

**THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH**  
**IXf. PETER'S RESTORATION AND JESUS' SEARCHING**  
**QUESTION Aspect 5 (cont.) Early Iyar (late April), A.D. 33**

John 21:14-19

“<sup>14</sup>This is already <sup>0</sup>third |time| /Jesus was-displayed to-His /disciples after-being-raised-up out-of <sup>0</sup>dead-ones. <sup>15</sup>Then when they-finished-eating-breakfast, /Jesus says to-the Simon Peter, Simon of-Jonah<sup>[Yōnāhs]</sup>, <sup>§</sup>Are-you-persistently-loving<sup>[sovereignly preferring over self and others]</sup> Me more than-these<sup>[men or things (fish, nets, and boat) or both]?</sup> He-says to-Him, Yes, Lord! Yourself, You-perceive<sup>[are-aware]</sup> that I-am-persistently-fond-of<sup>[tenderly-affectionate-toward]</sup> You<sup>§</sup>. He-says to-him, Persistently-feed the lambs of-Mine!  
<sup>16</sup>He-says to-him again, <sup>0</sup>second |time|, Simon of-Jonah<sup>[Yōnāhs]</sup>, <sup>§</sup>Are-you-persistently-loving<sup>[sovereignly-preferring-over-self-and-others]</sup> Me? He-says to-Him, Yes, Lord! Yourself, You-perceive that I-am-persistently-fond-of<sup>[with-tender-affection-toward]</sup> You<sup>§</sup>. He-says to-him, Persistently-shepherd the sheep<sup>&</sup> of-Mine! <sup>17</sup>He-says to-him the third |time|, Simon of-Jonah<sup>[Yōnāhs]</sup>, <sup>§</sup>Are-you-persistently-fond-of<sup>[with-tender-affection-toward]</sup> Me? /Peter <sup>[ingressive-aorist-passive]</sup>became-grieved because He-said to-him the third |time|, Are-you-persistently-fond-of<sup>[with-tender-affection-toward]</sup> Me? And he-said to-Him, Lord, Yourself, You-are-persistently-perceiving all-things<sup>ˉ</sup>. <sup>§</sup>You-know<sup>[from-experience]</sup> that I-am-persistently-fond-of<sup>[with-tender-affection-toward]</sup> You<sup>§</sup>. /Jesus says to-him, Persistently-feed the sheep<sup>&</sup> of-Mine! <sup>18</sup>Amen, amen, I-am-saying to-you<sup>§</sup>, When<sup>§</sup> you-were younger, you-were-repeatedly-girding yourself<sup>§</sup>. And <sup>§</sup>you-were-repeatedly-walking where you-were-determinedly-willing. But whenever you-grow old, you-shall-extend the hands of-yours and another<sup>[same-kind]</sup> shall-gird you<sup>§</sup> and he-shall-bring |you<sup>§</sup>| where yourself, you-are-determinedly-willing not |to-go|. <sup>19</sup>Now He-said this, signifying by-what-kind-of death he-will-glorify<sup>j</sup> The God. And after-saying this, He-repeatedly-says to-him, Persistently-follow Me!” (John 21:14-19 APT).

**Introduction:** What question did The Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ ask Peter on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, which brought to his remembrance his boast and denial? How does this question pertain to us all today? What is the highest and most effective motivating force in human life? (*ἀγάπη*) Ahgáhpay Love!

After His Resurrection-Ascension during the following forty days, The Lord Jesus very specifically and deliberately took steps to restore Peter to fellowship and discipleship, before He ascended to Heaven the second time after His Resurrection-Ascension, which occurred on the third day after crucifixion. After considering three facts in The Process of Peter's Restoration i.e, his Spiritual Conversion. Consider the Circumstances: 1. A Frustrating Morning in Galilee; 2. A Familiar Miracle: Multiplication of Fish; and 3. A Forceful Manifestation of Jesus' Power and Insight.

Then The Lord Jesus persisted with Peter until Peter recognized and confessed his lack of true love, sovereignly preferring The Lord Jesus Christ above all others (both people and things) and substituting the word meaning 'kind affection, fondness, or friendship' for Ahgáhpay Love'.

