

GOD KNOWS HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU SUFFER

Bertie Brits

October 10, 2020

GREETINGS: It's a blessing for me to serve you with the Good News of Jesus Christ! Today I am going to encourage you and I trust that this word will help you. You cannot find life in the mess of this world but even though everything is going in the world the way it's going, that you can find encouragement and compassion and love and kindness that flows from the heart of God towards you.

We need to understand that God is a God of compassion and that's what I'm going to talk about. He's a God that knows and understands our weakness. He's a God that knows what it is to be weak. Now, one would say, "That is impossible! Jesus never knows what it means to be weak. God doesn't know weakness. It's impossible for Him to know weakness." I agree. It's impossible for God to know weakness unless He becomes a man because man is a weak being and that is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us. That's who He was and then He was appointed as high priest in His resurrection.

Today I am going to look at the passage in the scripture that says that He's a compassionate High Priest. But before we get into that, let us pray together.

PRAYER: Father, thank you so much that You love us and that You care for us. Thank You for the great love that You have shown towards us in Jesus Christ, that we can have peace through You. Thank You, Lord, that we don't have to be controlled by the world but that we can be controlled by You. Amen and amen

TODAY'S MESSAGE: If we look at the passage in Romans 8, a very famous scripture that I'm going to read to you, you will see that the Bible says that creation groans and we have that passage so pinned down and we think we understand everything about it and we say, "Well, creation waits for us as the Church to be manifested and we as the Church should now pull up our socks and we should be manifested as the sons of God. It's time that we take up our sonship!" Now, that is one of the most erroneous teachings that there is and that would basically be equivalent to eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and manifest yourself as a son by your own power and not wait for God to do it.

So, what I'm trying to say to you is that there will be a time in our lives, there will be a time in this world where the sons of God will be in the world but where God has not manifested the sons. We would know one another as sons of God because we are born of the same Father. But the world will not know us because they have not known the Father and the world will not know who we are until the Father manifests us as sons. So, it is something that we wait for. It is something that is in the future. It is something that we have not yet attained to. It is something that we have not yet received. It's something that Paul said that he counts everything but dung that he may partake in the power of the resurrection and be a partaker of the resurrection and be manifested as a son of God, according to Philipians chapter 3. So, we are going to talk a little about that.

I've spoken to several people and what I've experienced and I also see many of my pastor friends say the same thing when they communicate with their church members. And that is that people are basically do a great deal in despair because what is going on in the world, especially when it comes to governments and the vaccine. There's a group of people that believe that there are these stupid, idiotic, people that don't want to get the vaccine and therefore they are going to cause the end of the world. They are going to cause mankind to die away and they don't want to comply. They just make life difficult.

Then there is this other group of people that just believe that the governments got something wrong about what's happening and they are forcing us. They are forcing us and taking away our freedom and this is not right. There is something very much wrong with it. People are losing their jobs. People that are willing to help people without the vaccine. You know, when there was no vaccine laying their life on the line and now after they may have had Covid, have got natural immunity and now they lose their jobs. We look at these things. People can be of both groups. We look at wars in the world. We look at what is going on. We look at politicians how corrupt they are. It's almost becoming more and more in the open and people look at this and it brings forth a pain in their heart. They are saying this is not right. It is not the way it is supposed to be. It must be that there is something better and what we are crying is, "Come Lord!"

It's even the people who have died, the people under the altar, the martyrs under the altar are even crying saying, "When are you going to have vengeance upon those shed our blood?" It is as if there is just a massive saying that this is wrong. There's a groaning that says, "Something is wrong!" And I want to say this: There are some that feel that this groaning is overtaking them. They feel that, "We don't know what we must do. You know, there are too many people in the earth. We need to wipe a lot of the people off the face of the earth so that things can just get back into balance." People would say that. People would have those thoughts.

If you think of poverty in South Africa, think of great poverty and all those kinds of things. People come and say, "There are just too many people! And then, you know, getting people from other countries also coming in. There's just too many! What are we going to do?" Then death thought to become the answer. "There are just too many people. Some people must just die. There are just too many of them!" That's what's going on in many people's minds. There is a pain... something is wrong that is going on and we don't know how to articulate this. As Christians, we don't know what to do with this. We don't know how to feel about these things because sometimes, in our hearts, these feelings arise and we sometimes feel that we get overcome by them. It's too much for us. If we find that we are very weak. We don't know what to say. We don't know how to go about.

