

LiveTransformed

Living a Life of Freedom in Christ



For God so loved the world

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Ministering as Jesus did...

He compassionately met the needs of people with power and purpose, drawing them to Him, and offering them LIFE.

Luke 4:18–19 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*



NT Greek Lexicon. Strong's Number 222 (ZOE): LIFE, ALIVE, LIVING

1. of the absolute fullness of life which belongs to God.
2. life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection, to be consummated to new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last forever.

VISION

See people saved, healed and equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit to be the person God created and redeemed them to be.

MISSION

Go and make disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20)

ABOUT ZOE HEALING MINISTRIES

Zoe Healing Ministries (ZHM) is an organization comprised of multiple Christ-centered ministries for healing, restoration, and equipping to meet the needs of whole families. We desire to see people saved, healed, set-free, equipped, and walking with purpose to be all that God redeemed them to be.

We know God is our Savior, Lord, Redeemer, and Healer. Our trained and anointed teams partner with the Holy Spirit to minister to those in need of healing and restoration. Whether you're sick, hurting, or suffering, our desire is to pray for your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. We minister to people of all ages and to all conditions.

It is also our desire to help others have a greater understanding of what God has already provided and be equipped to minister Gods' healing and freedom to others. If you would like to know more, please contact us at www.zoehealingministries.com.



Dear Participant,

We are so excited about your decision to take this journey to walk in freedom through Jesus Christ! Live Transformed is a Christ-centered discipleship process designed to help you become the person God created and redeemed you to be. Depression, struggles with life patterns such as addictions or emotional instability, wounds, lies, hurts and an unhealthy identity all stem from spiritual problems – requiring spiritual solutions – NOT behavior modification or symptom-focused interventions.

Anything that stands in the way of the abundant life of peace, joy, and fruitfulness that Jesus made available to every believer, is an obstacle we desire to help you eliminate. Once root causes of those things hindering your growth in Christ and preventing healthy relationships are revealed by the Holy Spirit, you can walk in total freedom, total victory, and total peace because you are empowered by His Spirit. Exchange depression for destiny and breakthrough from problems into God's promises. You choose!

Jesus loves you and desires to be the only Lord of your life. He wants you to trust Him totally and allow Him to be your Lord and Savior – absolutely no other gods before Him. If you have never repented of your sins and accepted Him as Lord over your whole life, this is the first step – do it now. Friend, we are delighted that you have accepted this challenge and we look forward to sharing this journey to freedom with you!

Zoe Healing Ministries Team

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Discipleship Core Components

PART ONE: THE FULL GOSPEL

The Full Gospel – God’s complete plan and the foundation upon which all things are built. Without the full foundation, our lives will crumble.

PART TWO: THE FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM & HEALING

Jesus ministered to the broken and lost, and He deeply addressed the personal needs of people. He provided everything to equip us and step out as Christ’s representatives of the Kingdom of God. You will begin to recognize the enemy’s strategy and attempts to steal your identity. Instead of succumbing to a cycle of defeat, you will learn to eliminate the oppression that prevents you from living a victorious life. Jesus gave His disciples a commission to go and proclaim Him in Word and power. He equipped us with foundational instructions and tools to represent Him well. Jesus came to rescue the lost (Luke 19:10), heal, set free, restore, and proclaim the Kingdom of God to others. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). **That is good news!** You will learn how to partner with the Holy Spirit and live fully connected and empowered by the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus proclaimed during His ministry.

PART THREE: STAYING FREE

As you begin to walk out life, free in Christ, we will focus on the “what now.” Recognizing that you have His delegated authority, you can overcome anything as a child of God. So now, live your life for Him. Represent Him well. And go and grow! Be a disciple (follower of Christ) and go make disciples. God has given you all you need today to influence the world for His glory.

Introduction

Throughout this course, we will constantly refer you to the Word of God. What you believe about the Word matters! If you believe it is just history, not 100% accurate, or just written by men, your view of God, salvation, and God's plan for your life will be skewed (you will not have a Biblical Worldview or Biblical perspective).

From God's Word, we see it is "infallible or inerrant" which means it is "incapable of error." It is never wrong and is free from error. The Bible never fails. Interpretations, versions, or mistranslations may fail. We may see something in the Word that appears to contradict itself so we toss it out. When that happens, it is not the Word that contradicts, but our interpretation of it. We need to ask God for the correct meaning and understanding of what He is saying.

One of the areas we need to settle before beginning this course is our belief about the Word of God. God's Word is 100% true, accurate, and is always relevant.

For a better understanding, review the passages below in your Bible:

2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7; John 1:14; John 17:17; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 24:35; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

The Bible is the sole source of all God has given us about Himself and His plans for humanity. He is enough! We need to take Him at His Word.

This manual is in no way meant to replace the Bible. It is only a guide to help you learn to listen to the Holy Spirit, to know who you are in Christ, and use as a tool to help you live free in Christ Jesus. You will see many scripture references upon which we stand as we grow with God throughout this course. We encourage you to read them in the Bible for yourself as well as their context. It is important for you to read and understand the Word of God on your own.

The Bible is the authoritative living Word of God. It is essential to read it every day, study thoroughly, and apply it to your life. It will strengthen your spiritual walk with the Lord. It is relevant to everything you encounter today. It will transform, renew, and inspire you to become more like Christ Jesus as you walk through this journey in life, because it is the breath and voice of God.

Before studying the Word of God, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth. He will reveal the very heart of God and His desires for your life. Begin today by making the Bible and prayer a daily part of your life as you begin your new-found relationship with your Heavenly Father. May the Lord bless you and keep you always!

PART ONE

Sessions 1-3

The Full Gospel — The Complete Work of Jesus Christ

Live Transformed is a course that is founded on Christ, and Christ alone. If you are looking to medicate your problems, looking for an answer from psychology or therapy, or any other humanistic, post-modern, or alternative mind/body spiritual philosophy or tradition, you are in the wrong place. When you've come to the end of yourself and know that nothing you've tried, apart from the Lordship of Jesus Christ, will work, you can find freedom. If you are ready to submit your life to Him or are at least ready to hear what He's all about, then keep going. Those whom we see get healed and set free have an encounter with the Living God. No matter what the issue, the answer is always Jesus!

Freedom is not the absence of something but the Presence of Someone — Jesus!

John 8:36 “Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed!”

THE KEY TO FREEDOM: The Full Gospel Foundation

- **Repentance towards God**
- **Water Baptism into Jesus**
- **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
- **Hearing God—What Does God Say in His Word?**
- **Your New Identity in Christ**
- **Be Watchful—Jesus Is Coming Back!**

We are not about making converts to a religion or denomination but instead making disciples of Jesus and Jesus alone!

Session 1: Repentance – It All Starts Here

To understand our need for Jesus, we have to start in the beginning.

Even if we are already followers of Christ, it is important to remember the beginning and be proficient in sharing the gospel with others. May we never forget the price that was paid so that we may have eternal life in Christ instead of eternal death.

God's restoration theme is found at the very beginning in Genesis. God spoke everything into existence after its own kind. But when He made man, He formed him from the clay of the earth. He breathed His own life into man's nostrils, and man became a "living soul." He created mankind to be different from plant and animal life. He created male and female in His own image (Genesis 1:27), with an eternal spirit. God desired true fellowship and relationship with mankind so He gave them free will. Free will is the opportunity to make decisions and choose for themselves — to choose Him and follow His leading, trusting that what He says is true or to reject Him.

The Garden of Eden was not only a place of provision and fellowship with God, but also a place of testing and an opportunity for Adam and Eve to make a real and necessary choice. God placed two trees in the garden, representing that choice. One was perfect and full of God's blessing — the Tree of Life. The other had the appearance of good fruit, pleasing to the eyes, but was the choice that God warned would lead them away from Him and lead to death (the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil).

Man and woman were deceived with a false promise of blessing. The enemy influenced them to question God, "Did God really say that?" and led them to believe that God was withholding something from them. Their choice, eating the fruit, was an act of disobedience (sin) against God that ushered in death just as God had said. Disobedience is the fruit of not trusting God.

All who were born after Adam and Eve were born into sin. Their sin brought upon the judgment of God, and the only just punishment for such high treason against God is eternal death (Romans 6:23).

God, in His goodness, revealed His restoration plan right away, giving hope, by providing a sacrifice — the first shedding of blood (animal skins to cover their nakedness) to atone for their sins. But it was temporary. This was a sign, a symbol that pointed to the day when a more perfect sacrifice would be made. The shedding of blood by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

John 10:10 *And Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."*

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 *"¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."*

Hebrews 9:11-12 (AMP) “¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a High Priest of the good things to come [that is, true spiritual worship], He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not a part of this [material] creation. ¹² He went once and for all into the Holy Place [the Holy of Holies of Heaven, into the presence of God], and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, having obtained and secured eternal redemption [that is salvation of all who personally believe in Him as Savior].”

Hebrews 9:22 (AMP) “In fact under the Law almost everything is cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness [neither release from sin and its guilt, nor cancellation of the merited punishment].”

