

# **The Consummation of the Body of Christ**

## **GOD's Chisel – or How the LORD Is at Work to Transform You**



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## Introduction

Starting in the year 2003, and pursuant to clear prophetic information, I have been involved in teachings about the consummation of the body of Christ.

Again based on a new prophetic speaking of the Holy Spirit of GOD follows now a further expansion with the meaningful and highly practical subject: GOD's Chisel – or how GOD transforms you. It is a wonderful spiritual principle respectively that method which the LORD uses to transform His true members of CHRIST in a practical manner. And it works as follows: He makes use of His chisel in your life daily. Let us therefore consider how it is to be understood, how this works practically in everyday life, and how a child of GOD should conduct himself correctly.

## The Eternal Divine Purposes of Creation

To understand this wonderful concept of the Heavenly Father, we have to turn back to the eternal divine purposes of creation. When actually almost all modern sciences are polluted with the ideology of evolution according to Darwin, it will take quite some courage to challenge them. Almost every scientific approach nowadays is rooted in Darwin's hypothetical thoughts of evolution. They lead in many areas of society to wrong conclusions which however I do not comment further. To better understand the subject of our consideration, a clear insight in the purpose of creation of man and how man will finally attain his eternal perfection is needed.

To this effect, let us consult the biblical information about creation in Genesis 1:26-27: *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* – I further quote Gen. 2:7: *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

Both passages clearly indicate that the LORD followed a clear strategy in creating man. His purpose for man signifies: Man should be a counterpart to GOD, with whom He wants to be in a most intimate relationship. He has further entrusted man with particular jobs, as among other things to administer His creation. In the early times after the creation of man we can see that man apparently did not show any signs of corruption. This was the starting point of the history of man. And the whole message of GOD's Word is unmistakably telling us that man should in eternity live in perfect harmony with his Creator in a direct and perfect relationship.

## History of Mankind – the Regeneration of Man

In between these two fixed points, i.e. between creation of man and his eternal and perfected communion with His Creator GOD, we are now witnessing the actual history of mankind. On the one hand, it is a rather tragic history of the fall of man with all its fatal effects which is illustrated in every history book or by the modern mass media. On the other hand, we read of fascinating perspectives how man should be regenerated and to finally return back to His Creator into this everlasting and marvelous union with GOD. This is the message, as a whole, of GOD's Word from the first to the last page. GOD's Word, or the bible as expressed by popular saying, contains after all nothing else than the tension zone between the fall of man and his everlasting regeneration and divine calling.

Regeneration of man is resolved in an absolutely ingenious manner. It is far from any human invention or logic, because it conforms to eternal divine resolutions. But man tries to solve the problem of a fallen and corrupted Homo sapiens in a totally different manner, namely through unnumbered religious beliefs of this world which represent without any exception misleading approaches of self-redemption. Sadly speaking "Christian" religions just do a same.

The method of man's regeneration according to GOD's eternal plans however goes as follows: Man ought to experience total identification with the work and the person of Jesus Christ – or more simply said: man experiences his personal regeneration and eternal perfection exclusively through **total unification with Jesus Christ**. By the work of the third person of the eternal GOD which is the Holy Spirit, a willing man will be completely united with Jesus Christ, and this in crucifixion, death and resurrection of the LORD. In this manner man goes in child-like faith through all stations of redemption and in Christ will be made perfect in His likeness. This ingenious work of redemption and perfection is specifically and marvelously shown in the epistles of Paul – but unfortunately remain incomprehensible for many readers of the bible. Finally, it is the message about how the eternal LORD rescues a man from darkness and unites him completely with Jesus Christ and brings him into his eternal calling. The "New Testament" speaks of it, and the "Old Testament" is enriched with corresponding information in types (role models, symbolic assertions).

## The Starting Point

With the aforesaid, we were considering in short the tension zone from creation of man until his consummation. We are now going a step further and look at the starting point, so to speak with the status quo of modern man. This is rather not pleasurable. We ask ourselves where man stands nowadays. The answer is found both in GOD's Word as well as in modern mass media.

The sad conclusion as always the same: Man is totally fallen, corrupted and perverted. Biblically seen, he has become victim of a full score of so-called "spiritual enemies" who all distort him, ruin him and make him as well an instrument of a rampant destruction. Since the fall of mankind from his communion with His Creator, man has been enslaved to the so-called "sin". She represents virtually the driving force of darkness. As a resulting consequence of man being enslaved under "spiritual enemies", we can find manifold processes of destruction which make man suffer from. Let us just mention the numerous addictions enslaving man. I am not even considering especially alcohol or drugs. There exist many other addictions, mostly quite accepted by the society of which basically every person is more or less affected. I could for example mention jealousy, or egoism which bring along much destruction in human relations, even in many "Christian" groups. The end will in any case be corporal death, mostly combined with sickness and much affliction.