We then considered The Lord's Confrontation with Peter and the question He asked three times, each of which He used to cause Peter to consider his need to: 1. Recognize the Inadequacy of his Love, his self-denying, self-renouncing - rejecting one's will, interests, and desires; self-surrendering of the will, the emotions, and control; and self-

sacrificing love; 2. Reverse his Indifference to the meaning of 'Love'; and 3. Reverse his Direction in love i.e. his affection, by insistently asking The Question that Searches: Sin, Stubbornness, and Selfishness within and calls for: Sacrifice, Surrender, and Complete Submission.

Then we considered the five results of The Searching Question that The Lord Jesus Christ asked of Peter (Jn. 21:15) the first of which question Searches the Depths of the Heart and Reveals the Inadequacy of Love. 'Loving' means 'persistently-sovereignly-preferring-over-self-and-others.' Jesus used this word which is the highest level of emotion in His question to Peter, but Peter answered Him with a word which is the next level lower than *ahgahpáhō* or as it is recognized in English Ahgáhpay Love. This highest level of love has four aspects in order to identify it, all of which were prevalent in the Life of The Lord Jesus Christ in order to provide Salvation, Eternal Absolute Life, and the enabling power and ability to implement them in the regenerated human. Therefore The God expects these to be demonstrated in the life of those who appropriate His Salvation and Eternal Absolute Life in exchange for, and as a result of, receiving His gift of Ahgáhpay-Love. These four aspects are not produced by human effort but by appropriating them by faith even as Salvation and Eternal Absolute Life is appropriated. They are produced by The Holy Spirit in demonstrating gratitude that is motivated by Him. Then we considered the question that The Lord Jesus asked Peter, 'Do you persistently-love Me with *ἀγάπη* Love [sovereignly-preferring-over-self-and-others] more than these?'

- I. This question Searches The Depths of the Heart and Reveals the Inadequacy of Love in four aspects: self-denying, self-renouncing, self-surrendering of: will, emotions, and control, **and** self-sacrificing.
- II. This question Searches the Desires of the Heart and Reveals the Incongruity of Love, "Loving **Me**" in three aspects: Rejection of Truth Displayed; Erection of Building Desired; and Recognition Deprived.
- III. This question Searches the Delights of the Heart and Reveals the Intensity of Love. There are three things that draw away from our intensity of *ἀγάπη* Love: Pride, Profession, and Possessions, all three of which require our keen attention in order to prevent them from drawing away our hearts.
- IV. This question also Searches the Deceit of the Heart and Reveals the Inconsistency of Love in three areas: selfishness, stubbornness, and sinfulness which covers worldliness. Sinfulness is akin to worldliness because it satisfies the flesh. Worldliness involves preferring anything and everything 'in-the-sphere-of-the-world,' which includes: the passionate-lust of-the flesh, and the passionate-lust of-the eyes, and the arrogant-display of-the manner of life without consideration of The God!
- V. Lastly this question Searches the Devotion of the Heart and Reveals the Insincerity of one's Love in four steps including: A. Surrender, B. Sacrifice, C. Submission, and D. Succeeding
  - A. Surrender all you are, all you have, all you will ever have, and all you hope to be to The Lord Jesus Christ permanently! Make an exchange of Masters from being a bonds slave to Satan, Sin, Disobedience, and Unrighteousness to The God, to The Lord Jesus Christ The Savior, to Obedience, and to Righteousness.
  - B. Sacrifice your body, soul, spirit, and self and all you possesses to The Lord Jesus Christ (claiming nothing to be yours but all to be His!) now and forever.

C. Submission (Heb. 5:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Cor. 10:3,5; Rom. 6:16,17; 6:6, 11-13; 6:18 1:Thes. 1:9; Jas. 4:7).

The word 'submission' is defined by Noah Webster in 1925 in Webster's new International Dictionary and is gleaned and abridged here. Submission is: "1. . . the act of yielding to power or authority, surrender of a person to the control of another, . . . 2. compliant behavior, . . . obedience, compliance; . . . to present self in all submission and humility." This meaning suggests at least three stages or phases which calls for three divisions for description: obedience, servitude, and yielding.