In other words, the blood of Jesus was required for our redemption!

Atonement refers to the act of making amends or paying the penalty for a wrong doing or sin. It is reconciliation of God to humans. The finished work of the cross brought about the redemptive sacrificial death of Jesus paying the penalty for our sin. In other words, Jesus was the substitute for me. My death penalty - He took for me. Why? He loves us! He paid / ransomed me!

We Have a Choice to Make

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The cost of our sin is death. One day we will either spend eternity with God (in Heaven) through receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord, or we will spend eternal separation from God (in Hell). Even though we have to choose which road to take, God, in His infinite love for us, provided a way for mankind to be restored. In His plan, God sent His own son, Jesus, who was sinless, to be the sacrifice for all who would believe and receive the gift of eternal life (salvation) through Christ Jesus. Through His death on the cross, His resurrection and ascension to be seated at the right hand of God, we now have access to be restored back to God.

Romans 2:4 “...the goodness of God leads you to repentance.”

Many times people ask, “How can God send good people to hell?” The answer is: He doesn’t. Every person has a choice to make. In His goodness, He has given everyone a free gift, but not everyone will receive it and choose Him.

Just as one man (Adam) sinned and all of mankind was separated, one man (Jesus) died - shed His blood so that all mankind has an opportunity to be restored to God. His plan for redemption was God’s love, mercy, grace and forgiveness of our sins. Each person individually must repent for their own sins! Each person individually will be held accountable one day to God (2 Corinthians 5:10).

It all goes back to the Cross. We cannot be saved, have real joy or be an overcomer without the Cross. It doesn’t matter how we feel—the blood covers me!

REDEEMED: (GK apolutresis) means ‘deliverance with a price.’ The price paid by Christ was costly: through His blood! Paul reveals in Ephesians that God’s provision of redemption in Jesus Christ covers the full range of human need – our need for forgiveness, deliverance, reconciliation, peace, love, new life, wisdom, understanding, community, acceptance, order, security, hope and victory over Satan and his forces.

Ephesians 1 – 3:14

Ephesians 1:1-2 “¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1:1 in Christ Jesus. Every ‘faithful’ believer has life only ‘in Christ Jesus.’

‘In Christ Jesus’ means that the believer now lives and acts in the sphere of Christ Jesus. Union with Jesus is the redeemed Christian’s new environment. ‘In Christ Jesus’ believers have a conscious communion with their Lord, and in this relationship their very lives are seen as the life of Jesus living in them. This personal fellowship with Jesus is the most important thing in the Christian experience. Union with Jesus comes as a gift of God through faith. This gift is called ‘grace.’

The Bible contrasts our new life ‘in Christ Jesus’ with our old unregenerated life (spiritually dead, separated from God and being ruled by the sin nature) ‘in Adam.’ Whereas the old life is characterized by disobedience, sin, condemnation and death, our new life ‘in Christ Jesus’ is characterized by salvation (rescued and redeemed, spiritually reconciled to God our Father), life in the Holy Spirit, abundant grace, righteousness and eternal life with Jesus. (Romans 5:12-21; 6; 8; 14:17-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49; Philippians 2:1-5; 4:6-9).

Ephesians 1:3-4 (KJV) “³ Blessed be the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴ According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: ...” (Trinity: **Father God; Jesus Christ, His Son; THE Holy Spirit**).

1:13 sealed ... Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is considered a ‘seal’ = a mark of ownership. By bestowing the Holy Spirit, God marks us as His own (see 2 Cor 1:22).

1:18-19 Paul prays for the Ephesians which can be applied to us. “¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...”

This power is an activity, manifestation and strength within us as faithful believers. It is the same power and Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at the right hand of God (v.20; Romans 8:11-16, 26-27; Galatians 5:22-25).

Ephesians 2:8-10 “⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:⁹ Not of works, lest any many should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

One cannot be saved (or also called ‘born again’) by works, good deeds of love or strenuous efforts to keep God’s commandments. One must be saved by the grace of God. The reasons for this are the following:

- All the unsaved are spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1), enslaved to sin (2:2) and under Satan’s dominion (2:3).
- In order to be saved one must receive God’s provision of salvation (2:4-5), be forgiven of sin (Romans 4:7-8), be made spiritually alive (also referred to as a regenerated or new heart), be delivered (redeemed) from the power of Satan and sin (Colossians 1:13), be made a new creation (Eph. 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17) and receive the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39; 20:22). No amount of self-effort can accomplish all this – it is the gift of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God.
- The grace of God, given to each believer to accomplish the will of God, is an energizing strength that flows from the risen Jesus Christ and operates through the Holy Spirit dwelling inside the believer (Ephesians 1:19; 4:7; Acts 6:8; 11:23; 14:26; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 1:29; Titus 2:11-13).

Ephesians 4:3-5 “³ *Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* ⁴ *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;* ⁵ *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,* ⁶ *One God and Father of all who is above all, and through all in you all.”*

4:5 - One Lord.

- That there is only ‘one Lord’ means that Jesus Christ’s work of redemption is perfect and totally sufficient, and no other redeemer or mediator is needed to give the believer complete salvation. (1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 9:15). The believer is to draw near to God through Christ alone (Hebrews 7:25).
- ‘One Lord’ also means that to profess equal or greater allegiance to any authority (secular or religious) other than God revealed in Jesus Christ and the inspired Word of God is the same as withdrawing oneself from the lordship of Christ and thus from the life that is in Him alone. There can be no lordship of Christ or ‘unity of the Spirit’ (Ephesians 4:3) apart from the affirmation that the Lord Jesus is the ultimate authority for the believer and that His authority is communicated in God’s written Word.

Ephesians 4:13-15 (KJV) “ 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 fullness of Christ: ¹⁴that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight (trickery) of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ”*

- Paul teaches that we mature and maintain ‘the unity of the Spirit (4:3) by accepting only the Word of God; growing in grace, advancing toward spiritual maturity and growing up in all aspects of Jesus and God (4:15) and being filled with the fullness of God (4:13; 3:19).
- He adds that we are not to be children who accept every ‘wind of doctrine’ but who instead have a knowledge of truth by which to discern and reject false teachers (4:14-15).
- We are to hold on to, treasure and speak the revealed truth of Scripture in love (4:15) and living in ‘righteousness and true holiness’ (4:24; 4:17-32).

Ephesians 6:10-20: The whole armour of God! As Christians we are engaged in a spiritual conflict with evil – described as a warfare of faith (Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Timothy 1:18-19) that continues until we enter the life to come (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Satan is cunning and deceitful and he strategizes in an attempt to steal, kill and destroy us (John 10:10).

The Lord tells us to ‘Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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 (Ephesians 6:11-12). Some of the ‘wiles of the devil’ are to perpetuate unbelief that the Word of God is truth and without error; that God’s promises are not true and His power is not the same as in Bible times. The devil tries to get people discouraged, fearful, unwilling to forgive; tries to get our eyes off Jesus and on to ourselves, leading to compromise and spiritual apathy. He accuses and condemns; tempts people to indulge in their flesh / sinful nature, and so forth. Paul instructs believers to take a stand against the schemes of the devil.

- We can take confidence in the fact that our victory has been secured by Jesus Christ Himself through His death on the cross. Jesus waged a triumphant battle against Satan, disarmed evil powers and authorities (Colossians 2:15; Matthew 12:29; Luke 10:18-19; John 12:31), led captives out of bondage (Ephesians 4:8) and redeemed the believer from Satan’s power (Ephesians 1:7; Acts 26:18; Romans 3:24; Colossians 1:13-14).

- At this present time, we are involved in a spiritual warfare that we wage by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:13):
- Against the sinful desires within ourselves. (1 Peter 2:11; Galatians 5:17)
- Against godly pleasures of the world and temptations of every kind. (Matthew 13:22; Galatians 1:4; James 1:14-15; 1 John 2:16)
- Against Satan and his forces disguised as being of God or the Holy Spirit: false teaching, counterfeit and lying signs and wonders, and even using Scripture and promoting Jesus. We are called to be separate from the present world system, hating its evil (Hebrews 1:9) and resisting and overcoming its temptations and sin. (Galatians 5:24; 6:14; 1 John 5:4)

Eph 6:14 – ‘the world’ – everything that is opposed to God, His kingdom and His righteousness.

As Christians we must wage war against all evil and compromise – not in our own power (2 Corinthians 10:13) but with spiritual weapons (Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5). In our warfare of faith, we are called to endure hardships like good soldiers of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3), suffer for the Gospel (Matthew 5:10-12; Romans 8:17; 2 Corinthians 11:23; 2 Timothy 1:8), fight the good fight of the faith (2 Corinthians 10:3). God continues to instruct us to persevere (6:18), be victorious and conquer (1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37), contend for the faith (Philippians 1:27; Jude 3), not to be fearful of opponents (Philippians 1:28), defend the Gospel (Philippians 1:16), put on the whole armor of God, stand firm (6:14), destroy the strongholds of Satan (2 Corinthians 10:4), take captive every thought (2 Corinthians 10:5) and become powerful in battle (Hebrew 11:34).

Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

The ‘sword of the Spirit’ is our offensive weapon of spiritual warfare. Satan makes every effort to undermine or destroy our confidence in this sword ‘which is the Word of God.’

- We must defend the inspired Scriptures against allegations that Scripture is not God’s Word in everything it teaches.
- To abandon the attitude of Jesus and the apostles toward God’s inspired Word is to destroy its power to rebuke or correct, to redeem, to heal, to drive out demons and to overcome all evil.
- To deny the Holy Scripture’s absolute trustworthiness in all it teaches, is to deliver ourselves into Satan’s hand (2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 6:17).

How do we receive the gift of Salvation?

Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

First, we have to recognize our need for forgiveness, that we are sinners in need of a Savior. We cannot look at others to decide if we are a “good” person or not. If others are our standard, we might be okay. But they are not. **God is our standard.** When we look at our life in light of a Holy God, we fall short every time. In ourselves, we are not sinless enough, good enough, or clean enough to stand before God. Apart from Jesus, we miss it.

We also can't do enough “works” to be good next to God's standard. Many today think they are good because of their good deeds, good morals, attendance in church, because they are generous with their resources, or are kind to people. They aren't murderers, thieves, or abusers, so they must be good. However, the Word says there is no one good but God (Mark 10:18). We are born with a sin nature. We are born separated from God because of sin. So it's not about being good or bad; it is about being in right **relationship** with Jesus. It is accepting that Jesus paid the penalty for your sin that you could not pay. Salvation cannot be earned by good works, only believed and received by grace through faith. Once you believe, you must count the cost. Following Jesus will cost you everything — surrender your life to live His!

Ephesians 2:8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...”*

Only Jesus' sacrifice can offer you salvation. Once you've recognized your need for Jesus, repent of your sins.

Acts 2:38 *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*

What does it mean to repent?

God gave you free will, just like Adam in the garden. You can choose Him and reap the benefits of that relationship, or reject Him and reap the fruit of eternity without Him. The first step in being in a right relationship with God is repentance. This is not a confession or commitment to take lightly.

Repentance is not an apology or admission of guilt or a promise to try harder.

Repentance means (besides acknowledging, confessing, and believing Jesus is the Son of God) you will ask Him to forgive you of your sins, make a commitment to follow His ways, and recognize Jesus as Lord over every aspect of your life. The result is a change of lifestyle that reflects your new nature (being like Jesus) that will be evident in your life because His Spirit is now in you.

Roman's Road (KJV)

Romans 3:10
There is none righteous, no, not one.

Romans 3:23
For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:8
But God commandeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:12
Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Romans 6:23
For the wages of sin is death but the gift of life is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 10:9-10
That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 3:16
For God so loved the world that whosoever believeth on Him shall have everlasting life.

Repentance is a change in the direction and course of our lives.

By acknowledging Jesus as Lord, we change direction because our values change. We are no longer preoccupied with the same interests but our eyes are now on knowing God and His plans. By keeping our focus on God, He will make the change in us. We will see Him transform the way we act, the way we treat people, and the decisions we make as we diligently commit to walk in obedience to Him. It is a full turnaround – people around you will notice!

Repentance should be a defining moment in our lives.

It is not just about saying a prayer and hoping to stay out of Hell. It should be a heartfelt, sincere prayer of surrendering our life to God. That will be a defining moment - one you will not forget.

Repentance is not a religion. It is a relationship.

We don't clean ourselves up and then come to God. We come to God with a repentant heart, and as we walk out the relationship with Him, He will do the cleaning. **Romans 6:22** says *"But now, since you have been set free from sin, and having become slaves to God, you have your fruit to holiness (holy living) and the end, everlasting life!"* When we call on Jesus to be Lord and Savior, we are sanctified (*holy, set apart to be used by God*) to love and obey His commands, and have eternal life in Him.

Repentance is a decision to change your alignment with the Kingdom of Darkness to an alignment with the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

There are only two kingdoms — the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of God. There are no other kingdoms and there is no neutral ground. We will always be citizens of a kingdom. We are born into the kingdom of darkness. When we are *born again* (saved), we are legally delivered into the Kingdom of God. The kingdom of God can be defined as "the rule of a King — Jesus." When the King's will is being done, He is ruling. Jesus shows us in His Word, His will, what defines the Kingdom of God and who will inherit it. We choose whom we will serve and whom we allow to rule over us. (Luke 13; Romans 14:17; John 3:5; Mark 10:15; 1 Corinthians 15:50).

Joshua 24:15 *"...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..."*

Romans 10:9 (AMP) *"Because if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God] and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Our Responsibility is to Become a Disciple of Jesus

Yes, there is belief and confession as we have talked about, but Jesus as (not only Savior) but Lord. The Greek word for "Lord" is "kurios" which means "master, owner, supreme in authority." It is Jesus as Lord that brings freedom in our lives when we die to ourselves and live to please Him. Jesus started His ministry with the word "Repent."

Savior is what Jesus has “done” - His work. Lord declares the “position” He has in our life. We cannot fully partake in the benefit of His work unless we come under His position as Lord (master, owner, supreme in authority). Many people stop at the salvation prayer - confess they believe in Jesus as Savior, but never allow Him to be Lord over their life. Salvation has been provided for every human being, but as individuals, we have to choose to accept it under God’s terms - Jesus as Lord.

Mark 8:34-35 (AMP) “³⁴ Jesus called the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must **deny himself** [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. ³⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake and the gospel’s will save it [from the consequences of sin and separation from God].”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Jesus lays out the terms of discipleship. Many desire the benefits of what Jesus did rather than understand who He is. They loved His gifts, not the life to which He was calling them. He knew their hearts, and in other words, were exhorting them to ‘count the cost’ of following Jesus.

Luke 14:27–33 “And whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple...so likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Although the gift of salvation is free to everyone who asks (John 3:16), the asking requires a transfer of ownership (Luke 9:23; Galatians 5:24) ‘Counting the cost’ means recognizing and agreeing to some terms first. In following Christ, we cannot simply follow our own inclinations. We cannot follow Him and the world’s way or false teachings at the same time (Matthew 7:13-14). Following Jesus may mean we lose relationships, dreams, material things and even our lives.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Galatians 5:24 “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh and its passions and desires.”

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Romans 12:1 (AMP) *“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your rational [logical, intelligent] act of worship.”*

When we receive His gift of new life, which cost Jesus His life, how can we spend our lives pursuing our own desires and ambitions? Instead, in reverential awe and profound love, we should be compelled to pour out our lives before Him as an offering, holding nothing back from Him and give everything we are and have to the only King who will reign forevermore. This is not a waste — it is our rational/reasonable act of worship to Jesus!

1 Corinthians 1:18 *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

The cross empowers us to walk free from sin and the strong influences of the world. What was previously impossible to do in our own strength, we can now do because Jesus is our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that we are *“a new creation in Christ.”* The old is dead. Now we put off the old patterns of doing things and learn to live like the new person we have become. (Regeneration — spiritual birth and renewal — Titus 3:5) When we choose Him, He is faithful to reveal what is in our lives that can hinder our relationship with Him. We don’t have to have it all figured out. He knows and in His love, He reveals it.

This is just the beginning of your salvation and sanctification process to become all that God created and redeemed you to be.

There is a God who loves us but demands obedience. There is forgiveness of sins through God’s only begotten Son, Jesus. When we ask for forgiveness and for Jesus to come into our lives to rule us as Lord, He gives us power to overcome sin and live victoriously by the Holy Spirit.

Salvation and Repentance Wrap Up

- All have sinned and fallen short. We need a Savior.
- When we repent, we turn away from the old ways and allow Jesus to be Lord over our lives.
- With Jesus as Lord, we will live a life submitted to His ways instead of seeking our own way.
- True repentance will produce a hunger for God’s Word. God’s Word will renew your mind and will produce total transformation and Godly fruit in our lives.

Acts 17:30-31

³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Prayer for Salvation or Recommitment (Feel free to use your own words)

Father, I recognize that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Forgive me of my sins. God, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the only way to You and that He died on the cross, was buried, and You raised Him from the dead. Jesus, You fully paid the price for my sins. I choose to follow you always. Come into my life, not only as my Savior, but as my Lord. I lay down all of me and surrender all to You. I trust you with my life. Thank you for loving me, setting me free and making me new. Help me to know Your Word and to walk in Your ways all the days of my life. I love you Lord! Amen.

TAKE ACTION:

Philemon 6— Activate Your Faith!

***Philemon 1:6** “that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”*

What has God given you?

- **Himself** (Jesus - God’s Son) - He paid my penalty. I have forgiveness and a new life.
- **His Presence** (Jesus / the Holy Spirit in us — working on our behalf — speaking through God’s Word and enforcing God’s Word) - our Counselor, Teacher, Wisdom and Understanding, Comforter.
- **His Word** - to learn His nature, His character, His commands and His ways.
- **His Promises / Provision** – He never leaves us. He is coming back to take us with Him forever to be with God. (**John 14:2-3**)

This alone should make a follower of Christ shout with praise and thanksgiving to God who first loved us and desires to dwell in us. Everything pales in comparison! We choose!

