



The Flatland Escape

Brian
Johnson

Index

Page

3	Preface	
4	Introduction to Flatland.	
8	Chapter 1	Let those that have eyes to see, see.
15	Chapter 2	Halloween.
20	Chapter 3	Is there love in Flatland?
25	Chapter 4	Jacob.
33	Chapter 5	But the righteous will live by his faith.
37	Chapter 6	The bricks have fallen.....
42	Chapter 7	...He will guide you into all truth.
46	Chapter 8	but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
49	Chapter 9	wait for what the Father had promised

I would like to express my appreciation for the many who have shown me God's love through their lives but particularly to my wife, Gill, for her open advice, corrections and challenges to the way I have tried to express a number of points. I would also like to thank Lindsey Thompson who painstakingly wades through my documents with a green pen correcting my typos and poor punctuation.

"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®.

Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)

Preface

If you asked me, "What is your deepest concern?" I would be hard pushed to give you only one answer because, I guess, I have a number of concerns. The reason I wrote this book was because of one major concern: seeing so many people disregarding, ignoring, rejecting and not believing in the existence of a spiritual realm.



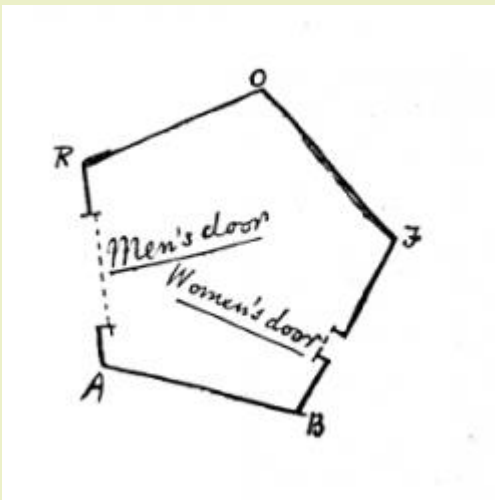
Disregarding, ignoring, rejecting and not believing in the spiritual realm does not make it go away, any more than ignoring a festering sore on your leg makes it better.

A friend of mine had an annoying saying that is profoundly true: "If things don't change, they'll stay as they are." We have to make that one small step of faith to initiate that great leap which causes things change.

Introduction

In Edwin Abbott's book "Flatland" there are only two dimensions. We look at a book in our world and see three dimensions; there is height, width and thickness. Not so in Flatland. Everything is represented by a two dimensional geometric figure. Men are polygons with varying numbers of sides but a woman is a single straight line only.

Unfortunately when a woman is coming towards you in Flatland, all that can be seen is a single point, if you are lucky. However if you don't see the point you may be accidentally stabbed to death! In Flatland men and women go through different doors. Men seldom see the point but there are no "accidental" stabbings! Only a rare three dimensional figure can see the whole point-line clearly.



Sadly, in our three dimensional world, there are many people who live in Flatland. All they can see are two dimensions; these are either physical or mental. To them, there is no third dimension; there is no such thing as the spiritual realm or spiritual dimension. If introduced to the idea of a third dimension, because of their limitation they still CAN'T SEE THE POINT!

A few people in Flatland have a gut feeling that there is a third dimension but find it difficult to describe and are deemed "mad" by all the "normal" two-dimensional people. Much the same as many of us cannot conceive Einstein's Theory of Relativity, which claims there is a fourth dimension of time, which is not linearly-linked with space. Ok, we won't go there!

There are those who can imagine the third dimension to some extent and then try and explain it to the 2Ds, sadly their explanations are lacking and the 2D's require a leap of faith into the third dimension to see the point, but well worth it because the rewards are truly inspirational.

Once, on a retreat, a group of us were staying at a lovely Georgian house in the country. I went for a walk in the garden; the sun was shining and snow covered everything. The scene was beautiful. In awe I said to God, "Your creation is amazing," then I looked at the magnificent Georgian house and said, "You also created us in your image with a creative ability, but compared to yours, mine is like a child's drawing hanging next to the Master's art work." Then quick as a flash from deep within my spirit there came His answer, "Wow, you're that good?"



There is a whole spiritual world out there that we need to be aware of. If you ignore this fact it can be personally dangerous. I will try with scriptures and my own childlike doodles to demonstrate these truths. I guarantee that if you make that leap of faith, you will begin to see the real Master's piece of art hanging next to my drawings. Rather like a shop window display will have something rustic to contrast and enhance the item of great beauty.

There was one occasion the disciples were all excited reporting back to Jesus. He had given them authority over demons who responded to their commands. (Demons are powerful entities from the spiritual realm that people in Flatland do not believe exist.)

Luke 10:17-24 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on

serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, “I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

Turning to the disciples, He said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.”

The disciples had just made the leap of faith from Flatland. They were not only recognising entities in the third dimension but finding that Christ had given them authority to expel the evil ones that were causing so much pain and suffering to humanity.

A few years ago the Soviet Union finally collapsed. In their constitution, they had legalised Flatland because they denied the existence of God or any other spiritual power. Like many western Christians, I was involved in taking aid out to the once-persecuted Christians for them to help the people in their own communities, “children” of Flatland.

Right next to a Lutheran cathedral was the old KGB headquarters. These buildings were taken over by the local people and set up for the city’s own council offices. The ladies who worked there would bring a bunch of flowers to put in a vase on their desks but by nightfall of the first day all the flowers would be hanging down drooped and dead. This continued for some time and eventually these people who had been fed on atheistic teachings for fifty years decided to go to the once ridiculed Christian churches and ask for help.

The ministers went from top to bottom into every room expelling demons. When they came down to the basement they found an area recently bricked up. They broke through and found a horrific torture chamber: coffins with air tight, sealable glass lids used to torture people and make them talk. There were also huge mincing machines to dispose of dead victims down the city's sewage system.

After the ministers had spiritually cleansed the building, it had a much better feeling and vases of flowers lasted a normal length of time. There was absolutely nothing physical to explain the situation. This was straight from the third dimension, the spiritual realm.

Whether you believe in the existence of the spiritual realm or not, makes absolutely no difference to the FACT that it does exist. There are two distinct areas: one is the kingdom of darkness and the other is the kingdom of light. In each of these kingdoms there are ranking officials with soldiers under their command.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armour of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

The ladies in Estonia seeing their flowers drooping at the end of the day knew that this was not normal, there was something else beyond the mental and physical realm happening. That building had been used for evil. However, long after the men who did the evil left, evil powers of darkness were still active.

So which comes first, the chicken or the egg? Is evil already there and people are influenced by it, or do we initiate the evil which lingers after the people have gone? What about the kingdom of light? Can it not move in and overpower the darkness by shining light into the darkness? Can we, as human beings, play one off against the other to our own advantage?

We will be looking at these and many more questions. My hope is that eventually you will move out of Flatland and see the Master's painting of spectacular 3D views. There is so much to see and explore – possibilities of your own potential you would never have dreamed of.

Flatland

Chapter 1

Let those that have eyes to see, see

There was a time when the Arameans sent raiding parties into the cities of Israel to gather plunder. Elisha was a prophet from Israel, a man of God with great faith through whom God did miraculous deeds. Let us look at the biblical account and see what there is to see.

2 Kings 6:15-23 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. Then Elisha said to them, (the Arameans, a people from today's Syria) "This is not the way, nor is this city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he brought them to Samaria.

When they had come into Samaria, Elisha said, "O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the Lord opened their eyes and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?" He answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Arameans did not come again into the land of Israel.

If you think, "this is just a fairy tale, it's not literally true" then you have to make a decision. Do you still accept the story looking for symbolism? Or do you

reject it as completely untrue. If you reject it, you will continue blindly on your way through Flatland and have to trust that when your eyes are finally opened and you come to the King's city, that the King of Kings is more benevolent to you than the king of Samaria wanted to be in the story.

Elisha's servant looked and saw the problem: the chariots circling the city. This filled him with fear and he did not know what to do. Many times in the Bible the first thing God often says is "DO NOT FEAR". Fear is a spirit, yes, a living entity, which is not recognised as such by the people of Flatland. And so Elisha said to his servant, "DO NOT FEAR". It is what Christ said to the disciples when they saw Him walking on the water.