1. Obedience (Heb. 5:9; 1 Pet. 1:22).

The first stage and step toward *ἀγάπη* love for The Lord Jesus Christ is total and complete obedience to all and everything that has been stipulated in The God's Holy Word, The Bible. Previously all our lives before being introduced to The Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Word we have been influenced and enticed by Satan just as Eve was in the beginning, back in the Garden of Eden. And having their eyes opened to their sin Adam and Eve sought to cover their nakedness and hide their sin (Gen. 3:1-8). Ever since it has been that humans hide and desire not to acknowledge their sins and sinfulness of disobedience. However, The Lord Jesus Christ came as a substitute (one who serves for a short period of time) and suffered the torment of everlasting darkness for three hours on the cross of Calvary to pay the debt of Sin which it is impossible for every human to pay. He suffered the torment for us and as The Lamb of God, He shed His Precious, Sinless Blood **in complete obedience** to His Father, The God in order to wash away the sins of everyone who submits to becoming persistently obedient in every detail to His Son and His Word, The Bible. In this way He became Causer and Originator of Eternal Salvation (Heb. 5:9; 2:10; 12:2).

“<sup>9</sup>And being-made-perfect, He-became <sup>0</sup>Causer<sup>+</sup> of-Eternal Salvation to-all the-ones persistently-obeying Him” (Heb. 5:9 APT).

And then those who are persistently-obeying are commanded to constantly love Him feverently with a clean heart.

“<sup>22</sup>Since- the souls of-yours<sup>&</sup> -stand-purified [*instrumental év*]by-means-of-the obedience to-The Truth<sup>[Lev. 11:44,45]</sup> through <sup>0</sup>Spirit unto unhyprocritical brotherly-fondness, constantly-love [*sovereignly-prefer-one-another-over-self-and-others*] one-another fervently out-of a-clean heart!” (1Pet. 1:22 APT).

Can we be any less responsible than the Old Testament saints in the wilderness who were required by The LORD God to sanctify themselves and be pure, sanctified, and holy unto Him with clean heart (Lev. 11:44,45), especially since we have The Holy Spirit indwelling us to enable us to be so (Heb. 2:10)?

“<sup>10</sup>For it-was-proper for-Him, for-the-sake-of Whom <sup>|are|</sup> the all-things and through Whom the all-things <sup>|are-existing|</sup>,-to-lead many sons unto glory<sup>[majestic-radiant-splendor]</sup>, so-as to-complete- perfectly The Originator of The Salvation of-ours by-means-of sufferings” (Heb. 2:10 APT).

Since we became aware of the work that Jesus accomplished on behalf of every human on Calvary, followed by His Resurrection-Ascension and High-Priestly ministry in applying His precious, sinless blood on The Mercyseat in Heaven, it behooves us to (we must needs) return our grateful thanks in like behavior of our Lord Jesus Christ in love for Him and therefore **yield our bodies, our**

**souls, our all in sacrifice to The God and our Lord Jesus Christ and become His bondslaves in complete obedience to Him.**

2. Servitude (Rom. 6:6,11-14; 16,17,18 ).

Servitude means Slavery or bondage i.e. bond-service as being bound to a master to whom the bondslave must obey all orders given by the master and we be beholden to the master to have all physical needs met by the master. Paul clearly defined, in his Epistle to Romans, this relationship between all humans and Satan, Sin, Disobedience, and Unrighteousness until an exchange of masters takes place and the sinner commits persistent trust in The God and His Son The Lord Jesus Christ, then he or she is to be a bondslave to The God, The Lord Jesus Christ, Obedience, and Righteousness to be one's own Master (Rom. 6:6,11-14).

Too often the word 'service' or the term 'Christian Service' is substituted for 'bondservice' for the sake of convenience. But the proper translation of the Greek noun *δούλος* (doulos) is 'bondslave' and Greek verb *δουλεύω* (douleuō) is 'to serve as a bondslave' But by using the convenient substitute the true, full meaning of Scripture is lost and Satan is pleased because it will keep true disciple-saints from propagating The Truth and therefore serve Sin and Satan with their body members as weapons for warfare instead of serving The God and The Lord Jesus Christ in the great warfare for souls of humans. Seldom in religious Christendom is this warfare mentioned. Yet it is a vital Truth of which to be aware of the nearness of the climax of this warfare as the Return of The Lord Jesus Christ in the air for His Church draws near followed by the seven year Tribulation of Israel and then His Return to fight the final culminating battle of Armegeddon.

