

# Become A Strong Supportive Pillar

Did you realise that our eternal future depends on three things:

- 1 Holding on to what we have been given
- 2 Being an overcomer
- 3 Allowing God to make us a pillar

**Revelation 3:11-12** *“I am coming soon. **Hold on to what you have**, so that no-one will take your crown. **Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.** Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.”*

Note the context of our being made a pillar by God. *“I am coming soon.”*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** [NIV] *“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”*

For any of us this could be soon.

We are all only one breath away from death, then our next moment of consciousness would be Christ's Return, and our resurrection.

What are we to hold on to so that we do not lose our opportunity to rule with Christ at His Return?

I feel this is referring to our faithfulness.

**Revelation 2:10-11** *“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful, even to the point of death**, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.”*

Here we see faithfulness linked with our crown being given to us as well as eternal life.

The Greek word translated *“faithful”* is *“pistos”* whose root meaning is trustworthiness, applied to one who is true, sure and can be relied on to perform what he has promised.

**Faith is not only what we believe but far more how we act in our lives as a result of what we believe.**

The Greek word translated *“life”* is *“zoe”*.

This is the word used for the life that God has, and is the very opposite to death.

It is the word always used for the resurrected life and eternal life.

Therefore it has to be life that is a gift from God.

Holding on to our faith and hence remaining faithful to our calling is very important in God's eyes.

**Luke 22:31-32** *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, **that your faith may not fail.** And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

Note Jesus knew that Peter would deny having associated with Him.

Peter's impetuous nature would cause him to fail at times but what Jesus prayed was that Peter's faith would not fail him.

Our sin that is the result of our stumbling weaknesses, God can deal with through sacrificial blood of Jesus the Christ.

But if we lose faith in God and become untrustworthy, God cannot use us.

Our remaining faithful to God whatever may happen to us can be a tremendous example to help others follow us and also remain faithful.

Note it was only after Peter's conversion [repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit **Acts 2:38**] that he would be able to strengthen others.

Note also that overcoming is again in context with our receiving our crown and life.

**Revelation 3:13** *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

Should we not take double notice of what is said here because God provided us with two ears!

Notice also that this important message is to all the churches.

In this part of God's Word seven churches are mentioned, each was physically found in the Roman province of Asia [modern day western Turkey].

Jesus Christ is revealing through John the strength and weakness of each church.

Of these seven churches only Ephesus is well known [**Acts 19**]; Thyatira is mentioned as the home of Lydia [**Acts 16:14**] and Laodicea is mentioned in **Colossians 4:15-16**.

The rest occur nowhere else in the New Testament.

With the exception of Smyrna and Philadelphia, the danger that was prevalent in each church was what was happening within that church.

These strengths and weaknesses mentioned can also be seen in individual members of any modern day church.

It is therefore beneficial if we take the warnings if we see these symptoms in ourselves and then act on the suggested remedy.

*"Overcomes"* Greek word *"nikao"* describing one who prevails, obtains the victory, and conquers.

How do we then overcome?

What do we have to overcome?

**John 16:33** *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Jesus Christ overcame *"the world"*.

The Greek word *"kosmos"* meaning the order, arrangement, or adornment.

By metonymy the human race, mankind.

Christ was a light to the kosmos [**John 1:9-10**].

How did Jesus Christ overcome the world [kosmos] mankind or the nature that man has inheritant within him, human nature.

**Romans 6:6** *“For we know that **our old self was crucified** with him so that the **body of sin** might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”*

“Our old self” is put to death along with the death of Christ.

This body that is so prone to sinning has to be crucified with Christ.

**Romans 5:6-7** *“You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless**, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.”*

While we were still in this “body of sin” Christ overcame it by Himself who was without sin, dying in our stead.

**Romans 6:3-6** *“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”*

We overcome by crucifying our old nature by dying with Christ, being buried with Him and then being resurrected with Him.

Remember that a crucified man did not die instantly, it was a death that could take days to complete. [Christ's life blood was poured out by a spear thrust from a Roman soldier, that is why He died so soon].

Likewise, our “old man” [King James] “old self” [NIV] remains alive and kicking in our sub-conscious mind for some time after baptism, trying to influence our conscious mind and the decisions it takes on a daily basis.

**Romans 6:7** *“Because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”*

All of us have sinned by breaking the Law of God.

The way God lives, the way of love [1 John 3:4]. God in the Ten Commandments [Exodus 20:1-17] showed us how we could transgress this law of love.

The first four commands show us how we can **not** love God.

The last six show how **not** to love our neighbour, other human beings, so when we transgress these commands the penalty of death, the power of the law, hangs over us.