So fear is more than a wrong attitude; but a wrong attitude can open the door to the spirit of fear. Once it grips you, it is very difficult to shake off. Without Elisha's fearless and faithful intervention, the Arameans would have raided and burnt the city. Fear that is tolerated contaminates faith. Elisha, however, was not dwelling in Flatland; he was absolutely confident in his uncontaminated faith. Elisha could actually "see" what he asked the Lord to show his servant.

This is not setting your mind to believe anything you want until it is proved right or wrong. This is not the power of positive thinking. This is recognising what is actually there in the power of the Holy Spirit and not something in your imagination. This is knowing and opening your mind to believe what God either shows you or says to you.

You may understandably say, "But, if we accept there is another dimension with a good God and bad negative entities trying to influence and communicate with us, how do we mere mortals tell the difference?"

Good point. Let us start with this "good God". He actually is, or wants to be your heavenly Father, He loves you unconditionally. A father is someone you can turn to for help or advice, someone you can trust. A good father would not trick his children in a malicious way.

Jesus was talking to folk one day and said, *Matt 7:7-11*, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

*Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!**”*

Like with any relationship it comes down to trust. Yes, sometimes your trust can be abused by people you know, but time and time again, almost like a scientific experiment, the evidence shows that God can be trusted. Here is the testimony of the greatest king Israel ever had, a man who proved God over and over throughout his life. David wrote in *Psalms 37:3-6* “Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. **Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday.**”

I guess that has to be the first step, *Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it*. Start talking (praying) to Him and a light will come on because He is light. Then slowly you will begin to “see”, like David and many others have, that God is real. The darkness that blinded you so you could not see where you were being led will lift just as it did for the Arameans when Elisha prayed.

On a technicality, Elisha points out at the beginning, “those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” So who are the “those” he is referring to? He is aware that it is entities from the spiritual realm because He asks God to show the servant what he can see. What he saw was not physical, not from Flatland; he saw spiritual entities and there



were more spiritual entities with Elisha than the Arameans.

Looking at a number of verses in scripture, it can be seen that Satan (who was actually once one of God's archangels) and a third of the angels rebelled against God and were cast out of heaven (God's section of the spiritual realm). So at any time in any battle it is a one third / two third split between bad and good, darkness and light.

The chariots of fire were something that Elisha had seen before when his mentor Elijah was taken up to heaven. I'm sure if it happened today it would have been a tracked army vehicle or a four by four with flames all around it! Angelic beings and things associated with them can be a bit like "Shape Shifters" from Star Trek. God will often relate to us with concepts we can understand. Angelic beings are not necessarily white-robed winged creatures with Michael Angelo's signature at the bottom right hand corner – they are often more familiar and down-to-earth.

The writer of Hebrews mentions in *Heb 13:2* "*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.*" There are many, including myself, who can recall incidents of seeing people who were not of this world. A friend of mine was waiting at an airport terminal for his flight which had just been delayed by five hours, when a middle aged couple came and sat next to him. They all started talking and it turned out they were going to the same conference on the same flight my friend was going to.

The five hours quickly passed. The call to board the flight came, the couple advised him to board saying they would see him later on the plane. He arose and went forward with the others but the couple remained. On the plane he looked repeatedly for the couple but without success. "Lord what has happened, where are they?" Then the Lord spoke to my friend through the scripture, *Heb 13:2* (you did not) "*neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have **entertained angels without knowing it.***" The King James states, "*thereby some have **entertained angels unawares.***"

For myself, I was once driving on an unfamiliar country road and lost. I saw an elderly couple walking a dog and stopped to ask them the way. It meant turning around which I did in a gateway a hundred yards ahead, but when I had turned around they were gone. There were fields on both sides, low hedges with no openings. I could see a good distance in all directions; they were not to be seen.

After His resurrection, posing in disguise, Jesus walked with some disciples who were lamenting over His death. He talked as they walked together and when they reached their destination, at their invite He even started a meal with them. Then He disappeared. Look at the scriptural account:

Luke 24:25 "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther.

But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Jesus appeared to His disciples a number of times in the next six weeks. Finally, at the end of that period, He ascended into heaven, seen by 500 witnesses. They had eyes to see and saw Christ ascending! There were probably thousands more in Jerusalem who never saw a thing; they weren't looking in the right direction or in the right way. However, no longer were the disciples living in Flatland, they knew there was another dimension, indeed another Kingdom beyond this Earth and yet including it. It is a Kingdom that will prevail against the gates of Hell ...and Flatland!

There now are millions of witnesses all over the world who have moved out of Flatland and to varying degrees have "seen" Christ. These are people from

humble to sophisticated backgrounds. From the wise to the foolish. From the scholar to the simple.

A scholar went to Jesus one night and said to Him, *John 3:2-17* “*Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.*” Jesus answered and said to him, “*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”

Nicodemus said to Him, “*How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?*” Jesus answered, “*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to Him, “*How can these things be?*”

Jesus answered and said to him, “*Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have **seen**, and you do not accept our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?*”

There are so many points here, but what about the statement, *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again’.* Your physical birth has already happened, but before it could, you had to be conceived.

Likewise you need to be born of the Spirit to recognise the things of the Spirit. In some ways, your spirit is already conceived, it just needs to be “born” or “activated”. There are some animals in Africa that can delay the birth of their already conceived young in times of drought because the conditions would not provide food for them. It is the same for us in spiritual terms. Once activated

you “see” things you couldn’t “see” before. Rather like the Arameans when Elisha prayed for them, they were activated.

Nicodemus, who was a teacher, didn’t get it. Christ said, *“Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have **seen**, and you do not accept our testimony.”* Wait a minute, why is Jesus speaking in the plural? *We speak....we know...**we have seen**... our testimony.*

He is talking to Nicodemus; there is no one else in the room with Him. Or is there? At His baptism, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. He also claimed that “the Father and I are one”, plus in the letter to the Hebrews it says “we are surrounded by a host of witnesses”.

In court, there has to be two or three witnesses, one is not enough. Jesus, speaking in the plural, is referring to what He is aware of right there in the room, the Holy Spirit, the Father and a host of witnesses when He mentions *our testimony*. If Jesus had prayed for Nicodemus as Elisha had for the Arameans, that his eyes be opened, I’m sure Nicodemus would have “seen” the other witnesses. I’m sure he would have “seen” and accepted the truth that Jesus proclaimed, regarding who He was and why He came. However, it was not his time.

Not that night, but at a later point, I am sure Nicodemus did “see”. He, along with Joseph of Arimathea, took the body of Jesus, plus a heavy bag of burial spices, and buried His body in Joseph’s own private tomb. But as history records, (with more literary evidence than there is for the existence of Julius Cesar), because Jesus had no sin, after He had paid for our sin with His own life, death could no longer hold Him.

Then the eternal life Jesus spoke of kicked in, re-entered His body and He walked free. He was crucified and seen as dead, now He is seen as alive. This is only religion to those living in Flatland. To them it is not reality. Move out of Flatland and this is reality!

But is Flatland really that “flat”? Many in Flatland do dabble in the third dimension with Ouija boards, crystal balls, Halloween, etc. More discussion points in the next chapter.

Flatland

Chapter 2 Halloween

Literally it means “Holy Evening” which is the night before “Holy Day” or “All Saints Day”. It was a day of remembrance for the dead or the saints. ‘Saints’ does not mean outstanding, special, holy and extraordinary people but the

word covers all Christians because all who believe in Christ are made holy and are therefore called saints.



So how did Halloween as we now know it come about? It was first introduced as a Christian holiday in 609AD and was a three day festival to remember the dead. Different Christian countries adopted their own traditions with it.

America, with its early Puritan influence, did not celebrate Halloween. Puritans saw it as mixed with too much folklore with no reference to the Bible. It was introduced later by the Irish and Scottish, mainly Catholic, immigrants who started to arrive in the mid-19th century. In Irish folklore, a guy called Jack tricked the Devil into keeping him out of hell, but his unholy lifestyle prevented him having access to heaven. The Devil threw him a hot coal which he put into a hollowed-out turnip to make a lantern, hence “Jack o’ lantern” who went around causing mischief.

America introduced the pumpkin, instead of the turnip, which is now universally used. People dress up in various costumes with themes of death, witches, demons, occult, etc. The “Christian” reason for dressing up was to mock the Devil because his head was crushed by Christ, a prophecy given in Genesis 3:15. Others see it as an opportunity to dress in frightening clothes pretending to be spiritual entities (demons).