Now I would like to read from Romans chapter 8. I'm going to read from verse 18. We need to understand this. Paul was talking about the very same things and we need to understand that what Paul was going through. He was going through things that are like what we are going through and even worse.

Romans 8:

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers (principalities and powers--- he's talking about governments there), **nor things present, nor things to come** (Now, do you think of your government and where you are now would that qualify as something that is to come by Paul? Yes)

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature (nor things in creation), **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

What is the love of God that there is in Christ Jesus our Lord? And the love of God that there is in Christ Jesus our Lord is the resurrection, the full glorification of our flesh, the full restoration of the whole physical earth. That is the love of God. He loved us so much that He gave His Son, His only begotten. In other words, Jesus as high priest, the resurrected Christ was given that can have compassion on us, that knows our weakness, that knows our poverty, that knows our disease, that knows our fears, that knows our anxieties, that knows all those things, that knows what it feels like to think that this thing that is ahead of me feels as if it is draining the life out of me. It feels if it's killing me. He knows that. He has been appointed as the high priest over us to bring the fullness of who Jesus, today is bodily over us having compassion on us.

So, the love of God, this Jesus, was given so that we will not perish but have everlasting life. And I want to tell you that the weakest, the absolute weakest, excuse me for the strong words, most pathetic, erroneous, understanding of eternal life, is the concept of leaving your body and going to heaven. The early Church never defined eternal life outside of knowing the bodily resurrection as that which God brings. When they thought of the kingdom of God, they thought of the fullness of the Godhead and what God had in mind for them. They had resurrection, restoration, the full glory of God on the earth in mind and that they had not perishing in mind. They had an empty grave in mind. They had Jesus and the Father living with us in the earth. They had in mind, God with us. They didn't have some spiritual hoo-ha! They had in mind, steak on the plate, man! They didn't have Socrates in mind with all of his, he was going into death peacefully because he was saying, "I'm leaving my body and I'm getting out of the cage!" No! That is not what the early Church had in mind.

The early Church saw eternal life as defined by the Word that became flesh and dwelt amongst us and was raised from the dead. The restoration of all things, the fullness of the righteousness of God in all governed governance and governments and in the earth where we find heaven and earth collide, where the fullness of heaven manifests in earth. That is what they had in mind and that is what they define as the love of God. He says here that no government that is ever to come, nothing that could ever come, nor any other creature, no other thing that would ever be created in the future even if they make robots that look like people, that you can't even make a distinction, it doesn't care. God doesn't care. Paul doesn't care. Nothing that could ever come can separate me from what God had for me in Jesus Christ.

Now, with that in mind, we are reading **verse 18** here.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

It does not say that I reckon that the sufferings of this present time cannot be worthy to be compared to the mansion that I have in heaven when I leave this body. That's not what he says. If one would preach the typical message that we hear today about where we go when we die and define that as the victory that there is in God, Paul would have called that heresy!

I want to say to you that every person that has ever died is still in time. They have not exchanged the temporal with the eternal. That is an absolute lie. Every person that has ever died in Christ is still in time. They are awaiting the resurrection. They are waiting. They are still in time. They are still in a place of an imperfection. Perfection is defined in what Jesus Christ is in His resurrection and ascension. That is what perfection is and that is what God has promised us. If we don't believe that, you will be in this world, you will look at the news media. You will look at all these kinds of things and you will not see any purpose on this earth. You will just occupy until you rapture, that kind of thing... "Occupy until I come!". So, it would be like, "We occupy. We want to gain more and more on the earth and we don't know for what reason but we are just going to go." No, this is not the message.

The message is about heaven coming to earth. Listen to what it says here: ***18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*** Then he explains what it is. He says:

9 For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. What he is basically saying is we are waiting to be manifested in this earth as the sons of God. And the Bible says that is called the adoption. That is called the glorification of our bodies. That's what it is called. That's called the glory of God revealed in this physical earth in our bodies where we will shine as the sun where we will look like the glorified ascended Jesus Christ, right here. We will look like that right here on earth. That's what he's saying.

He says in verse 18, "I reckon that the sufferings that we have in this present time and no suffering that is to come can separate me from being manifested by God as a son in this earth."