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. How would you define the difference between Jesus as Savior and Lord?

2. What stood out to you in this chapter that maybe you didn't know or hadn't heard?

3. Are you saved? _____ Made Jesus Lord? _____

* If not, are you ready to? _____

4. Ask the Lord if there is any area in your life that you have not surrendered fully to Him.

*Are you ready to surrender the area(s) the Lord shows you? _____

5. What is the Lord speaking to you about? Write out your recommitment to Him.

Baptism in Water

Water baptism is important to Jesus. (Jesus Himself was baptized - see Matthew 3:16-17). After He rose from the dead, Jesus told His disciples to take the news of His kingdom and His great salvation to the ends of the earth, telling them, *“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in (INTO) the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to obey everything I have taught you, and I will be with you always to the end of the age. Amen.”* **Matthew 28:19-20**

Baptism is so important that many times in the Bible someone starts to believe and gets baptized immediately. (Examples: Prison guard and family in the middle of the night – Acts 16; the 3,000 who believed at the same time after Peter preached – Acts 2; the Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8). After the cross, everyone who believed was told to be baptized in water.

When the gospel is preached correctly and fully, people want to be baptized.

We are mandated to make disciples of those who choose a relationship with Jesus. That means instructing them in the FULL Gospel and the subsequent responses God requires in obedience to mature and walk in the fullness of Him. Once you have repented, received the free gift of salvation, and are now a follower (or disciple) of Christ, **baptism in water** is the next response.

Acts 2:38-39 (NKJV) *“Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise of the Father is for you and your children ...”*

What is Baptism in Water?

The Greek word for “baptize” is “baptizo” which means to immerse or submerge in water (fully wet). The act of being baptized then, would be to go fully under water.

Baptism is the first thing Jesus tells us to do in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). It is not a work **for** salvation but a **result of obedience** after receiving the gift of salvation that allows for the working of God in your spiritual life.

Baptism shows you are changing allegiance from this world (Satan) to an allegiance and commitment to Christ. You are dying to the sin nature, being buried with Christ, and raised to a new life where you now belong to Him. You have changed kingdoms!

Romans 6:11 (HCSB) *“So you too consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

Romans 6:1-7 “¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin.”

When did you die with Christ? When did you bury the flesh? At salvation with a prayer and confession? Or at baptism, when you buried the old man in the water and were raised with Christ?

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

A large part of your life of freedom in Christ depends on serving Jesus as Lord and laying down the old man. What better expression is there that shows you are no longer the same person but a follower of Christ through baptism?

Water Baptism Wrap Up

- Water baptism is a very important part of becoming a disciple. You get baptized ‘to belong’ to Jesus - renouncing yourself as belonging to someone else.
- Water baptism indicates the seriousness of your commitment to Jesus Christ. It is an act of obedience to your new found Savior and Lord. It is a visible sign of your spiritual commitment to lay down your life (bury the flesh) and step into His life.
- In water baptism, you bury the old man and are raised new in Christ. It is critical to respond in obedience to Christ after repentance and committing to follow Jesus as your Savior and Lord.
- It is a foundational step to freedom, healing and victory empowered by God’s grace!

When you really understand Water Baptism, you can walk in freedom knowing you have died to the sin nature and can be led by the Spirit rather than the flesh. When Jesus was baptized in water, the Father and the Holy Spirit were present. He was showing us a picture of the fullness of the Godhead (Father, Son & Holy Spirit). You too can walk in the fullness of the Godhead when you are submissive to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Galatians 5:24 “Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Colossians 2:11-13 “¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses...”

Interesting Report

We know the enemy does not create but only counterfeits the things God has created. It is amazing how many other religions use “water baptism” as a way of identifying someone as a disciple.

A video was released in the past several years of a journalist who was researching various religions in an attempt to find the one he liked the best. He went to India and was researching the Hindu religion. He came upon a “priest” of an extreme tribe who called upon the spirits of the dead, drank out of human skulls, and things of that kind. The reporter told him he wanted to know all about his beliefs. The Priest then asked, “Do you want to be my disciple?” The reporter, wanting the information he was seeking, said, “Yes.” The priest then told him, “If you want to be my disciple, go dunk yourself in the river three times.”

Hmm...very interesting. One of the things the devil has chosen to counterfeit is baptism. He knows it's a marking to whose kingdom that person has allegiance – for whom they are living. And yet, in our Western Churches, it has been boiled down to a symbol, not really of much importance and optional. The enemy recognizes that there is a powerful manifestation of God's fullness in water baptism – the changing of allegiance, the surrendering of one's life, and yet we have missed it and chalked it up to religion or tradition. That realization should make us really want to understand the fullness of what God has provided for us - not just a watered down convenience gospel with a mirage of Jesus, but full provision and the fullness of ALL Jesus really is.

NOTES:

Baptism is considered one of two ‘church ordinances’; the other is **communion**.

Communion represents to do in remembrance of Jesus and what He did for us by the way of the Cross. The bread represents His body and the juice represents His blood that was shed for the remission of our sin. It is a representation of a new reality or realm that we now walk in with Jesus as our Lord.

Session 2: The Holy Spirit – His Work and Baptism

Acts 2:37-39 “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘**Repent**, and let everyone of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission** of sins; and you shall receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

The word remission in the verse means more than just forgiveness. It means “freedom, pardon, deliverance and forgiveness.” Thayer's Dictionary states it as a “release from bondage or imprisonment, pardon of sin — as if never committed.”

Because of the work Jesus did on the cross, we can live out what we already have (Jesus in us) - total remission. We don't have to say, “I will be free when I stop doing this or quit something.” In Jesus, we can live free today.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

An important teaching of Scripture is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God teaches the following:

The baptism in the Spirit is intended for all who profess faith in Christ, have been born again and thereby have received the indwelling of the Spirit. (He was near you, then in you. Now, He wants to come upon you).

John 14:17 “The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you....”

One of Christ's key goals in His earthly mission was to baptize His followers in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33). He instructed His disciples not to begin witnessing until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and ‘*endued with power from on high*’ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8). Jesus Christ Himself did not enter His ministry until He had been ‘*anointed ... with the Holy Spirit and with power*’ (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:1,18).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Spirit distinct and separate from His work of regeneration (initial born-again/spiritual birth, creating in you a new heart). The baptism in the Spirit completes the regeneration and sanctifying work of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit

He is with Everyone.

- **(Creation) Genesis 1:1-2**

“¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

- **(King David) Psalms 139:7-8**

“⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from our presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.”

- **(Ezekial) Ez. 36:26-27**

“²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

- **(Jesus) John 14:15-17**

“¹⁵ If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

You have been experiencing the Holy Spirit in your life whether or not you realize it. He is at work. The Holy Spirit in creation aligns with salvation. Before we were saved (born-again), we were empty and void and formless – without meaning and purpose – Yet God’s Spirit is moving / hovering over us.

The Holy Spirit is God and is also omnipresent. “Omni” means everywhere and “present” means here – everywhere all the time. Even with the lost (those that don’t know Christ), He is working and wooing them to Jesus.

Ezekial was looking forward toward the coming of the Messiah. Up until Jesus, the Holy Spirit did not live inside of God’s followers. For those devoted followers, He would come and be with them – example – the temple.

Since Jesus died for our sins and was resurrected, now we can be fully saved (born-again) or redeemed to the fullest extent. Because of Jesus, we can have a new spirit and heart (made alive – regenerated heart). Ezekial prophesied this – ‘I will put my sacred Holy presence inside of you.’

In John 14 – the world means (outside – not following Jesus – opposed to Him). Before Jesus died (the last supper), Jesus said ‘in a little while the Holy Spirit will be in you.’

In John 20, Jesus ‘breathed on them’ – to live inside us – the moment they put their faith in the resurrected Christ. The Holy Spirit lives inside every follower of Jesus whether we ‘feel’ Him or not.

He is Living in True Believers – ‘Indwelling’

- **(Jesus) John 20:19-23**

“¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were [a] assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

- **(Paul to the Romans) Romans 8:9-11**

“⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

- **(Paul to the Corinthians) 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19**

“¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

- **(Paul to the Galatians) Galatians 4:6**

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

He is Falling Upon Believers – ‘Empowered for Ministry’ – To be a Witness

- **(Moses) Numbers 11:29**

“Then Moses said to him, “Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!”

- **(Jesus) Acts 1:8**

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- **(Peter) Acts 11:15-16**

“¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, “John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

- **(Paul) Acts 19:6**

“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

**The Holy Spirit is with you, then in you, and will come upon you.
How do you perceive His Presence? Draw near: Read Scripture, pray and worship God.**

On the day of Christ's resurrection, He breathed on His disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20:22), indicating that regeneration and new life were being given to them. Then later He told them they must also be 'endued with power' by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5, 8). For the disciples, it was clearly a post-regeneration experience (Acts 11:17). One can be regenerated (a new heart – spiritually alive- after repentance and surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus), and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but still not be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:17).