When looking at modern society attentively, we encounter everywhere destruction. In fact much effort is exercised with new scientific means and methods to disrupt these lines of destructions. I am thinking of the achievements accomplished in genetic engineering and corresponding technologies by means of which one expects to obtain finally everlasting life. It will turn out to be a great flop, as it happened with many other things as well. Perhaps they will succeed with questionable methods to extend the lifespan by a few months or years. But unavoidable reality of death will at the end still catch up with mankind.

After all, the reason for all of these processes of destruction of which mankind suffers, is to be found in the fall of the first Adam. Theologically seen do we possess by nature all of us this nature of Adam in us. By nature, we all bear in us the image of fallen Adam (1 Cor. 15:49) and have basically missed our purpose of life. Man separated from his personal GOD and Creator or from Jesus Christ will surely and totally fail to reach the eternal purpose of creation. We may perhaps be quite successful on this planet earth and enjoy much prominence – and will at the end get an impressive tombstone. But seen from our eternal calling and from our eternal destiny, everyone of us has basically missed completely his purpose while living on this planet. Sin, this old fashioned theological term could rather be interpreted as missing the target. Since by our origin, all of us live under the dominion of sin, this terrible slaveholder, we all have missed the objective of our creation.

This effect of missing the target shows itself in everyday life in many ways. One of the worst effects is the **pride** of man. Man is by nature full of pride which however is hardly admitted, even in "Christian" circles. Among them controversy arises immediately when such facts are brought in. "How come, me to be seen as being proud! I am such a humble man! Just look at me intensely!" Such reactions can be quite often noticed. Regretfully pride of man is mostly combined with blindness about one's own status.

The more proud a man is the more blind he is. Thus a proud man will in his heart never be convicted and will never admit that he could be proud. This conforms exactly to the effect of sin. It is always combined with darkness, lie and blindness – and leads to missing the target completely.

A further sign of missing the target by man is the fact that everyone of us is by nature a **born rebel**. Rebellion is to be found everywhere in our society. There is rebellion everywhere against all and everything – let us just consider for example the media or the political and social mainstreams. Rebellion and opposition can be found everywhere. When I consider Paul's warnings not to rebel against the government, it must logically bring a severe judgment for the society as well as for every individual (see Rom. 13:1-7). Among many Christians who are actively involved in politics, opposition against members of the Government can easily be discovered. However rebellion – in the circumstances against the Government – is always a missing of the target and always brings along destruction – even so with Christians! (By the way almost all Christians have a totally wrong idea about the function of the Government and take a wrong position against it. It has to do with the fact that they do not have insight in the divine role of the body of Christ).

Another fateful reason to miss the target is **religious illusion**. From my point of view, there is probably nothing worse on our planet than the unnumbered religions of all civilizations – not to forget also the typical Christian religions! Basically everybody has been created as a religious being because finally, everyone of us is a creation of the living GOD. Once again this points to the eternal purposes of creation of the living GOD. Consequently, man shows a tendency towards religion. Religion is therefore omnipresent. It is mostly the true reason of unnumbered acts of war on this earth – it will at the end be the external reason of the last and biggest apocalyptic confrontation between the nations of this earth. It will no doubt be a war of religions!

## Religion – a Fateful Illusion

Why then is religion omnipresent? It is so because man is after all a created being of the eternal GOD, wherefore he reaches out after something higher. And to that end, there exist thousand ways resulting at the same time in thousand illusions! Perhaps you may argue that this would certainly not apply in a Christian environment. Far from it! Through my yearlong activity in the field of counselling, the "Christian" religion is a significant problem. It mostly hinders people to enter into the full flow of GOD's spirit, because religion is by nature always self-help expressed by corresponding human efforts to somehow be pleasing to whatever god of their imagination. In "Christian" circles, this fact is called legalism. By specific religious gimmicks man wants to be pleasing to GOD. Without being aware of it, he builds up his own piety or righteousness which deceives him completely and keeps him in a false security.

For many reasons, these facts are rather distressing. I endeavor to teach the gospel according to biblical standards. This brings along much opposition, and this of course especially from popular churches and non-government churches. When studying carefully the theological teachings of these churches, we can immediately discern unnumbered wrong teachings and sectarian influences under a "Christian" cover. Anybody who carefully examines the basic teachings of these churches and how they live up to them, will be shocked. In point of fact these big official Christian churches are the main sects worldwide indeed! One of these Christian big churches is said to have about one billion members! And still today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century teaches according to their dogma that a membership in their church is identical with a personal and eternal salvation. To do so, they simply delete or pervert unnumbered passages of the New Testament, because according to the comprehensive Word of GOD, personal redemption is exclusively obtained through a **most intimate union with Jesus Christ!** Never ever through membership in an earthly "Christian" organization. But almost one sixth of mankind is living in this false and fateful security. Most of them will probably irrevocably get lost. Whoever claims that to belong to such a big church or a religious group will bring salvation is a great deceiver.