However, when the death penalty is executed, the law then has no more power over us, so we are freed from its penalty.

**Romans 6:8-10** *“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that **since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him**. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.”*

Once having died with Christ we then have to follow His example and live like He does, “to God”.

Before this acceptance of the death of Christ in our stead we lived only for ourselves.

Our lives were centred around what was best for us, completely selfish.

Now our lives, as a result of our gratitude towards God for what He has done for us through Christ, are to be centred around His desires, His will, following the example of Jesus Christ [**Matthew 26:39**].

This is how we overcome, the way is now open for God to make us into “pillars”.

**Galatians 2:9** *“James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognised the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.”*

James, Peter and John were considered to be pillars in the church.

The Greek word translated “pillars” is “stulos”, a column supporting the weight of a building, and is used metaphorically of those who bear responsibility in the church, elders, deacons.

**1 Timothy 3:15** *“if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”*

The church in a collective capacity is described as a pillar.

This is because of the way they maintain the doctrines of faith by teaching and practice.

Note it mentions what the pillar had as its foundation, the truth, God's Word [**John 17:17**].

To understand a spiritual principle it is very helpful to look at a physical example.

**Romans 1:20** *“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

God has created this physical world that we find all around us to show His Nature and Power.

**As limited physical human beings we need such a physical example that we can consider using our physical senses.**

Something we can see, touch or hear.

If you are asked to believe something that cannot be expressed in physical terms or clearly understood scripture, we should be very careful what we are being asked to accept.

**1 John 4:1-3** *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”*

Everything we need to know about the nature of God is either expressed in the Word of God, Christ's Life here on earth, and the scriptures directly inspired by the Holy Spirit, or by what God has created when taken in the form of an analogy.

Anything outside of these two categories is coming from a spirit that is **not** of God.

Let us then consider a physical pillar as an analogy of what we should be spiritually in God's Church.

**A pillar has to be firmly fixed to a strong and deep foundation.**

In the early 1960s I watched the construction of the Milbank Tower alongside the River Thames in London. Each week I stopped for a few moments and wondered when the building that the architect had dramatically illustrated in full colour on a large advertising board would begin to be seen in reality. All I saw each week was a yet deeper hole being laboriously excavated. I then found out that to ensure that the future high tower would be stable, upright and strong, it could not be founded on the London clay but on the bedrock that was found below the clay; hence the deep hole. Building then started in earnest with convoys of lorries bringing shuttering steel rods and day after day pouring tons of concrete, constructing a series of giant pillars firmly attached to the bedrock. On these pillars the whole of the high tower was going to rise.

**Matthew 7:24-27** *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

“Therefore” I was once told that every time I see the word “therefore” in The Bible I should always ask the question, ‘What is it there for?’

That is to study what has been mentioned in God’s Word before what we are about to read.

Only by doing this will the full impact of what is about to be said be received.

Therefore every time we see “therefore” read what it is there for!!

When we read the preceding chapters in Matthew, we see what are very radical statements when we set them beside what our natural human logic would believe.

Statements that if accepted would turn our lives around to walk in a completely different direction.

Jesus Christ is therefore saying that **only if** we not only hear but then act on these statements will our life be safely founded on rock.

**The logical conclusion of this then is without our seeking to put Christ’s Words into action in our lives Christ doesn’t have a foundation on which He can start to build the pillar He wants us to become.**

**Ephesians 2:19-22** *“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.** In him the whole building is **joined together** and rises to become a **holy temple in the Lord.** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”*

Note essential things mentioned in this scripture that is using the analogy of our being part of a building that God is constructing, of which pillars are an intricate part.

**When God started to use us we were alien to Him.**

**Romans 5:8** [NIV] *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

We were then through the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ, expressing the Great Love God has for us, brought into the Family of God. We joined others also being made part of this same building [family].

**The foundation on which God is constructing this building has three parts.**

**a) The apostles**

**Matthew 28:18-20** [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

The Holy Spirit inspires the writing of the apostles and Paul has to be included as the one “sent out” to the Gentiles.

These writings are of equal importance to the recorded sayings of Jesus the Christ.

**b) The prophets**

These are again Holy Spirit inspired writings and are an essential part of this foundation.

These writings foreshadow what God was going to do through Jesus the Christ and give us the assurance that God is in charge of history and His purpose will be fulfilled.

**c) Jesus the Christ**

His birth, life, sayings, death, resurrection and present job as our High Priest lock together and make solid this strong foundation.

The Greek word “*apostle*” means one “*sent out*”.