Spirit Baptism is a spiritual encounter different and separate from salvation, empowering you with greater anointing for ministering to others – to be a witness with signs and wonders that accompany His Word. The main purpose is to equip believers to proclaim the good news of redemption and bring people into the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Spirit Baptism occurs five times in Acts:

Acts 2:4 – Pentecost in Jerusalem

Acts 8:17 – Converts in Samaria

Acts. 9:17 – Saul (Paul) in Damascus

Acts 10:45-56 – Gentiles in Caesarea

Acts 19:6 – Converts in Ephesus

Everyone who received Spirit Baptism in the Bible (Acts) was clearly already born-again.

Jesus promised to take the same Holy Spirit (who has lived inside of you since salvation), and drench you outwardly in His person and power! Baptism means immersion.

New Testament Christians considered speaking in tongues, or glossolalia (from Greek-glossais lale), as a God-given sign accompanying the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, 10:45-47, 19:6). This Biblical pattern for the Spirit-filled life is still valid today.

Acts 2:4 *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

The baptism in the Holy Spirit brings personal boldness and the power of the Spirit into the believer's life in order to accomplish mighty works in Christ's name and to make one's witness and proclamation effective (Acts 1:8, 2:14-41, 4:31, 6:8; Rom 15:18-19; 1 Cor 2:4). This power is not some impersonal life force, but is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit by which Jesus and His glory and works are present with His people (John 14:16-18, 16:14; 1 Cor 12:7).

It is essential that believers recognize the primary importance of the Holy Spirit in God's redemptive purpose. Many Christians have no idea what difference it would make if there was no Holy Spirit in the world.

Without the Holy Spirit there would be no creation, no universe, no human race (Gen 1:2; Job 33:4). Without the Holy Spirit there would be no Bible (2 Peter 1:21), no New Testament (John 14:26, 15:26-27; 1 Cor 2:10-14), no power to proclaim the gospel (Acts 1:8). Without the Holy Spirit there would be no faith, no new birth, no holiness, no Christians at all in the world.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

There is one God existing in three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of each other.

Deuteronomy 6:4 *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!”*

1 John 5:6-7 “⁶ This is He who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.”

The Holy Spirit is a divine person like the Father and the Son with an individuality of His own (2 Cor 3:17-18; Heb 9:14; 1 Peter 1:2). Thus we may never think of the Holy Spirit as a mere influence or power. He has personal characteristics, for He thinks (Rom 8:2), He feels (Rom 15:30), He wills (1 Cor 12:11), and has the capacity to love and to enjoy fellowship. He was sent by the Father to bring believers into the intimate presence and fellowship of Jesus (John 14:16-18). In light of these truths we should treat Him as a person and regard Him as the infinite living God within our hearts, worthy of our worship, love and surrender (Mark 1:11).

Paul ends with a doxology in 2 Corinthians 13:14 – *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”*

We honor our Father God, the Creator of all things; we honor His Son, Jesus, and the precious, powerful blood of Jesus shed for the remission of our sins and we also honor the Father’s gift to us – the very presence of the Holy Spirit. We desperately need the presence and leading of the Holy Spirit! The life of a true born-again, spirit-filled Christian is not boring or ineffective, but quite the contrary: adventurous, joyful, effective and fruitful in witnessing and bringing glory to Jesus.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

1. The filling of the Holy Spirit took place in Acts 2, and He continues to fulfill His promise today. It was a normal, expected experience.

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV) “¹ When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

2. The Holy Spirit is the agent of Salvation, convicting us of sin (John 16:7-8), revealing to us the truth about Jesus (John 14:16, 26), giving us new birth (John 3:3-6) and incorporating us into the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13).

“No one can see the Kingdom of Heaven unless they are born-again.” John 3:3

- He lives in us, He sanctifies us (i.e., cleanses and sets apart to be used by God), leads and motivates us into holy lives, delivering us from sin’s bondage (Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Thes 2:13). He gives us that inner knowing – revelation that we are children of God (Rom 8:16), helps us in our worship of God (Acts 10:46) and in our prayer lives as we cry out to God (Rom 8:26-27).
- He produces in us Christ-like character (fruit) that glorifies Christ (Gal 5:22-23; 1 Peter 1:2).
- He is our divine teacher, guiding us into all truth (John 14:26, 16:13; 1 Cor 2:9-16).
- He discloses Jesus to us and guiding us into close fellowship and oneness with Jesus (John 14:16-18, 16:14).
- He continually imparts God’s love to us (Rom 5:5) and gives us joy, comfort and help. (John 14:16; 1 Thes 1:6).

3. The Holy Spirit is the agent of service – empowering believers for service and witness. This work of the Holy Spirit is related to the baptism of the Spirit or the fullness of the Spirit.

- When we are baptized in the Spirit, we receive power to witness for Christ and work effectively and fruitful according to His word and will (Acts 1:8), enabling us to proclaim God’s Word (Acts 1:8, 4:31) and work miracles (Acts 2:43, 3:2-8, 5:15, 6:8, 10:38).
- Throughout the church age, it is God’s intended purpose that all Christ followers experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:39). In fact it is a command – it is imperative that a believer be baptized with the Holy Spirit to walk in the Spirit, in the fullness of God and be unwavering in faith and obedience.

Paul says that not everyone will speak publicly in tongues and interpret (1 Cor 12:30) but encouraged all to pray in tongues (1 Cor 14:5).

4. The Holy Spirit is an indwelling ‘earnest’ - a down payment guarantee — and first installment to believers that a greater life with Christ will come in the future.

Paul calls the new covenant ‘the administration of the Spirit’ (2 Cor 3:8) meaning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Through faith in Jesus Christ one receives the Holy Spirit, is born again (regeneration—new heart) and is then promised the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, 2:4). All the redemptive benefits in Christ come by way of the Holy Spirit. It is He who mediates Christ’s presence and all the benefits of the cross.

2 Corinthians 3:17 *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom).”*

• Reference *Life in the Spirit Study Bible Commentary & AG Position Paper*

The Work of the Holy Spirit (Continued)

1. He is my seal (Eph 1:13; Mt 27:66)
2. He my pledge (Eph 1:13-14; John 14:16)
3. He is my Helper (Rom 8:26; Eph 3:20)
4. He gives us fellowship with Him and access to the Father (1 Cor 13:14; Eph 2:8)
5. He enables us to wait (Gal 5:5)
6. He casts out demons (Mt 12:28)
7. He teaches us (John 14:26)
8. He speaks (Rev 2:7)
9. He testifies of Jesus (John 15:26)
10. He comforts us (Acts 9:3)
11. He strengthens us (Eph 3:16)
12. He prays for us (Rom 8:26)
13. He bears witness to the truth (Rom 9:1)
14. He brings joy (1 Thes 1:6)
15. He brings freedom (2 Cor 3:17)
16. He helps us obey (1 Pet 1:22)
17. He transforms us (2 Cor 3:16)
18. He lives in us (1 Cor 3:16)
19. He frees us (Rom 8:2)
20. He renews us (Titus 3:5)
21. He produces fruit (Gal 5:22-23)
22. He gives gifts (1 Cor 12:8-10)
23. He leads us (Rom 8:14)
24. He convicts us (John 16:18)
25. He sanctifies us (2 Thess 2:13)
26. He empowers us (Acts 1:8)
27. He gives us revelation that Jesus is Lord (1 Cor 12:3). No one can confess Jesus is Lord without the Holy Spirit.

The Imperative

The mission of the Holy Spirit is to lead people to Christ, empower them with boldness to be witnesses of a risen Savior and live free from bondage; to be holy and separated unto Christ for His service.

In Acts 1:4, Jesus commanded the disciples to not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift that He promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus commanded – meaning what He told them was not optional. It was imperative!

In the church world, there is an idea that you have faith in God, there is the Son who saved us, but the Holy Spirit is this 'extra – auxiliary' Christian experience (optional). You can take Him or leave Him.

This is not what the Word says! The Word says to wait until you receive.

The Holy Spirit is everything to us and without Him, we have nothing. There is no life in the Spirit without Him.

Acts 17:28 *“For in Him we live and move and have our being...”*

Acts 8:4 tells us of a revival in Samaria. When the apostle heard that the people had been baptized in water, but the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on them, they departed to them and laid hands on them to receive.

- They had received the Gospel message, they were baptized in the name of Jesus, they were free from demons/sickness – delivered and healed.
- It was not OK that they had heard the gospel and responded to it but not received the Holy Spirit – it was imperative that they receive.

Is the life of the Spirit imperative to you? Do you understand how important it is for your life in Christ to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Do you take Him seriously in your daily walk or is He relegated to the back burner or deemed 'non-essential'?

Acts 9:17 – Ananias was sent to Paul to *‘regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’*

Acts 19:2 – In Ephesus – *‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit?’*

He didn't ask when did you believe or what creed you recited. Paul knew that the way they responded to that question would tell him everything he needed to know about the extent, the depth, and authenticity of their experience.

