

The Son of Promise

By M.A. Houk

We have an aversion to the word law. Oh, not to the law of the land *per se*, certainly not to the law that limits our speed on highways and byways; but when someone mentions the law and our relationship to the Father in the same breath, our hackles go up.

Why? There *is* a good reason. The Law was our first school master. He was abusive, autocratic, and unsympathetic; in every respect a dictator. He didn't accept any excuses for being late. There *were* no good reasons for being late, or for that matter, breaking *any* of the rules for *any* reason. There was only the Law and unlike a schoolmaster or teacher at any ordinary school, this schoolmaster stayed with us *all* the time. He accused us, and smacked us when we stepped out of line. Sometimes, when we were trying to keep one rule in the Law, we broke another, and he still smacked us. He didn't care about our reasons. He only cared about the broken rule and it didn't matter why the rule was broken, only that we were guilty for our failure to keep it. In fact, the more we were around him it began to seem that this schoolmaster had only one thing in mind: to teach us that we weren't good enough now, and could *never* be.

In truth, this was and is the case. That is his only job, the sole purpose for which he was created. And for many thousands of years now he has performed his job exceedingly well. After being in his school we got the message: you cannot become righteous by keeping the written law. If you violate any part of it, you're guilty of all of it. We began to hate him, and hate his school, or prison if you wish. We wanted out, something whispered to us that we should get out; we were only going to die there.

Abused by Law's friend and bosom companion Guilt, and looking for a way out, we began to search scripture, and see that when Christ came, He brought an end to the written law. That keeping the written law was not a way to righteousness anyway. That the Law's one job had been to bring us to Christ.

So, we graduated. We left, but instead of appreciating the Law for the lesson he taught so well, we began to despise him. Not only did we despise *him*, we began to despise *any* schoolmaster, any teacher teaching anything about *law*, for we were now under grace. In fact, the very word Law became despicable to us; it only reminded us of all the beatings, pain, and guilt we suffered at that school. We would never, ever go back to that school again.

Grace, on the other hand, we understood to mean that we had no hope of keeping the law, so through the provision of the sacrifice of Christ, we were all made righteous. The righteousness of Christ is something like a robe we put on, and once having donned the coat of His righteousness, to the Father we become righteous as Christ is righteous. With the robe of His righteousness on, the stick of the Law cannot touch us. But this left us with a problem:

With no written law to govern us, with no written constitution of righteousness, how shall we live?

In an effort to answer this necessary question, we went back to the scriptures and found this:

You have no need that any man teach you, the Holy Spirit shall lead you into all truth.

We also found this:

All things are lawful, but all things are not expedient.

As a consequence of these two scriptures, we that came out from under the prison like school of the written law formed a new idea: we each now had a personalized constitution, made up only of the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the dictates of our own conscience.

Our Law, the only law in our new constitution was this:

They that are led by the Spirit are the sons of God.

And we believed that this was the fulfillment of this scripture:

The law of the Spirit of Life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

No man would ever teach us again, we were each free to find the truth for ourselves, and live by that truth. We don't have to listen to anyone else, only to the leading of that still small voice within us, and we are to leave all others free to do the same. God is our Father and Head, and not only will we no longer be enslaved by the written Law, we will certainly not come under the doctrines of men that don't have anything to do with the law. We are forever free from any such non sense.

This new idea branched into two paths: The less conservative among us formed the idea that under Grace, there are no standards of any kind. Nothing that can be counted as sin anyway, just a few things we can do that might be counted by our brethren as *unwise*. Since the sacrifice of Christ covers all sin ever committed and that ever will be committed, we are completely in the clear. Go ahead, do whatever you're comfortable with; they that are led by the Spirit are no longer under condemnation. You have complete freedom. The more conservative of the two groups thought common sense and wisdom, along with the leading of the Holy Spirit, should be our guide. And so, to this place we've arrived...

The place where we put the coat of Christ's righteousness (for He died as each one of us on the cross) over the filthy rags we're wearing and bad odor of our unwashed body. We're no longer subject to the written law, because the robe of His righteousness protects us from that.

But *here* my brethren, at this place where we've donned the robe of Christ's righteousness and found our new constitution of being led by the Spirit as our only law, we have to ask ourselves a question:

Is this the fulfillment of His promise to us?

Has this understanding and subsequent action brought about the birth of the promised Son within us? Are we now the child of righteousness, a Son of the kingdom as the Father has promised? In spite of many claims to now be manifesting, and many, many, attempts to receive the righteousness and authority of Christ this way, if we're honest with ourselves the answer to this question must be a resounding no. If we say; *yes* we are, then where is the power and understanding, the wisdom and genius a son must possess? Where is our authority over Adam and freedom from ourselves???

If we accept no as the answer, these things have not brought about the birth of the Son of promise within; this brings us to another question:

Then what happened when I began to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as my only law, and I donned the righteousness of Christ as a robe? Did anything happen???

The answer to this question is a resounding *yes*. Something *did* happen. There *was* a birth within us. Saying this does not really come as a surprise, for we all knew something happened at that time. We began to experience a freedom we never had before, and the Holy Spirit began to open our eyes to truths we had never known before. To deny this would be a lie.

But if all this was not bringing about the birth of the Son of promise within us, what then was it???

The answer?

