

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

Good morning Life Fellowship. It is good to see you here this morning. We are going to be in Galatians Chapter 5 this morning. We have been in this series on the Holy Spirit for several weeks now. But last week we took a week off from the series, and I hope you were blessed with Jim who shared the story of God's grace and power in his life.

As we began this year the whole idea of this series was to learn to be a people that know how to commune with God through His Spirit, and to learn how the Spirit of God was life changing. Now I want to say that because the Spirit of God is life changing, but the question that I think we have to wrestle with this morning is - how much of life change have we personally been walking through in our own lives?

And we know God is always looking to change us, to transform us, and we know that He sent His Son, Jesus, to this earth to provide salvation and hope for us who are sinners. So we walk into this relationship with Jesus, we want to give our lives to Him, but then there is this issue that we all wrestle with. And for those of us who have chosen to accept the gospel, those who have chosen to believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we realize that is when the work really begins for us to understand how we change and how we are transformed.

We have talked about this over the last few weeks how at the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit comes to give us new life. And once He comes, He is also continually working. He is continually working to change and transform us. And the question I have for you this morning is - how is the change going in your life? What does that personal transformation look like in your life right now?

And asking that question I think produces a lot of emotions in us, a lot of feelings, and a lot of ideas. When I asked this question right now some of you may be really frustrated, because you know you want to change, you know you want to be different, you want to follow God, and you want to transform your life, but you feel like you take two steps forward and then two steps back. And it is just really hard to know how to do this.

We read books, we come to church, we attend Bible studies, we pray and yet day after day, week after week, year after year we struggle with the same sins. And we wonder - what should we do? And we wonder - does God care? And He does care because He has given us His Spirit. And the passage we are going to look at this morning is to help us understand how God works to produce transformation in our lives. God does not want us to stay the same. He wants to transform us. He wants to give us the life He wants us to live.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

We need to understand that the entire book of Galatians was written for this purpose because people kept messing up the gospel. What they were doing was taking the idea of the gospel, the pure gospel that we understand, that God created the world, that man had sinned against God, we brought the sin and the curse onto ourselves and we are now born in sin, we are living in sin, we have the inclination to sin, and that is why God sent Jesus. God sent His own Son, the perfect, spotless sacrifice for us and He went to the cross, taking our sin and shame on Himself, paying the penalty for us. Jesus died and rose on the third day to provide a way for us to be saved if we believe in Him, trust in Him, and realize that our works would never be able to save us. That is the pure gospel.

But do you know what was going on in this church? People were saying you have to believe in Jesus BUT you also have to do all these good things. They were taking the Ten Commandments and mixing it together with the gospel by saying you have to believe in Jesus BUT you also have to do these things. It was Jesus plus. But the truth is it is Jesus plus nothing that equals salvation.

So we have to understand that many have an inclination where they believe they need to add to their salvation by how they live. And Paul is just demolishing this argument, saying it is purely by faith and faith alone that we are saved. But then the next question is this - *'Okay Paul knowing it is our faith that saves us, what do we do with this internal struggle with the practical nature of sin? If God saves me from the penalty of sin, how do I now walk in the practice of putting to death my sin?'*

So that is why Paul is explaining the best way to do that. He is giving us God's master plan and God's proven plan for transformation has everything to do with the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is not about us white knuckling it, trying harder, attending more church services, and doing this or that. Instead it is about how we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit. Listen, we all want change, and God wants change in our lives even more than we do. That is why He has given us the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate change agent in our lives. We cannot change on our own; we cannot be the person God wants us to be, unless the Holy Spirit is working in us.

So we are going to be looking at this passage in Galatians Chapter 5 beginning in verse 16 to see how the Holy Spirit is the ultimate change agent for our lives. Here is what it says: ***"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."***

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

Do you see the struggle here? Paul recognizes the struggle. The struggle is not if you are accepted by God or not accepted by God. No, there is a deeper struggle that we have now with the flesh, with the leftover remains of our old person before we knew Christ, and with the Holy Spirit that resides inside of us. And this is the battle that we face. This is the problem that every single person in this room faces - the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit and who will win the battle of our own hearts.

So Paul is explaining this. Look in verse 18: ***“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.”*** Now that is a pretty bad list, wouldn't you say? And Paul was saying there was more.

He goes on to say this: ***“I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passion and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”***

Man, this is a lot of material to cover, and I have only one sermon to preach these ten verses. This is a sermon series in and of itself, okay? So we are going to have to do a massive fly-over of this passage, because I think there are some really important practical steps that God wants us to understand on how we let the Holy Spirit win the battle of our hearts. We first need to understand that the Holy Spirit wants to produce this fruit in our lives.