You will now readily understand why I am declaring religious illusion as possibly the worst of all deceptions. Thereby the expression "illusion" is rather too weak a definition. And furthermore it does not only refer to the big churches alone. Religious illusion is as well to be found everywhere in "Christian" beliefs. Unnumbered serious people are ensnared in Christian systems. They allegedly offer the only

correct basis to bring salvation as well as safety to reach our final destination. All of them offer the true doctrine and the right path to “blessedness”. All what is needed is just to become a member of their corporate entity. This is a fatal distortion of the truth. People involved in a religious entity are never qualified to represent the true pathway to eternal salvation. The only true basis or the only right foundation is that foundation that has already been laid, and this foundation’s name is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11). There exists only one single trustworthy assurance and platform for our salvation – and which is **getting into a complete oneness with Jesus Christ!** Every other religious offer – even when being so “Christian-like”, is a terrible and tragic religious illusion, by whatever name it may come forth.

It is quite displeasing to read such lines, and naturally, one risks to be right away rejected as being an extremist and a hypercritic. However the faster you will realize the satanic pitfalls of religion, the better it will be for your life, especially for your eternal life! You must by all means get out of any false piety, religiosity and security. To put it even more bluntly: To get out of every religious delusion! Religion has always to do with delusion. And when years ago an ideologist declared religion to be opium for the folk, he is quite right so within this very context. You must therefore be totally freed from any portion of such religious illusion. With regard to your eternal salvation and your personal deliverance, you must intimately and directly be connected with the only person whose name is **Jesus Christ**. Be completely separate from any other element!

## The Divine Purpose for Man

Maybe you will reckon that I must have certainly exaggerated a bit, and that I would be rather too negative about the subject of “Christendom”. Let me therefore go a step further to highlight the divine purpose for man. It is defined as follows: the eternal, holy and almighty GOD wants to entertain an eternal relationship of love and commitment with man. It is certainly obvious that for this purpose, something has to happen with that old man (Adam), whom I have portrayed here above with all of its disastrous effects. The eternal considerations of our LORD are such that man should in fact be brought back intact, holy, blameless to the purpose he was created for, namely in this direct relationship with his Creator. And above all, he should carry out those divine functions that are reserved for the genuine sons of GOD. But how should this take place that out of old, fallen Adams should result suddenly such men that would qualify to come to the eternal GOD and Creator holy, blameless and unharmed?

The Old Testament reveals to us the one and only eternal GOD. However, He bears various names to elucidate in particular His Being. In Hebrew language, proper names always reflect different functions, properties or effects of this eternal GOD. In the New Testament however, this only and eternal GOD suddenly appears in three distinct persons which of course has involved man as usual in endless conflicts because human logic cannot accept one to be as well three. Thus quarrelling between each other takes place, new theological doctrines are set up and new religious tensions are generated ... Whereas the solution to it is basically quite simple, as you may readily see.

The LORD had to deal with following facts: He noticed that His created beings got totally shipwrecked, totally perverted, destroyed and destroying each other – after all completely fallen into the grips of darkness. Nevertheless, He had created them originally in great love as His counterparts with whom He wanted to be in an intimate relationship. But how then should man find his way back again into this vocation he was created for? The only one eternal GOD resolved this problem in such ingenious manner that He manifested Himself in three different persons. To bring back His beloved created being man in His eternal plans made it necessary for Him to send His Son Jesus Christ (for the purpose of a total personal identification) and to send as well the Holy Spirit to make things happen.

## The Divine Distribution of Works

The LORD had, therefore, to reveal Himself in two further persons to enable anybody who is highly motivated to find the way back to his eternal calling. This can in a way be quite simply understood. For a man who eagerly wants to reach to his eternal calling, the eternal GOD has sent a perfect Man, Jesus

Christ. He intervened for us imperfect men as descendants of old fallen Adam by identifying or uniting us with this new, or last Adam through the redemptive work of crucifixion at Golgotha. By this union everybody gets a perfect and ingenious opportunity to regain his calling he was created for to be blameless, holy, and this through child-like faith alone. This is the effect of true grace. It corresponds exactly to the genuine "gospel of Christ".

According to the eternal plans of GOD the Father, a man gets united with the person of GOD, Jesus Christ. By this union, man will be brought back where he would have belonged to originally, namely to the place where the eternal Son of GOD under GOD the Father's glory lives. But to make it practical, GOD's supernatural power is needed, because nobody could make it by one's own (religious) strength. Therefore it became necessary that another person of GOD had to be sent which is the Holy Spirit. He makes the whole salvation work through His power and His personality and transforms man in such manner that he can get there holy, unharmed where he belongs to: into the presence of the heavenly Father.