**‘I will baptize you with the Holy Spirit’ – this is a mark of the Messiah.
Jesus, the Baptizer, separates Him from all other prophets.**

The New Testament salvation is not just about something that happens to you after death – it is about the realities of the world to come entering into your existence right now. The Holy Spirit is the 'down payment' or "guarantee" – the promise of what is to come.

1 Corinthians 1:22 *“Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”*

Acts 1:8 *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be witnesses unto Me ... and the uttermost parts of the Earth.”*

In Eph 5:18 – Paul says to ‘*be filled with the Holy Spirit.*’ Greek ‘be filled’ is present imperative. The command is always for now and an on-going continuous reality. Be filled now. Don’t wait for everything in your life to line up. You line up with the Word now! You have an unlimited supply – ability to be continuously filled, and the Holy Spirit will flow through you.

You are a conduit for the power and presence of God to flow into a lost and dying world around you. That’s why the Holy Spirit has come, and that’s why the Holy Spirit is imperative.

John 14:15–17 “¹⁵ *If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

Why Speaking in Tongues?

1. **To edify yourself**, build yourself up. The spirit man is being empowered when you pray in the Spirit (speak in tongues). It is like recharging your spiritual batteries.

Jude 1:20-21 “²⁰ *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*”

2. **When you pray** in the Spirit, **you are praying perfect – praying the will of God.** Many times we don’t know what to pray. The Holy Spirit helps us out through tongues. It is one of our tools — one of our weapons of spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:10-20 “¹⁰ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints — ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

Praying in the Spirit allows us to be on the same page with God. We are not praying what we want, what we think or what we feel. We are praying the will of God.

Romans 8:26 *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

3. **It is a sign for unbelievers.** God can move how He wants to move in the lives of people. This is one of the ways.

1 Corinthians 14:22 *“Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.”*

How do I receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

1. **Receive** Jesus as Lord and Savior. Not looking for the gift, but the Gift Giver.
2. **Invite the Lord** to fill you with His Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues can be received by the laying on of hands or just on your own in private time.
3. **Believe** that you are saved, the Holy Spirit is in you. Ask Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit — to come upon you as in the Book of Acts, giving you boldness and power to witness and walk in the fullness of what He has for you.
4. **Act.** Relax, trust God and worship Jesus!

Holy Spirit Wrap Up

1. **True born-again believers have the Holy Spirit** residing in them at salvation – but not all go further to embrace the baptism of the Holy Spirit (with the evidence of speaking in tongues—another language). When the Bible talks about being baptized in the Holy Spirit, it is the same word as being baptized with water. It is immersion (to surround or cover) and complete. When we read the book of Acts and see the early believers’ response after repentance and baptism in water, it is clear that there was evidence of their filling and baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Acts 19:6 *“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”*

2. The promise of being baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is a supernatural, God-given promise given to every believer. It is the ability to speak in a God-given spiritual language that you do not understand. It is a gift and cannot be earned, but must be received. You have already been given the gift, so it is a matter of speaking it out in faith.

Acts 8:14-17 “¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 16:16-18 “¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

3. The Holy Spirit is power in our lives to live righteously, boldly and witness of Jesus. Because of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and by the authority that Jesus gives us, we are able to testify of Jesus to others and live a supernatural life.

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Romans 15:13 “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What stood out to you in this chapter that maybe you didn't know or hadn't heard?

2. Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues? _____

- * If not, are you ready to? _____
- * You can ask one of the leaders to lay hands on you or just go before the Lord on your own.

Let Him know you are ready to receive and believe you already have it. It is available for every believer, not just a select few.

3. What is the Lord speaking to you? Write out your desire to speak in tongues or thank Him for what He's already done. Ask Him your questions — talk to Him as you would have a personal conversation.

Hearing God

When we get rid of all the junk and walk out our relationship with God, listening to the leading or prompting of the Holy Spirit, and obey what He says, you will find so much freedom! It's not that life doesn't look messy sometimes, but there is a strength and peace that only comes from a relationship with God. Relationships are a two-way street. Not only do we talk to God, but we need to hear what He has to say to us.

Lie: You can't hear God.

Truth: God wants you to hear His voice.

If you are a follower of Christ, you can hear from God.

John 8:47 (NASB) "He who is of God hears the words of God...."

John 9:31 (NASB) "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him."

The Ability to Hear God

1. **It is Innate** - we are His children and have the ability to hear. Even before a baby is born, they recognize their parents voice. Just as a child recognizes the voice of his parents (the accent, tone, language and speech patterns), as we spend time with God, we will also recognize His voice.
2. **It is Learned** – **John 15:15-16** tells us, "*all things He has made known to us.*" In the Word of God, we learn about who God is, and we learn to hear His voice. His voice will line up with His Word.
3. **It is Matured** – as we walk in His Word and pursue it, we find it easier to discern and hear. When we are close to Him, as we grow in Him, in His Word, we then begin to hear the still, small voice or prompting of the Holy Spirit and you know that it is God speaking. You know it is God because you know what He says in His Word. You know His character and integrity. Anything contrary to God's written word, you can discern that it is not God.

As we begin to learn to hear from God, we need to posture ourselves to do so. In other words, He can speak to us anytime, but we need to set aside time to intentionally receive from His Word. As we do, we will hear, and it will help us as we go through busy times or trials to recognize whose voice we are hearing. It comes from time spent with Him.

- **Be still and listen.** “*Be still and know that I am God...*” (**Psalm 46:10**) - Get quiet. Begin to pray by giving thanks, worship and read God’s Word.
- **Schedule a set time** daily to spend with God – to worship, read the Word, get still and listen. (We are busy, distracted, and anxious so we sometimes cannot hear).
- **Deliberately eliminate hurriedness and distractions.** Any moments you can grab during the day to get quiet, do so. Example – driving from one place to another. Instead of turning on music, pray and ask God if there is anything He wants to tell you.
- **Read the Bible.** People do not hear because they are not disciplined in reading the Word of God. People stay ‘babes’ because they are not reading the Word of God. (Hebrews 5:13).

How Do We Know It Is God? We Need To Know Him!

1. **Scripture** – God revealed Himself – His character, His nature, His instructions.

Psalm 138:2 “...for you have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

Proverbs 2:6 “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

The greatest foundation for hearing the voice of God is knowing the Word of God. God’s voice will never contradict what He has said in His written Word.

2. **People – preachers, teachers, and Godly friends**

Word of Caution: Not everyone who claims they have a word from God or follow Christ really does or really hears His heart. The best way to discern who truly is a follower of Christ and is hearing from Him accurately, is to mature in your own ability to hear God. God does speak through other people at times (prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom - *1 Corinthians 12:7-11*). When you have become more knowledgeable of God’s word, you will be able to discern if it is a right word or not. If it is not, let it go. If it is, pray about it and be led by the Lord what to do with it. You will know if the word resonates in your spirit or does not or confirms what God has already been speaking to you in His Word.

3. Dreams & Visions

Some people hear from God in dreams or visions. This isn't true for everyone, but it does happen. It is important to discern the meaning of the dream or vision and ask the Lord what you are to do with it. He is your source for the interpretation — if He is the One giving you the dream. Write it down, pray over it, and do whatever God is telling you to do. Most dreams are direction for you, but sometimes they might be a corporate dream. Know from the Lord when to just pray about it or share it. Dreams need prayerful intercession.

Joel 2:28 *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.”*

4. Peace (Rest)

Philippians 4:6-7 (NASB) *“⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

He will give you peace when you are seeking Him. There is a hard-to-define internal peace that God gives His people when they are tuned in to what He is saying. For example, others can look at your circumstances and wonder what you are going to do, but if you have heard from the Lord, you have peace about the situation - even if things don't look different yet. That is from God. You are able to weather the storm because you remember who is with you; The Prince of Peace. True peace comes from confidence in trusting God. Close communion / fellowship with God (called intimacy) yields trust, confidence and faith.

There is a counterfeit peace, that is not of God. Many have been seduced by it, leading them away from God. For example, they might say they have a peace in their spirit about leaving their husband to move in with their boyfriend. They are sure they are hearing from God. How do we know this “peace” isn't from God? God's peace will line up with His Word, character, nature, and attitude towards holiness. When we are making decisions off of peace, always examine who the peace points to - God, your own desires or someone else's desire for you?

Another deception the devil uses, is to focus on 'how we feel' - our emotions, rather than faith in what Jesus said. Many are fooled by the “experience of tranquility” in holistic health, transpersonal (or spiritual) psychology, stress management activities dealing with meditation or breathing/heart rhythms, etc. which sound “spiritual” but the Holy Spirit is not the spirit behind them. They might provide temporary feelings of peace but the end outcome is far from it. Emotions lie.

Faith in Christ produces peace without having to “feel” something. Through revelation knowledge of Who He is and Whose you are, you can walk in true peace that has already been given to you through Jesus Christ, who is our true Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

5. Conviction

As followers of Christ, you have to learn the difference between the **conviction** of the Holy Spirit and the **condemnation** of the enemy.

Conviction, as it relates to sin, will always point to something specific you have done wrong, and lead you to God to repent and be forgiven. Conviction will draw you to God. Conviction will reorient you back to Truth and Life in Jesus Christ. Conviction brings restoration.