So over the years, the emphasis has changed, depending on who is participating. One thing that comes over very much is the recognition of a

spiritual realm. However, the original or earlier reason, showing the battle between good and evil, is mainly lost.

I have written a poem which tries to capture the battle going on in the spiritual realm. Hopefully this will prompt questions regarding the symbolism.

The devil sat, on a mat, by a fire, in his flat,
Hearing well the rise and swell of a local church bell.
The demonic rat and the cat were playing games and eating fat.
Then a leer did appear on his face, with no tear.
"What's so queer that you leer?" said a demon of fear, at the rear.
"Come, all, and you at the rear, I've just had a thought, a dark
idea. It came in a flash of deep, dark black! Deceivers, come! No
turning back!"

We can take a ride and hide behind the tree
Where one who is holy cried – an anguished plea –
"Forgive them Father, they cannot see."

If they can't see the cross, because of the light
We will hide in the darkness, and fight in our might.
Only as they walk to the light, do they have any right
to call on His name concerning their plight.

Tonight's the eve of All Saints Day.
Let's sway away all those who pray to the deity who set them free.
He did not flee from you and me but hung there on the tree.
We thought Him dead but then He said, "set the captives free."
We had to cower as He rose like a tower.
It all went sour, and we lost our power.

So demons messed with the pigs in the stinking sty;

Pounced on the kids eating pumpkin pie;
Got them excited to do trick or treat;
Made them bow down at the devil's feet;
Buried them deep in peat so they didn't see the lie,
Lost hope of salvation and couldn't ask why
They were living in darkness, instead of on high.

So pilgrim beware, they don't play fair, or care,
Who's hurt, as they flirt with your life from their lair.
Christ has paid and made a way to stay clear of the fear
They try to insert and impart to your heart.
So cover your soul with the blood of the lamb,
They can't penetrate with demonic hate or come upon
The seal of the Spirit in Ephesians one.

In the second verse, the Devil musters his followers to hide ready to attack Christ.

We can take a ride and hide behind the tree
Where one who is holy cried – an anguished plea –
“Forgive them Father, they cannot see.”

Quite often the term ‘tree’ and ‘cross’ are interchangeable. *Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”.*

They mock Christ on the tree because they see Him as defeated crying out to the Father. But it's not over. In verse four, having paid the price for our sin, His Spirit rises and defeats the Devil, setting captives free.

Tonight's the eve of all saints day.
Let's sway away all those who pray to the deity who set them
Free.
He did not flee from you and me but hung there on the tree.

We thought Him dead but then He said, "set the captives Free."

We had to cower as He rose like a tower.
It all went sour, and we lost our power.

The following verse (five) shows the on-going plan of Satan.

"Made them bow down at the devil's feet;
Buried them deep in peat so they didn't see the lie
Lost hope of salvation and couldn't ask why
They were living in darkness, instead of on high."

To be buried in peat, which is composed of dead and decaying vegetation, means you would be surrounded with death and cut off from any light able to penetrate your spirit. Without light, there is no hope; living in darkness is not having light at the end of the tunnel.

But Christ (who is the Light and Life of the World), descended into the bowels of the earth and led the captives free!

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 1:4-5 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Follow Jesus, and instead of being surrounded with death and decay, you will be enveloped in light and life.

In the final verse there is a warning followed by a promise which, if taken, far outweighs the power of anything Satan can throw at you.

So pilgrim beware, they don't play fair, or care,
Who's hurt, as they flirt with your life from their lair.

Christ has paid and made a way to stay clear of the fear
They try to insert and impart to your heart.
So cover your soul with the blood of the Lamb,
They can't penetrate with demonic hate or come upon
The seal of the Spirit in Ephesians one.

So what does it mean to cover your soul with the blood of the Lamb?

Obviously it is symbolism that goes way back in the Bible. The Bible states that the life of an animal or person is in the blood. Even medically we perform blood transfusions to save people's lives. When the people of Israel were leaving the captivity of Egypt they were told to first kill a lamb and cook it for their departure meal. Then to paint their door posts and lintels with the blood of the lamb and that would be a sign to the Angel of Death not to go into that house.

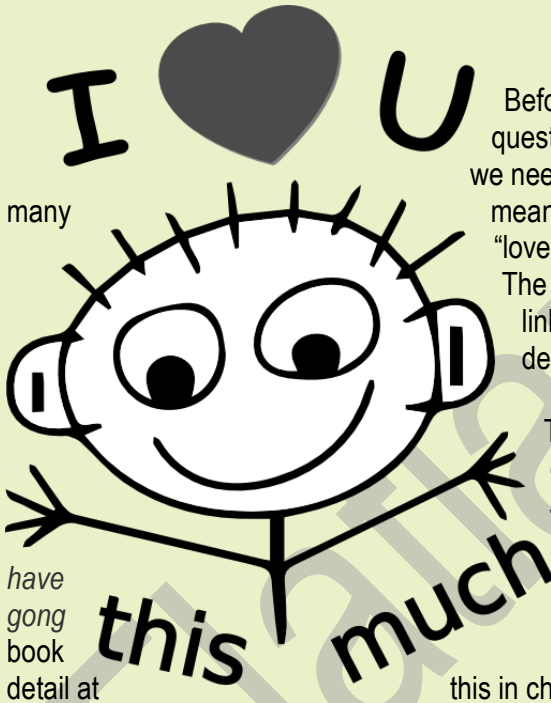
Christ was symbolically the "Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world". His blood was shed and His life was given for us. If we symbolically cover ourselves with His blood, it is similar to what the people of Israel did painting the door posts. It provides a barrier that Satan can't penetrate.

Having claimed the covering of the blood, next comes the seal of the Spirit as shown in Ephesians 1. This chapter has so much truth to unpack. Paul so wants us to grasp the plan and promises that God, in His love, has for us. The whole concept is mind blowing. Definitely not two-dimensional or even conceivable for those living in Flatland. So in order that we might believe God, He sends us a deposit, a guarantee, a seal of His Holy Spirit.

Eph 1:13-14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Chapter 3

Is there love in Flatland?



Before we can answer this question, "Is there love in Flatland?" we need to define "love". Love has meanings, I "love" hot curries, I "love" rock and roll, I "love" trousers, The list is endless; these are all linked with personal/selfish desires.

The Bible gives a very good definition in 1 Cor 13:1-13 *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not love, I have become a noisy or a clanging cymbal... My "Alive with love" looks in*

this in chapter three. The above scripture continues with the following statements, *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* These are not selfish desires, in fact, the opposite.

God's love has no boundaries; nothing can separate us from God's love, not even Flatland. Paul is so convinced of this, he says in *Rom 8:35, 39. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to*

come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Governments (like the old Soviet Union) made laws stating, there is no God or any “Supernatural being”. They created their own area of Flatland but as Paul states: *nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, not even Flatland!*

God is love but sadly for the Flatlanders, God is Spirit. To experience real love, we need to be open to the spiritual realm, which is OK because none of us were created “Flatlanders”. God created us as three-dimensional beings. We are “spirit, soul and body”. Like Elisha’s servant all we need is to be made aware of the spiritual realm. People in Flatland need to be challenged and made aware of the third dimension. As a young man travelling to the Soviet Union on board ship, there was one occasion when we encountered heavy weather. We had to report the damage that the cargo incurred so as to formalise the insurance claim. We were deemed not to be responsible and the claim was defined as an “act of God”.

This amused me and when the agent was challenged over the term “act of God” being used, his embarrassed reply was to the effect that it was just a legal term as there was no God really. I can imagine God laughing and saying, “So you won’t be suing me?”

Here is an interesting story showing God’s love to a people despised by God’s own people. *John 4:1-6 Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. And He had to pass through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; and Jacob’s well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

The journey Jesus made took Him through Samaria. Most Jews would have taken a much longer journey to avoid passing through Samaria, where the

people were hated by the Jews because of historical reasons. It was about midday. Most people would have collected their water first thing in the morning when it was cooler. Jesus in His Spirit knew a woman was coming at midday to avoid other people who would have mocked her because of her lifestyle. Jesus wanted her to know His deep love for her and that, unlike others she had known, He would never fail her. He also had to proclaim something of significance in that very place which we will come to shortly.