Now I want you to carefully look at this passage and to notice that there is some similar wording. And I have talked about this numerous times before, but whenever you see similar wording you see a chasm. And there is a chasm in this passage. It is a sandwich chasm. You have the bread, then the lettuce, and in the middle is the meat. So I want you to see this chasm in this passage in Galatians Chapter 5.

Paul says first to 'walk by the Spirit,' and then at the end he says, 'keep in step with the Spirit.' So walking in the Spirit and keeping in step with the Spirit is kind of using the same vernacular. Then you have the 'desires of the flesh opposed' and the 'desires of the flesh crucified.' Do you see that? Then we read we are not 'under the law,' and 'against such there is no law.' So Paul mentions the law. And then in the middle what he is comparing, which is, the 'works of the flesh,' and the 'fruit of the

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

Spirit.' This is what God is trying to show us. He is always trying to get us to look and evaluate our lives and ask, *'Where am I? Where am I right now? What is being manifest in my life? What is coming out more - the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit because they cannot co-exist?'*

Either the Spirit will produce His fruit or we will produce our own works of the flesh. Paul is saying what we need to think about is how we are doing with this. Are we allowing our flesh to take control of our lives, or are we allowing the Spirit to take control of our lives?

So knowing that the Spirit of God is the ultimate change agent, we have to understand that we cannot overcome these sins, we cannot be different, and we cannot change unless it is through the work of the Holy Spirit inside us. I think the frustration and sometimes the longevity of our battle that goes on year after year, maybe even for decades, is this reality that for most of us we try to beat sin in our own strength. And when we do that we will fail.

I have seven points to my sermon this morning. Dan has taught me well. Okay? Seven points but we are going to fly through these points. I just want to walk you through this passage so that you can see what is here. The first point is found in verse 16. ***"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."***

The first point is this - play offense. Notice Paul is saying that we cannot be passive about the issues of sin in our lives. We have to be intentional; we have to understand that we have this internal battle, this internal struggle, and we have to be actively engaging and walking with the Spirit, because if we try to live this life on our own, try to please God on our own, try to obey God's Word on our own in our own strength we will fail. We have to learn how to walk in the Spirit. We have to submit everything to Him.

Here is the thing that I think is so powerful. Look what it says, ***"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*** Here is the question that we have to answer honestly - do you believe that you can change? Do you believe that change is possible in your life? That God can ever overcome those sins that may be keeping you in bondage? Paul is saying if we do this, this will happen.

But we have to start playing offense. We can't be waiting around for the temptation, for the attacks to come to us. Our natural inclination is for us to be passive.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

But we can't be passive until of a sudden something bad happens, where we realize we have to fight this off, because then we will end up playing defense against the temptation and against the flesh, as opposed to offense. And playing offense against the flesh is so much more important than playing defense.

I remember my dad telling me this story. He grew up in farmland in upstate western New York and all of his cousins were farmers. So they all had a lot of farm stories. One of my dad's cousins was a dairy farmer and he raised cattle. So one time this cousin's son got stuck when he was trying to clean out a pen, and he didn't realize the bull was in the pen with him. And that is deadly dangerous. The cousin's son was about the age of a middle schooler at this time, and the only weapon he had was a long piece of wood lying close by.

So he picked up the piece of wood just as the bull charged, and he swung it at the bull just as hard as he could. It hit the bull and he backed up, and then the cousin started screaming for his dad to come and help him. In the meantime the bull had backed up and then he charged again. So the cousin whacked him again and continued to scream for his dad. And the bull backed up the third time and he whacked him again.

But things was happening while he was doing this. Number one he is getting tired. Number two the bull was backing up for a less distance each time. What is going to happen to my cousin could be very dangerous because eventually he knew he would lose the battle. He continues to scream, his father finally hears him, and he jumps into the pen. The father grabs the ring that was in the bull's nose with his two fingers, and with just those two fingers he flips that bull onto his back.

Do you see the difference between playing defense and offense? We have to learn how to play offense against our temptations and our flesh. And we have to play offense with the Holy Spirit because that is how He will win the day.

Number two - get to the root. Look again at verse 17, "***For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.***" There is a lot here to unpack. But here is what I want to point out to you. What is Paul comparing in this passage? He is comparing the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit. Now when it comes to our personal transformation, when we want to change so

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

desperately, when we struggle with sin, the way our minds think about it, the way that we deal with it on our own, is by trying to modify and change our behavior.