This is portrayed in a verse which captivates me time and again: Eph. 2:10: *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* This marvelous verse describes in a most comprehensive manner the whole principle of redemption, the eternal plans of GOD, the corresponding results, the purpose of creation with us etc. Two persons of GOD can be seen clearly (*GOD, Christ Jesus*), the eternal divine principle of creation for man (*for we are His workmanship*), the eternal divine purposes of creation (*created in Christ Jesus for good works*), how it divinely works (*which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them* – we cannot carry them out nor initiate them by our own strength). This marvelous idea of GOD will become operative only through child-like faith. And to make it happen, the third person of GOD, the Holy Spirit is needed.

## How Man is Transformed

Until now, I have defined the purpose of creation. Now follows what exactly is involved to carry out this huge work to alter or transform ourselves as fallen Adams into perfected men in Christ. Seen from a theological view this unimaginable work of transformation can only take place by the involvement of the three different persons manifested by GOD. Humanly spoken, it is the LORD who with His threefold potency is "fully engaged" in this task. All of the three persons of the eternal GOD deploy their full activity. It is exclusively the interactive involvement of the three persons of the eternal GOD who at last can transform man, always provided that he is in a correct relationship with the three persons of GOD!

No man, no religion and no philosophy will ever be able to transform a man into something permanently good. All efforts undertaken in past thousands of years through philosophy, political oppression, dictatorship, religions etc. were to no avail. To transform man by human methods is simply inconceivable, because the main problem consists in the human heart, which cannot be changed by human approach. Whoever still wants to try it out will end up in illusion and ruin. It is rather a supernatural intervention that is needed going right into the center of man, meaning into his heart or his conscience. And this approach works exclusively through the power and methods of the Holy Spirit.

It is rather sad how many Christians including spiritual leaders and teachers have biggest problems with the person of the Holy Spirit. One thing is for sure: If we do not understand how the Holy Spirit works and how to cooperate in a correct manner with the Holy Spirit, we shall never be permanently changed or transformed. It is exactly the duty of the Holy Spirit to change or transform fallen Adams into new men in Christ. Humanly spoken the LORD Jesus, before returning to His Father, has instructed the Holy Spirit somehow as follows: "Transform my disciples in such manner that they will fully reflect Myself and will thus fit into My eternal glory." Afterwards, the LORD ascended into heaven and at Pentecost sent as promised the Holy Spirit. Consequently, the Holy Spirit's mission was to transform and to perfect the true members of the LORD in such manner that they will correspond to His likeness and will fit into His eternal glory.

A rather tremendous job in every respect. You will realize this easily when you may have tried to change the behavior of a person. And in fact we still try to do it all the time in marriage, our family, in our

surroundings. We are continuously busy – always with best motives – to change each other. And our reasoning is quite simple: If only my counterpart were different, how easier could then life be. And everything is mobilized to change the other. In doing so, we are actually taking the status of the Holy Spirit! And this will never work.

When the LORD Jesus Christ entrusted the Holy Spirit to bring His members together to prepare His bride, He had to face a big obstacle, namely the GOD given free will of man. The will of man is by creation sovereign. The LORD takes on the basis of His divine love no hold on man's free will and does neither force nor manipulate because otherwise, we would just be a spineless marionette. However, to fit into GOD's eternal kingdom, we all must be radically changed. But how could GOD reach to this goal since He has to accept our sovereign will and cannot intervene by violence?

## **The Divine Educational Method: GOD's Chisel**

Now we approach a highly interesting aspect of the divine education and transformation training. I am defining it as GOD's chisel which brings along the essential aim of the actual subject. Vividly speaking mankind corresponds to a quarry as mentioned later here below. You find there inherent individual stones: the individual members of Christ. These are the ones that are now knocked off from the quarry and shaped in such a perfect manner that they will precisely fit into GOD's eternal temple.

This fact can be illustrated with the temple of Solomon in ancient Israel. We read in 1 Kings 5:17-18 as follows: *And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the temple. So Solomon's builders, Hiram's builders, and the Gebalites quarried them; and they prepared timber and stones to build the temple.* Thus the builders were instructed to prepare out of the quarry individual stones.

When these stones arrived in Jerusalem to be assembled, something extraordinary happened. I am quoting 1 King 6:7: *And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.* These laborers did not have at their disposal modern laser driven computerized cutters. Still they were able to work in such perfection that the individual stones had but to be assembled and joined together. Thereby, their walls were perfectly tight and jointless, without broken parts or similar. Consequently, no noise from the use of tools were heard anymore. All parts were perfectly prepared and assembled. This illustrates in a marvelous manner the consummation of the body of Christ, if you can follow this picture!

