

The Word of God is such a source of inspiration to mankind. The truth & life that are contained therein are just waiting to be discovered & unlocked by hungry & thirsty seekers who become finders when their hearts are open in faith. **Gen. 1:26-28** lets us peer into eternity past & see what was going on in the counsel of the Most High God before the creation of man took place. **NKJV:** *“Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27. So God created man in **His own image***; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have **dominion**** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

***TPT note:** “What is this image given to us? It includes personality, the capacity for worship, the ability to make moral decisions (our con-science), and the ability to reflect God. Created as His

image-bearers, all human beings bear the expression or image of God. As “photographs” of God, our characteristics are copies of His. Because He desired to give Himself for you & to you, He took His own nature & likeness & fashioned a creature just like Him – one He could love with unlimited passion.”

****Dominion** is the Heb. word “*radah*,” and in the 23 times in which it appears in the OT, it means **rule** 12 times. As the **SFLB** note says regarding man having **dominion over...the earth**, “God created **man** to be His kingdom agent, to rule and subdue the rest of creation, including the aggressive satanic forces, which would soon infringe upon it.”

In this current generation, there appears to be a rejection of such authority, with each person doing what is right in their own sight (i.e. defund police, exam-free classes, meritless promotion, identity politics). The end result of this is lawlessness, then tyranny and dictatorship.

Followers of Christ are to be those **kingdom agents** created to rule & subdue, even & especially the evil forces of darkness who stalk

the planet. **Gal. 5:23** One of the 9 fruit of the Spirit is “*self-control*”. **Vines:** “This Gk. word *enkrateia* is taken from one of four power words bestowed by God upon man, which are capable of abuse: *kratos*, **strength**. The right use [of strength] demands the controlling power of the will under the operation of the Spirit of God. In **Acts 24:25** the word “*self-control*” follows “righteousness,” which represents God’s claims [upon us], self-control being man’s response [to God’s claims]. In **1 Pet. 1:6**, “*self-control*” follows “knowledge,” suggesting that what is learned requires to be put into practice.”

As **1 Pet. 5:8-9 TPT** says, “*Be well balanced and always alert, because your **enemy** (“Gk *antidikos* – a legal tern for one who presses a lawsuit that must be defended, i.e. one who accuses men before God”) the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaring lion looking for its prey to devour.** 9. Take a decisive stand against him and resist his every attack with strong, vigorous faith. For you know that your believing brothers and sisters around the*

world are experiencing the same kinds of troubles you endure.”

**** TPT note (d):** “The implication in the context is that if you do not bring your worries and cares to God, the devil will use depression and discouragement to devour you. Just as lions go after the feeble, the young, and the stragglers, so the enemy of our souls will always seek out those who are isolated, alone, or depressed to devour them.”

The Lord doesn't want us to become cynical, but be sober minded, as well as to call on our Chief Counselor, Holy Spirit. **John 14:26 NKJV** *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”* 1 way H.S. teaches us is through gifts of teaching in others.

John 15:26 TPT *“And I will send you the **Divine Encourager** (or “**the Re-deemer from the curse**”*******) from the very presence of My Father. He will come to you, the Spirit of Truth, emanating from the Father, and He will speak (or “provide evidence”) to you about Me.”*

*****John 14:15-17 TPT** *“Loving Me empowers you to obey My commands. 16. And I will ask the Father and He will give you **another** (Gk. allos – “another of the same kind”). As Jesus is the Savior from the **guilt** of sin [**past**], the **Holy Spirit** is the Savior who saves us from the **power** of sin [**present**] by living through us in fullness.”* Father saves us from sin’s **presence** [**future**] in Heaven.) *****Savior, the Holy Spirit of Truth, who will be a friend just like Me – and He will never leave you. The world won’t receive Him because they can’t see Him or know Him. But you will know Him intimately, because He will make His home in you and will live inside you [at Pentecost].”**

*****TPT note (c):** “The translator has chosen the word *Savior*, for it depicts the role of the Holy Spirit to protect, defend, and save us from our self and our enemies and keep us whole and healed. He is the One who guides and defends, comforts and consoles. Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, our Savior. The Aramaic word is *paraqleta*, which is taken from two root words (1) *praq*, “to end, finish, or to

save,” and (2) *lyta*, which means “the curse.” What a beautiful word picture; the Holy Spirit comes to end the work of the curse (of sin) in our lives and to save us from its every effect! *Paraqleta* means “a Redeemer who ends the curse.”

The word “**Helper**,” also found in **14:26 & 15:26**, is Gk. *parakletos*. **WW** “The word signifies an intercessor, comforter, advocate, counselor. In non-biblical literature *parakletos* had the technical meaning of an attorney who appears in court in another’s behalf. The Holy Spirit leads believers to a greater apprehension of gospel truths, ...general help & guidance, & gives the strength to endure the hostility of the world system.” **Eph. 5:18** “*Do not be drunk with wine wherein is reckless living, but **be filled with the Spirit.***” **Don’t try to be intellectually filled with knowledge of H.S., but be filled with Jesus’ Spirit!!!**

Let’s Have Fearless Faith

In dealing with fear this year, let’s remember Who God is to us! **Psa. 27:1-3 TPT** “*The Lord is my **revelation light** to guide me along the way; He’s the source of my **salvation** to defend me*

every day. I fear no one! I'll never turn back and run from you, Lord; surround and protect me.

*2. When evil ones come to destroy me, they will be the ones who turn back. 3. My heart will not be afraid even if an army rises to attack. I know that You are there for me, so I will not be **shaken**.” Let’s declare these truths often, for God’s **strength, light & salvation** lessen our need for fear! **“I fear no one!”***

Let’s Hear the Heavenly Voice

Heb. 12:25-29 NKJV *“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26. Whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake (will shake) not only the earth, but also heaven.” 27. Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being **shaken**, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be **shaken** may remain. 28. Therefore, since we are receiving **a kingdom** which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with*

reverence and godly fear. 29. For our God is a consuming fire.”

Let's Be Stirred But Not Shaken

Selwyn's prayer: “Father, thank you for reminding me that I cannot avoid my soul's being “stirred” by life's problems, but when I have set You ever before me, then I can avoid being “shaken.” Drive this truth deep into my being this very day. In Jesus' name. Amen.”