



The Person of Jesus Christ

Many people on Earth have heard about Him. As of course also have you who are Christians.

But do you really know who Jesus Christ is? What is His character? And what are His priorities?

Knowing Him better, is the opportunity to have a deeper relationship with Him, and also to help me avoid errors in my Christian life.

Some will say: "I thought that Jesus viewed things in a certain way, but unfortunately, too many Christians remain on too much of a superficial relationship with the person of Jesus Christ.

The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ has always existed. He was there with God in the creation, because He is the word of God. Imagine that you had the possibility to isolate your Word, everything you said, all that is audible, the purpose of your thoughts, isolated from your being. Well God has done it.

John 1: 1-3 (AMP) *In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and [b]the Word was God Himself. He was [continually existing] in the beginning [co-eternally] with God. All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being.*

This word, God has embodied it in a human being, Jesus Christ. The bible says that nothing has been done without Him. Since the day when Adam and Eve sinned, God began to put in place His rescue plan.

After having disobeyed, Adam and Eve lost life eternal with God, when He drove them out of the Garden of Eden.

This plan, which God set in place, would allow humans to find an eternity back with Him. In all the Old Testament, every action, every word, every decision taken by God, was only in one goal: to prepare for the coming of Jesus on Earth.

The mission of Jesus Christ on Earth was so prepared for a long time. The plan was well established, well prepared. Jesus did not "improvise" in His Ministry. He did nothing that His father didn't ask Him to do, He was fully focused on His mission by being in constant communication with His father.

Jesus did not wait to be an adult to start on His mission, He was fully aware that His coming to earth would aim to give back to humanity its first condition.

That day He had preferred to remain in the temple in Jerusalem to talk with the doctors of the law, to learn, to improve, instead of staying with His mates maybe. Like every year, the parents of Jesus came to Jerusalem with other families. But Jesus, He remained focused on His mission.

Luke 2: 45-46 *So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.*

It is a very good example for us today. As soon as Jesus was aware of His role on Earth, He understood that He had to learn, improve, and move forward. Despite the fact that He was only twelve years old, He wasted no time. Jesus would have thought: "I'm only 12 years old, I am still small, when one is twelve he usually has fun, and doesn't think to improve, I still have time.

I am not saying that children from the age of twelve should not be thinking about playing, I also do not parallel this with all children, but with people who only met Jesus recently. If you are born again recently, do not think that things are going to produce results from themselves. You have to keep ahead of your improvement.

As Jesus went by himself to the temple and stayed there for three days, and yet, because His parents came to pick Him up. You also go ahead of things. Search for to improve, to grow in knowledge, study the bible, and have an ongoing relationship with God your father, Jesus your brother, with the Spirit

who is holy. If you are reading this study this already proves that you are in a good approach.

Luke 2: 49 *And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*

It is very clear in the bible that Jesus was just as human as we are.

Hebrews 5: 8 *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

Jesus, when He was on Earth, had a body, soul, and a spirit. He was made exactly in the same way that we are today. Some may say: "but no, Jesus was the son of God, He was perfect, He did not have the same struggles as me. "

The only difference on this point is that Jesus had not succumbed to any temptations of His life, but He had to fight just as much as we should do in the face of a temptation.

Hebrews 5: 8 shows us that He had to learn by suffering. There was also therefore in Jesus a struggle between his spirit, his soul, and his body. (For more detail see my study on body, soul and spirit). As we are today, Jesus was confronted with choices. Throughout His life on Earth, satan had not ceased to find opportunity to afflict Him. But He had never fallen.

Now I can so totally identify myself to Him. He isn't a "super man" who had in Him a strength that allowed him to not suffer from any temptation. Any model to which I would like to identify myself must be accessible, be reachable. Otherwise I will live in frustration after frustration. Our father is fair and He loves us that is why I must never think that I will never become like Jesus the perfect model.

John 14: 12 *says: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

The relationship He had with His father is possible to any other human being, but there will be choices to make, decisions to be taken. Of course not everyone is called to remain unmarried, not working, and live in cities in villages to announcing the Gospel. But it is very important that each will be

aware, and with confidence, on projects that God has for him or for her. The Holy Spirit is a great help for this. (For more details see my study on The Holy Spirit).

Whether you are a child, a teenager, or an adult, know that Jesus went through the path that you are going through at this moment, and he crossed it successfully.

But back momentarily at the time of the youth of Jesus. The bible does not give us many details with concerning these times there. Just that He was submitted to His parents and there was in Him a constant positive evolution.

Luke 2: 51, *Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.*

Luke 2: 52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

This development had a dual effect: one spiritual and the other one human. His growth and His evolution were visible before God and before men. That is that His relationship with God increased and became more and more strong, more and more intimate. But this growth was also noticeable from a human point of view. Jesus did not leave the other people indifferent. His words, His attitudes, His actions showed that He had a strong and intimate relationship with God the Father.

The lesson that I get from it is always make sure that my spiritual evolution bears fruits around me. I can't say that I pray two hours every day, that I spend great moments in prayer, without having no fruit "in the physical realm" of this relationship.

Unfortunately, it happens sometimes that some Christians will swell with pride because they spend a few powerful spiritual moments or prided themselves in saying: "I pray two hours every day, I'm very spiritual!" In this specific case, it is no longer a relationship with God, it is a relationship with themselves, selfish and focused relationship based on their own person.

Don't say to yourself: "Yes, he is right, some act like that sometimes, but it doesn't concern me, I think being humble enough to not fall into such a trap"

satan himself has fallen into this trap, and it is also in this same trap he tried to use to bring down Jesus: whether in the desert, or when Peter told Him that it was not compulsory for Him pass through the cross in **mark 8: 33**. *But Jesus, turning and looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter, and said: Get behind me, Satan! Because you do not understand the things of God, you're only interested in human thoughts.*

When the serpent came to talk to Eve, he didn't tell her: «Come on Eve eat this fruit, God does not want you to but go ahead anyway!». No, he made the thing more attractive by giving the impression that it was a good thing to eat this fruit. It is quite possible that the snake has had several conversations with Eve in this regard, things have perhaps went for month before Eve succumbs.

He also appealed to the human ambition of Jesus when, in the desert he said: "I offer you all these kingdoms if you will bow before me.

The trap is to make things appear far less significant than they are in reality: "look at this fruit, after all it is a fruit, nothing important". Apparently Yes, but this gesture has revolutionized the whole of humanity.

Jesus had this ability to know what was important and what was least. Why? Because He had this constant relationship with His father by The Holy Spirit.

On several occasions in His teachings Jesus did not hide the fact that He did nothing of Himself.

John 5: 19 *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*

In this verse Jesus says that He does only what He sees. To see something you need be present or have a connection that will allow me to see.

Often there can be a misunderstanding by some in reading the Gospels in believing Jesus was the only one to decide all His acts and words. But no, this verse and many others tell us that He was only doing what His father told Him to do. He had a total submission to God His father. This submission was

absolutely not a burden, quite to the contrary. Jesus understood the order of things. All He would receive which was not from His Father, would not be very useful in His mission on Earth.

It is an order of things that I have to perfectly assimilate and integrate into my life. Just like Jesus, I must have this relationship with my Father to do only what He wants me to do. Then you say, easier said than done.

Yes, but it is not impossible when I happened to realize "how surprised, or even a little "shameful" I might be if I could see all the unnecessary prayers I have made; how much time lost, that I could use in a much more effective manner; all my prayers that were not in the plans of God.

I am aware that I can shock some people by writing this, but it is the truth. Ask yourself the question when someone asks you to pray for this or that situation: "what is your plan Daddy for this situation? How do you see things?"

The Holy Spirit and the Word are there to reveal to me the will of God. That is why Jesus had 100% success in His prayers, He prayed in the will of His father. And the will of God will be far better than any human decision in all situations.

If you deepen your relationship with the Holy Spirit, you'll see that with a little bit of time you will need less and less time to know the will of God in a given situation, but also in your own life.

I often met Christians who wanted to have a powerful life with God... but without any action on their part. For some it's laziness, for others a poor understanding of the Scriptures by saying: "God gives us all by grace, we don't have to do anything.

Understand that it is very easy to take verses from the bible, get them out of context to support a human idea that I've designed in my soul. Everything is about balance in the spiritual life.

I often say that Christian life makes me think of a tightrope Walker who walks on his thread. If he doesn't want to fall, he must keep a good balance. If he goes a little too much on the left or on the right it is the fall. The bible is a whole thing, it forms a general idea which is the love of God toward humans. When I think receiving a thought from God, it should stick with this general

idea. Yes it is true God gives us all by grace, without which we can do nothing to deserve it. But it is also true that I have to put my life in conditions to take advantage of what God gave me, through faith that I have received.

If I want to receive God's will and His plan for my life, God already gave it to me in His grace. This is very good news for which I can rejoice. Hooray, I have it! Great, I have God's will for my life!

But let me tell you that you will not receive anything if you do not take the necessary time in praying and reading the bible, to make the plan arrive in all its clarity in your spirit. Do you understand the balance of this situation?

Jesus received the instructions of His Father in prayer, but also because since His youth, He was reading the Scriptures. He knew all the history of the people of God, the prophets, how God had acted throughout this history with His people. When He was in the desert, He quoted the Scriptures for the devil to prove to him that he was wrong. But also with the scribes, the Pharisees, He quoted the Scriptures to show them their unhealthy motivations.

Matthew 12: 3-5 *But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?"*

There are still many other examples where Jesus used the scriptures in His Ministry. **Luke 4: 12** *And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"*

In all that God gives us there's a balance. If I do not respect this balance, I would get nothing. Not because God wants to punish me, not at all. No one can love you more than God loves you already. I will get nothing because by nature we are distant from God, away from His conceptions. Yes today the contact is restored through Jesus, but I have to put myself in a condition of active faith to open this contact. Jesus made constant efforts to maintain this contact with His Father.

Jesus put all chances on His side to succeed in His mission. He chose the right priorities in His life. We might think that Jesus had been tempted only to the moment He was baptized and He went into the desert pushed by the Spirit.

Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Since His youth, Jesus had to face all kinds of temptations: lying when He was little, rebel at His teenage time, not starting a family because it surely could not exercise fully His Ministry, etc... He did not hesitate to give up some things in His life. These choices were not made against Jesus heart, all on the contrary.

I think that we all as Christians will or have made some choices we have to renounce. I am not saying that the Christian life must be a penance or a renunciation of all non-spiritual things. Here again there is always the same balance to respect. As I said, we have all without exception made some choices that will influence our lives for good or for evil. And it is very important to be aware of the consequences of those choices.

I remember the day where the oldest of our boys had started his weekend with a birthday on a Friday night. He had returned late at night and of course went to bed immediately. Then the next day he planned to get up early for a morning of fishing. He had just returned from his fishing trip and prepared to go to a youth meeting in our Church. But come Sunday afternoon, I remember telling him: "Did you have time to read and pray these days?" I already knew the answer. He told me: "no dad, but don't worry I think about it". He confessed to me some time after that because of this kind of choice in his life, he felt it was much more difficult to know God's will in his life, more difficult also to catch up with the communion he had lost when this time lasted longer than a weekend.

But today I have to say that we are proud of him. Growing up and making the right choices, he saw a little more what God's will was for him.

Let's look at a few miracles done by Jesus.

The wedding of Cana. It is the first of the miracles He did which the bible talks about, but perhaps not the first that Jesus has done. Because when His mother Mary comes and tells Him that there is no more wine, I don't think that she expected Jesus to go and get some wine with his Apostles from the wine shop in the corner of the street. There Mary said something like: "Jesus do something that you alone are capable of doing here." It is therefore possible that Mary has been already witnessed miracle on the part of her son Jesus.