Since every type from the Old Testament finds his fulfilment in the New Testament, we can take it for granted that we shall find there corresponding verses. I am quoting as an example the following two passages. Eph. 2:20-22: *... having (you) been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together as a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

For the sake of better understanding, let me explain the word "chief cornerstone". It is in fact the final stone right on top at the gable of a house which finally holds together the whole roof or construction. It is thus the most important stone to assure stability. If it is missing or wrongly built in, the whole house collapses which of course is an important hint for modern church building, where most of the time, the final stone is just missing. Nowadays, the LORD Jesus Christ is in many ways neither the genuine foundation, nor the final cornerstone. Consequently, when pressure comes, everything will collapse. The LORD Jesus Christ alone is really the final cornerstone in the divine temple who makes the spiritual building hold firmly together.

Eph. 2:20-22 can provide valuable insight in important aspects: for our personal ministry, our spiritual function and finally our condition as a perfectly tailored stone so that we shall eventually fit perfectly into the eternal temple of GOD. This represents likewise the eternal purpose for us as created beings! How these stones are being prepared will be exposed further hereafter.

But before doing so, I am quoting 1 Pet. 2:1-6: *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as new-born babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow*

*thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."*

Both texts show clearly our spiritual calling: We ought to be as true members of Jesus Christ equally a living stone of Him. The big problem, however, with which the LORD is confronted, is the fact that initially, we do not fit at all into His temple. We are by nature fashioned completely differently to the stone which the LORD has in mind for His temple. However, the symbolism found in these verses marvelously shows us how the LORD goes ahead with this problem. When a man accepts Jesus Christ as his LORD and his life, he will be at first liberated from his earthly environment – from the quarry. We are removed from our earthly image and then transformed into the heavenly image. This is the only way that we can become the said living stone, thus perfectly prepared for our heavenly calling and our function as sons of GOD. We have now come to this tremendous work of the Holy Spirit to change and transform us.

To substantiate the aforesaid, I am quoting again two passages. Firstly 1 Cor. 15:47-49: *The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.* The first Adam is declared to have fallen or failed. From GOD's sight, we are all fallen and are irrevocably under the reign of sin. Therefore, we do not qualify at all to enter into GOD's kingdom. Thus the ones who are heavenly are the true children of GOD and sons of GOD who in Christ have reached into this position. By nature, we all bear the image of the earthly (the old Adam). In Christ instead, we bear His heavenly image.

Further to Rom. 8:29: *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.* Rightly so, what you have just read: You should be conformed to the image of the eternal Son of GOD (Jesus Christ). At the beginning, we are certainly not in such position. Nevertheless, it is GOD's will that we should be conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ, thus correspond to His nature completely!

## **The Working Principle of GOD's Chisel**

Let me continue in explaining the divine "assignment of duties" and the consequential procedures of this tremendous transformation work of GOD. First of all, we need a stonemason or sculptor. This is undoubtedly the Holy Spirit. He is the performer and knows the perspective as well as the goal of every individual member of Jesus Christ. To reach the goal, we rather need the nature or the substance of GOD, quasi the *divine nature* (2 Pet. 1:4) in order to be transformed into the correct status or the correct personality. For this purpose, we definitely need the life of Jesus Christ. Every genuine member of Jesus Christ has to be experientially truly in Christ. It is only in this manner that man can logically be transformed or chiseled into the likeness of Jesus Christ so that he will perfectly fit into heaven. I myself as man represent a single stone with an individual personality and an unequalled calling which only the heavenly Father knows.

In order that I shall be able to reach as an individual the eternal purpose of creation, namely to fit into this eternal divine temple, I have to complete a journey that is littered with thorns and cliffs. To pass this journey and to really reach the goal, we need someone who guides and accompanies us on our earthly pilgrimage, and this is the Holy Spirit. But we equally need a companion in heaven, and this is Jesus Christ, the heavenly intercessor who as the great High Priest makes constantly intercession for us before the heavenly Father. We must see this fact in a practical way as follows: The LORD Jesus Christ is standing always, day in and day out, before His heavenly Father as the great High Priest, as our heavenly intercessor! How wonderful is this information!

To summarize, the following divine "assignment of works" will result: The Father knows the image of everyone of us. Likewise He knows our specific position in the spiritual temple and our practical calling. The LORD Jesus Christ imparts to us His nature, His life, quasi His substance. Finally the Holy



Spirit provides the perspective, the outlook and the form of every single member or building block. In practical everyday life it must work out accordingly. Now we can see the divine stonemason or sculptor at work. He holds in His hands the hammer and the chisel.

## **The Meaning of the Chisel**

What then is the meaning of the chisel? You may perhaps guess what it means or even be anxious about it. The chisel corresponds to the practical occurrences in normal everyday life! The LORD does not use a highly superior theological faculty or a renowned bible college. He makes use of our daily environment during the whole week in order to chisel us into shape. And in everyday life His instruments are our common fellowmen with whom we are constantly confronted. Likewise the chisel represents as well our simple challenges of life which we have to face daily. These facts correspond to a totally essential part in GOD's overall divine school of transformation. It is absolutely necessary that you can understand this fact in your heart. The Holy Spirit simply makes use of our surroundings – the awkward ones, as well as the lesser awkward ones – or the natural aspects of life – the nice ones and the lesser nice ones – to transform us into the intended building blocks so that we shall once perfectly fit into the temple of GOD!