Now you need to understand that there are some futuristic things here and we will talk about that.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children (sons) of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now

23 And not only creation, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to witness, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why does he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that if we see not, then do we do it with patience wait for it.

Another translation says, "We do with patience wait for it."

What is he saying here? He says that in this world we are groaning. Creation groans. We as Christians groan. We are saying that there are things in this world that are not just. There are things in this world that are not right. There are things in this world that are unjust, that is simply not the way it is supposed to be. There are rulership and governments that are simply, plain forward evil, hating all that is good. That is just the way it is. We see that. And as we see that, if we don't have a gospel that has a hope but we've got a gospel that says that we've already received everything now, we will be hopeless and you will live as people that have no hope. You will become flooded with despair. You will become occupied with politics. You'll become occupied with the latest news, the latest covid reports, latest everything. Your mind will be spinning with those things and not just spinning with it. You will see that you have to know all these things to do something about it to bring salvation to the earth for you think that everything has been given to you already and therefore there's nothing outstanding that God must still bring, by His doing, to the earth.

Now, let me tell you something. There are things that we are hoping for and he says here that what we hope for is the manifestation of perfection in this earth. It says that if we hope for it, how do we do it? We patiently wait for it and while we patiently wait for it, since we know it's something that God still shall manifest in the earth, we are not overcome by seeing that we have lack and need in this world. When we see the evil in this world and we say that this is not supposed to be so. Life must come to this earth. Righteousness must manifest in this earth. Death must be overcome as the last enemy. Yes, Jesus did overcome death. He definitely did. It has already happened but it's the victory of Christ has not yet manifested in fullness in the earth. That is what we are waiting for. And it has not been up to us. It has not been given to us to manifest that. Church, we need to understand that. the more you try to manifest that, the more you are going to mess it up.

I want to say to you: If creation groans and we who have the first fruit of the Spirit groan as well in suffering, the Bible says you are groaning as in birth pangs. In other words, we are saying that are groaning. We are saying that we are in pain. Creation says it is in pain. We are saying we are in pain but the pain that we are in is not a hopeless pain. It is a pain wherein we have an expectation of the birth of a son. And the son that is born in us is the son that we already are that will be born into manifestation into this world as by the doing of God. It's defined as the adoption of sons which is defined as the salvation of our physical body from all death. That's what it is, Church! I mean, what can I say? That's what it is to me when I look at what's going on in the world, all forms of death. Whatever it is, be it governments that are wicked, that steal money, that lie, that cheat, that makes debt as if is going out of fashion. It doesn't matter what it is! If I look at all of that, if I think it is right or wrong, it doesn't matter. If I look at that and I feel a groaning in me where I am saying, "God, we are suffering here." I am saying that there is something more that is to be manifested by God. Everything has been paid but everything that has been paid for has not manifested.

Let me explain it to you this way: It's like buying a fleet of cars. You buy the fleet of cars. It's paid for. It's yours but the fleet of cars, that you bought from Japan or Germany, is on the ship and it shall arrive. There is no reason to think that the cars don't belong to you if you have the receipt which is the first fruit of the Spirit. There's no reason to think that it is not yours. There's no reason to fear and there's no reason to be afraid if you don't see the cars standing at your company if you bought a fleet of cars. If it's not in the garages there, if it's not there... if you've bought 10 trucks and it's not there yet and it is paid for, it's on the ship from wherever, and you don't see it, you are not overthrown by what you don't see. Why? Because you have hope, the hope. What hope do you have? You've got the receipt, the proof that is already paid for you. You know that it has been put on the ship and it's on its way. And now you look at the empty garage and you look at the transport problem that you have, not hopelessly. Yes, you are still going through difficult times but not with no hope!

Church, I love the Grace message! I love the Gospel. I love the message that Jesus Christ has done it all! But I am completely against the message that says, "It all has manifested and it is now up to us, as the Church, to try to manifest ourselves as the sons of God and that we do by trying to throw our weight around in the world through votes and through this and that." You are wasting your time if you think that the kingdom of God is going to come that way. I don't think you waste your time in casting a vote and doing your part in government in elections and those kinds of things. But, I think you are wasting your time as you think that is how the kingdom of God is going to manifest in the earth... wasting your time. That I can say with great boldness.