John 4:7-14 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

Sychar was a very significant place historically; God made a covenant here with Abraham. He affirmed that same covenant with Joshua as he was leading the people into the Promised Land. Now Jesus was revealing in the same place that He was the promised Messiah, who came to fulfil the law so that those who accepted Him as Saviour would freely receive eternal life.

Geographically it was situated between two mountains that formed an amphitheatre. The people of Israel had once gathered here, half on each mountain facing each other to declare the law. From Gerizim, they declared the blessings of God; from Mount Ebal, they declared the curses. This place was not only a physical crossroads but also a spiritual one; on the one hand blessings, on the other curses - you decide, the choice is yours!



This was the place the Children of Israel were challenged to keep the law and be blessed, or disobey and be cursed. Now the woman at the well was offered a different form of refreshment that was not even dependent upon the law but rested on her acceptance of Jesus being the Messiah. This refreshment Jesus offered would literally well up from within her spirit. This was obviously an analogy. Just as water refreshed the body, Jesus was offering the woman that lived in the shadow of the two mountains, a gift, a third choice of asking Him for a spiritual refreshment that did not depend upon her ability of maintaining the law, but trusting that He would enable her.

There then followed some comments by Jesus telling her things a stranger would not have known about her background, and she continues:

[John 4:19-26] "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

*The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am He."***

Jesus introduces a completely radical approach to worship. Worship is not primarily a mental, academic activity; it has to come from the spirit. Jesus says, *God is spirit*. Jesus points out that it is not so much being in the right geographical place to find and communicate with God, but that your spirit can link with God's Spirit anywhere! If you are a Flatlander, not believing in the spiritual realm, then you can't worship in Spirit ...or truth for that matter!

She was a despised Samaritan woman. Not a man of high estate but a Samaritan woman of low social standing who went for her water in the heat of the day to avoid others who may mock her. To her, not even a Jewess, Jesus revealed who He was, **"I who speak to you am He."** (The Messiah).

He accepts her as she is. Even to speak to her caused His disciples to be amazed. She leaves her water jar and runs to town to tell everyone whom she has found. Jesus stays there two days and many are converted. So where, you ask, does love come into the equation? The whole act of Jesus visiting a Samaritan town: staying two days with a group of socially-rejected people; telling these despised Samaritans about the Kingdom of God and inviting them into it; this is a manifestation of God's love.

At this point I would like to insert a bible-based story which is compiled using information from Genesis chapters 25-33. If you read those chapters later you will see where I have used "poetic licence" to put meat on the bones.

Chapter 4

Jacob

Supplanted

My brother and I fought in our mother's womb. He was delivered first with me close behind, holding onto his heel. He was covered in red hair so they called him Esau – which means “red”. Me? I was called Jacob. Of course, my name has a meaning too – ‘one who supplants’. I guess you could say I always wanted to be in front and would do anything to get there.

When my mother was carrying us, our fighting worried her. She asked God what was happening. He explained, “There are two nations fighting inside you and the older will serve the younger.” I never knew if she told Dad about this insight from God but she believed it and set her mind on steering events to bring it about.

As I grew up, I resorted more and more to being the con man. We were different: different at birth and different in life too. I was more self-controlled and even-tempered, yes, and always calculating the next move. I liked to stay at home, around the tents. I was Mum's favourite. Esau was a hunter and loved to be out in the countryside. He was Dad's favourite. Esau was driven by his feelings rather than by common sense or wisdom. He was so easy to manipulate, like the time I made a pan of stew...

Esau had been gone quite a while hunting. I knew when he returned he would be very hungry. So I made bread and some lentil stew. I was deliberately stirring it when he arrived home; it smelt good, even though I say it myself. “Oh give me some, I'm famished.” I looked at him calmly and kept stirring. “I'll trade you a bowl and some bread for your birthright.”

"I'm dying of starvation. What good is my birthright? Just give me the stew!" I kept calm and said, "I want you to swear an oath that you will give me your birth right for a bowl of stew and I'll throw the bread in for good measure." "OK, the birthright is yours - I swear! Just give me the stew!" That was Part One of my plan achieved.

Time went by and one day Mum overheard Dad say to Esau, "I'm old and don't know how much longer I'll live. Please, take your hunting gear, go and find some game and make me a savoury dish. Then I will give you my blessing before I die." Mum came running to me.

"Quick Jacob, go to the flock and bring me two choice goats and I'll prepare a meal for your father. You can take it into him and pretend to be Esau. Then you will get your Father's blessing."

"But Mum, how's that going to work? Esau is hairy, I'm smooth. He even smells different to me because he spends all his time out on the hills." "Listen, just do as I say," said Mum. She made the meal, got Esau's best clothes for me and then covered my arms, hands and the back of my neck with the goat skins. We both hoped that Dad would not notice the difference between me and Esau.

I was scared. If Dad found out he might curse me, not bless me. Mum said she would take the curse because it was her idea, but I was not so sure it would work like that. She gave me the meal and I took it in. "Here we are Dad; it's Esau, I've got your meal." "What! So quickly, how did you manage that?"

"Well the Lord your God was with me; it was easy." He wasn't convinced and asked if I really was Esau. I lied through my teeth and said "yes". Even I felt uncomfortable, but I did it. Then he got me to kiss him and he smelt Esau's clothes and felt the back of my goatskin neck. That seemed to convince him. So he ate the meal and started to bless me.

He went on about my mother's sons bowing down to me. Then he said that I would be the master of them all, that the Lord would bless me and make me rich. He also pronounced the blessing God gave to my grandfather Abraham: that God would bless those that blessed me and curse those that cursed me.

I'd just come out of the tent when Esau returned. He prepared the meal and went into Dad. When Dad realised what had happened, he told Esau that I had stolen the blessing and that there was none left for him. In fact, he actually cursed Esau with all the opposites of what he gave me and even included that he would bow down to me.

Esau wailed and cried. He called me a con man and shouted that this was the second time I had tricked him. He begged Dad for some blessing. The only good news he was left with was that one day he would be free from my yoke. But that wasn't good news for me. Esau decided that the simplest way to be free was to kill me; he set his mind to do just that.

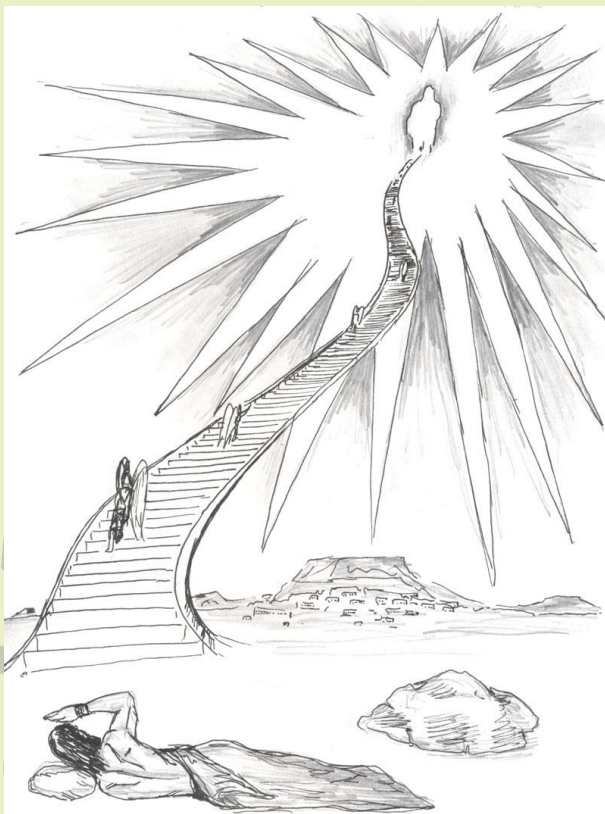
Uncle Laban

I may have got my father's blessing but Esau was now an enemy I feared rather than a dumb brother I could manipulate. Mum came to the rescue. Esau had married some local women; they were a real source of conflict to Mum. So she said to Dad, "These local women will be the death of me and the thought of Jacob bringing in more really worries me. Why don't we send Jacob to my brother Laban for a wife?" Dad agreed. So I set off for Haran to stay with my uncle until Esau had calmed down.

On the first night I was miles from anywhere with no shelter available. I lay on the ground with a stone under my head for a pillow and went to sleep. Then I had the most amazing dream. I looked and saw a ladder going up to heaven. There were angels

travelling up and down it and right at the very top was God Himself and He started talking to me!