John 2: 1-8 *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.*

It is clear that Jesus knew that He would be sacrificed to save humanity by saying "my hour is not yet come". He knew all of His mission, taking the sins of the world upon Him, so that every human being seeing all sins past, present, and future being forgiven.

We can find some clues about the meaning of this miracle. There were six vases which were used for the purification of the Jews. Six, here shows the human being in all his limits. Jesus turned some water intended to purify into wine. This wine which symbolizes in advance His blood, which today is the symbol of the gift that He made for us so that our sins are forgiven, and that we can receive eternal life, spiritual authority, and receive all the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 14:24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.

These vases could contain about three measures. Three, for the perfection of His act. Three for the action of the Trinity in our lives: without a relationship

with God, Jesus and the Holy spirit, there will be no balanced evolution in our lives of Christians.

Look at **Romans 8:32** *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

We see in this verse all the perfection of all the mission of Jesus on Earth. God today gave us absolutely everything He has, and if He could have done this, it is because the mission of Jesus was perfect, without a hitch, flawless. (For more detail see my study God gave us everything).

Remember when Jesus was descended from the cross after His death. When a soldier planted a spear into the side of Jesus, water and blood flowed. Now therefore we found the water which was changed to wine at the wedding at Cana. We can now say that if this miracle was the first related in the bible, it is that Jesus wanted to proclaim His marriage with the Church. **Matthew 25:6** *“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’*

Not a marriage with "a church, a building or any denomination. But with all those who agree to follow His teaching, all those who have understood this real good news, all those who are born again.

He shows in this miracle that He is there to change our imperfect, ephemeral lives to make them eternal, as these six vases whose the function was to purify, but with water it remained imperfect, not accomplished. But with the power of the cross in my life, it is the open door to perfection and eternity.

A few weeks after the marriage of Cana, Jesus went to the temple to its first feast of the Passover since He began to proclaim the good news.

Here is another facet of the character of Jesus.

John 2: 15 *When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.*

It is obvious that in this example Jesus is angry.

"What!" Jesus gets angry? "Yes my brothers and sisters, Jesus has been angry several times in His Ministry on Earth. But then:

Romans 12:9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good...*

Romans tells me to hate that which is evil, and I see that Jesus gets angry. Is that it would be an injustice somewhere?

No not at all.

Paul tells us in ***Ephesians 4:26 (GNT)*** *if you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin, and do not stay angry all day.*

It is thus possible to get angry without sinning? Yes because Paul says it clearly. So where is the solution?

Many attitudes in our lives as Christians are simply poorly applied. And because we applied them poorly, we believe that these things do not come from God.

In fact, everything is in the manner, this manner will only be a reflection of the State of my soul when I'm angry. "If you start to get angry don't sin. The problem is that often, when I feel the anger rises in me, I add gradually, sometimes hate, contempt, pride, sufficiency, and it is all these things that make that anger becomes destructive and not constructive.

Anger is a feeling which comes from God, but often satan tries to add all these attributes mentioned above. Our human nature does the job very well also. If I regularly renew my soul I will increase my chances to not sin when I am angry. (For more detail see my study on spirit, soul and body).

When Jesus felt this anger, it was because of the attitude of sellers and buyers. It was not an uncontrolled anger, sudden. John 2: 15 tells us that Jesus made a whip. It takes a while to make a whip. One must try to find strings, and then weave them together. Jesus had all the time to well think about His action. It wasn't an angry uncontrolled, but rather on the contrary an act well thought about and measured.

The Jews were supposed to come to the temple once a year to celebrate Passover by bringing a sacrifice that would come from them, something they would have really given with all the recognition of their hearts towards God for bringing them out of Egyptian bondage. But instead, it was only the opportunity for some to make a financial profit, and for others buying without any gratitude toward God.

But Jesus did not stop there. He began to get angry at the temple during the first year of His Ministry in Jerusalem, but also two years after during the last year of His Ministry in the same place in Jerusalem Matt 21:13.

He also wanted by these two actions, at the beginning and at the end of His Ministry showing that He is the one who arrived, which began the process to be the perfect sacrifice, this sacrifice which would be done once and for all, the one that would be acquired permanently, and on which one would never have to go back on.

The Jews came that day in the temple from all regions around to celebrate the release from bondage in Egypt. Jesus came to make anyone come out of any form of slavery.

Note an important point.

When He drove the merchants out from the temple, He told them in ***John 2: 16 (KJV)*** " *...make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.*" Note that Jesus was in His house, the temple was His home, it was His house, because Jesus was in God and God was in Him (John 10:38). Yet He speaks of "The House of His father", it is not a question of 'our father', but Jesus speaks of His house, of His temple. He was not arrested for this. If Jesus had violated the law, the priests would not have hesitated in an opportunity to arrest Him. But they did not nothing.

The Jews, merchants, changers, or buyers came in this feast to celebrate the release of slavery, but by going to the temple, to sell, buy, or changing coins, they put themselves under another form of slavery. They came up to the peak of religiosity. The Jews came to celebrate the release of slavery, but by celebrating this feast they were going under another form of slavery.

By this first action at the beginning of His Ministry, Jesus proclaimed His arrival to show also that the stone temple would have no need to be anymore. Then at the last Easter feast before His crucifixion, Jesus returned to the temple.

Note that things had not changed, there were still trade in the temple. Clearly the Jews had not put the teaching into practice.

Do not think that Jesus in both cases acted as a man almost hysterical, screaming in every ways having lost His temper.

As we have already said before Jesus was angry but without sinning.

Look at in **Mark 11:17** *Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'* "

We often imagine Jesus shouting: "you have made my house a den of thieves!!! But not at all, it did not happen like that, this is an important point to realize.

Mark 11:17 says that Jesus was taught when he said that. This isn't by screaming that we teach people, and Jesus knew it. In this same time He healed also the blind people and some lame people.

We see also that all were stricken by His teaching, even the children present in the temple praised Jesus (Matt 21:15): it cannot be said that the people who were in the temple were terrified by the intervention of Jesus.

I don't want in any way minimize the two interventions of Jesus in the temple. Yes, He made a whip to overturn the tables and get the animals out. At this time the lashes were the punishment for a fault which was recognized (Deut. 25: 2). The bible does not say about any arguments or rebellion on the part of those Jews who has been getting out for some of them. They were guilty.

Then you will tell me why having used violence?

Of course that today it would be question of such an act. Firstly because nobody on earth could act as a Son come to restore the temple in three days, and because the law of most Western countries does not permit it. And because as we said above, Jesus is God.

He said in: **John 14:11** *Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*

The temple was the home of Jesus, His property. It's a bit like if an owner was returning home after a long absence, and that He found people who had changed certain rules of His home.

But let's go a bit deeper in this intervention of Jesus in the temple.

Far beyond the fact that the Jews had changed the rules by introducing in the temple some dishonest trade, this is not what motivated Jesus to act that way. Contrary to what one might think, Jesus had not been touched in seeing this to such a point that He could not stand, and that He could not do otherwise than to get everyone out.

This practice of the merchants was not from the previous week, it was not a new thing. Think well that Jesus, since His childhood went to the temple at every feast of Passover with His parents. The Bible nowhere mentions that Jesus did anything to stop this practice. Which does not mean that He was in agreement with those practices. But for more than 22 years He said nothing, He did nothing. Yet every year, He went to the temple for the Fest.

So why have acted the first year of his Ministry, and also the last year?

Since our world was created by God, it is divided into several periods which follow each and other. Without going into the details, when Adam and Eve were created, it was the period which we will call:

- «The fullness with God ».

Then Adam and Eve disobeyed:

- "The fall".

Then the world is sinking into the sin up to forget about God.

- "Decadence".

Then God reveals himself to Abram.

- "Rediscovery".

Then God gives the law to Moses.

- "The law".

We are not always aware, but when Jesus was born we were still under the law. And this law period lasted until the resurrection of Jesus. It is there that the grace period has begun.

This change has been a major change in our world. It was not really like other periods that occurred. This time there was the need of a teaching to be able to enter fully into this period of grace. It is for this reason that there was like a time of overlap. This overlap period lasted during the Ministry of Jesus.

And that is, the real intention of Jesus who drove the merchants out from the temple: To mark this overlap period, and then mark the beginning of the period of grace.

When during the first year of His Ministry He has chased out the merchants from the temple and taught and healed the sick, it was to say: "now the time of grace arrives, a period of overlap has started.

By this first act in the temple, Jesus marked the beginning of the change period of our world. If one were to put words on this first Act, one could say: "the Messiah begins His teaching on Earth. Soon no more sacrifices, more law to accomplish, no more than temple. »

One could also cite the prophecies of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah as: *Isaiah 9:6* *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

If Jesus had to talk about this Act in the temple, He would have said: ' change has started, I begin my teaching, the grace period is nearby, be careful, listen!»

Then followed by three years of teaching of Jesus.

Now we come to the last year of the Ministry of Jesus where for the 2nd time He drives out the merchants from the temple.

This time His act marks the end of the overlap period. And once again, if one were to put words on the Act of Jesus, one might say: "now this is the end of my teaching on Earth, I gave you all that you need. The grace period is at the door. Now no need of sacrifices anymore, no more need of temple.

This is another facet of the personality of Jesus.

It is very important not to judge the facts too quickly. I can tell you that a majority of you who read this study, were sure that Jesus only came to do a bit of housekeeping in the temple. In any case, it wasn't His goal.

All the words and deeds of Jesus were for the one only purpose, enable the generation, and to all those who would follow to enter this grace period to be able to live it at 100%.

It can happen that you may read a passage from the bible, which apparently does not stick with that. In this case you will need to consider and read this passage again, because it means that you have not understood and misinterpreted it. (For more details see my study on "how to study the Bible").

The next day (Matt 21:18) after chasing the 2nd time the merchants, and taught at the temple, Jesus passes in front of a fig tree.

Mark 11: 12-14 *Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.*

Once again here we could have the impression that Jesus is a resentful and sufficient manner. You might think that Jesus is hungry, and because there is nothing to eat on this tree, he cursed this tree.

At that time, when a fig tree had leaves, it also had figs. If the fig tree had leaves, figs were also there on the tree. But clearly, this fig tree had leaves but not figs on it.

Jesus had to approaching the tree to check that there were many figs. But arrived nearby, He noted that there were no figs.

Here again still keep well in mind that we are still in a context of teaching. Every circumstance for Jesus was subject to teach. He knew that He would only have 3 years and a half to complete this task, not a year more. The fig tree, seen from afar should be beautiful, big and strong. By far, nothing to set it apart from other fig trees which they would be full of fruit.

We can bring at least two lessons in this word that Jesus has pronounced against this fig tree.

The first is easy, because the next day, when Jesus and His disciples came again in front of the fig tree, Peter finds that the tree died from the root.

Mark 11: 20-21 *Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."*

Then immediately Jesus taught the Apostles on the power of the words associated with the faith. He said to them: **Marc 11: 22** *Jesus spoke, and said to them: have faith in God.*

This was an opportunity to show to the Apostles that Jesus was the Incarnate Word of God. The same word that has created the whole universe, this word which, through His permanent effect, brings all the planets to being that they fall not into nothingness. This word which, when it is mixed with faith can accomplish everything without any limit. (For more details on this subject see my study I take and I use my authority).

Now also look at this passage in **Matthew 21: 28-31** *“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.*

To get back in the context, this episode takes place on the same day when Jesus curses the fig tree. He went to the temple and He is attacked by the Chiefs priests and the elders who ask: “Tell us, by what authority do you do these things, or who is the one who gave you this authority? ”

Jesus replied by this parable of Matthew 21:28.