So here it says that we groan. So now, when we groan with hope, we will not be overcome by the groaning or by the suffering. But if we don't have hope, if your hope is in going to heaven, you will say, "Well, heaven is out there. We are on this earth and it's better. We better make this world better for us while we live here", and you will be overcome by what governments do... You'll be overcome by the corruptions of this world. These days, with social media and with the news that is just everywhere, you can read the news everywhere. You can read the news on your phone, wherever you go. You can never be without the news. There are a lot of facts and there's a lot of conspiracies out there and all those kinds of things and then you will look at all of this and you will say, "Is this what the Church has done? Look how weak the Church is. How are we going to overcome this weakness?" Because you don't understand.

If you look and say that everything has been done, you'll be at a place where you will be in introspection, find fault with yourself and you will find somebody telling you what you must do and then you will be back into works in what you must do. It doesn't matter what it is in order to get the kingdom of God to manifest because you have lost hope.

Now I want to tell you that God has great compassion with us and He knows weakness. Jesus Christ knows weakness. You might say, "Bertie, God doesn't know weakness at all. Jesus doesn't know weakness. He's always just been strong. He doesn't know any of that!" We are going to look at Scripture today and I am going to show you that Jesus Christ is a compassionate High Priest. That compassionate there talks about Him not getting quickly angry or getting angry by our wrongdoings and sins because He was a partaker of weakness Himself. Jesus Christ was at a place where He was Himself, where He obeyed the Father and He was in need of obedience to the Father in order to partake of salvation. It sounds like blasphemy but it's not blasphemy because the Scripture teaches that and I'm going to show you that from the Scripture. As you look at this message that I am about to share with you, as we look at the scriptures, you'll find great encouragement in the midst of a very difficult time.

Hebrews 4: 14 Therefore since we have a great high priest, who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firm to the faith we profess.

So, what is happening here is that he's saying Jesus is a high priest. He has gone into heaven and He is now to administer His life to us. And since we have that, let us keep to the faith we profess. What is the faith we profess? The faith we profess can be explained in many ways, but what I like to see here is, we hold to the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and that He is the One that will bring us eternal life. That He was raised and that there's a resurrection for us. That He is, if you believe in your heart, that He is Lord and that He was raised from the dead, you can confess that, then you'll be saved. That's it.

Hebrews 4:

14 Therefore since we have a great high priest, who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firm to the faith we profess.

15 For we do not have not a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weakness. But we have one who has been tempted in every way. (Say with me: "Jesus has been tempted." He was tempted in every way. How are you tempted? You are tempted when the weakness inside you feels that it needs to use its own power to create life. It's where you are confronted with your own weakness and you see your own weakness and then you are tempted to be the Son of God by living from the power of yourself, yet that you are weak. That is what it is.) just as we are yet He did not sin.

16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.

He says, "Let us approach the throne of grace." What is the throne of grace? It's the throne of God's grace which is the power of God whereby He brings into manifestation which He has promised from before the world began. There was a promise from before the world began and that is eternal life. Grace is the power whereby God freely brings that forth in us who believe upon Him. So, we are saved by grace through faith. We are saved by the power of God.

It says, "Let us come to the throne of grace that we may find grace to help." So, what will help you? The grace of God will help you. So, we have a high priest that can grace us. We have a high priest that can empower us in our difficult times. So, it says here that He has compassion. He knows our weaknesses.

Then there is chapter 5. I would not have put chapter five there. I would have just kept it right on to chapter 6 and I would have put chapter 6 on chapter 5 because we're breaking the thought because he goes on and says, "every high priest", talking about this compassionate high priest who sits on the throne of grace, the throne of the power of God which is the empty grave!

I just want to say to you that the throne of God, cherubim on each side, is the mercy seat. The type and the shadow of the throne of God where God sits, and has communion with us, is the empty grave. It's the physical empty grave. The early Church never thought of communion with God outside of bodily resurrection. They thought that their communion with God was in the body of Jesus. That's where they have communion. Their common union was in the fact that they were humans and that there is a human being raised from the dead and that the Son of man is seated at the right hand of God and the common union between God and man is the glorified man, Jesus. That's why we are not scared. We don't hide our weakness in our flesh because we know the salvation even of our flesh in Jesus Christ.