“Jacob, I am the God of your father and your grandfather this land you are laying on I’m going to give to you one day. I’m going to look after you wherever you go but eventually I’m going to bring you back here and your descendants will be so many they will cover the land and spread out in all directions. They will also be a great blessing to all the families of earth.”



I awoke stunned. God was in this place and He had spoken to me! Me, the supplanter, the con man who tricked his own brother and father! The problem was that I suspected everyone, including God. I knew about Him but didn't really know Him then, so in my mind I created Him in my own image. Was he tricking me too? So I said to God, “Well if you really do look after me, make me rich and bring me back home safe I'll rename this place the “House of God” and I'll give you ten percent of everything you give me. I will bow my knee and you can add me to your list. You will not only be the God of my

father and grandfather, but also of me.” Well, I thought, all those promises deserve at least ten per cent. If it actually happens!

The place of crossing

Years had gone by. I was now married with children, large herds and flocks. The late afternoon sun was descending in the sky. I sent everything I had across the brook of Jabbok; all the livestock and equipment plus my wives and children. I watched them slowly fade into the darkness. Everything I had worked for and loved was now out of sight and I may never see them again. Alone with nothing, sitting there staring into the darkness, it was rather like all those years ago when I had fled from Esau with my staff and the clothes I stood up in.

I remembered the dream and God’s promise that night to look after me and bring me safely home; also my scepticism as I lay under the stars. Life had been hard; Uncle Laban was a worse con man than me. He had tricked and double tricked me, but God had, as promised, taken care of me and brought me back to my father’s land a rich man. But was that because He loved me or because He was going to strip me of everything and humiliate me even more? I saw someone or something move in the shadows. “Hello, who’s there?” I heard footsteps, “Hello, who is it?” The person moved towards me. In the darkness I could see it was a man, but not one of my men. I didn’t know Him but He seemed familiar and appeared to know me.

We faced each other. Then without saying a word He reached out and tried to push me to my knees. I resisted, “Who are you?” His hands and wrists were badly scarred but they felt strong as He gripped me. I noticed His feet were also badly scarred. His mouth did not move but He seemed to be talking into my mind. “Jacob, look at me.” The voice was familiar; where had I heard that voice before?

Again He unsuccessfully tried to push me to my knees as I searched His face for answers. "Who are you? Why are you wrestling with me? Why are you trying to bring me to my knees?" There was a look of great strength in His eyes, but a strength that was controlled with compassion. I remembered my own conditional promise to God after that vivid dream, "...if you take care of me I will bow my knee and you can add me to your list. You will not only be the God of my father and grandfather, but also of me."

"Who are you?" As I spoke a picture flashed across my mind. It was from my dream of the ladder going up to heaven and I heard the voice from the dream, "Jacob, I am the God of your father and your grandfather." It couldn't be. It was the same voice as the voice of the one I now wrestled with.

"Who are you?" I shouted. Then another picture enveloped my mind. It was very strange; in this picture He had metal spikes through His hands and feet holding Him upright on two wooden beams in the shape of a cross. At least that explained the scars on His hands and feet. I saw myself in a crowd that covered the whole earth; I looked up laughing and mocking Him with all the others. He looked at me with tears of love, pouring down His face. Those strong compassionate eyes then looked up to heaven and cried, "Father forgive him, he doesn't know what he is doing." He looked at me again. Our eyes met. My mocking stopped and my hardness melted into submission. Then all my sins seemed to lift and float from me to Him - like a heavy weight had gone. I felt clean and righteous. All my dark deeds and the con tricks were resting on Him. He cried out, "It is finished!" Then He died and the picture faded.

Again we wrestled. All night I pleaded with Him to tell me who He was. As dawn was breaking, He touched the top of my thigh and

dislodged my hip. Finally I went down on my knees and from that position I recognised Him but still cried out, "Who are you?" Then the light of a different dawn shone into my soul. "Are you the man who died for me?"

He smiled but said nothing. "I will not let you go until you bless me and tell me who you are." Those powerful compassionate eyes looked through me, seeing everything. "What is your name?" He said. "You know my name, Jacob, one who supplants." "Not any more, from now on you shall be called Israel because you have prevailed wrestling with God and man." "But who are you?" I cried. He smiled, blessed me and said "Why do you ask?" even as He said it I knew who He was, and then He disappeared.

Of course I realised by what He had said and shown me that I didn't need to ask. It was plain to see that He was both God and man; don't ask me how that is possible. I saw the face of God and lived. So I named the place Peniel. Yes, now I knew the God of Abraham and Isaac, and now He was the God of Jacob. No, not Jacob the con man; he had died; Jacob had finally bowed his knee to His God. He was now the God of Israel, the new me.

Meeting Esau

I rose and limped across the brook to join my family at the rear of all my herds. I placed my wives and children in order behind me with Rachel and Joseph at the very back.

Esau, with four hundred men, was thundering towards me on horseback. I hobbled forward with my staff for support. I bowed down to the ground seven times before Esau; he dismounted and ran towards me, his sword hanging from his hip. The state I was in with my hip out of joint, one swipe from Esau and I would have been on the ground, defenceless. No longer could I trust in my own strength

and cunning, my trust was in my all-compassionate, righteous, gracious and loving God, the one who, on the eternal timeline, had died for me and clothed me with His righteousness, even as I had mocked Him.

Esau and I faced each other for a brief moment then hugged and wept together. Finally Esau looked up and saw the women and children, “Who are these, brother?” They came forward and I introduced them one by one as they bowed before him.

“What is the meaning of all the cattle you sent ahead to me?”

“God has richly blessed me and they are gifts for you, my brother.”

“But I have plenty, keep them; I have no need for them.”

“Please Esau, I beg you. If I have favour in your sight, keep them as a gift of my goodwill.”

“Are you sure?”

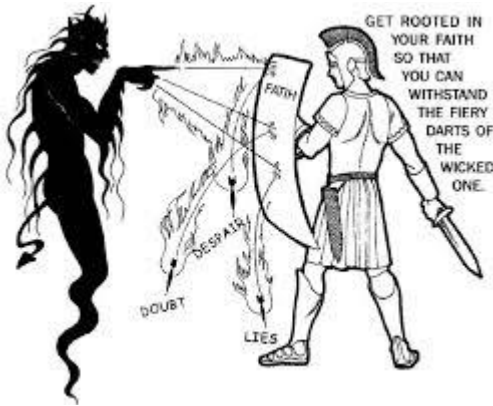
“I insist brother.”

We discussed travel plans but I said we needed to travel slowly with the cattle and agreed to meet later. God had not tricked me; He had brought me back safely to the land of my father a very rich man. Not just in material things; these paled into insignificance in comparison to the richness of the relationship I now had with Him.

Chapter 5

But the righteous will live by faith

This is a truth, a simple and profound truth, which has been constantly under attack since the days of Abraham. God told the prophet Habakkuk to record this so that whoever saw it would run with the news.



*Habakkuk 2:2-4 Then the Lord answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay. "Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; **but the righteous will live by his faith.**"*

For many centuries the church lost this truth. Many were burdened with sin because they knew the truth that the *"wages of sin is death"* but did not know about the overriding compassion and the love of a God who was not willing that any should perish. The *"accuser of the brethren"* (the Devil) plagued their minds day and night, smothering the truth of God's grace with lies.

One Catholic monk was weighed down heavily for years with the guilt of his sin. He searched the scriptures trying to find a way out. Slowly the Holy Spirit began to reveal to him, through the scriptures, that although there was nothing he could do, God had already made a way out! Jesus had paid the price with His own life, voluntarily given. All the monk had to do was accept it by faith, to trust that what Christ had done was enough!

The monk, Martin Luther, after seeing this truth, opposed the teachings of the church at that time. He began to teach that salvation was not through good works. He also opposed the teaching of *"indulgences"* which taught that a gift

to the church absolved you of any sin. Luther taught from a number of scriptures in the Bible the truth that justification was a free and gracious gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus loved us so much he gave His life on the cross. You might say, He had no choice, He was taken by Roman soldiers and hung there. When they came to arrest Him His disciples tried to protect Him.