In other words, it is not enough to look like, it is not enough to look at... to be able to enter into the Kingdom of grace. It is exactly like the fig tree. He looked like but it was not. By far one would have thought that it was bearing fruit, but it was not bearing any.

This is one of the most important bases of the teaching of Jesus. If I had to choose only one, it would be this one. Because this basis, once acquired and integrated into my life will allow me to access to all the other stages of the teaching of the Gospel.

If I pretend to be, that which I am not and if I pretend to have that of which I have nothing, in both cases I will be treated as one who is not or the one who has not.

So I think that many who read this study will say: 'but it does not concern me. Are you sure?

There is a little more than 20 years ago, I was a Christian for only a few years, I made a painful experience which showed me that I wasn't what I would appear. When I say painful it is to the human meaning, carnal. But this experience was a spiritual deliverance for me.

My first job was in a very large car garage, I was a mechanic, well before I became Christian. At that time my life was mixed all sorts of more or less

honest actions. I remember one night where I went and broke-in to the garage where I worked to steal some equipment and tools.

A few years after I met Jesus who had transformed my life. I had become a Christian. Everything was fine, I had since stopped all the dishonest actions in my life, it was something done for me, I was not thinking about it anymore. Several years later, I still had the things I had taken in my home, which I was using from time to time, but it didn't worry me. Of course it happened once or twice that I thought back to how I had acquired the things, but I told myself: 'I won't put it in a bin

One day, we were in a prayer meeting at the church, and my pastor at that time gave a word of knowledge. More than 25 years after I still remember it as if it was yesterday. This word was saying: "you have things among you that does not belong to you. You have to give them back".

You all know this feeling, when a word concerns you, but we act as if it wasn't for us. We try to convince ourselves by any means that this is not for us. That's what I did that day there when I heard this word. But you also all know that feeling when you stop fighting because we have understood and that you feel that the Holy Spirit witnesses again and again in our spirit. But often our soul denies this thought of the Holy Spirit in our spirit. And then after a while the soul submits to the spirit, and it is a good thing.

I understood that I was not the one that I appeared to be. I had the look of a good Christian, honest. But I was not. Like the fig tree, by far I looked good and beautiful, but digging a little I was just a former thief who had kept a bit of his booty.

I passed on the details because it is not about our subject today however I went to give back all the things. The humiliation was strong, but the deliverance it had been even more powerful. When I went out of the office to the boss where I had confessed to him, gave back to him and compensated financially, I felt lightness, an enormous freedom. I was now like a fig tree which with beautiful figs on it.

Jesus had this personality that made Him a teacher at any time. His mission was all His life. He's primary purpose was to transmit this real good news to the Jews, so that later they could transmit it to all mankind. This task was even harder as He had to use perfect balance in His teaching, a perfect balance in the way of miracles.

Why?

Have you already asked yourself the question why Jesus had to silence the demons who said that He was the son of God?

In **Luke 4: 34-35** saying, *"Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"* But Jesus rebuked him, saying, *"Be quiet, and come out of him!"* And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him.

Or why did He said, while He just heal a leper in **Matthew 8:4** And Jesus said to him, *"See that you tell no one..."*

Or again, when He just restore the sight to two blinds who He say that they should say nothing to anyone?...

In **Matthew 9:30** And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, *"See that no one knows it."*

But also in **Matthew 16:20** Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

And many other passages yet where Jesus recommends to say nothing.

But why will you say?

Jesus had a balance that He absolutely had to observe when He taught the good news throughout His Ministry. We are not always aware of it but this balance was crucial. If Jesus had not complied with this balance the whole process of the cross could be deleted.

Jesus not only said repeatedly to say nothing on some of His miracles or certain situations that He has lived with His Apostles. Remember in **Matthew 9: 30**, it is

written that he told them severely to say nothing. Jesus spoke severely, it wasn't an option to say nothing, but a real necessity.

We see here again another example of the personality of Jesus. Understand this. Jesus came from heaven to Earth to accomplish this law that no one was able to accomplish before Him, and thereby give humans free access to eternal life with God.

But a whole process should not only have to be put in place, but also be fulfilled in its entirety.

It would have been very easy for Jesus to announce the good news, to make all kinds of miracles and say to everyone: "I am the son of God, I have come to give you eternal life. "It's me the Messiah".

What would have happened in this case?

Well I can tell you that if Jesus had done so, no one would be saved today, no one would be Christian. It is plausible that we would have forgotten the name of Jesus Christ.

For this whole process that we are talking about can happen in its entirety, the son of God had to die on the cross. Well I can tell you that if Jesus had not somehow "limited" the spread of His Ministry, the Jews would have all recognized Him as the long awaited Messiah. And these same Jews would never have accepted that Jesus was crucified. They would have never agreed to kill their God in crucifying. They would never have agreed that the priests deliver Him to the Romans to be judged. If all the Jewish people had lived all these miracles, all these spiritual experiences through stories and each other, all these things would have brought them to well understand that Jesus was truly God incarnate in a man.

The balance was the following: Jesus had to announce, teach, so that His teaching would continue after His death on the cross and for a maximum of people to have understood the good news. But the limit should not be exceeded in any way that would allow too many among the people to have understood that He was the Messiah, which would have meant in this case no

judgment, no condemnation, no crucifixion, not ultimate sacrifice once and for all. And there, the Devil would have won. Certainly the Messiah would have come, but He would have lived His life as a revered King. And many would have done so that no one touch His life. This reaction would have been purely carnal on the part of the people. But if Jesus gave free rein to His teaching, His miracles, this is really what would have happened. And it would have been finished about the humanity.

John 6: 15 *Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.*

Jesus couldn't even commit suicide to accomplish this universal sacrifice, because in this case there would have been no spiritual value.

Do you now understand now what Jesus had confronted throughout all His life on Earth? It was a situation that He could not talk about to anyone. It was a thing that He should live alone with. Certainly Jesus was all day with His disciples during His Ministry, but for many situations He was well alone. And He overcame this solitude, this not understanding from others about Him with great success.

Even if He was able to say, seeing the timing of His sacrifice arriving in:
Matthew 26:38 *Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*

It is at this time, the soul of Jesus which is sad, it is His human part.

As we said earlier, one of the aims of Jesus was that his Ministry wouldn't dissolve a few years after His death. This Ministry was to continue until His return when He would gather up His Church. And for this the Apostles should be autonomous.

The autonomy is what allows me to act alone, without outside assistance. It allows me to feel sure about myself. When I'm autonomous in a domain, I am in peace because I know that I will have no problem doing anything in this area.

It was essential that the Apostles be autonomous or self-sufficient after the death of Jesus.

You will tell me that the Apostles were far from being autonomous when they were in the upper room waiting for the Holy Spirit which they did not know much about at the time. But if today I write all this to you, it is that they have managed successfully. If you have the opportunity to read the word of God in the Bible, it is that they have succeed, Halleluiah.

And to help the Apostles to enter in autonomy, Jesus had done in several ways. Let's look at one on them, a little more in detail.

One day the Apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith. **Luke 17: 5** *And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."*

It was as a result of a conversation that Jesus had with the Apostles, where He explained that one should forgive his brother (or sister) as many times that it would be necessary in a single day. This statement had the effect of an inaccessible thing among the Apostles. They thought: "we can never make it by ourselves". And they were right on this point. That is why they asked Jesus to increase their faith.

Have you ever asked God to increase your faith?

If you did, has God increased your faith?

Well I doubt that God responded to this kind of prayer. Forgive me if I shock you, but it is a reality, God does not respond to this kind of prayer.

Let's look together.

Is that Jesus replied: "very well brothers, you want more faith? So sit back here and I'll pray for you so that you will receive more faith." Or is that Jesus told them: "it's very well what you ask me here, you understand that you need more faith to be able to forgive as much as needed in a day".

No, Jesus said nothing like that, He didn't even refer to it.

But why?

Just because my faith in any case cannot be increased.

What, my faith cannot be increased?

No, that is right now you understand, your faith cannot be increase.

The solution is in the response of Jesus to the Apostles. **Luke 17: 6** *So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.*

For years I found this word quite hard Luke 17: 6. I told myself: yet it comes from a good feeling. The Apostles asked Jesus for more faith as they wanted to improve. So this is not very encouraging on the part of Jesus to answer that way.

But today, thanks to the Holy Spirit who teaches me, I understood this word. It is not hard at all, it is just the opposite. These are very encouraging words on the part of Jesus.

Look in **Romans 12:3** it is the end of the verse which concerns us here.

Roman 12: 3 *...,according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

At the time a measure was frequently used for traders on the markets. For a seller of oil, for example, the measure was a vessel that was used to give the same volume of oil for a specified amount of money. And so that neither the merchant nor the buyer would be disadvantaged. With the measure, all those who bought were sure to have the same volume.

In Roman 12: 3 it is the same thing. It is not question of several measurements, or different volumes of measures. No, it's the same measure. God used the same measure to give the faith to each of His children. We have all received the same measure of faith. And it is for this reason that I cannot increase my faith, and that God cannot increase my faith, because I have already received the fullest measure.

Now we understand why Jesus did not say to the Apostles: "Yes my brethren, I will pray to increase your faith.

So before you think about it, I' going to tell it you. Some will say: "but then it's nice to have all this same measure of faith", but why did Jesus say to Peter in

Luke 22:32 *But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."*

We actually have all received the same measure of faith. But this does not mean that we all use this measure that we have received.

Suppose that I have in my kitchen a canister of 10 liters of oil at home for which I can find several scenarios.

Such as if I prepare a meal and I need oil, I will go and take my canister. But if I do not know the volume of oil remaining in the canister, I'll take just what is needed, and even less to save it. Or, how could I be sure that there is not just as much as a glass of oil in this 10 liter container, then I might unwisely restrict myself from the oil that I need. I might also have forgot about the 10 liter container in my closet, and cook without oil that I need for my meal.

In other words Jesus said in Luke 17: 6. If you use only one millimeter in the measure of faith that you already have in you, you could do miracles that would be disproportionate compared to your need. Of course there is no real great reason to uproot a tree and throw it in the sea, or to tell a mountain to go into the sea. These images are there to make us understand that we all have the same potential of faith inside of us, but everyone does not know it, and everyone does not activate it by the going word of Roman 12: 3 a certainty in his spirit.

I have very good news for you today. You have received the same measure of faith that Peter has, as John, as James, as Paul, and as Jesus Himself. This potential is already in you, you've have just to activate it. (For more details see my study on the potential of the Christian).

Back to Jesus who wanted the Apostles become autonomous or self-sufficient.

Now these Apostles knew that they did not need that someone increases their faith, because they had already received the maximum.

Some time prior to this, Jesus was with a crowd that followed Him. He had taught this crowd throughout the day. Then He decided to cross the sea to get to the other side.

Mark 4: 35 *And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.*

This Lake that Jesus and the Apostles were about to cross was approximately 13 kms wide. It was night, and everyone comes on board to cross the Lake of Gennesaret. This Lake is located about 200 m below the sea level and it is renowned for its storms due to the fact of rapid temperature changes. Major storms and eddies are formed regularly. This phenomenon was already active at the time of Jesus. Some of the Apostles had probably already experience it because of their fishing businesses.

Jesus and the Apostles left to cross the Lake. But after a while the storm rises. And the Apostles began to battle with the waves and the wind. To get to the point where they thought that they were going to lose their lives.

Mark 4: 37-38 *And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*

Jesus, slept in the back of the boat. Do you think that Jesus did not know that the storm was there? Or that the boat was not strongly shaken? Nor that He pretended to sleep, not at all.

But simply that Jesus was not unaware that the vessel was shaken, and even in half a sleep, He knew that the sea was not quiet. Yet He didn't get up. He didn't say "my brethren, I see that you can't get out of this problem, let me assist you by ordering the wind to calm down".