There are four major facts taught by Paul concerning what transpires in the lives of those who commit persistent trust unto The Lord Jesus Christ recorded in his Epistle to Romans (Rom. 6:6,11-14 APT).

- a. Firstly, your body formerly belonging to Sin becomes ineffective or negated to Sin so that you are to serve as bondslaves to Sin no longer (6:6).
- b. Secondly, you become an Absolutely Living one in union with The Lord Jesus Christ and you are commanded to reckon this to be so (6:11). In these three following verses the negative présent linear tense in the imperative mood, which commands continual prohibition, is used (6:12,13,14).
- c. Thirdly, you are commanded to **stop** habitually obeying the cravings of lust in and of your body (6:12).
- d. Fourthly, you are commanded to **stop** habitually offering as a sacrifice (or purposely yielding for use), the members of your body as weapons for warfare in the great war Satan is raging against The God and **stop** delaying the fulfillment of The God's purposes and His determined will, which delay He allows to accumulate for evidence against us to be presented at The Final Judgment.

Then The Holy Spirit directed Paul to recapitulate what he wrote in the previous verses, both reminding the Roman saints **and** us of certain facts to be remembered in order to be victorious over Satan in the raging warfare for your soul and mine (Rom. 6:16,17).

“<sup>16</sup>&You-are-aware, are-you-not? That to-whom you-yield [<sup>alternate use of présent</sup>] yourselves bondslaves unto obedience, you-are bondslaves to-whom you-are-habitually-obeying, either [<sup>restrictive, one of two; this, the first naturally</sup>] to-Sin unto <sup>0</sup>Death, or to-obedience unto

Righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But gratitude <sup>18</sup>to-The God! because &you-were-continually <sup>0</sup>bondslaves to-the Sin, but &you-obeyed out-of <sup>0</sup>heart in-regard-to which type of doctrine &you-were-delivered. <sup>18</sup>Then [causative aorist substantive passive participle]since-ones-being-freed-from-bondage away-from The-Sin, [ingressive aorist]you-became-enslaved to-The Righteousness” (Rom. 6:16,17 APT).

In this passage Paul used an unusual particle, the smallest part of speech, the restrictive particle *ἧτοι* (áytoi) which means “which of two” with restrictive notion (A.T. Robertson, p. 1154) and is properly translated “either this firstly, naturally or the other.”

Here again Paul stressed the alternative of Servitude. There is freedom from bondage to Satan, Sin, Disobedience, and Unrighteousness, but not freedom from bondage. The God has provided for every individual human to make his or her choice as to which kind of servitude or to which of two masters he or she prefers to serve. But unlike The USA and other democratic nations which outlaw slavery, The God outlaws slavery to Sin, Disobedience to The God and His Word, rebellion and disobedience to Him and His Son, country or nation, state, community, and parents, and Unrighteousness. But He does not abolish servitude as bondslaves, He just sets limits of servitude and makes it plain that there are just two choices of masters to whom bondservice is rendered and two types of bondservice.

Here again Paul reminds us to be aware constantly that you and I are bondslaves to whom we yield ourselves unto obedience to either one or the other, either to Sin unto death or to Righteousness and Eternal Absolute Life. Then he expressed gratitude because the recipients, those who received and acted in heart-obedience to the type of doctrine that he proclaimed to them, were freed away from The Sin and became enslaved ones to The Righteousness. Does this describe your condition? and mine?

These Truths are hard to understand and apply in our lives because the emphasis Paul placed upon them for the Romans is not often, nor soon enough, taught to new born babes and maturing educable children of The God from the pulpit and especially in personal discipleship. Are you a maturing educable disciple-child of The God? Am I?