We work from the surface level. We work from what people see. And what we don't do is dig down deep enough and deal with our problems and our sins at the desire level. And if all we do is deal with our sin at the surface level, we will never get to the desire level and truly find transformation. What God wants us to do is to understand there is a desire there for a reason, and what we have to do is learn how to do some digging. We have to get to the root. We have to get to the root of why that desire exists. Why does this sin feel so strong in my life? Why does it feel like no matter how many times it shows up, like that raging bull coming after my cousin, I eventually wear down and it overtakes me?

We have to start asking the 'why' question inside our soul. We have to start looking below the surface and understand that there is a reason why we keep doing this. And we have to invite the Holy Spirit into this process with us. Listen, do you think God knows the bad sinful things we desire? Do you think God is aware of that? Yes, He absolutely does.

And I think we are just too scared to talk to God honestly about who we really are, because if we fully believe the gospel, that we are fully accepted, that we are fully loved, we can come to Him with anything. We can come to Him with any problem and with any sin. And we have to start asking the 'why' more than the 'what.' If we just try to modify the 'what' and try to look good on the surface, and not deal with the 'why' and not deal with the changing of our desires - we will not change.

So we have to get to the root and we have to play offense. Number three is this - ditch the rulebook. Look in verse 18, "***But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.***" Look also at the end of verse 23, "***against such things there is no law.***" Now why do we bring this up? Because you know what you and I love to do? We love to make lists. And I know I said I was giving you seven points, so what is the difference here, right? The problem is this, a lot of times our faith is more in keeping lists. Our faith is more in '*I am going to show everybody that I am good,*' than our faith is actually in the Holy Spirit changing us.

When it comes to the law, the law is good. The standards of righteousness that God has given us in His Word are very good things. But we cannot obey them on our

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

own. We do not have that kind of power. The book of Romans tells us that the law has been given to us as a school teacher, as a master, someone to teach us what is right and wrong. But no list of rules can change us, and this is a problem for most of us. Many of us have grown up in church environments, or we have been disciplined in the way of thinking that the more we know is a sign of maturity, that our knowledge of the truth is a substitute of actually living the truth. And that is not a substitute.

What we do is we end up fooling and lying to ourselves when our discipleship becomes all knowledge based and not faith obedience based. When it comes to following Jesus, God wants to change our hearts. He is not just looking for an information dump. And I think for so many of us we know so much, but do we believe it, do we walk by it, and do we understand that we can't do this apart from the Spirit?

Here is the dangerous thing that happens to us - if we start following the rules really well, we start feeling like we are beating our sins. And we are just trying harder and harder, which is a dangerous thing, because by obeying the law it makes us feel proud. And the ground that we gain by working really hard and feeling like we have made progress, the danger of that is that at the end of that cycle we will end up so much worse, because we fool ourselves into thinking we are further along than we are.

So we have to ditch the rulebook and start inviting the Holy Spirit and saying, *'Spirit, you show me what to do today. You tell me how I should obey you in this today.'* One of the prayers we have been praying over and over again is *'God, speak to us today through your Spirit and through your Word.'* We need to have this active ongoing dependency on the Spirit.

Number four - we have to expose our sins. In verse 19 Paul says, "***Now the works of the flesh are evident.***" Why does Paul say that? He says that for one very simple reason. We cannot hide our sin; the works of the flesh are going to be evident. The things in our life that we struggle with, these struggles against our own personal sins, they are real and it is going to show up. And this is how we fool ourselves many times when we think we can manage this sin. Or we can hide this sin.

But Paul is saying right here that the works of the flesh are evident. Now I find this very fascinating when Paul says the works of the flesh are evident. He says the "***works of the flesh***" in verse 19, and then he says the "***fruit of the spirit***" in verse 22. And here is the question I have for us that we need to wrestle with - why is "works"

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

plural and why is 'fruit' singular? Did you ever think of that? I believe it is because we look at this laundry list of sins, and they are bad, but you know what is interesting about this list? We might read two thirds of that list and think, '*Oh, these are gross,*' but then we read the rest and we realize, '*Oh, that's me.*' Let's just imagine right now the Holy Spirit manifests into something very powerful to us in this room. And all of a sudden He puts the works of the flesh that each of us struggle with over our heads for everyone to see. How would we feel right now?