Brethren, putting on Christ's righteousness as a coat to hide our filthy rags and unwashed bodies, is not a fulfillment of His promise to us. In doing this we've tried to fulfill the Father's promise to us in much the same way that Abraham sought to fulfill God's promise to him through Hagar, the bond woman. This thing that was birthed in us was our Ishmael. Our son of the flesh. He is the child of the bond woman, the issue of our soul while she still remains a slave. Was there a change in us? Yes, because this child was still the son of our Father, but he is also the child of the bond woman. Is he the son of promise? Absolutely not. This is why the wisdom and power, genius and authority of the Son of promise still elude us.

But why, you ask, why? Why would God allow this? Why would He allow this child to be born, when He promised to make us sons?

Well, there are at least two reasons I can think of: one, so no flesh will glory. None of us will be able to take the credit for the birth of the promised Son within us. If this is not the Son of promise, the son that we helped to birth by our decision to leave the school of the law, if this isn't it, then we're too old to try to have any more children. We're too tired, and we're not too happy with this one to begin with. Our soul, Sara, laughs. Birth the Son of promise within me? I'm far too old. My time has past.

The second reason? So there will be *no* mistaking the Son of promise when He comes. When the time comes, our Husband, the Spirit of Truth will cast out the bondwoman and her child at our request, for we will know without a doubt that this new child is the Son of our inheritance.

Do we bear any condemnation, any guilt for this child born of our still enslaved soul? For our misunderstanding and impatience for the fulfillment of the Father's promise to us? Not any more than Abraham did. The Father purposed for this child to be born.

This was a necessary part of our development. In fact I believe the story in scripture was just a type and shadow of things coming now. All this has happened so we would understand. If you remember, in the story were two women: Sara and Hagar, the bond woman and the free. The free woman was the *wife* of the husband. The son of promise was never intended to come forth from the enslaved woman. So what, we ask, will free the woman? What does it take to free a slave? The answer : Law. A new law of the land frees slaves. And after the slave is free, he must learn to live by the laws that govern the freedom of the citizens of that land.

This in turn brings us to another question:

If following the still small voice the Holy Spirit as our only law, and putting on the robe of Christ's righteousness will not bring about the birth of the Son of promise within us, then what will?

Answer: Following a new Schoolmaster.

What schoolmaster? The law of the Spirit of life.

But isn't the law of the Spirit of life being led by the Holy Spirit as our only law? The answer is no. You see, in the law of the Spirit of life, there is a different kind of law, than the written statutes of the Mosaic Law. Laws of principle. A true picture of His righteousness is contained in the law of the Spirit of life, which are the seven principles (laws) that spring from the attributes of His divine nature.

To have the Son of promise birthed within us, we must follow our new Schoolmaster the law of the Spirit of life. Unlike our old schoolmaster, the written Law who was a dictator that only restricted our freedom, was a cruel task master, and didn't work righteousness within us, our new Schoolmaster says, "Come to me, for my burden is easy and my yoke is light."

Following His dictates brings true righteousness. But His laws, are truly *laws*. *Principles*. And instead of covering up our filthy rags and unwashed bodies with His robe, and remaining virtually unchanged under it, we become new from the inside out as the righteous Son of promise is birthed within us.

As we purchase gold refined in the fire from our new Schoolmaster, He also gives to us white robes of righteousness of our own to wear. Not robes of our own righteousness, our *own* robes of *His* righteousness. The reason we've had no robes of His righteousness of our own to wear is because we haven't know what His righteousness is. We couldn't be like Him, for we've been unable to see Him as He is. We will begin to be able to see Him as He is as we identify the immutable principles that comprise the whole of the law of the Spirit of life.

How do we find Him? How do we find this new Schoolmaster, the law of the Spirit of life?

We begin by losing the hate of our first schoolmaster and realizing that his cruel treatment of us was not personal. He treats *everyone* the *same* way. He was even handed if not just, so we can stop hating him. Secondly we must realize that he had only one job, did his job well, and was but a *shadow* of the real Schoolmaster.

For since the (written) law was but a shadow of the good things to come, and not a *true* form of these realities...

Heb 10:1 (ESV)

What realities? That laws exist. But the written statutes are not the true form of it. The written form of the law was the law of sin and death. It is negative law. The positive form of the Law, is the law of the Spirit of life. This is our true Schoolmaster. The one that will birth the Son of promise as true righteousness, the righteousness of Christ begins to grow within us.

Jesus came to earth, during His ministry on earth taught His disciples the keys to the kingdom of Heaven, and when He died for the sins of the world He became the door. Before the death of Christ there was no door into the kingdom of Heaven. We need to realize that when He died and rose again He brought not one, but three levels of grace:

Grace is: unmerited favor and forgiveness of sins.

Grace is: divine enablement.

Grace is: the law of the Spirit of life

We desperately need go back to the scriptures and look with fresh eyes. Ask the Father to open the eyes of our understanding. We must realize that the keys to the kingdom of Heaven Jesus gave to Peter were exactly that:

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

We might first begin by defining what the kingdom of Heaven actually is. We think we know, but do we really? We then go to look for the keys. When we find the keys, will find the law of the Spirit of life.

When we find the keys, we will also find something else: We will find the missing paradigm needed to unite the sons with a common mind, the Mind of Christ. We'll have found the constitution of Laws that will govern the citizens of the God's kingdom to come and the Son we've been promised will finally be birthed within us.

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