In our spirit, we can watch the heavenly stonemason, the Holy Spirit how He is at work equipped with hammer and chisel every second and is chiseling at us, we as a divine building block. In this manner He will be in a position to correct everyone of us - at least this is His will, because He has received corresponding instruction personally from the Head of the church, Jesus Christ. He will certainly work at us in perfect manner with hammer and chisel so that we shall finally fit perfectly into the temple of GOD, as it happened at the time with the physical stones of the temple of Solomon. Thus His foremost instrument is GOD's chisel. By this way He is transforming us into that personality that the heavenly Father had originally planned for with everyone of us. However, man has totally gone astray from this image, because of our fallenness, as mentioned earlier.

## **The Great Tragedy: Opposition against the Chisel**

This wonderful concept of the love of GOD I reckon is rather not too complicated to understand. But now I have to express great sorrow, and based on my counselling practice for decades I am most regretfully in a position to say many things. It is a fact that we Christians quite often do not at all cooperate with the divine stonemason. We show no appreciation for the deep work of the Holy Spirit and the true love of GOD behind it. In consequence we sidestep constantly the Holy Spirit in every possible manner. Instead of seeing the hand of GOD in all circumstances, we continuously flee from the heavenly stonemason and His chisel. We avoid the work of the Holy Spirit in every possible manner. In reality, we rebel against unnumbered processes and go against the divine educational training and the divine methods of transformation. This is rather sad in every respect.

And as it always happens in GOD's kingdom, lack of understanding and disobedience will bring forth an alternative. It looks like as follows: We procure theological information, e.g. from a theological faculty. We read unnumbered Christian books, run from one event to another, listen to the most renowned speakers, seek for whatever blessing etc. We think that this would transform us so that we would enter heaven without any possible problems. Spiritual truth can no doubt be imparted to us in many ways – however information alone cannot transform us into heavenly building stones. The method how these are transformed, has after thousands of years always remained the same. It is the chisel of GOD who in the hands of a wonderful Father is at work with great love – and whereby the LORD does nothing else than answer our prayers! However He makes use of normal people and sometimes of very awkward circumstances. And this is exactly what most of GOD's children simply do not want to acknowledge. They rather prefer to go away, to rebel, to complain and many more things. I am fully aware of it myself from rather distressful situations I had to cope with. Thus many Christians do not have a vision at all regarding the wonderful chiseling work of GOD.

The usual wrong behaviors can be seen very practically from two passages. I first quote James 1:2-4: *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.* We can discover from these three verses very easily what has been said so far: the chisel (trials), the purpose (testing, patience) and the targets (a perfect work, perfected, lacking nothing). However, only a single behavior is accepted: **Joy!** And it is exactly in such behavior that the ways are drifting apart. Should you really want by all means to reach the divine purpose, it will happen only if you fully accept the work of GOD's chisel which means to submit to the daily therapy as applied through the divine stonemason. Practically speaking: the pathway to the goal always leads via temptations, contestations, challenges of life – all such occurrences of life which we quite often cannot understand, which seem to us awkward, be they men or circumstances. However this is the ultimate pathway of GOD's spirit to make out of us totally fallen and wretched men living building blocks which one day will perfectly fit into GOD's temple.

Now comes the second passage: 1 Pet. 1:6-9: *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.* What is said in these verses brings light into what has been said before. Thus further explanations are no more needed.

## **Wrong Behavior in Everyday Life**

Let us go on and look more closely at the wrong behaviors in everyday life. It is a fact that I myself as a spiritual son of the living GOD shall reach the target only if I shall not rebel nor be against the working of GOD's chisel. We can be very sure that, if this issue will be of great importance for GOD's children we can find this principle in the Old Testament in the sense of many examples, should they be very essential for GOD's children. And truly it is so. We can see there the people of Israel as the great example in a negative sense. GOD had provided for His chosen people perfect conditions (exodus from Egypt through great miracles) and set before them a wonderful destination (the land of Canaan). However to reach there, the crossing of the desert was imperative. The desert represents nothing else than time and again our everyday life with all of its challenges and heights and depths – our normal life. But what we can see from GOD's people in the desert is that they constantly rebel, resist, complain, distrust etc.

I could mention as an example Korah and his company who rebelled against the leadership of Moses and the priesthood of Aaron (Num. 16, 1 ...). Finally, Korah and his company in a dreadful judgment were engulfed from the earth. We shall not escape in a better way if we resist the Holy Spirit or rebel. Darkness will engulf us as well. Or I am thinking of Saul who was appointed King of Israel with absolutely perfect perspectives. He however made the same mistake: rebellion, resistance, disobedience against GOD's instructions. He finally fell from his career as a king in a dreadful manner (see 1 Sam. 15...).

