

## Getting Back to Normal

In the beginning was the normal. Vegetable, animal and aquatic life flourished. There was no death, decay or disease. Harmony reigned among the disparate parts of God's creation. Humans and their Maker fellowshiped in complete oneness of spirit, love, and goals. Normalcy reigned because everything in creation flowed with God's laws for success. Therefore, tranquility and peace permeated everything!

### Abnormality Enters Creation

The first two humans rejected God's laws for success. Consequently, abnormality spread throughout every aspect of creation. Decay and death appeared. Disharmony erupted into existence because of man's sin. Instead of cooperating with man's efforts to cultivate it, the earth produced "*thorns and thistles.*"<sup>(1)</sup> Death, mourning, crying and pain irresistibly intruded into the perfect creation which God intended as a home for humans.

### A Human Holds to the Normal

Humanity and God's handiwork appeared hopelessly mired in abnormality. But God cannot be thwarted; his purposes and plans cannot be annihilated.<sup>(2)</sup> Therefore, God's infinite love compelled him to lay aside heaven's normalcy in order to enter a world wracked by the abnormal. Christ forsook his eternal comfort, his almighty power and his universal presence in order to become a two-cell human.<sup>(3)</sup> Like the first man Adam, Jesus was a son of God. Adam was God's son by creation; Jesus was God's son by conception and birth. Like the first Adam, Jesus was normal. He lived according to God's laws for success. Jesus loved heavenly Father with all his heart, with all his soul and with all his strength.

Jesus faced a lifetime of trial and temptation. Why? Because Satan was determined to loosen Christ's grip on his love for heavenly Father and his obedience to Father's will. Obedience was normal in the original creation. So Jesus totally rejected the abnormal in order to cling to absolute love for and obedience to his heavenly Father.

Jesus died a flawless human, not because he was untested, but because he "*has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*"<sup>(4)</sup>

### The Spirit of Jesus Returns Normalcy to His Followers

The resurrected Jesus remains a human throughout eternity. The resurrection returned to Christ the universal power and authority he possessed before his conception. Jesus declared, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has*

*been given to me.”* <sup>(5)</sup> Furthermore, Christ’s universal presence was restored to him when he sat down at Father’s right hand. Consequently, he promises that *“surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* <sup>(6)</sup>

Jesus’ almighty presence in our human spirit makes it normal for us to conquer the devil, this godless world and our sinful human nature. All things become possible for us because that’s the way it was in the beginning. We live in an abnormal world, but it’s normal for us to overcome it, defeat it and retain our supreme love for God. No wonder Paul declared, *“We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”* <sup>(7)</sup> It’s natural for us to be exceedingly powerful. It’s usual for us to exceed in living victoriously in the worst of times. We are more than conquerors because the all surpassing Conqueror dwells in us!

True, our present bodies and emotions undergo deterioration. But this diminution of our physical powers is only temporary. *“Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”* <sup>(8)</sup>

We are headed back to the normal!

## **The Renewal of All Things**

Creator’s unbounded love and infinite genius motivated him to commission mankind as his partners in managing planet earth. *“You made [mankind] ruler of the works of your hands.”* <sup>(9)</sup> The Lord God depended on humanity to take care of His handiwork. <sup>(10)</sup> Adam and Eve enjoyed a divine appointment to exercise authority over all God made. The Psalmist, like all of us, marveled at the managership God lavished on humanity: *“What is man that you are mindful of him? The son of man that you care for him?”* <sup>(11)</sup>

Rebellion against the Creator brought all creation into the devastating effects of rejecting God’s authority. *“Because of you [sinful mankind] the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops.”* <sup>(12)</sup>

But there is no reason for despair. There’s some really great news!

Jesus promised a *“renewal of all things”* that begins when he *“sits on his glorious throne.”* <sup>(13)</sup> Jesus returns to the resurrected saints the authority originally given to Adam and Eve. Creation responds by cooperating with mankind instead of rebelling against him. *“May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness....May grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway. May the crops flourish...and thrive like the grass of the field.”* <sup>(14)</sup>

When heavenly Father, precious Jesus and the Holy Spirit get us back to normal, everything else he made returns to normalcy. We look forward to better than the best and more than the most throughout eternity!

### **Footnote:**

1. Genesis 3:18

2. Job 42:2
3. Luke 1:35
4. Hebrews 4:15
5. Matthew 28:18
6. Matthew 28:20
7. Romans 8:37
8. 2 Corinthians 4:16
9. Psalm 8:8
10. Genesis 2:15
11. Psalm 8:4
12. Haggai 1:10
13. Matthew 19:28
14. Psalm 72:3; 16