**The building is made up of many parts all joined together as one.**

The Greek word translated as “joined together” [NIV] “*fitly framed together*” [King James] is “*sunarmologeō*”, a composition of three root words, “*sun*” with “*harmos*”, a joint, articulation and “*lego*” systematic choice.

This shows that God has planned in great detail His choice and positioning of each part of this building which is symbolic of His Family.

In The Bible the word for house and family are interchangeable, just as we use the term “*house of Hanover*” meaning the family of Hanover. What is being prepared and built is the Family of God. We are His adopted children [Galatians 4:5], brothers and sisters to Jesus the Christ, the only Son of God.

**This building or family is growing.**

Throughout the message that Jesus Christ brought we see references to the growth of the Kingdom [a family grown big] of God and many times we are given analogies of the growth in His physical creation.

This growth involves various seasons of the year, each season is different for the plant and hence the Family of God [His Holy Building].

- a) The dormant winter period of preparation for what was going to follow.
- b) The re-generation and re-freshing spring growth, leading to
- c) The maturing of summer time that is followed by
- d) The ingathering of the fruits of all the preparation, growth and maturing.

Just as mankind needs to be aware of and harmonise with the seasons of the year, so we should recognise and harmonise with the seasons in the planned growth of God’s Kingdom [building], each season leading to the next.

**We should use this analogy in evaluating our own personal growth as well as the growth of the church.**

**It is something that is Holy.**

The Greek word “*hagios*” used to express pureness, something that is consecrated, set aside for God to use, one who is observant of God’s Will, devoted to God and also a saint.

All who are called by God are sanctified by the Grace of God, and are therefore saints. Saints are made by God **not** appointed by men.

Let me simplify this process.

God calls us, gives us an invitation, we have the freedom to choose or to reject this invitation.

When we accept, as I hope we all do, we are chosen by God to be sanctified.

That is, the impurities of the sin within our lives are cleansed, washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, whose life is worth more than all created things, including all mankind past, present and future.

This sacrifice was the total expression of God’s Love for mankind, that is part of His Grace.

We then receive within us the Holy Spirit who then brings with Him God’s righteousness to dwell within us, to replace our self-righteousness which scripture likens to a menstrual cloth.

This process makes us “*hagios*” a saint.

Don’t ever underestimate what you are in God’s Eyes once the Holy Spirit dwells and is active within you.

### **This building is a temple.**

Greek word “*naos*” a shrine or sanctuary.

For the Jews at the time of Jesus Christ being on earth it was the Holy part of the temple building into which only the priests could lawfully enter.

**John 2:19-21** [NIV] *“Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body.”*

Throughout the New Testament this word is used metaphorically by Christ as His own body.

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** [NIV] *“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”*

**1 Corinthians 6:19** [NIV] *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;”*

By the apostles as the local church as a group of Christians and each individual Christian.

Access to the Holy part of the temple was made possible through the Blood of Jesus the Christ and symbolically shown by the dividing curtain between outer court of the temple and the Holy place being torn in two from top to bottom [**Matthew 27:50-51**].

### **The place where God dwells by the Holy Spirit.**

The Greek word translated habitation [King James] or dwelling [NIV] is “*katoiketerion*” implying a permanent dwelling place.

Paul **did not use** the Greek word “*skene*” which indicates a temporary dwelling place, a tent or booth.

God's intention is for the church or the individual Christian to be the working place of the Holy Spirit.

The temple was the working place of the priests, those set aside from the community for God's special work.

But be warned, we can hinder, or make ineffective the work of the Holy Spirit in us and hence in part of the church.

**1 Thessalonians 5:19** *"Do not put out the Spirit's fire;"*

Fire is the source of a light, and we are called by God to be lights [**Matthew 5:14-16**].

**John 7:38-39** *"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."*

Flow through us, we can put up a dam in our lives to stop this happening.

**Ephesians 2:10** [NIV] *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

We are being created by God through His Holy Spirit [His Righteousness in us] to good works.

The very wedding garment we are to wear at our marriage to Christ is the result of the worked out righteousness [Greek "*dikaioma*"] in our lives.

**Revelation 19:7-8** [NIV] *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)"*

If we are found without the wedding garment we will be turned out of this wedding feast.

**Matthew 22:1-14** [NIV] *"Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 'Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' 'But they paid no attention and went off, one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 'Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. 'Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 'For many are invited, but few are chosen.'"*

Note the man was speechless, knew he had neglected to do what was expected of him.

As we have just seen, we are part of a building and one that has supporting pillars in it.

Each pillar to be fulfilling its commitment to the building as a whole must have certain qualities.