Since the developments of the Old Testament and in particular all stops of Israel were given to us as an example and a warning (1 Cor. 10:11), we should never indulge ourselves in making the same errors as Israel did. Resistance against GOD's chisel, rebellion against the divine stonemason, contention against our Creator, conscious sin and disobedience against the teachings of the Holy Spirit will always bring the same result: we jeopardize or impede the work of the divine stonemason. In this manner, Israel constantly obstructed GOD's work. The resulting consequence was that instead of crossing the desert in 11 days, it took them after all 40 years sojourning in this dreadful environment! It took exactly this long time period until that all men over 20 years had passed away who at the time had left Egypt with absolutely marvelous perspectives. Caleb and Joshua alone managed to enter the Promised Land – because a different spirit was in them: the spirit of faith – that spirit that fully cooperated with the divine stonemason.

I reckon that this is a clear message addressed to every Christian. If you rebel against GOD's chisel, namely to be in opposition and act against men and circumstances, when you constantly complain yourself etc., you will then hinder the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, this work can be endlessly delayed.

I often asked myself why Christians after their conversion are growing so differently from each other. Some of them show after a comparatively short time quite substantial changes in their life in bearing corresponding fruit. And the LORD is obviously with them. They are an epistle of Christ and a good perfume for their surroundings. And there are others who basically heard the same information and received as well sound assistance. However, even after ten years their life has hardly been transformed. Actually, I am aware of the main reason: Those people constantly work against GOD's chisel! Therefore, the divine work of love is delayed endlessly, and there results frequently much unnecessary sorrow. And what is even worse: Such Christians are rather not good witnesses for the world, neither for the seen one, nor the unseen.

Those Christians who rebel against the divine stonemason will always portray a negative image towards worldly people. And even more often the LORD has to make use of the world to bring back disobedient children of GOD on the right pathway or back to reason. Let me just refer to the prophet Jonah – after all he was a prophet of the LORD! However, this Jonah had quite some deficits in his nature and character. He was selfish, stone-hearted, rebellious, disobedient and many more things. After all, the LORD had to make use, as it happens so often, of the world to restore calmness and orderliness and make sure that His plans will be carried out. Thereby, let us realize that the life of 120'000 people were at stake (see Jonah 1-4)!

Thus the Holy Spirit mostly makes use of the world with all of its influences to apply the chisel with the children or sons of GOD. How essential it becomes then for us to acknowledge this fact deep in our heart! Consequently the LORD in John 17 did not pray to His Father to take us out of the "evil" world so that we could lead a quiet and comfortable life until the time where the anticipated "rapture" would take place. No, not at all. He rather asked His Father to save us from this world (John 17:15). Quite obviously, the world is of outstanding importance as a therapy for our life! It would therefore be rather silly to flee from the world and its challenges, because the Holy Spirit uses the world with all of its impacts as an excellent chisel to make out of us as fallen Adams living building stones who eventually will perfectly fit into GOD's everlasting kingdom. If we only could accept this principle so that many things written in GOD's word would not at all be difficult to understand even though we could not catch seemingly superior theological teachings of GOD's word. Whoever could grasp the mystery of the divine chisel's work has possibly understood more than 50% of what really matters in the practical walk of a Christian. It is the marvelous work of the heavenly Father to transform an upright man totally and to lead him to where he belongs according to the eternal purpose of creation.

I quote now as examples two passages where misbehavior is defined: Is. 45:9-10: *"Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'? Woe to him who says to his father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?'"* In these verses, we can read of a very rampant problem around Christians, namely rebelling. How frequent do we rebel against men, circumstances, actions, fate – and finally against the LORD? And His answer is rather simple and serious: Woe to him! Rebellion and resistance will in fact have an extremely detrimental effect on spiritual life, because these are always wrong attitudes directly opposed to the Creator, thus against the builder and stonemason – and as such against the Holy Spirit!

Rom. 9:20-21: *But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?* Please consider carefully and prayerfully these two passages to discover possible wrong behaviors.

## A Correct Behavior towards GOD's Chisel

To conclude, let me expound on the right behavior towards GOD's chisel. It is the key issue to become truly perfected members of the LORD according to the methods of the Holy Spirit so that we shall be really transformed. How does a true member of the LORD conduct himself in a correct manner towards the divine stonemason?

An essential behavior can be read in Rom. 8:28: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* The apostle Paul mentions specifically the expression: we "**know**". It signifies a trustworthy assurance that everything, everywhere and at all times works for our good. It is with this basic attitude only that the subject matter can be fully comprehended without any problem and with all of its consequences. Should we however not be informed about these facts, we would then automatically and persistently fight against GOD's chisel as soon as situations in our life will occur which we simply cannot put into the right context with our reasoning. This will sadly jeopardize the work of the Holy Spirit in transforming us so that we shall surely get stuck – if not even fall off!