Paul wrote The Epistle to Romans in the winter of early A.D. 58. Six months earlier in the summer of A.D. 57, he had written The Epistle to the Corinthians in which he implored the Corinthians to deal with another aspect of the warfare between the spirit and the flesh personally. Each of us must wage war spiritually and not fleshly because The God has provided spiritual and not fleshly weapons for this warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

<sup>3</sup>For [concessive-participle] although-continually-walking [locative *ἐν*]in-flesh, we-are-not-continually-waging-war-of-ourselves according-to <sup>0</sup>flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of-our /warfare <sup>18</sup>are not fleshly; but-on-the-contrary, powerful [intermediate agency]by-The God to[the face of] <sup>0</sup>vanquishment of-strongholds <sup>5</sup>in-order-to-vanquish-repeatedly[*telic-present-participle: to-demolish*]; calculations[reckonings]; and every height <sup>18</sup>that is elevating-self against the knowledge of-The God; and persistently-bring-into-captivity every thought unto the obedience to-The Christ; <sup>6</sup>and whenever the obedience of-yours& be-fully-fulfilled, persistently-hold in-the-state-of-being-in-readiness to-avenge every [refusal or] failure-to-hear-and-obey[disobedience-to-a-voice]” (2 Cor. 10:3-5 APT).

This earnest entreaty by Paul contains four areas of warfare in one's personal battle with Sin and Satan. These four areas must be utilized if personal victory is to be obtained instead of deplorable and regrettable defeat. [I speak from knowledge gained from experience!] **These four areas of warfare are** a. Repeatedly vanquish calculations or reasonings of a self-centered human; b. Repeatedly vanquish every height elevating-self against the knowledge of-The God; c. Persistently bring into captivity every thought unto obedience to The Christ; and d. Whenever obedience is fully-fulfilled then persistently hold in the state of being-in-readiness to avenge every failure to hear-and-obey.

- a. Repeatedly vanquish calculations or reasonings of a self-centered human (v. 4);

This is one tool which Satan uses to gain control of a human who threatens Satan by becoming interested in hearing The Gospel and may or may not be attending a church or meeting of a sect. He or she begins reasoning in the mind over what is heard from a self-centered view. In the process Satan influences the reasoning or calculating, which Greek noun has often been translated 'reckonings' in English. Satan blinds the mind (2 Cor. 4:3,4).

“But even if (and-it-is-true) The Gospel<sup>[avenged]</sup> by us is standing-intently-covered, it is standing-intently-covered among the perishing-ones, <sup>4</sup>among whom<sup>&</sup> the god of this /age constantly-blinds the concepts<sup>[thoughts]</sup> of-the faithless-ones, in-order-that the illumination of The Gospel<sup>[evangel]</sup> of-the glory<sup>[majestic-radiant-splendor]</sup> of-The Christ, Who is <sup>0</sup>image of-The God, not dawn upon them” (2 Cor. 4:3,4 APT).

- b. Repeatedly vanquish every height that is elevating-self against the knowledge of-The God (v. 5);

This is another tool which Satan uses to gain control of a human is to elevate one's knowledge of science, archaeology, psychiatry, psychology, and technology against the knowledge which is taught and found written in The Word of God.

- c. Persistently bring into captivity every thought unto obedience to The Christ;

We must be persistent in captivating every thought and bring it into obedience to The Lord Jesus Christ. Because He must be our Supreme Master in everything we think and do.

- d. Whenever obedience is fully-fulfilled then persistently hold in the state of being-in-readiness to avenge every failure to hear-and-obey i.e. every disobedience to The Holy Spirit's still small voice.

Then whenever one's obedience is fully-fulfilled in every detail, we are to persistently hold the state of complete obedience. Then we are to avenge every failure one has had in disobedience to the still small voice of The Holy Spirit speaking to remind us what we learned from studying The Word of The God through discipleship and Scripture memorization.

3. Yielding or Submission (James 4:7).

“<sup>7</sup>Therefore <sup>[submit, AV]</sup>subject-your-selves-at-once to-The God! <sup>[Byz. Mss. div.] /Moreover\</sup>withstand-at-once the Devil and of-himself, he-shall-successfully-flee away-from you<sup>&</sup>. <sup>8</sup>Draw-near-at-once to-The God! and He-shall-draw-near to-you<sup>&</sup> (James 4:7 APT).