**Impervious to all the elements this world may throw at it.**

**Matthew 5:10** *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

This is like a pillar being battered by storms, yet not weakening from that battering.

The key to this survival is the understanding of the word blessed.

Jesus did not speak these words in Greek but in Aramaic, which was the kind of Hebrew that the people spoke in His day.

Aramaic and Hebrew have a very common kind of expression, which is in fact an exclamation that means “*O the blessedness of*”, this expression [“*ashere*” in Hebrew] is very common in Old Testament.

**These verses are not simple statements but exclamations of joy.**

These are not vague hopes of what may be in the future but congratulations of what already exists right now.

This blessedness is not something which a Christian will enter, it is something that they already have, joy and radiant gladness.

There should be no such person as a gloomy Christian.

The Greek word here is “*makarios*” a word which was used especially to describe their Gods.

In Christianity it describes divine godlike joy.

The meaning of “*makarios*” is illustrated for us in one particular use of this word in the Greek language. The Greeks always called Cyprus “*he makaria*” [the feminine form of the adjective], which means the happy isle.

They did this because they considered Cyprus was so lovely, rich and fertile an island that no-one need go beyond its shores to find perfect contentment and happiness.

“*Makarios*” describes a joy which is serene, self-contained and untouchable, completely immune to what may happen to the person having this joy.

**John 16:22** “*So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy.*”

This joy comes from continually walking in the company and presence of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:38-39** “*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Nothing now or in the future can ever take us away from the protective Love of God. What a solid, rock like, basis for joy and contentment.

**A pillar is strong and supportive to other parts of the same building.**

**Galatians 6:1-5** “*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.*”

We see in this passage five things that every “*pillar*” in the church needs to be aware of and act on:

- a) out-going love for others, a willingness to support the weak when they stumble and to do this in a kind and gentle way;
- b) a willingness to accept what we find in another Christian brother that may be burdening to us, whatever weighs us down physically or mentally. The Greek word “*baros*” meaning to weigh down or press down. We all have habits in our lives that are part of us due to our background, and others may find these tiring, tedious or irksome, yet they are to carry them in Christian love;
- c) remain humble at all times, we are **not** the only pillar in the church, and others may be more supportive than we are;
- d) we are responsible for our own list of sins and weaknesses. A different word in the Greek this time, “*phortion*” meaning an invoice or list of what is carried on board of ship, camel or mule;
- e) twice we are told to examine ourselves to see if we are a burden already to others or if our actions could cause us to be a burden to others, through internal weaknesses that may not be apparent as yet to others.

**James 1:21-25** *“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.”*

Weaknesses in a pillar may be internal cracks that do not show on the outside but when under pressure this may cause the pillar to fail.

These internal weaknesses will only be shown to us by God’s Word which is like a mirror that reflects the real person that we are, not the imagined one.

We have to respond to what we see and allow the great builder to repair those weaknesses that could cause us to fail.

**Hebrews 4:12-13** *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

Nothing will escape the exposure of God’s Word if we have the courage to use it to perform major surgical repair work on our attitudes.

**I liken this to a search and destroy mission on our human nature.**

During my enforced two years national service in the RAF being trained to be a pilot, I was the object of a “*search and destroy mission*”. The idea behind this exercise was to help me learn how to avoid being captured by the enemy if I was shot down in his territory. The tactics used against me were very effective and are a good analogy for a spiritual “*search and destroy mission*”.

My goal was to remain concealed on a journey to a safe house where I could then escape being captured.

- a) The first line of attack against me was from above, light aircraft were sent up from surrounding airfields to try to find out my position and direction.

We need first to seek help from above.

b) All possible lines of attack were gathered and used; police, RAF regiment, even my own mates in my own flight.

We need to enlist the help of others who we can trust to help us expose the cracks in our pillar.

c) The same methods and personnel were used time and time again once the direction of my journey was observed. The roads in Lincolnshire, where this exercise was taking place, are like the bones in a flat fish. The main A1 being the central spine and the minor roads the adjoining bones spread out either side. My path to escape had to cross many of these minor roads and on each I had to avoid the same personnel who had been transported by lorry and spread out ahead of me along these roads.

d) It was a 24 hour operation. I was given no respite day or night.

We can never let down on our “*search and destroy mission*” to eradicate the weaknesses in our lives.

**Psalm 139:23-24** *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

It takes courage to pray this prayer but let us read once again.

The end result of our seeking to be made by God – a strong and supportive pillar.

The end result is worth more than all the sweat and toil involved in being made a pillar by our Creator God.

**Revelation 3:12** *“Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.”*