Matt 26:50-51 Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

Luke 22:51 But Jesus answered and said, " Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

Matt 26:52-54 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

Jesus, at any point in time could, like Elisha, have called on thousands of angels present and be taken away. He said Himself He could ask for twelve legions of angels. A legion was between three to possibly six thousand soldiers; so anywhere between thirty six to seventy two thousand angels. Not just your average angels but from God's SAS (Superior Angelic Service:-))! This was not 2D Flatland; there were spiritual beings from the third dimension by the cross. The world saw a weak, dying man. Yet in the spiritual realm, He was God the Son, in fact Yahweh although the Hebrew does not use vowels so for the Jews it would "Yhwh" the unspoken name for God; when we say "Jesus is Lord" in the OT Lord mostly equals Yahweh, so Jesus is Yahweh. That is why the apparently weak dying man fought against forces of darkness and won.

Col 2:13-15 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having

forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (or the cross).

The sign above His head on the cross was in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. “Jesus of Nazareth king of the Jews”. The Jewish leaders were very angry with the sign and said, “don’t say king of the Jews but that he claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilot probably didn’t realise why they were so upset but said, “What I have written stays.” As you may know Hebrew writing goes from right to left and the first letter of every word in the Hebrew sign spells YHWH. If they changed the words on the sign it wouldn’t have read YHWH; or God in our language. Now all the crowds watching the crucifixion would see that sign and would be convicted by the Holy Spirit, many must have thought about it because weeks later when Peter preached his first sermon thousands repented and were saved. Sometimes our response to the Holy Spirit can take a little time.

HaYehudim	v Melech	HaNazarei	Yeshua
הַיְּהוּדִים	וּמֶלֶךְ	הַנַּצְרִי	יֵשׁוּעַ
ה	ו	ה	י
H	W	H	Y

In a crucifixion, the person dies when their legs give way causing them to slump which constricts their breathing and they suffocate. There comes a point, after many hours of suffering, the soldiers go around breaking the legs of the crucified which brings about their death. When they came to Christ He was already dead, having won the battle in the spiritual realm, He gave up His life voluntarily.

Psalm 22:14-18 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; It is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed

me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

“I can count all my bones” means they were not broken. When the soldiers came to Christ, there was no need to break His bones, He was already dead. He could have supported Himself, like all the others had done, to keep Himself alive but He freely gave His life. So they pierced His side and water came out, another indication that He was already dead (possibly from a heart attack), *I am poured out like water.*

He didn't just pay for our sins up to the point we accept Him as our saviour. He paid for every sin we are likely to commit before and after.

God knew evil would try to oppose the truth of His amazing grace that was to be made available through Christ. That is why He gave Habakkuk the vision and told him to write it down; inscribe it on a tablet, so that whoever saw it would run to tell others. Maybe today, God would have said that you need to make a programme for your tablet or iPad that pops up whenever anyone turns it on declaring, ***“the righteous will live by faith,”*** (or as some versions state, *“the just shall live by faith”*.)

Every Christian that gets hold of this truth runs, (like the Samaritan women), and as Habakkuk says, to tell others that they are justified, made righteous, by faith (which God gives) in what Jesus has done. Not by their own efforts.

In Flatland, they could make a proclamation, *“the righteous will live by his faith.”* But it would be ineffective because faith is not a two-dimensional, religious cardboard cut-out. Faith is a spirit, “the substance of things not seen”, which lives within you, a three-dimensional being, and constantly cries out in your hearts, “Thank you, thank you, Jesus”.

Chapter 6

"The bricks have fallen down,
but we will rebuild with smooth stones"

When the Assyrians first attacked Israel, breached the walls and knocked down some brick buildings; the leaders in their typical Flatland denial of God, or in ignorance said, *Isa 9:10 "The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars."* Stones are stronger than bricks and cedars better and harder trees than sycamores. Their response was coming from a position where they thought, "We have been attacked therefore we will prove we can, in our own strength, rebuild and overcome."

For years, the prophets had been warning the people that their evil, immoral life-style was offending and pushing the protection of God out of their lives: that they should repent of worshiping foreign idols and turn back to the law of their God and thereby receive the blessings and protection of God. The people laughed and ignored the prophets so God in His love, yes His love, allowed a warning shot to come across their bows. The attack was modest compared to what followed in years to come as the people continued to ignore the prophets and reject their God.

You may say, "What has that to do with us living in Flatland today?" It has a great deal to do with us all. The founding fathers of the USA were godly men. They prayed over every word of the constitution they were compiling. Their trust was not in their own power but in that of their God, and He blessed them beyond measure as they built a nation in line with the principles of the Bible.

At a time in history when New York was the capital of America, the first president was sworn into office in a little church called St Paul's, which still stands today, unharmed, only a few yards away from where the Twin Towers once stood on consecrated land that was previously owned by St Paul's Church.

When the Towers fell, the surrounding buildings were damaged but not St Paul's. Guess what, it was protected by a sycamore tree that took the full

blast! As they started to rebuild Ground Zero using a huge hewn stone for a ceremonial foundation stone, someone also donated a tree from the cedar family to replace the sycamore trees demolished in the blast. *"The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars."*



Just like the ancient people of Israel, the leaders of the United States were not recognising this attack as a warning shot, rather they saw it as their duty to rebuild bigger and better and to improve their national defences. Unless there is a change of heart, just like of old, things will sadly only get worse.

America has the words "In God we trust" on every dollar bill, but over the years God has been pushed out of most public places, including schools. The moral decline in America has followed that of the ancient people of Israel who deserted their God and worshipped idols and sacrificed their children. "America doesn't sacrifice children," I hear you say.

Every day, more American babies are aborted than people who died on 9/11, but it doesn't make the news like the fall of the towers did. Every year, more babies are aborted than people who have been killed in all the wars in U.S. history combined. More than fifty million babies killed in the last forty years.

I'm not talking about a medical situation where the choice is the life of mother or child, but abortions for purely social and economic reasons. The knock-on effect is colossal. Just think of the fifty million mothers having to live their whole lives with the deep-seated guilt of what they have done; also the guilt of a lot of the fathers who put pressure on the women to "get rid" of the baby. Millions of people living trapped in guilt - and God sees them and weeps. Jesus took all their sin and died of a broken heart, crying "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." Their Father in heaven, like the prodigal son's father, looks out every day waiting for them to return so He can hug them, kiss them, tell them they are forgiven and give them a new robe of righteousness.

Psalm 127:3-5 Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Matt 19:13-15 Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After laying His hands on them, He departed from there.

Matt 18:5-6 And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matt 18:10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

If children are a precious gift from God then to abort or harm children is a serious insult to God. Believe me 9/11 was a warning shot. What followed

over the years after 9/11 around the world, such as the fall of the stock market and recession, has amazing parallels to biblical days and months, all of which is connected directly to the leaders response to the fall of the Twin Towers. "We shall rebuild" was echoed and even quoted from the Bible throughout the leadership who did not recognise God's pleading to return to the beliefs of the Founding Fathers, to repent on behalf of the nation and put their trust in God, not their own strength.

I strongly recommend reading "The Harbinger" by Jonathan Cahn. This book uses a fictitious framework to put across a multitude of facts. This may sound all doom and gloom, and it can be, but doesn't have to be. Like anyone living in Flatland, all it needs is for you to recognise the existence of a spiritual realm and turn to your Heavenly Father which will result in changes to yourselves, your family and society.

You say, "If God is a God of love how could He allow such a terrible thing to happen?" God is all loving and not willing for any to perish, but there is an evil realm that will actively take advantage of any situation presented. God has offered us His guidance and protection but has also given us free will; we are not robots. If we reject His help and advice, we are responsible for the outcome. God did not tell those terrorists to fly into the Twin Towers. Satan did because he had the spiritually legal advantage. In the book of James, it says, "Submit to God, resist the Devil and he will flee from you." If you do not submit to God YOU will not be able to resist the Devil and HE will not flee from you. You will try in your own strength to flee from him and not succeed. Hence there was the 9/11 tragedy.

The Bible is full of case histories to guide us away from disasters. For those living in Flatland they may seem obscure and irrelevant. To some they are stories to entertain, not to teach and safeguard us. Sadly, like the men in Edwin Abbott's book, they never saw the point and suffered, being speared to death by the women. In Abbott's book, the men created a complex security system using different doors for men and women to avoid being speared to death.

The Western world spends millions trying to protect its citizens from terrorist activities but it will not be successful. St Paul's church could have fitted in the lobby of the World Trade Centre, but when the towers fell, St Paul's, a symbol of the forefathers who trusted in God, was not damaged, when all around was rubble. Like the leaders of ancient Israel, the leaders of America stood on the rubble and said, *"The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars."* But the scripture says...

*Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.*

Psalm 127:1-2 Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labours; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.

If your trust is in God, even while you sleep, He protects you.

Chapter 7

*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes,
He will guide you into all the truth*



Back to Jacob: In Genesis 49 just before he died, he blessed his children at his bedside, but because Simeon and Levi were violent he said they would be divided among the tribes in the nation of Israel. It is also interesting what he advised the others regarding them.

Gen 49:6 "Let my soul not enter into their council; Let not my glory (Spirit in the RSV) be united with their assembly;

Jacob is saying not to be influenced by their counsel. If we are influenced by other people's counsel, this often brings us into the presence of the spirit of the one counselling. Behind every mental attitude there is an influencing spirit. We say of a group, or team, that they are of one spirit. That is very powerful, regardless of whether it is a good or bad spirit! A spirit is a living entity, not just a mental attitude.

When Saul (in the Old Testament) met with a band of prophets, it wasn't long before he was prophesying along with them (1 Samuel chapter 10). Because Saul was in their company and under their counsel, it gave opportunity for his spirit to be joined with their spirit, which was the spirit of prophecy, hence the prophesying.

Over the three years of being together with Jesus, the disciples came under His counsel. They also were influenced by His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Now at the end of His time with them, He started to teach about the person of the Holy Spirit (who became their teacher). If you accept the teaching of the Holy Spirit, many false conceptions you may hold can be ejected from your mind as quickly as a pilot from a crashing fighter plane, thereby not being destroyed along with the false teaching.

The disciples had moved around and lived with Jesus for three years. They had grown not only to admire Him but love Him. Now He told them He was about to leave. This filled their hearts with sorrow but He said something quite amazing; that by leaving them it was to their advantage. Jesus would be able to send the Holy Spirit to live and work in and through them in the same way that the Holy Spirit worked through Himself.

Yes! The same Spirit that created the world and everything else at Jesus' command. The same Spirit that operated through Jesus, healing the sick. The same Spirit that descended visually in the form of a dove upon Jesus at His baptism, was coming to them - a motley crew of very ordinary working men. They were not scholars or people of social standing, but they were men who, after receiving the Holy Spirit, would turn the world upside down.

John 16:4-11 These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, "Where are You going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

The Holy Spirit will convict the world "concerning sin". What does that mean? It means if we sin He will cause our hearts to convict us. He will make us realise that we have fallen short of the perfection of a holy God. Therefore we are not worthy to enter His presence and all because WE DID NOT BELIEVE (TRUST) IN JESUS for our righteousness!

This goes back to chapter 4: the righteous will live by faith or trust in the fact that Jesus has paid for our sin. The one righteous act of obedience by Jesus dying on the cross paid for all the sin of all mankind, so that all who accept Him have the gift of His righteousness. There is now no condemnation as we walk in the belief of that truth. That is what is called being saved.

You may think the law (*thou shalt not*) was devised to maintain a structured and cohesive society, which it would if it could be fully implemented. But sadly none of us can keep such a perfect law because we are not perfect! Therefore all the law does is convict us of our inability to keep it, hence we need a saviour. So the Father sent Jesus with the Holy Spirit!

If we choose to trust in our own ability, to be righteous in our own eyes rather than recognise our inadequacies and accept the righteousness that Jesus offers freely, **then the Holy Spirit will continue to convict us of sin until we bow the knee of our heart before Jesus on the cross.** When we do, the Father will take us in His arms and pour grace upon grace upon grace into our hearts and clothe us with a white robe of righteousness we don't deserve. Then the Holy Spirit will take the words of Jesus which He heard from the Father and place them in our hearts saying, "**We** want to have an intimate relationship with you."

The Holy Spirit will also help us pray. Sometimes we are faced with a problem we see no way of solving which sometimes stuns us; we just don't know what to say or how to pray. The Holy Spirit helps us but only to the extent that we allow Him. I often "give up" with English and pray in tongues when faced with such a situation. As I do this, sometimes I find myself crying and I know the Holy Spirit is feeling the pain of the situation through me. Then there may follow a sense of peace, and then I know the prayer has been heard.

Rom 8:26-27 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints (believers) according to the will of God.

Notice that each person of the Godhead is involved in our lives. Each plays a different role but each one wants to be in communion with us! God is not from Flatland; He is a "Trinity dimensional being"!

The Holy Spirit does not need us, He created creation without us. But He desires to work with us. We become a home for Him to flow through. That is

why Christ said it is to our advantage that He (Jesus) was returning to the Father so He could send the Holy Spirit to us. (*"...for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged".*)

Wow! Does the underlined mean that the Holy Spirit and Jesus are in us and displaying a cloak of righteousness that Jesus paid for. Because in human terms only Jesus is righteous, are the people then convicted of their own unrighteousness? Yes they are! You don't need to say anything; your life will display the righteousness of Jesus because by the power of the Holy Spirit He will be in us.

This is shown in *John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me."* It does not mean you need to be constantly speaking about the righteousness of Jesus. Your very life, actions and responses will testify, or rather the fruit of the Holy Spirit within you will. Like Paul says in *Romans 5:5 ...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Finally because of what Jesus did on the cross, Satan, the "ruler of this world" has been judged. Jesus was seen to be righteous and Satan as unrighteous. All we have to do is be available and respond to the Holy Spirit so He can usher in the Kingdom of God to US and through US. Satan has lost, the war is over, Jesus has set mankind free. We just need to tell everyone so they can receive their salvation and experience the benefits of the Kingdom of God.

Now we can do as Jesus did. After experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit and being tested for forty days, He went into the local synagogue and spoke from scripture, *Luke 4:18-21 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon ME, because HE anointed ME to preach the gospel to the poor. HE has sent ME to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the favourable year of the Lord." 20 And He*

closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Are you ready for scripture to be fulfilled in your life TODAY?

Chapter 8

*"I baptized you with water;
but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit"*

Before we can fully appreciate the meaning of that statement we need to understand what "baptize" means. Most of us, probably from films we've seen, may think of a vicar holding a baby, dipping his finger in an ornate font of water and drawing the sign of the cross on the baby's forehead. For many that is very meaningful, symbolising the dedication of their baby to God. However that does not reveal a true picture of the meaning.

In the days of Jesus, when cloth was made, they would have had large vats filled with different coloured dyes. Cloth would be totally submerged in the vat, held there for a while and then brought out. The cloth would not only be coloured on the outside but if you cut it, the whole cross section would be the same colour. This operation was called "being baptised". There was nothing religious about it; it was a commercial activity that has continued down through the centuries in one way or another.

John the Baptist, so called because people who confessed they were sinners and had turned back to God, after hearing his preaching, were "baptised" in the river. This involved totally dunking them under water, the same as the cloth makers did, to symbolically wash away their sin both inside and outside, after their confession!

Later, it also symbolised dying with Christ (going under the water) and rising back to life with Christ (coming up above the surface). So the old life was put to death and the new life was born again. (Oh, where have we heard that before?) The plot thickens! John the Baptist was so dynamic that some thought he was the prophesied Messiah or Christ, but when asked, he denied it and said...