So, the place where God has communion with us is where the stone is rolled away, where we see only the grave cloths, where there is no person there. God fellowships with us in the victory over physical death, death itself, and that's where we find union. That's where we fellowship. That is the Word of life so that our fellowship can be with one another and with God, in the eternal life. That is what he is talking about here. He says, "Come with confidence to that throne of grace." Why? It is because the High Priest knows what you are going through. But you don't know what they're saying about this and that and whatever. Maybe I don't, but the High Priest does!

Now it explains why Jesus knows our weakness:

Chapter 5:

1 Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray (Why?), since he himself is subject to weakness.

In the Old Testament, high priests were taken. They were ordained of God. They didn't ordain themselves. They didn't go and vote and say, "Listen, I'm so powerful!" Then they voted for the strongest and the most holy high priest. No. God chose a weak one and then He brought him. This person had to sacrifice for his own sins. The reason why he sacrificed for his own sins is because he had sinned himself. He was weak himself.

3. This is why he had to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. . .

So, it says here that God brought the high priest from amongst the people, meaning he was just a normal guy. He brought him from amongst the people and then appointed him as pertaining to the gifts and the sacrifices, where God, basically, gives gifts to man, where God makes a sacrifice and gives life to man. We need to understand that when a sacrifice was made... let's say a lamb was taken. It says that you must take a lamb or, you must take this, or you must take that, and bring it to God, take the best of your flock and bring it to God... that kind of a thing. One should not think that it is you sacrificing something. Once you see it as God pointing out that which He has given.

Let me explain: Whatever you receive is from the hand of God. So, it comes from God. Then God says, "That which came from Me, just take that perfect one. That's the one that I gave you, that I provided for you. And the purpose of that perfect lamb is so that I can even provide you with forgiveness of sins."

So, when we talk about a high priest, we talk about a normal human being from among the people that knows the weakness of everybody. In the case of the Old Testament which had to sacrifice for its own sins, that the type and the shadow there was, who knows the weakness of all people. The only reason he sacrificed for his own sins was because he was weak. It was just to show that he's just like every one of us. He's not the special one. He's like every one of us and it is he represents God to the people and the people to God and God now, through him, brings the gifts that He wants to give people, which is forgiveness of sins.

Forgiveness of sins is not a lamb that is slain to wash the mind of God from thinking of your sins because some transgression took place in history. No. When we think of forgiveness of sin it is not the blood that washes the mind of God. The blood is the life that God gave to wash us. What did the high priests do? The high priests performed the ceremonies and the rituals and everything in the cleansing of people so they could enter into the temple. They cleaned the people. The temple was cleaned. Everything was cleaned. Why? So that the people can have fellowship with God. So, the high priest came to wash the people.

Why did the high priest come to wash the people? It is because the high priest is the one that God gave, who knows the weakness of the people to share with them and see that they are washed. It says here that he relates to them and He deals with them gently. That word, "dealing gently". I want to read to you:

Hebrews 5:2 Who can have compassion... Who can deal gently.... That word, compassion, there is very powerful. I need to read it to you. It means of one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults and sins of others but bears them gently. So, a high priest was taken from the people that knows the weakness of the people so that he, since he knows their weaknesses, would not be unnecessarily disturbed by errors and faults and sins of others but that he would bear them gently. Isn't that absolutely awesome!

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

4 And no man takes this honor (honor of high priest) to himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest (So it wasn't because of Christ's good works that He was a high priest.)

Let me read it again:

4 And no man takes this honor to himself (It's not because of who the person is that he becomes the high priest), **but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.**

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, You art my Son, today have I begotten thee.

So how did Jesus Christ become the high priest? He knew the weakness of man. He knew the absolute, you almost want to say, disastrous state that man was in. He knew that and how He became high priest was by the One who said to Him, "You are My Son. Today I have begotten You." Or, in another place, that "You are a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

So, Jesus was appointed as high priest, not because He could not know weakness but because He knew weakness. So, the Old Testament shadow was that it had to be somebody that also knew what sin was. Now, Jesus didn't have His own sin, neither did He sin, but He took our sin! So, when Jesus was on the earth, He knew our sin. He knew our weakness and He didn't appoint Himself as High Priest by how victoriously He lived. No. He was appointed by the Father as High Priest by the Father raising Him from the uttermost weakness called death.

Let's read the scripture. I mean, we cannot just say whatever we want. We look at the scripture and we submit to the scripture and we submit to what the Hebrew writer wrote here: he says,

Hebrews 5:

5 So also in the very same way, Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, You are my Son, today I have begotten you. That's how He was glorified to High Priest.