Condemnation is usually vague and will always be focused on who you are or are not (your identity). It makes you want to cover up and hide from God (Genesis 3). *Condemnation* will produce shame and guilt. If what you are receiving makes you want to run from God or hide from Him – it is not the Holy Spirit. *Condemnation* leads to hopelessness about your condition. Its purpose is to separate you from God.

John 3:17-18 “¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

How do you respond to the Word of God?

1. Believe

There are two meanings for believe:

- Intellectual agreement: “Yes, I believe that is true.”
- The Biblical definition of believe goes beyond agreement; there is action.
Action: “I will put my trust in the Lord.” **You will behave the way you believe!**

For example: Imagine standing at the edge of a cliff with a huge dangerous drop-off and you see a bridge going across to the other side. It is one thing to say, ‘yes, I believe that bridge will hold me’ and another thing to walk across the bridge, trusting it will hold you. **Belief is putting what God said into action.**

There are competing voices but the good news is no one gets to tell you who you are without your permission. You get to choose what you are going to believe or in what or who you are going to put your trust.

One of the most crucial decisions you must make as a believer is to determine that you are going to choose to believe what God says above everything and everyone else!

“I determine to believe what You say is true – and I don’t just believe it in my head but I believe You and put my trust in You. I live my life based on what You say to me and about me.”

2. Confess - Agree with what God says, not man!

We usually use this term as it relates to sin – “Ok, I did it – I confess.”

- Confess literally means: to say the same thing, to agree (declare, praise). Confession is what I do when I agree with God.
- If God calls what I do, sin – I say ‘yes God, it is.’ But when He says you are saved and forgiven and sealed for eternity, I say ‘That’s right, yes God, I am saved, forgiven, and sealed for eternity.’ For some reason it easier for us to do the first one!

Confession is anytime you agree with what God says and put your speech to it. Confess His word and believe His truth.

Romans 10:9-10 “⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Believe in your heart everything God says about you and confess it to add your voice to His.

3. Obey what God tells you to do. Faith cannot be separated from Obedience!

Luke 6:46 *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord’ and not do the things which I say?”*

John 14:15 *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*

- Surrender your will and trust that He is right, He is good, and He is faithful to all His promises.
- Go back to the last word you received from God – check to see if you obeyed what He said. If you didn’t do what He told you to do, repent and then do it.

Importance of Obedience as It Relates to our Life in Christ and Walking in Freedom

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (ESV) *“¹ And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and over-take you if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.”* (Finish reading all of chapter 28).

God has set principles in His Word that govern His Kingdom and His way of doing things, that we cannot ignore. Many times we want the blessings of God apart from obedience to Him. Obeying the Lord is foundational in our lives and to a life lived in freedom. We cannot pick and choose what we want to obey. Many throw out the Old Testament saying that we are no longer under the Old Testament. But the Word of God stands forever! We need to take the whole counsel of God and be led by the Holy Spirit on how to live. Many will stand on blessing verses but forget the big “**if**” that is attached to it.

Deuteronomy 28 says “if” you obey you will be blessed. We choose! The “if” is in us.

Deuteronomy 28:15 *“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all His commandments and His statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.”*

We cannot discount certain parts of scriptures to suit our understanding or desires. We are instructed to obey the Lord all throughout scripture. One of the works Jesus accomplished on the cross was to set us free from the curse of the law.

Galatians 3:16 *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’).”*

So what does this mean for us? In Christ, we are no longer under the curse, but disobedience will open the door to walk in the consequence of the curse. Many are embracing the curse (what they have already been set free from) and returning to bondage by failing to obey God. And then we wonder what is going on. Ask yourself what the last thing the Lord told you to do, and did you do it? Start there!

God keeps His Word to the righteous and unrighteous. To the just and the unjust. Which one do you choose to be?

Deuteronomy 30:19 *“...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”*

Trust & Obey the Lord / His Blessings Abound

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NT) declares Israel's disobedience and unbelief, and God's judgement be a warning for us.

1 Corinthians 10:5-10 “⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷ And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” ⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; ⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

Hebrews 3:10-11, 17 “¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.’ ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ” ¹⁷ Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?”

Numbers 14:29 Disobedience / Unbelief brought upon them the wrath of God, death and destruction, failure to enter into the promised land, and forfeiture of God's rest.

Psalms 95:7-11 “⁷ For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: ⁸ “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. ¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.’ ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”

Numbers 14:43 - Fatal mistake of believing they could possess the promised land without faith, trust, obedience and devoted fully to God.

Numbers 14:43 “For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the Lord, the Lord will not be with you.”

In their mistrust they were defeated. This is a crucial lesson for all who are in Christ – that the riches of God's covenant cannot be obtained without obedience that comes through faith (Romans 1:5).

Romans 1:5 “Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,”

Numbers 20:12 - They did not carefully follow the commands of the Lord. God said to speak to the rock and he hit it.

Numbers 20:12 “ Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

- In speaking and acting rashly, Moses showed he did not believe God.
- Faith and obedience is always the correct response to God’s revealed word. (Deuteronomy 9:23; 1 Samuel 23:15; 1 Kings 13:21; 2 Kings 17:14; Psalm 106:33).
- In addition, Moses failed to treat God holy and worthy of God (no fear of the Lord).

Numbers 20:8 “... must ‘we’ fetch you water” (took credit with God). God still performed the miracle despite Moses’ disobedience.

Exodus 40:34 When Moses finished the work as God directed, their obedience – not the priests – brought down God’s glory.

Ephesians 6:17 The Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God! The enemy tries to undermine (to destroy) our confidence in that ‘sword’ which is God’s Word. To deny Scripture’s absolute trustworthiness in all that it teaches, is to deliver ourselves into Satan’s hand (2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 6:17; Ephesians 6:17).

2 Peter 1:21 “ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Hebrews 6:17 “ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,”

Deuteronomy 8:3 “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.”

Joshua 7:12 “Therefore the children of Israel, could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies because they were accursed” neither will I be with you anymore, except you destroy the accursed from among you.”

Persistent and unrepentant sin in a person’s life will cut him / her off from the grace of God. Such individuals no longer live under the help and protection of God, and will not be able to stand against the enemies of their souls who attack and seek to destroy them. Slavery to sin, tragedy, and spiritual death will result unless sin is removed (**v.13**).

In Joshua 9:14, they asked not the counsel of the Lord. Joshua and his leaders presumptuously entered into a covenant with the Gibeonites – they failed to ask God’s will – it brought the ungodly Canaanites within Israel’s midst (An action forbidden by God in Deut. 7). We today could avoid tragedies and sorrows. They were beguiled!

In **Joshua 17:13**, they did not utterly drive out the Canaanites and God's people failed to possess the land fully and completely.

- They wanted the profit and affluence gained from the forced labor. Compromising the will of God for ease or money sowed the seeds for later wider apostasy (Judges 1:21, 27-29; 2:11-13).
- Some of the Canaanites with their 'chariots of iron' (vv.16-19; Judges 1:19), had armaments superior to those of the Israelites, which they could not overcome in their own strength. They were beginning to lose confidence in the power of their God to overcome their enemies (Psalm 20:6-8).

Ephesians 3:10 *"The intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and power in the heavenly places."*

Ephesians 5:17 *"Therefore, do not be unwise – understand what the will of the Lord is."*

God is trustworthy.

Ephesians 6:16 *"Above all – the shield of faith – no darts can enter ... "*

Ephesians 3:19-20 ¹⁹ *To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge ... you may be filled with the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."*

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15 ³ *But I fear as the serpent ... your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ If anyone preaches another Jesus ... or if you receive another spirit ... or a different gospel ... you may well put up with it. ¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful ... ¹⁴ no wonder! Satan transforms himself into an angel of light. ... ¹⁵ Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness..."*

Philippians 4:9 *"The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do and the God of peace will be with you."*

Philippians 3:10 *"... that I may know Him and the power of the resurrection, and the fellowship."*

Isaiah 65:16 *"God is the God of truth."*

Revelation 3:14 and 2 Corinthians 1:20 Jesus is the Amen. ("AMEN" – to be reliable and faithful. It means 'truly,' 'surety,' 'acceptance as truth').

1 Corinthians 10:21 *"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons."*

- The fruit of unbelief, like the root itself is negative and destructive.
- Unbelief blocks the fulfillment of God's promises. Instead of believing the integrity of God and His Word, they responded negatively – 'we are inferior, not qualified, we are like grasshoppers.'
- Unbelief robs us of who we are in God and who He is to us.

At the heart of Israel's rebellion was unbelief (failure to remember God's past faithfulness to trust Him for the present).

Numbers 14:11 *"How long will people provoke me? How long will it be 'ere' they believe Me, for all the signs which I have shown (done) among them?"*

Numbers 14:89 *"If the Lord delights in us – then He will ...only rebel not against the Lord.."*

Numbers 14:6 Caleb / Joshua – dared to stand against the majority even if it cost their lives. Can we, today, stand against the majority in our workplaces, families, churches? Like Caleb, because he had 'another spirit in him and followed God fully.'