No, Jesus said nothing of all this.

He let His Apostles use the measure of faith they had received. But our Apostles brothers were still in full training of the master. And panic began to win them. I do not blame the Apostles, because myself at the beginning of my Christian life (as they were) I would have probably done the same thing. And Jesus did not criticize them elsewhere.

Mark 4: 38-40 *And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

They awoke therefore Jesus who was asleep, panicking telling Him: "You don't see that we are going to die?"

And Jesus replied: "but remember that you have received the faith that God gave you, you are able to get out alone of this. The faith that is in you, gives you the power of authority over the elements.

But as we said earlier, Jesus is not blaming them, on the contrary, it was words of encouragement. When Jesus said in Mark 4:40 "*how is it that ye have no faith?*" This meant: "this storm is at your fingertips, you have all the faith you need to order from this to be calm, this is at your fingertips".

Then He said to them: "Look, I'll show you".

Mark 4: 39 *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

It was their first lesson of autonomy.

Then arriving on the other side, Jesus prepares them to continue to grow in this autonomy. Without going into too much detail, Jesus prepares them for casting out demons. **Mark 5: 1-2** *And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,*

You can read all the details by continuing Marc 5.

He is preparing them because for next few days He would send them to spreading the good news, heal the sick, cast out demons, and set free people.

For this we arrive at **Mark 5: 22-23** *And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.*

Then if you continue after **Mark 5: 23** there is the healing of a woman. Then the same days in **Matthew 9: 27**, we found the healing of a leper and two blind men.

Still in the same days the Apostles were also witnesses that one can encounter to the unbelief of the people, which blocks any healing or any miracle. We find this in **Matthew 13: 54-58**, when Jesus could not do many miracles because He was with people who had always known Him since young.

Now was about to begin the practical implementation of these past days.

Mark 6: 7-12 *And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. And they went out, and preached that men should repent.*

Now the Apostles had all the necessary tools to announce the repentance. The few days before had been rich in training for them. They had seen how to cast out demons, healed the sick with various diseases, but also that we may be facing the unbelief of the people who will strongly prevent miracles from happening. I am not saying that any incredulity blocks miracles, fortunately this is not the case. But just that when one is faced with unbelief things are much more difficult, but not impossible. And we can say that these days and these months of training have been well used by the Apostles, as on their return they were all happy, sometimes even surprised to have been able to accomplish what they did.

Then always in the context of autonomy, we arrive a few weeks later. **Mark 6: 30-31** *And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.*

Autonomy does not mean run without thinking about, it is important to know our limits. When Jesus told His disciples to rest, it is in a spirit of wisdom. It is easy to engage in activities without thinking about it, but one can easily arrive at a stage where we will be this time forced to stop. It is very important to know our limits in order to be able to stop when that needed.

Yet one more facet of the personality of Jesus which is very important.

A little later, Jesus comes to be out by Himself, then He is moved by a crowd that comes to Him to listen to His teaching and get healed. It was the end of the day, the night began to fall, and the crowd was still there. Jesus still heals many sick, teaches repentance.

Luke 9: 12-13 *And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat.*

And the lesson on autonomy continues.

The reflex of the Apostles is unfortunately still there, in partly in any case. Yet they just spend several days without Jesus, to cast out demons, spread the Good News, healing the sick. But the carnal side is coming back. "Their Master returns them so that they can themselves find something to eat".

Here once more Jesus does not give them any reproach.

But training continues. "Give them something to eat yourselves".

How many times I have prayed God or Jesus to do a job instead of me. I did out of ignorance. And I must say that the fulfillment was very rare. Today I realized that there are things that are required of me. There are things for which it is not worth asking God of.

Why?

Because it is for me to do it, because God gave me everything to get there, because God has given me the authority to get there. How did Jesus feed this crowd? He did a miracle. The multiplication of food.

Do you think that when Jesus said to the apostles give them yourselves to eat, He wanted to say: go to the store in the corner of the street and ask them if they agree to give you food for this crowd. Obviously not, Jesus did not mean that. Jesus said in His words: "you have the potential to give them to eat. You have all the necessary faith to multiply a bit of food and to give it to these thousands of people who are hungry". But once more the apostles did not understand what Jesus wanted them to understand.

Mark 6:52 *For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.*

To not understand a lesson does not necessarily mean that we do not move forward. And Jesus knew it that is why He did not reproach them. But on the contrary He remained calm and always encouraging. Which does not mean that Jesus would do all the work for them, not at all.

Let's continue to see this adventure, Jesus does not abandon until the lesson is not acquired. Today for us who are Christians, Jesus is not with us here on Earth as He was with His disciples. I have often in the past, thought that I would have liked to live in the time of Jesus. To be with Him, asking all the questions that I wanted to. But it was until I realized that we have much better than Jesus in flesh and bones with us: The Holy Spirit, our best friend.

Many Christians believe that He is the one who comes to comfort me when I'm sad or that I go through a trial. Jesus said about Him in: **John 14:26** *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.*

On that day Jesus called Him the comforter as He talked to a Jewish people under Roman domination, a people which had been submitted to the Romans. Jesus meant that the Holy Spirit could comfort them from this domination, but in nowhere limiting the action of the Holy Spirit as a consolation for us Christians today.

He will teach you all things. All things is all things. Not only Biblical things, not only the teaching of Jesus. But absolutely everything you need to know, to learn, to know-how, in your work, in your studies. My three children know that the Holy Spirit is there to help them to remember what they have already study

for their exams, in assessment at school. They know that He is one that will help them understand in class or at the University when the explanation of the teacher is hard to assimilate.

In the continuation of His lesson on autonomy Jesus asks the Apostles to go back on the other side where they came from a few weeks ago. If I was in the same place of the Apostles, I think that I would be reminded of the storm not so long ago. And I think I would not feel the need to go back.

Matthew 14: 22 (KJV) *And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.*

Jesus had to force them to get into the boat. They did not want to. It's like if Jesus said: "gentlemen a few weeks ago we saw the authority with faith, but you had not understood then. Therefore this time you will go there all alone by yourself. Don't worry, you have everything you need. I will keep an eye on you".

Mark 6: 47 *Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.*

It was about 6 p.m. when they boarded to reach the other shore 13 kms more. I say about 6 p.m. because the boat was already in the middle of the Lake and night began to fall. It can be concluded that the disciples had left before nightfall, late in the evening.

Mark 6: 48 *Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by.*

The Apostles had to face a headwind. I'm not an expert in sailing but it seems to me that in this case it is very difficult to help with the sail in the opposite direction of the wind. In any case they chose to paddle because it was surely the best thing rather than hoist the sail if they had one. The fourth watch of the night is about at least at 3 o'clock in the morning. So imagine these Apostles, for some for them fisherman process of rowing since long hours. We have seen

that they were gone before the nightfall. We can say without doubt that they were on the sea for at least 7 hours.

7 hours rowing, tired, with the memory of the last crossing. This time we can easily note the evolution in their attitude. There is no sign of panic, no anger, but our brother's rowing and still rowing for hours. Then Jesus sees them from the hill where He stayed to pray. We were almost in the sun rise, Jesus had spent a good part of the night praying. We will return to this fact a little later.

Jesus knew from the start that He would cross the Lake by walking on water. He had planned to go there on foot, because when He arrived at the height of the boat, it is written "that He would have passed them by," or certain versions as the current Amplified said: "he intended to pass by them".

Mark 6: 48 *Seeing the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night (3:00-6:00 a.m.) He came to them, walking on the sea. And [acted as if] He intended to pass by them.*

Therefore, Jesus did not come to get into the boat with the others. He planned to cross on foot. It was a normal phenomenon for Him. And He did not arrive at the level of the boat by saying: "Look, I walk on the water", just like if He wanted to show that He was the greatest, the one who did things that no one else could do. No, not at all. Walking on the water was "almost" normal for Jesus.

When Peter told Him in other words: "master, I want to be like you, I want to arrive at your level, and I want to bear the same fruits as you. Jesus did not reply: "no, no Peter, don't even try to get out of the boat, because it will be too much for you".

This here is still a feature of the personality of Jesus. We already saw that He was always trying to encourage His Apostles, but not only that, He never showed any superiority in His teaching, His goal was that His disciples arrive at the same point as Him.

Unfortunately some preachers today ensure that people remain at a level of knowledge inferior to them. They do not give their study methods and do not always address the deep points of their teachings. Often it is because they are afraid that people might increase in knowledge and truth, because the lack of

knowledge and dependency way for them to keep their position as teacher leader.

Jesus, was not like this. He knew that He had only a little more than 3 years to form a team which could, after His death on the cross, continue to spread the real good news. And in all His way of teaching could be felt constantly pushed His disciples to do better, to always improve because there is so much more to discover. And this, whatever is your spiritual level.

A brother with whom I study regularly told me one day: "what I love the most about God is knowing that I will never get to the end that I will always have something to learn whatever spiritual level that I reach". I find this very real and very strong thought in the same time.

Matthew 14: 26-28 *And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

What a beautiful reaction from Jesus. "Don't be afraid!" This is a magnificent example of protection of benevolence on the part of Jesus. And our brother Peter had perfectly understood and integrated the words of Jesus. He took them for himself. He was the only one to manifest this boldness. All others are merely to calm their fear with the words of Jesus. But Peter, went further, because he understood that Jesus offered them to go further. He remembered this lesson of autonomy that Jesus had begun a few weeks earlier: first the crossing, go announce the good news, the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, and then this 2nd crossing. Of course he had not assimilated 100% of it, and this was not the purpose. The key is to move forward, to have a steady progression.

Peter surely remembered Jesus word when he was practically in the same situation a few weeks earlier. There was a same storm, a same boat, and Jesus told them "where is your faith? " Or in other words: "try to challenge yourself, make efforts to believe and put into practice what I have taught you since the first day. Peter had understood that it was the perfect opportunity for him to go one more step.

Matthew 14: 28-29 *And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

Quite often I would hear about Peter who walked on water in some way, as a bit weak or low, or as someone who didn't have enough faith.

Have you walked on water? Well neither have I!

Peter is often regarded as one who often misses what he tries. But why? Did you already asked yourself the question?

Think for a moment.

Peter, it is true, had a strong temperament. Always the first in many things, but also sometimes the last one you say. For example when he began to sink into the water, or when the Rooster sang three times (for more details on this subject see my study about repentance): as they say, one who does nothing is sure not to do any errors.

Peter was a go-getter, and like any heavy-hitter, at the beginning, when he was in training, he tripped a few times. Can it be said that his attempts were failures? Absolutely not. Quite the contrary.

Peter was able to walk on the water because of his faith, and because he understood that he took for himself the words of Jesus - which is not less than The Word of God - and see them activated in his own life. (For more details on this subject see my study on the power of the Word).

We always have the choice to take the positive or the negative of a situation. Personally, I do not find any negative action in Peter, but it is for me a great encouragement to enable all the faith I received.

We can now be sure that one of the objectives of Jesus was to make His Apostles autonomous. He has spent much time and energy on it. It was a very important point for Him, and even essential.

Why essential?

The Apostles understood a bit late that Jesus would not be with them for all their life, despite the fact that Jesus told it to them several times. Therefore,

the apostles did not have this understanding of the need to grow in autonomy. But Jesus, He had it. He knew that if His Apostles were not growing up in this sense, after His death on the cross, they would be an easy prey for satan and his demons so that the good news will turn off quickly.

For us Christians today, autonomy is also essential. And unfortunately many Christian do not have it. They are much too dependent on their brothers or sisters, or even of their leaders. Caution, do not confuse being autonomous and isolating themselves and wanting to do everything alone. There is a balance between the two.