Many of us would probably get up and leave the building, or we would escape to the bathroom, because that would be a very uncomfortable thing for us. Every single one of us would be able to understand that my flesh is different than your flesh, and my struggle is different from your struggle. But do not fool yourself in thinking that you are better than you are because you feel like your list is better than another person's list. The works of the flesh are evident, and we have to take ownership of that, and we need to ask God to show us where our works of the flesh are. And to ask Him to show us where our flesh deceives us into thinking we are someone that we are not.

Listen, for most of us what we would tend to do if God were to point out our struggles would be to want to hide those things from ourselves and from other people. And we would end up hurting ourselves in the long run because we are not dealing with those sins the way God wants us to deal with them.

A couple of months ago my son was driving this beat up 2003 Jeep Liberty my wife and I got for our kids to drive. It was just something to get them back and forth to school. And this Jeep looks really bad, because the paint is peeling, and it is not an attractive vehicle at all. You know most of us know a lot about our cars and we try to teach our children how to properly take care of a car, but sometimes we don't tell them everything.

Well, my son is driving home from school with his siblings, and it is about a thirty minute drive from school to home. So they are driving home and all of a sudden the oil light comes on. Now those of us who know cars know when the oil light comes on what do we do? We stop the car! We stop driving. We know that if we keep driving something can go seriously wrong with this vehicle. But my son doesn't know this, and he just keeps driving.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

And the Jeep also has some kind of internal warning system, so that after the oil light is on for long enough it starts making this dinging noise. And that is a warning signal. Not only has the light gone on, but now the internal signal is going '*ding, ding, ding, ding.*' So do you know what my son did? He turns the radio up. (*Laughter.*)

He doesn't know what that light means, and he doesn't know what that dinging means, but he just wants to listen to his music and get home. Now how this Jeep survived to get all the way home, blaring this music, I have no idea. And then he tells me, '*Hey, there is this light on in the Jeep, and it looks like an oil light.*' And I am like, '*WHAT!!!!*' (*Laughter.*) That became a very important teachable moment that afternoon.

How many of us are turning up the radio? How many of us are not listening to the warning? There could be some really church-ey things, but we are turning up the radio to our lives and we just keep living the way we were, and we are not dealing with the root system. We are afraid to look at what is really there. And we have to learn to remember the gospel, because the gospel teaches us something really important that we forget this sometimes. And that is this - God works best when our sin is exposed. If we are running, hiding and covering up God cannot heal us, or change us, and the Spirit of God cannot work that work of transformation that He wants.

I think sometimes we make barter and we make deals with God. '*God, if I don't have to expose this, if I don't have to deal with this, if no one has to know about this, can you take care of it?*' Do you remember Jim's story last week when he shared kind of this same thing? He told God he was going to deal with this struggle silently. But God never dealt with it until it was exposed in his life. So what we have to do is expose the sin that is there, and remember the gospel sets us free.

Number five - we have to give credit for growth. In this passage verses 22 and 23 says, "***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.***" Now this is a different list. And we know that we own the other list. But God can change that. And the moment that we start acknowledging it we need to start inviting the Holy Spirit into that process by asking Him to show us what it means to walk in truth, what it means to obey Him, what it means to expose it, to confess it, and to walk in repentance.

When we ask God to do this, then He can begin to produce the seeds of the Spirit to start working in our hearts. It is the Spirit that will produce these things. And we have

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

to remember that God will start changing us, and confronting these sin issues, and start taking more ground in our lives as we respond. And then we will begin to see evidence of our becoming more gentle, more loving, and more patient than we used to be. But we have to remember this one simple truth - that it is not us - that any good in our life is the result of Him.

Remember I asked you if you ever thought about why fruit is singular? It is because the plural works means we all have different struggles and they are manifested in different ways. But when the Spirit of God works in our lives to produce fruit, there is no doubt that it is not us, it is all reserved for His glory, all reserved for Him and what He does. And there is a danger of when the Spirit of God starts producing fruit in us and changing us, because one of the things that can happen is we start labelling the fruit, and thinking it is because of us. And the moment we do that it is like picking fruit too soon.

You know we have a garden each year, and one of the things we have loved to grow the last few years is strawberries. And you know this about strawberries - you have to wait until they are all red. They can't be green or just a little pink, they need to be all red. We can look at those strawberries and they will be just so close to being ripe that we want to pluck them and eat them, but we need to wait until they are completely ripe.

And God knows how to ripen the fruit in our lives, but we have to be patient. Sometimes we want this quick transformation in our lives. *'God, I want this produced or that produced.'* And God knows how to prune us, He knows how to make us wait, and He knows how to make us depend on Him so that when He produces this in us He is the only one who gets the glory. So we have to make sure that we give credit for the growth to Christ and to His Spirit.

