

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.**
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)*

#04-1041

“To Redeem My Love”

April 19, 2010

Sunday, April 18, 2010 was an interesting day for me. It was a nice spring day, so I sat outside looking at the beautiful Carolina-blue sky, listening to the birds happily singing and communicating to one another. I closed my eyes and listened to the gentle wind blowing through the trees as I sought to hear from the Lord. I had a question on my heart.

I had finished reading a commentary about how Adam chose to rule the earth independently of God, as if he purposefully messed up God's plan for man. Adam's sin is often presented as if it were a blip on God's radar that He had to correct; as if Plan A were thwarted, so He had to resort to Plan B. I would say that, with few exceptions, most Christians are taught and believe that the failure in the garden was all Adam's fault, as if God had nothing to do with it; you know, the tragedy of free will. If this were true, which I do not believe it is, then why did God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden, allow the serpent to roam there as a tempter, and, on top of this, slay the **Lambkin from the disruption of the world** (Revelation 13:8 CV), that is, before God restored a ruined (i.e., in disruption) earth (Genesis 1.2) and fashioned Adam from the soil of the restored earth? Sure does sound like a plan to me and not a correction of a plan that ran amuck! The Lamb slain was Plan A, not Plan B, which means that Adam's one transgression was part of Plan A as well. Simply, God wrote the play with all of its acts and created the actors and the stage upon which it is being acted out.

It is my opinion that what most Christians believe about the fall is a tradition of man and not the truth of God. I have explained this in a variety of ways throughout my writings, in particular, in my book *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*, especially Volume 1, Chapters 5-8. Consider these two thoughts.

First, if God is truly the Sovereign of His universe, then He alone is ultimately responsible for all that happens in His creation. As the Creator, God has a purpose in mind for His creation and a plan to achieve His purpose. Paul tells us that God's purpose is to be **All in all** (1 Corinthians 15:28), and He is doing this through **the summing up all things in Christ** [His Son], **things in the heavens and things on the earth** (Ephesians 1:10). This is **the purpose of the eons** (Ephesians 3:11 CV). Please see my book *That God May Be All in All New*, January 2009.

Second, Adam's one transgression was not an aberration or a miscalculation on God's part. It was expected, even demanded of Adam. In following his wife, Adam was fulfilling the highest law of God, the command to love. After all, husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. Eve was literally fashioned from Adam's body, and she was bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh (Genesis 2:23; Ephesians 5:25-33). Love explains why Adam partook of the fruit with his wife. Love demanded that Adam try to redeem his wife, even though he failed. I explain this in issues #01-0714, November 6, 2007, *Loving Their Own Wives as Their Own Bodies*, and #02-0724, November 13, 2007, *No One Has Greater Love Than This*.

However, like the layers of an onion being peeled back, this second point begs for more answers, which leads to the question I asked the Lord as I sat outside enjoying His beautiful day.

I asked: **“Why did You *intentionally* allow, even expect, Adam, Your creation, to move outside Your will?”**

The answer was almost instantaneous. I heard: **“Because I had to redeem My love. Love is redemptive in nature, and I had to redeem it.”**

I was stunned. The answer was so simple yet so profound. Adam acted out of love in his one transgression, but love started with God when He allowed and even expected Adam to commit the one transgression that set the stage for death and its companion sin to enter into all mankind.

So that there is no doubt or misunderstanding, the word the Lord spoke to me was not about Adam per se. He did not say “because I had to redeem Adam, My love.” Yes; out of His love, God did redeem Adam and all mankind through His Son, **for God so loves the world**, but this is not what He spoke to me. He shared that love itself must be redeemed.

I realize that there is a great deal of theology wrapped up in the words *redeem* and *redemption*, but let us put that aside for a moment and consider the most basic meaning of the word **redeem**, which is “**to get back**.” We could rephrase the Lord’s answer as “Because I had to get back or receive back My love.”

We see this concept of return in Scripture as God’s word goes forth in order to accomplish His purpose.

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11 NASB)

When His word has accomplished its purpose, it will return to Him, not as if it were empty but rather as if it were full. Isaiah does not state so directly, but the opposite of empty is full. According to God’s plan, the words *full* and *all* are nearly synonymous. Paul wrote of God’s Son as **Him who fills all in all** (Ephesians 1:23). *Fullness* signifies successful completion to the point that all that can possibly be contained is contained, just as *all* signifies everything, none excluded. The two go hand-in-hand.

God’s purpose is to fill His entire (all) creation with His very essence, which refers to His fundamental or essential nature. God created everything out of His very essence, and creation must return to Him, not to be absorbed back into Him as if to cease its unique existence but to return to Him as a full expression of His heart and character. Like looking in a mirror, God will see Himself expressed in all His creation so that He will be in perfect communion with His creation, most notably mankind, His sons, for He says: “**I will be His God and he will be My son**” (Revelation 21:7).

Now, God is spirit, light, and life, but most importantly, God is love; and love is what qualifies the nature of His spirit, light, and life. Love is the very core of His essence. It sums up who He is, what He is doing, and why He is doing it. Remove love, and we do not know God. **The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love** (1 John 4:8).

God expressed His love (essence) in creating man with the purpose of His love (essence) returning to Him. He must get it back. He must receive back, that is, redeem His very essence. I know that this might sound strange and cause some to run for the door, but it is as if God has to redeem Himself. But is this so far-fetched considering that His purpose is to be all in all, to fill all with Himself?

Perhaps, of all the New Testament writers, Paul best captures the thought of return.

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36 NASB)

Surely, love sums up all things just as it sums up the law. Substituting all things with love reads: For from Him is love (originated from Him, the Creator God is love), and through Him is love (expressed through His Son and the cross), and to Him is love (returned to Him by filling His entire creation).

All things must find their very life, light, and love in God, with love being the very source of life and light and the glue that binds all things together. God’s love has gone forth into His creation and must return to Him in order for Him to fill all so that He may be All in all. To Him is love!

I realize that what I have shared so far may be too much to grasp at first. At least it was for me. Actually, I continue to meditate on this word. I am reminded of a word the Lord spoke to me on August 21, 2007. He said: “**Do you know how much I love you? There is something much deeper than the cross. I will show you.**” I believe that this latest word is part of what the Lord has been showing me about His love. Love is redemptive.

But like peeling the onion, there are other questions begging for answers. Why did God choose to do it this way? What does it mean for God to get back His love? Isn’t God’s agape love unconditional? How can it be redemptive? I will attempt to answer some of these questions in the next issue. Stay tuned!