On one hand we need each other, and on the other hand we need to cope alone with the Holy Spirit when a circumstance requires it. This is very important.

If I'm still dependent, of my brother, or my sister, my pastor, etc... satan will quickly find the fault to make me fall. It will be even very easy for him, he will simply isolate me from the people which I am dependent of. And there, I would be lost without anyone to come to my rescue, nobody there to advise me on what to do, I'll really be easy prey that the devil will not hesitate one moment to put ashore.

Do not live on the basis of someone else faith, as this person also has weak points, anyone he can be. And if this person stumbles or falls, you will stumbling or will fall with him.

As I said above, I am advocating in no case to isolate yourself. We need a brotherhood fellowship, the bible teaches it. But in this communion we must all be aware that each needs to evolve continuously.

Some time ago I gave this teaching to a Christian friend. And she told me: ' but then what do you do with: **James 5:14** *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

Yes of course if we make a body, is to help each and others, but in no case do over assistance of comfort. I mean, do something instead of my brother or my sister, while it is at him or her that is to do this thing. And I understand that it is

easy to fall into a bad understanding of James 5:14. But if we give ourselves the effort to seek the context, here is the situation in the case of James 5:14.

We are about 45 years after the death of Jesus. The Jesus Christ Church underwent a persecution for at least 10 years considering the 35 year after Christ. *acts 8: 1 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

James is here talking to the Christian Jews who were scattered outside of Jerusalem following what happened in acts 8: 1. Those Jews who suffered persecution are therefore in a moral dismay, overwhelmed by persecution, some in even lost their lives as Steven. And there James urges them so that they can find back a mental force that will push them to continue the fight of Christian life.

The Greek word for "sick" in James 5:14 is not necessarily a physical problem. This word is used 18 times in the NT to refer to a physical problem, but it is also used 14 times in the NT to denote a moral problem, a spiritual fatigue, a pain from life. This is what we might today call a depressive state.

These Christians were therefore not in a State strong enough to overcome this trial. And this is still in a good vision of full autonomy that James tell them saying: "my brothers and my sisters, I understand that your situation is difficult because of the persecution that you are experiencing. I understand that you have trouble praying, you have trouble activating all the faith that you have received. But especially do not remain in this State, you have lost a part of your autonomy and you are vulnerable to the devil. You need in your case, some brothers stronger who will help you to regain your mental strength, your autonomy. Therefore call the elders of the Church to help you in praying for you, this in order to regain your strong and powerful State in Jesus Christ".

Here is a passage from James often very misunderstood and therefore misapplied. This passage shows us once more the importance to remain autonomous, so that my team with the Holy Spirit will be effective.

I think that now it is clear to you that I do not teach an isolated Christian life, without brotherhood Fellowship. But on the contrary a powerful life for each

one of us, which can include moments where we need each other for helping each other's.

Over Assisting my brother or my sister, is not to helping him, on the contrary, it is to hold him (her) in its weakness. And Jesus knew it very well, He applied this rule to His Apostles. He constantly pushed them to surpass themselves, to use the full potential they have received. Remember of: **Matthew 14:16** *But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

Although often as we said above Jesus used miracles to proclaim, to make understand, to declare. Yet here is again an example that will help us to better understand His person.

We are about a year before the crucifixion of Jesus. He was with His disciples walking to reach the village of Bethany at slightly more than 20 km from Jerusalem.

Luke 10: 38 *Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.*

There He meet a woman named Martha who invited Him to come into her house where she lives with her sister Mary, it is not known if their brother Lazarus lived with them, but we may assume it. One can easily assume that in the House Jesus teaches, but also that Jesus binds friendship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus. We have this confirmation in **John 11: 5** *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.* it is hard to imagine that Jesus loved this family without having been acquainted with them, without spending time to talk together.

It's about 2 to 3 months after that Jesus had made the acquaintance with Martha, Mary and Lazarus, that we come to the passage of John 11 where Lazarus fell sick. The Gospel of John is the only one who talks about the disease and the resurrection of Lazarus.

John 11: 1-7 *Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with*

fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

Several things can be taken from the verses above.

Firstly we are reassured when we read that Jesus said that Lazarus will not die "*...this disease is not for death*" Jesus said.

Then it goes on to say that if Lazarus is sick it so that this disease shows the glorious power of God, but also that it is here to manifest the glory of the son of God.

Things seem to be complicated, when one reads now that Jesus does not run up to Bethany to heal His friend Lazarus. But on the contrary He stays there two more days there where He is.

Why does He act this way?

Verse 7 tells us that not far from Bethany people seek Jesus to kill Him. You might think that He feared to go to Bethany. After all Jesus had already stayed in a place to avoid being killed.

You might also think that Jesus has think about it, and that after two days He changed His mind and took the path of Bethany.

Not at all.

Because theses verses 9 and 10 tells us just the opposite. When Jesus decides that it is time to leave, His disciples say to Him that it is not wise to go there because it is too dangerous for Him, but also for them. And Jesus replied with verses 9 and 10 by saying: "*there are twelve hours in a day. If we walk during the day, it did not fall, because it is clear. But if you walk at night, there are likely to fall, because it is not clear*".

By understanding what Jesus said in these two verses, we have the assurance that He fears nobody, that He is not afraid of those who want His life. But with this response Jesus wants to make clear to His disciples that they should not fear for their lives either, because fear will push them to act in a bad way.

In these verses the light represents God, His Kingdom on Earth. And as there is a time of light and time of night in one day, in the same way there is always a choice to follow what God tells us in His word, or follow what my flesh (my body and my soul) are telling me, or what an evil spirit can suggest me. And in this case this Jesus said to His disciples: "Beware, don't be mistaken. Do not be dominated by your soul or your body that generate fear in this circumstance. You will always have the choice to follow my teaching, or follow what your flesh is telling you. Choose light to not fall. »

These two verses are a good teaching for us also who are Christians. In every circumstance of our lives, we always have the choice to follow the teaching of the good news or not, even if sometimes this teaching could seem not to be a wise decision from a human sight. To do the choice of light will always be positive for us, because we will not fall. Even though this path seems difficult or impossible, making this choice is by far the best thing for me.

Jesus is not elaborate on this subject, and not to talk for hours. The fact was, that the disciples should not give into panic.

All have not understood it, because Thomas in verse 16 says: *"so Thomas, also called the twin, told the other disciples: "Let's go we also, to die with Jesus!"*. He was resigned.

The bible does not tell us if, after the resurrection of Lazarus, Thomas has understood the lesson. But in other passages it is spoken about Thomas who still doubts, especially when Jesus was resurrected. He was a suspicious man, he needed his body to confirm to him things with his eyes.

Then do not be like Thomas. Not that he was someone bad, not at all, because he was Apostle and disciple of Jesus. But I am sure that Thomas would have gained a lot of time and therefore would have gone further more in the activation of the faith that he has received, if he had left his soul to submit to his spirit so that his faith would have taken place in him.

We therefore now understand that Jesus went to Bethany 2 days after He heard about the disease of Lazarus.

Can we say that Jesus willingly let die Lazarus to raise him up?

Yes I think we can say this. One might consider the attitude of Jesus very hard. He leaves His friend die, in addition to this, He asked His disciples to follow Him at the risk of their lives. But there is nothing. All the opportunities were good for Jesus so that His disciples are moving forward in their spiritual lives.

Note an important fact. Jesus does not merely say: "follow me, we go there, and don't give in to panic." But it says in verse 11: *after these words, he said to them: Lazarus, our friend, sleep; but I'll wake him.*

But once more, the disciples do not understand. They think that Lazarus sleeps to rest from his illness and that he will be healed. Just like as if they were saying: "is this really worth to go there? If he sleeps it will be heal".

It was a word of encouragement from Jesus. *"Lazarus is well dead, but don't worry I will raise him up from the dead. And I'm happy of not having been next to him so that you can see with your eyes what you will see and understand what I'm going to proclaim through this miracle ».*

All are so on the way to Bethany, there were approximately for 1 or 2 days of walk.

When they arrive to the home of Lazarus, he is already dead for 4 days. It is important to well see the scene. Many people from Jerusalem were come to Martha and Mary for the death of Lazarus. We are thus in a house full of people, maybe 30, 40 or 50 people. The mourning period lasted 30 days. It also seems that this family was quite wealthy and influential from the Jews who moved from Jerusalem, but also because of the perfume of great price that Marie anointed Jesus with in John 12: 3.

Then Martha head about Jesus is almost arrived, she went to meet Him outside of the village of Bethany. There is here a wonderful demonstration of faith on the part of Martha. Certainly, she asked Jesus why He was not there earlier, which is quite normal. In the same way that one might ask a person that is expected to arrive at least 4 days before. But Martha is sure that Jesus not only

could to heal her brother Lazarus if it had arrived before his death, but also to resurrect it even after 4 days of death. This is no doubt for Martha that Jesus is Almighty, regardless the obstacle that lies ahead.

John 11: 22 *But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."*

John 11: 24 *Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

John 11: 27 *She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

Martha has the assurance that Jesus is the Messiah that He is the son of Almighty God and that He is the one who will give eternal life to those who believe.

It is not written in the text, but by reading verse 28 we see that Jesus had to talk with Martha about Mary. Jesus also meant to Mary that her brother will rise, and maybe other things.

John 11: 28-29 *And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him.*

By this miracle in resurrecting Lazarus, Jesus will proclaim that He is the one who came to give eternal life to all those who have died spiritually, that He is the one and only who will give His life willingly so that everyone who believes in Him access to eternal life. But not only that, we'll see it later.

Many are asking the question, why did Jesus cry when He arrived at the tomb of Lazarus in verse 35?

The text tells us that the present Jews thought it was because He loved Lazarus. Of course these Jews unsuspecting not a single moment that a few minutes later Lazarus would be resurrected by Jesus. We know very well that this is not the reason for the tears of Jesus.

Firstly, it is important to understand this word "wept". The Greek word used suggests tears flowing silently on the face. Jesus has not burst into tears. He did not cry in a way that would attract attention or sympathy. Tears have just leaked on the face of Jesus, without a sound, in silence.

Now that this point is clarified, we can move forward in our thinking. I've heard several versions about the "tears of Jesus". Some explain that they would be due to the fact that Jesus wept because of a lack of faith on the part of Mary and Martha. We cannot accept this version, and we'll see why.

We said above that Jesus has caused this miracle by letting Lazarus die. But also, by this resurrection He proclaims that He is the Christ, the son of God who gives life.

Jesus knew that soon He would voluntarily offer His life so that this proclamation is realized. But He knew also that despite the fact that all humans will potentially receive life eternal by His sacrifice, all will not accept it, all will not incorporate it into their lives. And these people will remain dead for eternity.

All Jews present there that day had not understood this. This thought was beginning to grow in the spirit of Jesus. He saw these Jews in ignorance of the Messiah before them because of sin and religiosity. Seeing all these people before and around Him, Jesus was filled with compassion, and at a time of sadness because He knew that despite the gift of His life, all humans will not take the benefit of it.

He had said it from the beginning. This disease is to glorify the son, this disease will be to proclaim and to make understanding by its story, that the son of God came to Earth and that it is through Him alone that anyone accesses to life for eternity.

John 11: 39-43 *Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying.[a] And Jesus lifted up His eyes and*

said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

We see here Martha having a reaction that could contradict her words with Jesus a few moments earlier.

There's a difference between saying something and put this thing into practice. Martha had apparently not understood that Lazarus would find life again at this time and in this way when she says to Jesus: *"Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days"*... Martha had understood that Jesus could make life in her brother Lazarus, she was sure of it. But she had not fully integrated this concept into her.

Can we say that she has lacked faith for that?

