, just as the heavens are higher than the earth, My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts. When I send My word out it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and My word will prosper everywhere I send it. I will bless you when you choose to do what My word says, to live your life by My word. I do not waver between yes and no; I always do what I said. I have placed My Holy Spirit in your heart as the first installment that guarantees everything I have promised you.

“Lord, I know that the more I suffer for You, the more You will shower me with Your comfort. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed beyond my ability to endure, and think it will never end. Looking back on these times I realized that I learned to stop relying on myself and learned to rely only on You. My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to Your word. Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect Your word! I am trying to hide Your word in my heart so that I will not sin against You. Now use me to spread the knowledge of You everywhere.” (end of quote)

Like Jesus said, ***“Let the weeds and wheat grow up together.”*** For in pulling out the weeds, the wheat might come out too since the time for separation has not yet come. God has a certain number of “heads” that are to be in His coming Kingdom, and we are each produce more heads until the time of our Lord’s harvest – when we come up before our Lord in His barn where our faithfulness is rewarded.

I wrote something in my book THE STANDARD – That Has Never Changed that I want to use as the conclusion here:

Imagine coming to the end of your life on earth just to find that nothing you believed in, trusted in, nothing you did that you thought was so good and nothing you acquired in life with all your hard work – has any merit and eternal value with Almighty God. There you stand and before you is a huge heap representing all that you believed in, trusted in; all your work and all that you acquired in life. As you survey this self-impressive heap - a fire is lit under it; the fire of God’s holy testing. You watch as it begins to slowly decrease what your life on earth produced. You tremble as you watch it all burn down to a little mound of smoldering ash. Now the tears start to flow uncontrollably because of the shame you feel and the regret you have of having done so little, or nothing at all for your Savior and King.

This is a fear I keep hold of because I want my crown from Him; a crown that I will lay at my Redeemer’s feet because of all He’s done for me. Can you imagine how awesome that day will be when Jesus Christ is crowned with many crowns; with all the crowns of those He crowned for their faithfulness? Oh how we need to look further ahead with the right perspective that comes from the One who holds our future in His Hands.

Just imagine what would happen if every believer had followed through to the finish line of their faith’s journey with Jesus Christ; not turning back or giving up. What would this world be like?

Praise God that He has not left the faithful hopeless, but has assured us of His return and restoration of all things godly and glorious. I say, “Hallelujah to the LAMB of God!” And, to our returning KING I say, “Come Lord Jesus COME!”