6 As he said also in another place, You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Now it explains here: **7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;**

So, it says here that Jesus Christ was at a place where He had to pray to the Father, that He had to be save from death. Let's read it:

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save Him from death (So, did Jesus need salvation from death? Yes. He prayed and He had petition. A petition means to ask for a favor. He had prayers, requests, and the asking of a favor) **with fervent cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and he was heard and saved from death because of his reverent submission.**

Submission means, not that He by Himself brought forth life from Himself. No, He submitted to the Father and listened to the Father and obeyed the voice of the Father. As He reverently submitted, asking God to favor Him with ternal life, He was heard in His reverent submission and not in His own righteousness.

8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered

9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

So, what happens? Jesus Christ was not perfect, Now, please hear me. He is the perfect Lamb of God, definitely, but when He was walking on the earth, He had imperfections. He needed air. He needed food. He could become hungry. He could be tempted. Jesus Christ was tempted, man. He was tempted. He came to a place where the Bible says that who He was, He laid down who He was before the creation of the world that was now incarnated. I would rather use the word, who became flesh. He was at a place where He still had to be perfected. Yes, He was sinless but He was made of human flesh and in weakness and had to cry to the Father for salvation from death for He was carrying the sins of all people. He baptized Himself into the sins of humanity.

He knows our weakness. He knows our distress. He knows what it is to have a government that does not give ear. He knows what it is to have a government that doesn't want to submit to God but calls itself God. He knows what it is to be under the Caesar. He knows what it is to be under the rule of Rome and all those things, as a human being. Jesus Christ knows what it is when His father had to be a refugee to Egypt because Herod came and killed all the babies. He knows that. He knows what it is to know that He's going to die. He knows what it is to be at a place where He, three times, asked the Father if it would be possible to remove death from the earth without Him tasting death and then He says, "Not My will be done but Your will." He knows what it is to be a human being facing death, asking for salvation. He knows what that is. That's where we are. He knows all of that. That is why He is now, and after He was raised from the dead, He became perfect... the perfect High Priest. Such a high priest is what we have need of.

We can go and read that in chapter 7. Let's go back. Let's read the scripture here:

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission (Because He humbled Himself. "I cannot do it by Myself. I cannot save Myself. I cannot raise Myself from the dead. The Father will raise Me. The Spirit will raise Me.")

8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered So, He was the Son. Although He was the Son, He laid down His life and came to a place where He suffered and we think just on the cross. No, He suffered what it feels like to be a normal human being.

9 and, once made perfect (in the resurrection), **he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him** (So, those who are weak, who can now obey Him and as the Father has given life so He's given authority to the Son to give us aid right now where we behold these things which we think is so wrong.)

10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

So, what does this mean? It means Jesus was weak. Somebody could only be a high priest that was taken from amongst the people. So that's why God had the promise of eternal life. It became flesh and from amongst people that are fleshly. He took this High Priest that is weak in His own flesh by His own power, He promised Him eternal life and He said to Him, "You are My Son." Jesus didn't have proof of sonship. He didn't have proof of sonship but the word that comes from the Father and the virgin birth. That's the most He had. But He didn't see eternal life manifesting in His flesh. He knows the weakness of man. He knows what it is to be like that. And then He was appointed to be High Priest.

Now, I want to go back to chapter 4.

Therefore since we have a great high priest who has ascended into the heaven Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Since we have a great high priest that has ascended. In other words, He knows our weakness but He's ascended and now He's the High Priest to minister the gifts and the sacrifices. What is the gifts? The gifts is the power of life from the Holy Spirit. What is the sacrifice? It is the blood of Jesus. It is the life of the Son of God that is given to us which washes us from sin and from death, from despair, washing us from an evil conscience, a conscience that wants to labor and toil, try to create a future for us in the world. It washes us from that by the hope of the resurrection and the empowering of the first fruit of the Spirit inside us now where we now partake of the eternal life that is promised. We partake of that as in the form of a first fruit. Isn't that absolutely powerful! Jesus didn't have sin but He knew what it was to be weak and the reason He knows weakness, He was tempted in every form just as what we are, yet without sin. Then He was raised. So now He has great compassion on us.