No, I do not think so.

She had the faith to believe it, but in front of the situation, she let her soul (intellect) take over on her spirit on this subject. She left her lead by the circumstances. But she did not absolutely prevent Jesus to remove this stone. We may think that this reflection in Martha was only for a few seconds.

Why?

Simply because Jesus had reminded her what He had said earlier. And Martha had appropriate to her this word from Jesus. She took it and left it to take root in her, and an assurance, a steadfast hope ensued.

How many Christians today are sure that God can act in their lives for this or that situation? Almost all you may say, and you will be right.

But how many of these Christians would be sure that God would act now, for this same situation? I think that we could remove the 2 thirds.

Many people are sure that God can act in their lives, but when these same people were asked: "Are you sure that God is going to do it now?" then it is another thing.

It is something that I regularly practice to let me be transformed by the word of God. We have all areas of our lives where we need to let the word of God take root in us. (For more details on this subject see my study on the power of the Word).

It is now very clear because of the verse 42.

John 11: 42 *And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."*

There's no more doubt about the intentions of Jesus in this miracle. Jesus could have from His own authority, ordered Lazarus to come out alive. But He proclaimed that in front of all, that God is His father, He is the son, the Messiah who is able to give life, so that all will remember, so that when the text of this story would be written by our brother John, all could then understand that Jesus alone can give life.

Remember, I said above, "give eternal life, but not only". We will see that now.

John 11: 43-44 *Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

Lazarus came out alive, risen, but always wrapped with strips, and with the face wrapped with a cloth. He could not see much, or be free in his movements. And it's again something that Jesus points out saying: '*Untie him and let him go*'.

I often speak with individuals born again, but who are still as surrounded by bands. For some, they are Christians for 5, 10 or even more than 20 years, but they have the same fighting since all this time. I especially do not condemn them, on the contrary I would encourage them, with this word of Jesus quoted above.

When we access to the new birth, we go from spiritual death to eternal life. But the process does not stop there. Each of us can say, when he (or she) is born

again, all their struggles, their defaults do not flew away immediately. (For more details on this topic, see my study on the new birth). I mean that when we access the resurrection with Jesus Christ, this resurrection takes us into a process. We are like Lazarus, alive and well, but still surrounded by bands that prevent us to live fully this good news that we have received.

Stop for a moment.

Think.

Are there any bands in your life that prevent you to be truly free?

What I would like say is that if you have the same struggles, the same misunderstandings since many years ago there is better than this for you. Jesus saying: "untie *him and let him go* ," has ordered that each of us will be free in this life.

Then this can be: pride, alcohol, anger, and shyness, instability, men or woman, a complex of inferiority or superiority, tobacco and many other things that block us in the freedom of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Do not feel condemned by my words, this is not my intention at all. I would just like you to understand that from the day of your new birth, you came into this process of liberation. Regardless of how long it will take, the main thing is that the process does not stop.

This is what I often say to my three children, regardless of the time that we are taking to understand and put into practice the teaching of the good news, the key is to always move forward, never stop the progression.

What isn't normal is to stop this process of sanctification. What I said earlier, when I said I happen to meet Christians who have the same fighting for so many years, it is that these people have stopped this process. They stopped to remove their bands, they have stopped the action of the Holy Spirit changing their lives.

Again, I do condemn them not.

If this is your case, I do not condemn you, but I want to tell you: "Go back to this process that you have stopped. Continue to remove these bands around

you, nothing will happen without effort”. A good team between The Holy Spirit and you will help you go through this process.

I can tell you that 100% of our struggles come from a lack of knowledge. You can turn the problem in any direction; the cause will always be a lack of knowledge of the word of God.

Do you ever ask why Jesus was so brilliant in His Ministry on Earth? This is because He had knowledge of the word and knowledge of the spiritual world that gave Him a full knowledge of His father. At the age of 12 He was already filled with knowledge, to the point that He could amaze the doctors of the law. I encourage you to grow in the knowledge of the word of God by meditating it regularly; it is one of the keys to all your problems and aspirations.

Remember this verse in **John 14:26** *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.*

He teaches us anything, what is spiritual and even what is not. He teaches us to understand and how to apply the word of God, but also in our work, in our studies, school... All things.

Now we understand a little better why Jesus had left Lazarus to die, waiting 2 days before leaving for Bethany. We understand a little better why Jesus said: *“this disease is not to death; but it is for the glory of God, that the son of God may be glorified by it”.*

Let us remember that Jesus has always used encouragement, either before Martha, before Mary, before His apostles who were afraid. Today, He did not change. The only thing that has changed is that Jesus is now in heaven, at the right of His father. He is no longer on Earth with us. But we have much better than Jesus in flesh and bones. We have His spirit which is Holy in us and beside us, ready to teach us anything to get rid of these bands all around us.

About 2 months after having risen Lazarus, we are therefore less than a week before the feast of the Passover, there is exactly 6 days left before Jesus was

arrested and crucified. All of the Apostles, had not really realized that Jesus would be arrested and crucified. Jesus knew all of this, He knew that the time was nearby, where He would willingly give His life in sacrifice. He knew that He should suffer, but not only.

Do you know what the worst of suffering for Jesus was during His crucifixion?

It is not to have suffered physically, is not to have suffered the outrages, the derision of the people when He was dying on the cross.

The worst of the suffering was to be separated from His father, separated from God, be cut out of His presence, not being able to feel God in Him.

If this statement shocks or surprises you, it is because you need to learn more about your father. It is that you need to understand how His presence is essential in your life. (For more details see my study on The Character of God).

Jesus returns thus to Bethany to visit Martha and Mary. That evening He was invited for dinner.

John 12: 1-2 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

We will again once more be witness to a scene that is not due to chance. Remember, a few months earlier, Jesus proclaimed His coming to save humankind by resurrecting Lazarus.

Today we have returned to Bethany, in the same House, where 2 months earlier there still was crying of the death of Lazarus. There, no more the same atmosphere at all. We are around a good meal, perhaps even that Lazarus still thanked Jesus that had prayed for him.

John 12: 2-3 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

When Mary spreads the perfume on the feet of Jesus, it is to symbolize His death in advance. Jesus himself says, "this is for my burial". We are in the same house where Jesus was, when He proclaimed that He is the one who gives eternal life. Even after this proclamation of Jesus, it is difficult to know how to access this eternal life. Of course, today, for those who know the bible, the answer is easy.

And as I said at the beginning of this study, Jesus does not leave things unfinished. That day, leaving Mary anointed Him with perfume, He responds to Judas, who would have liked to steal part of the sale of this perfume, saying:

John 12: 7 *But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial."*

Jesus announces that to access to this spiritual resurrection, to access to this eternal life with God, He has to die, to be sacrificed, He who has never sinned. Jesus proclaimed by this gesture of Mary, that He has to die so that the resurrection can be activated. And it is almost the most important point. If Jesus had not died on the cross, He could proclaim that He could give eternal life, but this proclamation would be stopped there, it would have been followed by nothing. And this is why He says in:

Matthew 26: 12-13 *For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."*

Today in the world, it tells that it is through the death of Jesus on the cross that all human beings are eligible for eternal life. And in saying that, it is told as what Mary has done symbolically, proclaimed that it is the death of Jesus that opens the eternal resurrection. What nothing else can give us eternal life with God. This is why Jesus said that it will be tell what this woman has done whenever you announce the good news. And now whenever every time a person announces the Gospel and he announces that it is through the death of Jesus that everything is enabled, he tells and reminds what Mary has done, and in this way the verse Matthew 26: 13 is accomplish.

Have you already been criticized, falsely accused by people that you love because of your faith? Jesus also had to cope with such a situation.

Mark 3:21 (ERV) *His family heard about all these things. They went to get him because people said he was crazy.*

We are at the beginning of the Ministry of Jesus. He just healed a man who had a dry hand, made many miracles and cast out many demons. His popularity began to grow. Then He established the twelve apostles. That's what the parents of Jesus had learned was happening.

His family thought: "our son has lost the reason, what He does is not reasonable, we have to put Him back to reason".

Sometime later, (we cannot affirm that it is on the same day, but it is very possible) another passage speaks of the mother and the brothers of Jesus who try to talk Him through the crowd.

Matthew 12:46 *While Jesus was talking to the people, his mother and brothers stood outside. They wanted to talk to him.*

His brothers and sisters were also not agreement with Him.

John 7: 5 *Jesus' brothers said this because even they did not believe in him.*

Now, let's look at how Jesus reacted to His family.

One thing is certain, He did not enter into a polemic, and He didn't look to convince them with words or clever explanations. Jesus knew that this was not the right attitude to have. He could have stopped to teach and do miracles, to take a moment to talk with His family. But it was exactly what the devil wanted, Jesus enters a controversy with His family, then, that things come to a confrontation.

There was a perfect team between the Holy Spirit and Jesus. And Jesus knew exactly where He had to take His role. He was not going beyond it, He knew how to leave the Holy Spirit to fulfil His role.

Remember, when the disciples of John came to see Jesus at the request of John who was in prison, telling him: "Are you really the one that we expect, or well should we expect another?".

Is Jesus entered into major explanations?

Did He tried to prove that He was the Messiah by comparisons of the old Covenant prophecies?

No nothing of all this.

There are facts that are well more than any words. Words can be true or false, they are questionable, they are subject to a discussion, we can always disagree. Facts, are not questionable, these are facts, we cannot add anything to remove them, and especially, everyone can appropriate them in his own way.

It's a bit like if I told you: "I can heal you by praying for you". Or so I could talk with you about a disease that you have and tell you: "Let me pray for you". Then once the prayer is answered what can be said for controversy this healing? Absolutely nothing of course.

Why?

Because the fact is there. Because healing is before my eyes. And that is what Jesus did to the disciples of John. He didn't reply anything, He has not telling them any words all the time they were there watching Him.

The bible says thus, that the disciples of John remained at least an hour to wait for Jesus to respond to them. During this time they were able to see the blind see, the lame walk, lepers healed, the deaf hear, and even the dead resurrect. Jesus waited for the disciples of John to see all this to tell them in other words: "now that you have seen everything that I did, go tell John, and then let him have itself his opinion. I think that he will easily understand that I am the one that you expect all, the Messiah. "

Luke 7: 20-22 *When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

The bible teaches us a little later that several of the family of Jesus believed finally to the good news that Jesus announced. It is not known if all of His family believed, but the bible shows us that some of His brothers wrote Epistles, His mother was there, at the cross. They had finally understood, through the facts and not through discussions and polemics with Jesus.

The facts are much more worth than all the words, this is the lesson that Jesus taught in these examples with His family or with the disciples of John.

Let me tell you that all explanations, as relevant they can be, will never replace the powerful facts of the word. To let the facts speak in our lives, we need to be able to exercise them. Jesus says it in this verse below.

Mark 16:17 *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;*

Often when I speak or I hear of Christians talking, I have the impression to be 2000 years back. I think that we all have experienced this situation where we hear talk a person as in the bible. I myself have been in this example at the beginning of my conversion. I felt that if I was talking with the same words that the bible uses, that if I was using the same expressions, and push to an extreme, up to sometimes use parables to explain something. What a stupidity! I speak about me of course. But if you recognize yourself in what I write, what will follow is regarding you, be attentive.

It is very important to demystify the bible. While these writings are inspired by God. But I do not have to even be prevented from changing the manner in which it is written so that everyone can better understand it. Change the way in which it is written, but keeping the author's thought which is essential.

When we were gathered in family, and talking about the bible with my wife and my 3 children, it happened that one of us spoke with a language taken from the bible. We used to say: "says 2011" I do not understand! It had almost become a game. But after a time, all understood that we should explain the biblical things with language of our time.