Similar considerations can be found e.g. in Eph. 5:20: *... giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!* This verse obviously indicates that there could be no exception at all to observe constant thanksgiving in all circumstances of life! Practically seen, this may quite often not be the case. The argument could then be: "Yes, but ..." "I could accept, but ..." "If you were experiencing a situation like mine, you could then as well no more give thanks for everything." I reckon we all know for sure such considerations. However, we would then have to alter Eph. 5:20 accordingly, for example: *... giving thanks for all positive things of your life. And as for the rest, you may rebel against.* With a view to the subject matter, Eph. 5:20 can readily be understood.

In 1 Thess. 5:18, Paul makes a repetition: *In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* Furthermore, I could mention those two passages that were already quoted earlier, namely James 1:2-4 and 1 Pet. 1:6-9. All of them give crystal clear instructions how genuine children of GOD and members of the body of Christ conduct themselves correctly.

## Conclusion

To put it succinctly, the following can be said: Whoever in all truth wants to become a living member of the LORD and to find his function in eternity according to GOD's will has no other option than to give thanks for all occurrences in everyday life, even though they might be very cumbersome and nasty. Taking the example of Job one can readily see that all occurrences in our life must have been engineered by GOD, even attacks from Satan (see Job 1:6 ...). Quite obviously, all situations in life must have previously passed by the LORD so that He had to approve of them before. Thus He has never lost control over your life. Consequently, there remains only one thing for us to do, namely to faithfully submit to GOD's chisel in every situation. And while submitting to the divine stonemason in full trust, He is chiseling us into shape with great love and will execute a wonderful work. Avoid by all means to constantly question things in your life, or to brood over them, because you will then risk to get caught into the line of fire of Satan with his way to condemn and to accuse. Look therefore constantly unto *Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith* (Heb. 12:2).

The LORD is our perspective, because we are destined to be transformed exactly into His likeness. While looking unto the LORD, we shall be chiseled into the right image. And this is described as follows in 2 Cor. 3:18: *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.* It is in this ingenious manner only that a man will effectively be transformed. The divine stonemason hammers daily with His chisel in great love at us. And as it is with a human sculptor, there is always a model nearby. His name is: Jesus Christ!

The divine stonemason uses His chisel in such a way that we shall perfectly fit in our function in the temple of GOD or in the body of CHRIST. As long as we diligently live in continuous holiness, i.e. in

daily spiritual hygiene and if we obey the Holy Spirit promptly at His word, then the Holy Spirit transforms us as totally fallen and corrupted being in such formidable manner that we having become a new creation in Christ as living building blocks will fit in such perfect a manner in GOD's temple that after the visible union with the LORD (the so-called rapture), there will be no need any more of a further chiseling. We shall be embedded exactly at our given place, as this was the case with the natural stones in the temple of Solomon.

A truly fascinating subject that is revealed to us to give us true insight into the marvelous work of the Holy Spirit. In point of fact, there remains no other alternative for a spiritual Christian. The right path always leads to a total union with Jesus Christ through the cross, death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit exclusively works on that basis. It is therefore so important that we understand the chisel-work of the Holy Spirit correctly.

But there is much more involved than just to understand it: We have to accept it by all means in practical everyday life to submit continuously to this divine chiseling work and to obey at once the divine stonemason. The principle in both the Old and New Testament is always the same. Those who at all times wanted to reach to the divine goal had to submit diligently to the chiseling work of the divine stonemason.

And what is the purpose of the creation for you? It is marvelously defined in Col. 3:1-4: *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.* This outstanding declaration conveys to us the final result of the divine chiseling work in your life. You will really correspond exactly to the LORD Jesus Christ and see Him, as He is. And you will be positioned in the godly temple exactly where the LORD has appointed you to be placed before the foundation of the world – perfectly shaped and fitted in.

You will then marvel, marvel, and marvel again! And we shall especially marvel at how the LORD was able to transform us miserable old Adams in such perfect a manner that we shall really correspond with the new Adam (Jesus Christ) completely. What human effort could never ever achieve, the Holy Spirit has been easily in a position to carry out perfectly and without any problem. A rather wonderful subject. May the LORD teach you deep in your heart everything so that you can get hold of it firmly and to live in it immediately in your everyday life!

*LORD Jesus Christ, I give thanks to You for these wonderful thoughts of Your Holy Spirit. Please help every reader to examine these considerations based on your Word and to implement it subsequently in the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank You, LORD Jesus Christ that you offer us every possibility that we can attain to Your goals without any religious drudgery and without any problem, because all happens through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Help us that we can really understand Your work and that we can then diligently submit us to You in everyday life in every occurrences of life that challenge us. I now bless in Your precious Name, LORD Jesus Christ every reader and fully trust You that You will conclude Your wonderful work by the time of Your Day. Amen.*

Bruno Schaer / December 2014

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Der Meissel Gottes – oder wie der HERR Dich verändert