I want to end off with Philippians chapter 2

Can you imagine how far Jesus Christ came from what He was before the world began to what He became for us? He knows, in the fullness of who He is, He knows what it is to be as we are, as what the high priests of that time knew what it was to be human. That's how Jesus knew. He was the Son of God. God was His Father, not Joseph, and from that word of God being His Father, He believed. He believed. He groaned. What was the groaning? With tears and supplication and loud crying, groaning, He was making, putting in requests asking the Father to favor Him, to manifest eternal life saving Him from there.

When the Father raised Him, I know that I repeat myself, but this is shocking to some, when the Father raised Him from the dead, He appointed Him as our High Priest as now not being weak but as now being strong. So now He can have compassion on us in our weakness bringing us to who He is, as a human, before the Father... fullness of glory... fullness of power. And I want to tell you as we just preach this, you find that the latest covid report just loses its power.

The latest thing they want to do with the vaccine just like, "So what!" But Bertie, what if they inject us and we die or what if people don't get injected and we die?" Oh, so you want to know what about death? Let's go to death. Let's ask death. Let's go to the mouth of death, the grave. Let's go to the grave of Jesus Christ. Let's see what death has to say. It says that I couldn't hold Him" That's what it says. "I couldn't hold Him!" Even the grave is preaching the Gospel!

So, whenever we get a question about, "What if we die?" Or, "What if my child doesn't have an education?" What if Jesus was raised from the dead!

You might say, "Bertie, you're not reasoning right!" You know, what if my child... I look at my children. One has a master's degree. The other one didn't go and study. So how does that now change their life? The other one might go and study. How does that change? Our life is not found in education. Well, thank God for education. We want our kids to be educated. I'm not against that but I'm absolutely against having that as the definition and the hope, the definition of our Christian hope and the source of life for us. You are deeply loved by God!

I end off with this verse: ***Philippians 2:6 Who, being in very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;***

So, the Son, prior to becoming flesh, didn't think, "Well, the fact that I have eternal life in Myself, it's not going to be to my own advantage.

7 rather, he made himself nothing (no thing) ***by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*** He became like nothing, just like dust.

8 And being found in appearance as a man (When He appeared as a man, we sometimes think that He just appears **as if** He is a man. That is not how that scripture should be read. Jesus didn't just appear to be a man, No. He came in the appearance. The appearance was that of a man but the Father said, "You are My Son", for He was the Son, and then manifested as the Son. So, there was a time when He groaned, when creation was groaning, when He was groaning, knowing our weakness. He ***humbled himself by becoming obedient to death--- even death on a cross!*** He humbled Himself by being willing to be obedient unto death. In other words, He came to say, "Yes, Father, I obey You. I will take this nature of man on Me, the appearance. I'll appear as a man."

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

When we look at what the Word, the Son, has done in becoming a man, we are humbled. We are humbled. I'm humbled when I see that. I see how He knows my weakness, how He believed, how He was raised from the dead and how He is now appointed as Lord over the death in my life. And as He stands as a glorified human at the right hand of the Father, the fullness of the Godhead bodily, I'm under His authority whereby He will bring that fullness to my body, into your body. So, now we can say, "If God is for us, who can be against us! What shall separate me from the love of God?"

What is there that God, in the flesh, has not experienced? What weakness does He not know, that He has not conquered? He even entered into death! Do you know how much you can do when you've died? You are weak. You need prayer to someone who can raise you from the dead, and that is what Jesus came for us so He can aid us. "Bertie, there's death all around us!" I want to tell you that His Spirit is all around us. They that are for us is more than they that are against us. You are the son of God but what you are does not yet appear but when He appears, who you truly are will appear, Jesus Christ. Yes, in His weakness, God declared Him to be the Son of God, as what is declaring to you! Your life is not born from the flesh. Your life is born from the Spirit as what the life Jesus led, that which He clung to was the word of the Father. He lived from every word that comes from the mouth of the Father and so the faithfulness of the Father was seen in raising Him from the dead. Now we have an immortal, eternal High Priest that can grace us and the grace helps us.

I know I've preached a long time but this is something that must settle deep because when I now look at the resurrected Jesus, I know it didn't just appear as if He knows my weakness. He **knows** my weakness and it is conquered and He is my High Priest knowing how to aid me in difficult times!

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve you with this Good News of Jesus Christ....