I am not saying that you should not quote the bible, make no mistake, this is not at all my remarks. Of course that it is very important, and even essential to know the most possible bible verses, because it is the word of God. But I'm just saying that sometimes we are so immersed in this biblical environment that we forget that our language has evolved since the last biblical translations. Which makes that sometimes our arguments or our explanations are formulated with words that are used nowadays. But before to allow us to translate a passage we must be sure we have perfectly assimilated what it wants to say.

Some Christians, and even some pastors have the impression that because they are going to use expressions in a “biblical language”, their words will touch more, and produce more of a response.

It's just the opposite!

That is why today many Christians are out of time in their words, and this because of their language.

Remember this. It is not the words that we use that makes the power of the word of God in us, but these are the thoughts that generate, and the faith that we add to it. I'm not saying that's a bad thing for us to speak the language of the bible in our everyday talk, but what is certain is that it is one bad thing for others. Because my message will only reach to “insiders”. And because of that I greatly reduce the impact of my comments when I talk about the bible.

Reread the Gospels, and you will see that Jesus spoke a language of His time. When He spoke to farmers, He took examples of Earth, seed, birds that eat the seeds, etc... When He spoke to fishermen, He took examples from the sea, fish, nets etc...

Why?

So that people understand what He was talking about. Then you'll tell me why parables? Why Jesus took many examples where He speaks in a way somewhat to “half measure” to explain things?

There are two main reasons why Jesus spoke in parables. One of them, that we are interested in this subject, is the fact that people will not, all perfectly have to understand that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. Because in this case,

(as mentioned already above), all the people would have objected to His crucifixion. And if this were the case, I would unfortunately not be writing this study, or you to read it. Then comes a time, at the end of His mission on Earth where Jesus changes His way of speaking to the Apostles.

John 16: 27-29 *for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech!*

We are here in the end of the mission of Jesus on Earth. We almost reach the time where Jesus is to be crucified. After the crucifixion, the good news will finally be spread entirely. I want to say that the victory of Jesus has been acquired, and we can all bear the fruit of it. So no need more parables, no more explanations to half measure. There's no more fear that all the people prevents the execution of Jesus. The good news can now be announced in its entirety.

We do not have many examples when Jesus continued to teach the Apostles during the 40 days following the crucifixion, but I'm sure that He used no more parables. All these explanations and teachings were now more 'clear'.

Today no need for parables anymore. For those who find themselves in these examples, speaking in parables, stop speaking or explaining in a language that only few people understand. It is absolutely not necessary. On the contrary, you only bring a fog around your explanations. Talking like that manner from the bible will not make me more of a spiritual Christian.

There are those who use this language to get higher somehow, and there, this is just pure pride. And there are also those who use this language because they read often, they are afraid to distort the bible by transposing the teaching in a language that everyone understands. They did not understand that the power of the word is not in form, but in my thinking and in my faith.

In this example one may better known Jesus. He was not a mysterious and austere man as may think. All to the contrary. Do you now understand now why Jesus spoke a lot in parables?

Often I hear complicated teachings, which are not within the reach of those, who would most definitely need a dictionary. There are also people who use current language, but it is too confusing. I think that the one who uses too many phrases and words complicates in his teachings, does not have the feeling that his teaching is so relevant or powerful. So they add some complicated words and complicated sentences.

One day I was with a brother with whom I was doing some Bible studies regularly. I had given him my study on the new birth so that he could meditate on it. We did studies together for about a year. He knew my way of teaching. The next session, when we saw each other again, his first remark was to tell me: *"I didn't think you wrote in a simple manner, it is really easy to understand"*. I was very happy with this remark. For me, the goal was reached by writing in a way that everyone could understand, regardless of their level of education or social level.

There is none more powerful than the message of the good news. Do not try to complicate it or embellishing it, it must be simple but powerful. Keep instead trying to produce the power of this message in your lives rather than add human elements to it. This is what I try to do in my own personal life. I'm not totally there, and of course, I still regularly learn to use the power of the message of Jesus Christ.

We now arrive at the end of the Ministry of Jesus. It would have taken a long time in this study to speak of all the examples that can help us to better understand His person. I can understand that some might say that it is a pity not taking the time to address any particular example of the Gospels, but I took situations that seemed to me the most important, so that we can bring this teaching into practice in our lives. Because without a practical application that will result in a change in our life, knowledge is useless.

Now let's look at the time of the last supper.

There is here still much to say, but we'll focus on the person of Jesus. He knew that his time was near. It was the last meal He would take with the Apostles. This time, He could clearly tell them more.

Look at **Luke 22: 15** *Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;*

Jesus was apparently eager to have this moment with His Apostles. He expected the moment in anticipation. Was this because it was the last meal?

No, not at all.

Yes, Jesus was waiting for this moment with great joy. Great joy? Yes, because He had finally arrived at the crucial moment of His coming to Earth, He had arrived to the point where He was going to reveal how to take full advantage of His sacrifice on the cross. It was there, that He would be able to explain to them how to continue His presence in our lives after His death. This is why Jesus had a great desire to establish this Supper, because it is one of the keys to our Christian life.

But to fully benefit it, we must really understand it. And I must say that very few Christians well realized the why of this Supper, and what it means in their lives today. (For more details on this subject see my study on the Lord's Supper).

More than 15 years ago, we were with two Christian families in a wood house in the mountains for a week's vacation. One morning, we were talking about the Lord's Supper. And I was explaining to my friend how I felt about the taking of bread and wine on Sunday at the Church. He was from Indiana in the United States and He had heard quite a different version on this topic he'd say.

I told him: "Did you ever wondered why Jesus chose the bread and wine to symbolize His blood and His body? "

He replied: "not I never thought about it".

Then I told him that the bread and wine were food for this time in the Bible. Even if food is greatly diversified in the West, the bread and wine are also still today, in many countries, the basic element, exceptions in some places of the

world. But there are more countries where this is the case, rather than the opposite.

I continued my explanation saying that Paul tells us of Jesus in: **1 Cor 11: 25** ...*"This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* It is therefore something that we should, among other things, remember us the person of Jesus in our lives. And how to remember what Jesus has done for us? With something that is essential to us, food.

We are obliged to eat at least two to three times per day in normal times. And it is every time we eat that we should remember that Jesus died for us. Whenever I eat and I drink the basic food of my country, I must remember that Jesus voluntarily gave His life for me that I live for eternity, but not only that.

He also voluntarily gave His life so that I have a life as powerful as He had on Earth. I don't mean that everyone is called to be a great teacher or a great evangelist, but everyone at his level, for those who are parents, in our families first, and around us, we are called to live this powerful life that Jesus Himself lived. It was the first time that I explained my vision of the Lord's Supper, and my friend was very fortified by it. He would now see things differently whenever he would take a meal.

Understand this, if Jesus spoke of His blood and His body it is for a specific reason. In the bible the soul is represented by everything that has a blood system. The soul is there to manage the body. When Jesus said in:

Matthew 26: 27-28 *Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

When I was born again, I integrated in me this process of the Lord's Supper. I have integrated the soul and the body of Jesus. By taking the Lord's Supper, I remember that the soul and the body of Jesus are integrated into or grafted in me, His entire human person without sin, is now in me, His way of thinking, His priorities, and His qualities.

But then you will tell me that you see not much fruit of it. Yes this is true for many Christians. But most did not understand this process and therefore do not know the potential that is in them. They take the Lord's Supper as a ritual

and nothing else. Others have understood it but are struggling to live it fully. This is my case. I am far from having the same fruit that Jesus had in my life. But it is for this that I do not believe that I have integrated the soul and the body of Jesus in me. Yes of course all the being of Jesus is in me, His Spirit, His soul and His body. And that is what drives me and gives me energy and motivation to get there. Paul said in:

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

He said “*This is more me who lives*”. Paul has well understood and integrated this principle in his life. But it is not that he sinned no more. To have all Jesus being in us does not do of us people who Sin no more. Yes, God considers spiritually that we sin no more, but on a human side, our soul and our body them, continue to sin. Do I have to be discouraged because of it, or do I have to consider that because I see not all the fruit of Jesus in me, His spirit, soul and body are not in me?

Not at all.

The fact to know all that will push me to desire more and more fruit. When I am discouraged, I must remember that the soul and the body of Jesus have been grafted in me. And later Jesus also gave His spirit that is holy. Therefore, celebrate the Lord’s Supper whenever I get the chance to do it is very important, because it will remember in me all this process, it will remember me all the potential that God has placed in me by Jesus Christ.

Very often when I'm in a congregation that celebrates the Lord's Supper, I am saddened by the way it is celebrated. It is the majority unfortunately in the congregation who reads in front of everyone the passage of:

1 Corinthians 11: 23-29 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For as*

often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner[d] eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

This passage is of course not bad in itself, well on the contrary, but it is often misinterpreted, as Paul said it in a very particular context. They often asked the Congregation to examine themselves according to verse 28. And everyone lowers the head and seeks himself if he would have been a sin that he have not confessed to God, in order to avoid a judgment upon himself. What makes that Christians who have misinterpreted these verses lose enormous power in their lives. I have even heard many times Christians telling me that if they sinned too much they should not take the Lord's Supper.

What mistakes!

These kind of thoughts only please the devil who put them into those who practice them. I have nothing against those people, I was among them in the past, some of them are very good friends, but they did not understand the meaning of the Lord's Supper, and above all, they deprive themselves of an enormous potential that Jesus has left them in a legacy.

Don't get me wrong, certainly I do not condemn my brothers and my sisters who practice these kind of ideas. On the contrary, most of them do it by ignorance, and they are victims of the teaching that they received. I love them, and I wish fervently that they come to this knowledge of the Lord's Supper which will release their full potential. If this is your case, do not stay in this limited perspective. Experience the Lord's Supper as Jesus has established it.

Remember, if Jesus said that he fervently wished to live this moment of Passover with His Apostles, it was because He had a huge desire to tell them the principle of the Lord's Supper. We are not going to expand on this topic because I would like that we remain on the personality of Jesus. For more details you can get my study on the Lord's Supper.

Jesus knew that the time where He would be offer for all mankind was nearby. By His teaching of the Lord's Supper He gave the way to put into practice all teaching that He gave since those 3 years. Again, it is very important that every Christian has well incorporated this principle in his life. As in the contrary, he will not see much of the teaching that Jesus gave, take form in his everyday life.

Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him. Do you think that He had something against him? No not at all, because He knew that this had to happen. He knew that without His life offered voluntarily, no human being could have access to this powerful life to arise on the eternity.

After this meal, a nice human idea came up between the Apostles. Who could be regarded as the greatest?

Luke 22: 24 *Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.*

Here is a good carnal reaction, an idea that comes from the end of the bottom of the flesh, who is the greatest?

They needed to compete with each other. They had not yet understood that they were all part of one body, and each had a different function, but all of these combined functions were form a well-coordinated structure. When I feel the need to measure me to others, it is because I'm not sure of what I'm worth.

Imagine a moment that Jesus was thinking of that... He just spent over 3 years with them, revealing all the mechanisms of the Kingdom. He explained, and explained again. He has taken many practical examples so that they understand better. Then comes the time where He gave the explanation, of how can they all make this happen in their lives, so that the good news could not switch off after His death. And there what are his companions going? They wonder who is the greatest. It is possible that the Apostles began to understand that soon Jesus will no longer be with them. Then, they were able to ask who would be one that would take the position of Jesus? Who would be the most likely to take up the role? But it is also quite possible that this idea that has germinated in them is only a result of being at the front position, to supplant his comrades.

Jesus could say: *“Oh no, they have understood nothing, but how can I make them understand”*.

Of course, we know that Jesus did not have such a thought towards His brothers.