If we really want The God to be with us, near to us, protect us, and provide for us every hour day by day, then we must comply with the

mandate which James gave to the converted, regenerated Jews in His Epistle and submit or subject-ourselves-completely-under the control of The God. Paul explained it this way (Rom. 6:19 APT)

“<sup>19</sup>I-speak<sup>[say]</sup> humanly because-of the chronic infirmity of-the flesh of- yours&. For even-as &you-constantly- <sup>[constative aorist 2 indicative]</sup>offered<sup>[technical term, lit.: to stand alongside, to present]</sup> (yielded AV) -as-sacrifices the members of-yours& as bondslaves to-the uncleanness and to-the lawlessness, unto the lawlessness, so now <sup>[constative aorist 2 imperative]</sup>offer<sup>[tech. term, lit.: to stand alongside, to present]</sup> (Yield, AV) -as-sacrifices the members of-yours& as-bondslaves to-the Righteousness, unto sanctification<sup>[separated unto a holy relationship with The God]</sup>.”

This yielding completely to The Lord Jesus Christ as Absolute Master and our body members offered up to Righteousness results in sanctification and a holy relationship with The God.

We must suspend the remainder of this searching question until next time.

### Conclusion:

Today we continued considering the fifth aspect of the searching question that The Lord Jesus asked Peter after He served the eight disciples breakfast on the shore of Galilee. Do you **ἀγάπη** Love me, more than these? After dealing with the matter of Repentance and Surrender to The Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord **and** Absolute Master of your life and all that that entails to become His bonds slave, no longer rendering bondservice to Satan, the next step is Sacrifice. Paul referred to the members of the bodies of regenerated saints as weapons or implements of war in the spiritual battle that Satan and his bondslaves (unregenerated people) constantly rage against The God and His Christ. Paul made it clear that the members of the bodies of all people are used as war implements either for God and beneficial good for Him, or for Satan and to be war implements of evil for Satan's beneficial good to the detriment of The Gospel. He entreated the disciple-saints because of The God's compassions upon us, that by our standing alongside The Lord Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, to offer as a living sacrifice our bodies, as He offered His Perfect sinless Body for us on Calvary, to return in **ἀγάπη** Love our bodies as sacrifices and then to stop fashioning ourselves together with the world and its sensual attire.

Then we considered Servitude with the members of our bodies as weapons for warfare either for Satan and Sin naturally and automatically to The God's detriment or determine to serve as bondslaves to The God and His Son and make an exchange of masters using our members as weapons toward Satan's defeat and The God's benefit. Then we considered four major facts that transpire in the lives of those who commit persistent trust unto The Lord Jesus Christ: a. Your body formerly belonging to Sin becomes ineffective or negated to Sin; b. You become an Absolutely Living one in union with The Lord Jesus Christ; c. You **stop** habitually obeying the cravings of lust in and of your body; and d. You **stop** habitually offering as a sacrifice (or habitually, purposely yielding for use), the members of your body as weapons for warfare in the great war Satan is raging against The God. And **stop** delaying the fulfillment of The God's purposes and His determined will.

We then considered four areas that must be utilized if personal victory is to be obtained instead of deplorable and regrettable defeat: a. Repeatedly vanquish calculations or reasonings of a self-centered human; b. Repeatedly vanquish every height elevating-self against the knowledge of-The God; c.

Persistently bring into captivity every thought unto obedience to The Christ; and d. Whenever obedience is fully-fulfilled then persistently hold in the state of being-in-readiness to avenge every failure to hear-and-obey.

Finally we considered Yielding or Submission. If we really want The God to be with us, near to us, protect us, and provide for us every hour day by day, then we must comply with the mandate which James gave in His Epistle and submit or subject-ourselves-completely-under The God. This yielding completely to The Lord Jesus Christ as Absolute Master and our body members offered up to Righteousness results in sanctification and a holy relationship with The God.

**Application:**

What will you do beginning today to properly respond to The God's command to become an Absolutely Living one in union with The Lord Jesus Christ and persistently bring into captivity every thought unto obedience to The Christ, and avenge every failure to hear and obey?

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**For next week:** Read and meditate upon: the sixth aspect of the searching question asked of Peter by The Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 21:1-23).