Number six - we have to put our desires to death daily. Look what Paul says in verse 24. ***"And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."*** Here is what I think is so important. What we have to do as followers of Jesus is we have to apply the cross to our lives. What do I mean by that? I mean that when we believe in Christ for our salvation, and when He has redeemed us by washing our hearts clean and giving us the Holy Spirit, we still have to remember that we need to keep applying the cross to our struggle.

We know that every day we wake up the struggle will be there, the desires are there and what we have to do is say, *'God, this is who I am. This is what you have done*

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

for me. This power that sin used to have over my life I no longer have it. I think this is one of the scariest moments of us evaluating our Christian life because there is this harsh reality. And that is that some of us made our struggle with sin so real and so difficult because the reality is we have never truly put our faith in Christ. It has merely been intellectual, and it has not been transformational in us. I don't want to be one of those people who preaches people out of Heaven, but I will say this - when we apply the cross to our lives, we can experience the power of God because the cross is powerful.

I want you to see this passage in Colossians Chapter 2 and verse 13, because we have to make sure that we understand that when we are in Christ the power of the cross is real. ***“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all of our trespasses.”*** He forgives us of all of our trespasses by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside by nailing it to the cross. The debt that you owed because of your sin has been paid for. It has no power over you anymore; it has no authority over you any longer. In Christ He has taken that sin, He has pounded it to the cross, and it is no longer ours; it is His.

Look what else is said in verse 15, ***“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.”*** Every spiritual demonic attack that comes against you to tempt you has no power over you when you are under the blood of Jesus Christ. We have to start applying the cross. And we do that when we wake up every morning and say, *‘God, I put this to death today because you put it to death. It is dead because you have already declared it dead.’* We have to do some declaring in this room because God has won a victory for us. Are we going to walk in that victory?

The last step is this - repeat steps one through six. *(Laughter.)* Look what it says in verse 25 of Galatians Chapter 5: ***“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”*** So Paul has first talked about how we have to walk in the Spirit, then he talks about living in the Spirit, and by keeping in step with the Spirit. Why does he begin with walking and end with living in the Spirit?

Here is what he is trying to say - don't get arrogant. Remember I said many times we take two steps forward and then two steps back. Many times it is because when we take the two steps forward we think, *‘Man, look how good I am doing.’* And we get lazy

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph

and arrogant and that is the moment we let the flesh back in. So we have to learn how to do this over and over again. This is the battle we will have until the day we die.

But here is the good news. This promise is assured to take place in our lives, not because we have anything good in ourselves, but because of how powerful He is, how good He is, how gracious and merciful He is. We sang several songs this morning about the mercy of God. I want you to look at verse 16 in II Thessalonians Chapter 3 where it says this: *“Now may the Lord of peace Himself.”* I want to stop right there. We need the peace of God in our struggle against sin, to let us know that we don't have to be anxious, and we don't have to be afraid, because He is here with us. He loves us completely. The God of peace sanctifies us completely.

Listen, one day all these struggles will be taken away completely. It will be a lifelong process, but He will never give up on us. He wants to sanctify every part of us, our soul, our Spirit, and our body, and we will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. And here is what is so amazing - He who calls you is faithful and he will do it. When we are faithless, He is faithful. And every time that we are faithless, every time we take a step back, every time we do let the work of the flesh take over, God is faithful to us. His Spirit is real and He wants to change us.

Three questions and then we are done. Number one - what are you asking God to change in your life right now? Or is there anything you want to change? Maybe you have just become numb to your struggle, maybe Satan has caused you to believe a lie that you will never win your struggle. But God is inviting you to once again believe in Him and let Him help you change that in your life. What is He asking you to change? What is the work of the flesh He is asking you to confront in your life right now?

Number two - why do you want to change right now? Is it for you or is it for Him? Is it so God gets more glory in your life, or is it because you want more comfort in your life? We have to start asking the 'why' questions because they help us to get to the bottom of our hearts.

Number three - have you submitted to the process and the plan from the Spirit? Have you submitted to His process and plan for your sanctification? He will sanctify you. You can either submit to it willingly or you can wrestle with Him along the way, but He is going to have His way. It is so much easier, it is so much better when we start listening, submitting and yielding to Him. Let's pray.

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
'GOD IS' SERIES - WEEK 7
Ben Rudolph**

The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.