So let's look at how He done it.

First, Jesus does not irritates Himself, He does not question 3 years of teaching because the Apostles do not have the right reaction. In facts He keeps in mind the idea of the potential in each one of them, He does not let their faults cover their qualities. He knows that He has chosen them one by one, and that He is not wrong. It is this kind of thinking that Jesus kept before Him in the foreground. He leaves it therefore not lead by the circumstances of the situation. Then He goes to the next step, He shows them that their approach is lacking. To do this, he teaches them that they did not take the right route.

He does not destroy their thinking so far. Notice that Jesus does not say: "but how can you have such thoughts? How can you be so blinded by your flesh? Really you disappooint me, I'm not proud of you".

No, Jesus said nothing of all this. He takes, once more, the time to explain to them by showing them it is all the opposite.

Luke 22: 26-27 ... he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

He does not say to them that their idea is not good, He does not said that it is a bad thing to seek to be a leader. But Jesus is going to show them that it must be done the right way. His approach goes completely contrary to what we may find today in our society.

In fact Jesus told them that leading is love, leading is to invest, leading is to accept to perform any of the tasks that must be done within His team. And Jesus will prove it to them by put it into practice. He will even do much more that what it could be asked to the Apostles.

I'm sure that the apostles did not fully understand where Jesus wanted to go what that when he said in verse 27...*And I, however, am in the middle of you as one who serves.* But when they saw Jesus who began to stand up, take a cloth, and then pour water in a small basin, get closer and kneel near the first for him to wash his feet, the Apostles have surely begun to understand.

John 13: 4-5 *rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

He gave a perfect example of a leader, someone who is the first in His team. I think not, even for once, that one of the Apostles have washed the feet of Jesus during these 3 years. But Jesus did. He has done much more, that any member of His team would have to do. The message was, "this is what it is to be the greatest, and I'm in the middle of you as one who serves".

Are you a team leader in a community?

Or person in charge of an activity in your church?

This is a good teaching for you.

All too often I have seen leaders who wanted to show their authority by imposing things. This attitude reinforced them as to their position as Manager. Or others, who kept the distance between them and their team.

Most of the time this kind of attitude corresponds to a person who is not qualified for the position that he (she) occupies. One who is sure of his ability to well lead his team should not be afraid to place himself as a servant. If he (or she) is sure that this is the Holy Spirit is the one which has placed where he (or she) is, and what he (or she) is certain to complete his task in the right way following the teaching that Jesus gave, so there is no fear to have. And there they can finally work and lead in peace and serenity. Because I can say that he or she who is not able to act as servant because he (or she) is afraid of losing his place cannot fulfil his Ministry in the right way. It is 100% sure. And in addition, from this ministry will not be productive.

Marc 14: 33-36 *And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

How to understand this passage?

How could Jesus, Him usually so strong, so sure of Himself, experience fear, anxiety?

I would say that this is not anxiety or fear the problem. But it is the manner in which we manage them. Yes, Jesus has experienced fear, and even anxiety. But He has no way let this fear or this anxiety take over on His being.

Who generates this fear and this anxiety with Jesus? It is His soul, which itself probably forwarded it to His body by contractions, or shakings, the bible does not say it in this passage.

His spirit, has kept his role to manage His whole being. Yes the fear was there, and anxiety also, He has to pronounce them. It is very interesting to analyze the verse 36 of Marc 14 to understand the struggle that there may be between the soul and the spirit. (For more details see my study on spirit, soul, and body).

Marc 14: 36 *And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

This is one of the few times where Jesus speaks with His soul, then with His spirit in the same verse.

When he says: " *Abba, father, all things are possible to you away from me this Cup! ."*

It's the human side of Jesus who speaks, His body and His soul, or what the bible calls often the flesh, a combination of soul and body. At that time, His flesh did not want to be crucified, and it did make it know by saying this. And what I find amazing, it is to see that, immediately, and not in another sentence, or a few minutes later, but in the same sentence, the spirit of Jesus keeps

control of His whole being. It is an immediate reaction of the spirit, He goes on to say: " nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." Here it is His spirit that speaks.

Let us not confuse with the Holy spirit, I speak here of the spirit that was part of Jesus the human being, who, His spirit of course, was helped by the Holy Spirit. This is one of the illustrations of Hebrews 4:15.

Hebrews 4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Understand this. This is not a problem to experience negative feelings, experience of negative anger, or feel an urge to sin in me. The problem is: How can I treat this thought or feeling. Will I let my body to push my soul to succumb and eventually giving up to this thought or feeling? This is the thing that should not be. Easy to say you will tell me, but how to do?

Too often we hear things like: "We must resist, we have to seek God, or, we must pray Jesus". Yes all of these things are true, but how do we do to get there? how? There is a parameter that I had hear unfortunately only once or twice in the teachings that I was able to listen to in the churches that we have been part of in more than 25 years of Christian life, and which yet is essential if we want to arrive at the point that our spirit dominates over our whole being.

The spirit does not impose Himself.

If you wait until your spirit comes and tell your soul : "listens, now it is enough, you'll stop to feed all these unhealthy thoughts, you'll stop to listen to your body when it tells you anything!"

This kind of thing will NEVER happen.

Why?

Because the spirit never imposes himself.

Our spirit will never take over by force on our flesh (soul and body). This parameter is extremely important to integrate in us. Because if I have not understood this, then, often, I'll wait until my spirit carries out a revolution in my being, and take the authority. And because this will never happen, I'll be in

the misunderstanding, see the frustration. I have no victory on my bad thoughts. The devil knows it, and he plays with that, he uses the ignorance of Christians to make them believe anything. Now you will not be able to say that you did not know.

When I have well integrated this parameter in me, it is important to realize that, to analyze a thought, a desire, requires an effort. It can be mental or physical depending if it comes from my soul or my body, but what is sure is that nothing can be done without an effort on my part.

When Jesus had this thought that said: "*If it is possible that this cup will go away from me* ", there is, as we said above that straightaway His spirit took over. So how could He achieve this performance without imposing himself?

The most important factor was the fact that He knew the word. It is a crucial thing for us today to know the word of God. I am not saying that we should know the bible by heart, but in all cases, at least knowing a few verses by heart.

But for what reason? Just to say them?

No, although it would already be a good thing, but it is not for this purpose that we should know more of key verses, and be able to say them to us at any time. This is what happened in the situation where Jesus said this sentence. His soul pronounced he did not want to go to the cross, because His body did not want to be crucified. But straightaway his spirit took over in reminding His soul that He was there for this mission, He was the son, the Messiah expected to save all mankind. His spirit did not take over by force, but simply citing the Word, reminding His soul Who He was, and why He was there. And it is at this time that His soul is voluntarily submit because it was accustomed to it. Understand that our soul has the power to choose between good and evil, but we must helping it.

How?

With our spirit which will remind it of what is written, everything we already lived in our team with the Holy Spirit, everything we have learned from Him. And by indent of efforts in this direction, our soul will submit itself, but not without any effort on my part.

The example of Jesus in this case, can appear to us in the wrong way. One can have the impression that, because He, was able to submit His soul at the same time, we should achieve the same result necessarily immediately. This is not always the case.

I often happen to resume me several times before my soul agrees to submit to my spirit. This is a parameter still very important, where the devil will again take advantage if we are not well prepared. If, after a first effort, I see that nothing changes, that my soul is always also vindictive and rebellious, I can think: “Well ok, *what Franck says in his study does not work. Maybe for him it works, but I am different it does not work for me*”.

Don't ever believe this, the process is the same for everyone, and it was the same for Jesus also. On this subject, we operate all the same way. We cannot always get there the first time, we need to try and try again, and it is through perseverance that we will begin to see our soul to submit to our spirit.

If this is something that you do not practice, start now.

If this is something you have tried in the past and abandoned, then resume your efforts. And I guarantee you that not long will go before you see very encouraging results in your being.

This method is not the only one, but it works, I've tried it! And millions of other Christians before me also. This is what the bible calls renewing his mind. It also tells us to use the more often possible our spirit. I'll leave these two verses that will help you, learn them by heart, they are not very long.

Romans 12:11 *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit...*

Ephesians 4:23 *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

It is this attitude that has enabled Jesus to go to the cross, and to be able to perform His Ministry to the end. The fact to know how to renew His soul allowed Him to do anything that God had planned for Him.

When He was on the cross, He was there, nailed for several hours, and then He said:

John 19:30 *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

This "All is accomplished, or it is finished" that Jesus gave is so powerful, so important.

When a thing is done, there is nothing to add, or then it is not finished. It's like when I have finished a puzzle, if I have put the last piece, I can say "it is finished". And if I want to add another piece to the puzzle, I cannot do it, because the puzzle is finished. This is exactly the same image when Jesus uttered this sentence, and what a beautiful sentence!

Today there is nothing to add to the mission of Jesus. There is nothing to wait from Jesus, He did everything, everything that is written about His Ministry, everything that is written on the teaching he gave for over 3 years, there is nothing to add.

Roman 8: 32 *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

This verse is very clear on the fact that Jesus willingly went to the cross. Paul says to the Romans: *"is that you believe that God would have consented to sacrifice His son, accepted that He suffers physically, accepted that He is cut off from the presence of His father, all this to not give us everything, really all that God has. Do you think that God would have agreed to pay as high a price for that us, Christians today, we have only a small portion of what God wants to give us?"*

Not, and fortunately not.

If God has agreed to pay a price so huge it is to give us something also huge, in proportion to the price He paid with His son.

Today everything is accomplished. You have nothing missing.

We have all the necessary strength, all the capacity needed, all the potential necessary to accomplish and live the teaching that Jesus has given us in all His power.

Sometimes I hear things like: "Lord send your revival!" The bible does not talk about revival. When somewhere in the world we can suddenly see a strong passion for God, it is because of the brothers and sisters are motivated, they put every effort in a team with the Holy Spirit so that this movement arrives. It is not God who suddenly decides to send a movement for His word on humans. Or other times I hear things like: "Lord sends us a new freshness, do something new in us, or open the windows of Heaven (in connection with the old Covenant)". These are the prayers which are unaware that it is all finished. People think in these cases that God gives us things bit at the time?

Not at all. It is already finished, accomplished.

Often this kind of prayer are inspired from the Psalms or the history of King David. Is that mean that David lived in a time where everything was not done?

Yes of course, everything was not finished. The law had been fulfilled by nobody. This is why David, and others of the old Covenant needed to regularly say to God: "Open the gates of heaven, *send a new freshness or withdraw not your spirit from me*".

All these prayers are no more necessary today.

It would be just as ridiculous today, to continue to make sacrifices of animals, than to pray like this.

Now you say "*all is accomplished*".

It is also a verse that we must know by heart and integrate in us, so that in the moments where the devil wants you to make you believe that you are missing this or that thing from God, you can reply to him: "no satan, or no evil spirit, you are a liar, because Jesus said everything is finished, maybe I do not exhibit this, but it is in me because God has already given it to me through Jesus Christ". And if you believe, and have well integrated this thought in you, I can assure you that these are words that will shut the mouth of any demon.

I do not claim to have covered all the personality of Jesus in this study, far from it. It would have taken to write a book for this, which is not my goal in this study.

I am well aware that this study is already longer than the teachings I have done on other topics. Throughout this writing I have also impose myself to minimize pages, it wasn't easy because there is so much to say about Jesus' personality.

In any case if you got to the end of this study, I wish, and at the same time I am sure there are aspects of the personality of Jesus you know now, and that will help you integrate new priorities in your life, with power, joy, and extra emerging stability. All this because everything was already accomplished in you, but you didn't have the complete knowledge of it.

This study has been offer to you by "***The Real Good News***" Ministry.

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