1. A Position of Attainment by Faith

## Rev. 19: 8 “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

This is not just imputed righteousness, this is ‘acts of righteousness’ (acquired righteousness). This is righteousness acquired through appropriation by faith, and through application of the truth by grace.

## Eph. 4: 13 “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”

* 1. The Bride will Run to Gain the Prize

Not everyone will run, for most have been taught that they have been given everything by grace and there is no need to exercise energy to gain the prize. Salvation is a gift that can not be earned. This is a prize that is only earned by running, and not by running only, but running according to the rules to win the prize. Therefore, there are conditions that have to be met in order to win.

## I Cor. 9: 24 “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.”

## Phil. 3: 14 “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

## II Tim. 2: 5 “And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive **lawfully**.”

“Nomimos” – “Lawfully” – agreeable to the rules

This word “nomimos“ is used in contending in the games and achieving according to the rules.

## Heb. 12: 1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”

* 1. The Bride will Fight the Good Fight of Faith

The Bride of Christ is an overcomer. To be an overcomer something has to be overcome. There are forces that will fight against the believer, and for the believer to be an overcomer they must fight to keep what has been given to them by grace. This is a fight of faith.

## II Cor. 10: 4 “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”

## Eph. 6: 12, 13 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

## I Tim. 6: 12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

* 1. The Bride will Live the Life

The Bride will not only profess a good profession, but will live a life conformed to the Word of God, and to the image of Christ. There has to be a connection between the character of those who profess Christ as Lord, and those who adorn themselves in a suitable life-style that pleases the Lord. Like Enoch of old “*...before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*”

## Matt. 7: 21 “Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.”

## Titus 1: 16 “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

## Jas. 1: 22 “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

* 1. The Bride will Make no Provision for the Flesh

Flesh struggles desperately hard to survive in the best of men, but with the help of the Holy Spirit the flesh can, and will be overcome. The more of Christ that the believer has in his life, the less the flesh will rule.

## Rom. 13: 14 “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

* 1. The Bride will Perfect Holiness

The Bride of Christ will perfect holiness both in the flesh and in the spirit.

## II Cor. 7: 1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

This is not perfecting holiness in order to be saved; but because the believer has been saved. Therefore, cleanse yourself “*...from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness* ***in******the******fear******of******God****.*”

This is not something that we do in ourselves only, as Paul said in Phillipians, “*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For* ***it******is******God******which******worketh******in******you*** *both to will and to do of His good pleasure.*” (Phil. 2: 12, 13)

God has made great promises and provisions for the believer to achieve all that God requires, but only if these promises are accepted and acted upon by faith.

## II Pet. 1: 4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that **by** **these** ye might be **partakers** **of** **the** D**ivine** **Nature**...”

* 1. The Bride will have Crucified the Flesh

The Bride of Christ will have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. The flesh has to be crucified, flesh cannot reign in the life of the **overcomer**.

## Gal. 5: 24 “And **they** **that** **are** **Christ's** have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

The Bible makes it very plain that the believer is commanded not to let sin reign. If the believer is commanded not to let sin reign, then the believer is capable of not letting sin reign. God does not require that which is impossible to do.

## Rom. 6: 12 “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

Remember, ye are servants to (owned by) whoever ye yeild yourselves to obey.

## Rom. 6: 16–18 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, **his servants ye are to whom ye obey**; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

Also, the flesh must be crucified if the life of Jesus is to be made manifest in us.

## II Cor. 4: 10, 11 “Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway **delivered** **unto** **death** for Jesus' sake, **that** **the** **life** **also** **of** **Jesus** **might** **be** **made** **manifest** **in** **our** **mortal** **flesh**.”

* 1. The Bride will Follow the Leading of the Spirit

The Bride of Christ, having attained to full maturity (huios), positioned as sons, will know the voice of the Lord and will follow His leading.

## Rom. 8: 14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (huios) of God.”

Jesus said in Jn. 10: 27 “*My sheep* (“Probaton” – advanced in years – distinct from “Arnia” lambs) *hear My voice, and I know them, and they* (the mature sheep) *follow Me.*”

Only mature saints hear the voice of the Lord and follow His leading. Babes, like lambs, often confuse the voice of other shepherds with the voice of their Master.

## Matt. 24: 5 “For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and **shall deceive many.**”

Only the immature babes (lambs) will be deceived. The mature sons (sheep) will not be deceived and led astray.

## Jn. 10: 4, 5 “And when He putteth forth His own **sheep**, He goeth before them, and the **sheep** follow Him: for they know His voice. And a **stranger** will **they** **not** **follow**, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.”

## Rev. 14: 4 “...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth...”

* 1. The Bride will Love the Lord Without Reserve

Jesus said:

## Mk. 12: 30 “…Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy **heart**, and with all thy **soul**, and with all thy **mind**, and with all thy **strength**:”

To do this requires perfection, full growth in the Spirit, and perfect obedience. This is a command, “*Thou shalt,*” but it is also a promise, “*Thou shalt.*” The Lord is promising the ability to do it. The Lord will never require what we cannot do without giving the ability to do it.

## Phil. 2: 13 “For it is God which worketh in you…”

## Jn. 14: 21 “He that hath My commandments, and **keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me:** and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest (reveal) Myself to him.”

## I Jn. 2: 3–5 “…Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected…”

* 1. The Bride will be Crowned with Crowns of Gold

The Bride of Christ, having run the race, fought the **fight** of **faith**, and gained the **prize**, is now crowned with crowns of gold. Crowns are not gifts, they are awarded for achievement.

## Rev. 4: 4 “…And they had on their heads crowns of gold.”

Salvation is not a prize to be gained or earned; it is a gift that must be received by faith. However, there is promised to the believer that will run, that will fight the good fight of faith, and that will walk obediently in the truth, a crown.

## I Cor. 9: 24, 25 “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”

* 1. The Bride will be Seated on Thrones

Also, in this fourth chapter of Revelation the Bride of Christ is seated on thrones with the Lord as He promised in Rev. 3: 21. The promise of throne rights is only given to the overcomer, not to the whole Church. He was addressing the whole Church, but the whole Church will not listen. The promise to sit with Him on His throne is to the overcomer.

## Rev. 4: 4 “And round about the throne were four and twenty seats (thrones): and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment…”

They are “***…clothed in white raiment…***” as promised in Rev. 19: 8.