Matthew 3:11-12 “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [12] “His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

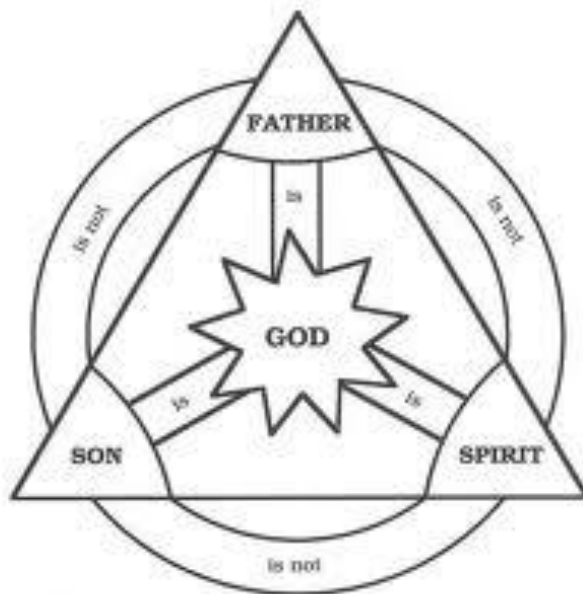
John dunked them in the water for repentance but, (referring to Jesus), He was going to dunk believers in the Holy Spirit! This is not another Flatland cardboard cut-out; this is an enormous, without measure, three-dimensional vat (It could be called the “Kingdom of God”) filled with the person of the Holy Spirit. Only Jesus in spiritual terms can take your spirit and totally submerge it in the Holy Spirit. Any dross, any unclean spirit, is going to have a hard time clinging to your spirit in that vat because it is not a place for unclean spirits. Sadly for some of us who won’t let go and give the Lord our “problems”, the second option comes into effect : “His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

So John submerged believers in water for repentance, Jesus submerges believers in the Holy Spirit and fire for holiness! “Oh no! I don’t fancy that” I hear you say. Well, the fire is only to burn the chaff and dead wood in your life. Rather like a gardener burns the dead stalks and prunings in the autumn so next year he gets a better display. Trust and remain in His peace, for His peace is like an anaesthetic and the detox won’t hurt, unless you try to save the rubbish He is burning by pulling it out of the fire saying, “I still want that!”

Different aspects of the Holy Spirit’s work have impressed believers over the years. Certain elements are labelled “baptism of the Holy Spirit”. I have grown to believe that the term “baptism of the Holy Spirit” needs to initially be taken literally. By that, I mean visualise allowing Jesus to take you and dunk, or submerge you in the Holy Spirit. You must desire and ask for this. Some may feel this is irreverent: it is not meant that way but rather it is meant to illustrate what is said of Jesus in scripture: *He will baptize (dunk) you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

This is an encounter with the Holy Spirit, but it is not meant to be a one off, once in a lifetime, event. Sadly, so many Christians see it that way rather than the beginning of an ongoing relationship of constant communication and fellowship. Yes, constant! By Him we can enjoy a threefold fellowship including all persons of the Trinity. Paul closes his letter to the Corinthians with these words - 2 Cor 13:14 *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit**, be with you all.*

Just as salvation is dependent upon accepting Jesus as your saviour and entering into a personal relationship with Him (in fact salvation IS a personal relationship); so with the Holy Spirit, it is necessary to recognise the need to develop a personal relationship. This relationship and communion is the foundation for all the different aspects of the Holy Spirit's work in us and through us. The gifts and fruit of the Spirit in our lives are because we are in Him and He is soaked into us, guiding, teaching, healing, warning, protecting, comforting etc. TALK TO HIM! Don't ignore or bypass Him!



Chapter 9

...wait for what the Father had promised



All this emphasis on a personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. What about the Father? Is He redundant, has He gone into early retirement?

No, that is a Flatland concept. If you take the Father out of the equation you are back down to two dimensions; you are reducing God to Flatland! All through this book we have tried to reveal the hidden third dimension in different situations.

There is nothing hidden whenever or whoever you speak to in the Trinity. You are on a conference call! Jesus said "The Father and I are ONE; if you've seen the Father, you've seen me." Jesus told the disciples before He left to return to the Father to wait, *Acts 1:4-5* *Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* (Read chapter 3 of my book "What! Speak through me?" to see more about the promise of the Holy Spirit.)

There is a very good saying about the Trinity, "What the Father thought, the Son taught and the Spirit wrought." Simple but effective. That doesn't mean the Father never speaks but rather that all three persons are involved in our lives.

The disciples waited and the Spirit came on the day of Pentecost. Years later Paul spoke about the Spirit in this way: *1 Cor 2:12-16* *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man*

(someone from Flatland) *does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? **But we have the mind of Christ.***

What! We have the mind of Christ? How? By receiving the Spirit from God. Then we will know what is in the mind of God! Being taught by the Spirit and then receiving the mind of Christ. To those who are living in Flatland, it is all foolishness; they just can't understand. Like Jesus said to Nicodemus, a clever man, naturally, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Jesus said what Nicodemus needed to hear (not necessarily wanted to hear).

Then on another occasion Jesus got really excited when He saw the Holy Spirit reveal truth to those you wouldn't expect able to understand. In Luke 10 He rejoiced greatly in the **Holy Spirit**, and said, *"I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son."*

Jesus arose early in the morning to go and pray to the Father; again this was usually a conference call. In Luke 10 we saw that *He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, as He prayed.* However other occasions were different, HERE AN ANGEL CAME TO STRENGTHEN HIM. Luke 22:44 *"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."* 43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Once as a young Christian I got confused over which were my thoughts and which were the Holy Spirit's thoughts. So I desperately cried out to God, "Lord, where do I end and you begin?" There arose from deep, deep down inside me almost uncontrollable laughter! That laughter was the Holy Spirit within me just

having and enjoying fellowship with me. One of the fruits of the Spirit is joy - okay, that was excessive joy - but it ministered to me far more than a dry, theological exposition of where the dividing line isn't! In some way, I think there is a similarity within the Trinity; whilst the three are each individual persons, yet they are One.

The Spirit doesn't just silently guide us with little nudges at the promptings of the Father or Jesus, He often arranges things and speaks.

Acts 10:19-20 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."

Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." He also arranged this for Philip and told him what to do.

In the book of Revelation three times in Chapter two after a personal message to each church it says, "*He who has an ear, let him hear what the **Spirit says** to the churches.*" In this instance, it was the Spirit giving instruction to the churches.

Here is an interesting scripture from Isaiah using the term "Lord" which doesn't define which Person of the Godhead is speaking. Also it speaks of "US".

Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

9 He said, "Go, and tell this people:

'Keep on listening, but do not perceive;

Keep on looking, but do not understand. '

10 " Render the hearts of this people insensitive,

Their ears dull, And their eyes dim,

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

Hear with their ears,

Understand with their hearts,

And return and be healed."

Then under the inspiration of the Spirit, Paul quotes the same scripture when dealing with some hard-hearted Jews, and states that it was the Holy Spirit, who had spoken in Isaiah, calling the shots.

*Acts 28:25-27 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "**The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah** the prophet to your fathers, 26 saying, 'GO to this people and say, "You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; 27 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them."*

The wonderful thing about the Holy Spirit is that He is not limited by distance – He is omnipresent. Jesus, when He walked on Earth spent a lot of time with the disciples walking between places. Now with the Holy Spirit there is no limit. He can communicate with lots of disciples all over the world at the same time.

Num 14:21 ...all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. We are talking about unlimited limitlessness!

We have seen God's dilemma over sin and how He has dealt with it by Grace in sending His Son to die for us. Salvation and relationship with the Godhead is a gift that links us to eternal life; which is not just life forever, but quality of life forever. He is reaching into our Flatland saying, "I'm here, come to me and I will set you free, I have designed you to be three-dimensional."

Jesus walks into a synagogue and reads from a scroll in Isaiah. *Luke 4:18-21 " The Spirit of the Lord is upon ME, because HE anointed ME to preach the gospel to the poor. HE has sent ME to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the **favourable year** of the Lord."*

He stops in mid-sentence which is why all eyes are upon Him.

20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

If He had continued reading in Isaiah it would have said, *Isa 61:2 ...and the day of vengeance of our God*; It seems "*the favourable year of the Lord*" has a finishing line ... eventually. So far in God's Love, this "year" has lasted two thousand years. As of now, there is opportunity to be saved from Flatland. Enter into the Father's arms. He loves you. The choice is yours, you are not a robot. You have free will, use it. All you have to do is call out to Him from the heart. I have tried with scriptures, and with my own childlike scribbles, to demonstrate these truths. I guarantee that if you make that leap of faith, you will begin to see the real Master's artwork, with you included, next to my drawings. Rather like a shop window display will have something rustic (my doodles) to contrast and enhance the item of great beauty (the pearl of great price) which is you in His three dimensional eternal painting!

Did you know that when the oyster is invaded and injured that it sacrifices its own life to preserve the invader and create a pearl. Rather like when our sin invades the Godhead, Christ gives His life to save ours and make us into something precious. God is love, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love; so He would say the following, in love.

*Heb 3:7-8 Therefore, just as the **Holy Spirit says,** "Today if you hear His voice, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS... **Leave Flatland now.** Turn to the living God! The bricks are falling! Don't plant cedars or rebuild with carved stones! Get out! Be part of **The Flatland Escape**. Get out while there's time and become the three dimensional being God designed you to be!*