Numbers 14:22-24

"²² because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,²³ they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.²⁴ But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it."

Revelation 22:15 *"But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie."*

Intimacy with God produces confidence. Unbelief produces fear and compromise.

Wrap Up

There are many voices vying for our attention and many words being spoken over us.

- We hear our own voice or fleshly desires. We hear the voices of parents, coaches, teachers, preachers and friends.
- Ask if what you are hearing is biblical. Does it line up with what God has already said? Is it causing confusion in your heart or peace from God? Have you surrendered your desires and self-interests to hear clearly from God?
- Our enemy, Satan, is always speaking to us. He is very crafty and tempts us to doubt our relationship with God or that we really can hear Him. Genesis 3 – “Did God really say?” We need to sort through the voices! Trust God even when it seems contrary to culture, man’s wisdom, and even another believer.
- We need to go to the Word of God (Bible) and hear the only words and voice that matters - God’s. We can trust that what He says is true. **His Word is the final authority.**

Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is the discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

One word from the Lord for yourself changes everything!

John 6:63 *‘The words that I speak are Spirit and Life’ ~ Jesus*

PRAYER

Father, speak to me. I invite You to speak in ways that impart life, identity, relationship and purpose. Give me ears to hear what You say and eyes to see what You want to show me. Quicken my heart to sense what You want me to know. Father, I choose today to believe that You are who You say You are. I choose to believe that You will do everything that You said you would do. I put my trust in You. My hope is in You and You alone. I thank You for Your love and Your faithfulness and Your mercy toward me. Remind me every day that what You say about me is true and the most important thing I can ever believe about myself. Help me to receive it and rest, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Session 3: Your True Identity in Christ

The Effects of the Fall

In Genesis 1:26-27, we read that God created us in His own image. Adam and Eve had multiple good choices to make and only one wrong choice to make. Everything they wanted to do was okay except eating from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. You know the story; they made that one bad choice. As a result, now we face a whole multitude of choices, both good and bad. **Disobedience is rebellion against God!**

When they disobeyed God, they were still physically alive but became spiritually dead.

Spiritual Death = Separation from God's Presence

But as a follower of Christ, you receive a brand new identity — you are now spiritually alive!

How you used to identify yourself no longer applies. You are no longer a product of your past. You are a product of Christ's finished work on the Cross. You belong to God because of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."*

Romans 12:2 *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

**The most important belief that we possess is a true knowledge of WHO God is.
The second most important belief is who WE are as children of God.**

Satan does not want you to know:
Your **ACCEPTANCE**; Your **ASSURANCE**; Your **SIGNIFICANCE**

As you begin to focus on what God says about you, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. If there are any verses that you don't believe about yourself, read and ponder (meditate on) them (Godly example of meditation: Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:15), declare them as many times as needed to get them from your head (knowing it is what God says but not believing it) to your heart (knowing what God says about you and believing it). The Word tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Hearing it helps your ability to believe it.

John 6:63 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."*

God's words are spirit and life! As you read — by faith — know that His Word is alive and working in you supernaturally. God is watching over His Word to perform it and it will accomplish what He purposed it to do. (Jeremiah 1:12; Isaiah 55:11)

Hebrews 13:8 *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

If God has said it in His Word, it does not change. You can believe and trust Him!

Numbers 23:19 *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

In Search of Identity

What is identity? Identity is defined as "the collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a thing is definitively recognizable or known" or "the quality or condition of being the same as something else."

So, when 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that in Christ, we are a new creation, how we used to be recognized or known as, has changed. When we are born-again, in Christ, our life is no longer defined or conditioned by our past, but now identified as in and with Christ. Brand new, not just wiped clean. To be a "Christian" literally means to be a follower of Christ. Our identity is in Him, as a member of God's family in the Kingdom of God. Our names are written in Heaven.

If we are truly followers of Christ, our new identity in Christ should be recognizable both to ourselves and evident to others. Our new identity in Christ means we have the same relationship with God, the Father, that Christ has – we are now able to be called "children of God" (1 John 1:3; John 1:12-13; 2 Corinthians 6:1-18).

Identifying with Jesus provides a spiritual freedom no other identity can offer. Understanding that will give you a desire to honor Him, follow His Word and accept the identities He has given you instead of the labels the world tries to affix you.

We are to grow in our maturity in the Lord. Jesus gave us the enablement of the Holy Spirit (His power) in order to grow into spiritual maturity, that truly reflects our new identity in Him. We are no longer slaves (Romans 6:6) but are reconciled to God (Romans 5:10).

Often, however, what we show on the outside is a false front designed to disguise who we think we really are. Our belief in who we are that does not line up with who God says we are. We attempt to cover up the negative feelings we have about ourselves. The world would have us believe that if we appear attractive or perform well or enjoy a certain amount of status, then we will have it all together inside as well. That is not always true. External appearance, accomplishments and recognition do not necessarily reflect – or produce – internal peace and maturity. God has a destiny for you as His child. The enemy’s goal is to derail and thwart God’s plan for your life, and one of the biggest ways he attempts to do that is to attack your identity. Why? Because according to Genesis 1:26-27, we were created in the image of God (also Genesis 5:1, 9:6; James 3:9). We are a reflection of Him and the enemy hates that.

Your identity goes beyond gender, sexuality and other cultural markers that the world uses to define us. In Christ, we have significance, assurance, worth/value and have the God-given ability to participate in God-honoring relationships. Self-image is always dependent upon our perspective: How we see ourselves. Our true image or identity, in light of what God says, is always dependent upon His Word. It never changes. So when we aren’t sure of who we are, we don’t have to look to anyone but God for that definition.

Isaiah 45:9-10 ⁹ “Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but pot sherds among the potsherd on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’ Does your work say, ‘The potter has no hands?’ ¹⁰ Woe to the one who says

What if I struggle with gender confusion or sexual sin??????? God will always see you and relate to you as the biological gender He created you to be in the womb. When one becomes ‘born-again,’ God will supernaturally help you deal with the changes that need to be made in your lifestyle, habits and physical appearance to become who God created and redeemed you to be. Do not be deceived. You will not enter the Kingdom of God nor are you genuinely born again if you remain in sexual perversion, sin. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11—lists other sins also).

Healing can be received, sin can be overcome, and lives can be changed through salvation (saved, healed, set-free) that Jesus provides – even if there are perceived biological or physiological factors. Even when the world defines something as a biological/physiological issue (genetics/born that way; think that way; drawn to) it does not mean embracing the effects of that is the right thing to do in light of what God says.

Examples:

The world says some people are “wired” (or made that way) with a sexuality on hyperdrive and thus an excuse. That does not make it right for them to engage in sexual immorality and deviant behavior. That is not how God made His creation; God calls it sin.

Many times, it boils down to temptation and ignorance or rejection of God's Word. We are tempted to participate in certain things, and the world is telling us it's okay or it is a disease. It's normal. Just give in. Meanwhile, people are dying inside because there is something inside them that is not okay with it. Remember, we were created in the image of God. So, anything that is separating us from God, we know it in our spirit. And no matter how much we try to placate ourselves into believing all is well, it is not. And we know it. It begins a crazy cycle of depression, rebellion, addiction, and anything else we can do to try and push down what is going on inside, ending in defeat and destruction. You will live life in constant demonic torment. God said there is no peace for those who walk according to the dictates of his own heart (Jeremiah 23:17).

Temptation is "enticement, allurements, attraction, seduction." Remember that the enemy is here to steal, kill, and destroy you. And this can be strong in the area of temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 says that *"No temptation has overtaken you except such is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it."* In other words, you always have a choice to walk away from it.

When you are tempted to do anything that is against God and His perfect plan for your lives, turn to Him. He has already provided a way out. He has already given you:

- **His Word** - Jesus said His words are Life and Spirit. (John 6:63)
- **His Spirit (His Presence)** - The Holy Spirit who works in us with power to overcome temptations and unrighteousness or sin (Ephesians 3:10)
- **The fruit of the Spirit** including self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **Authority** to break the bonds of the devil (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:19)
- **Salvation** (saved, healed, delivered – to be whole!) We are now rescued/redeemed from eternal death and separation from God.
- **His Revelation (clarity)**, understanding His Word in terms of your gender (how He created you), your identity (who He says you are), power to overcome sin (including sexual sin)

James 1:12 *"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."*

2 Peter 2:9 *"Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."*

No matter what you are going through, what you have identified yourself as in the past, what temptations you are struggling with, Jesus is your answer. He has already given you the power to overcome.

1 John 5:4 *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith."*

1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

The more we study His Word, the more we discover who we are in Christ. We are transformed into the person God says we are when we make Jesus Christ Lord, the pursuit of our lives walk in purity and maturity.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) *“So all of us who have had the veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”*

Romans 8:29 (ESV) *“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*

Philippians 1:6 *“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

Philippians 4:9 *“The things you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do, and the God of peace will be with you.”*

Romans 12:2 *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Let’s see what the Word says about your true identity in Christ.

Who I Am in Christ - My New Identity

Psalms 24:1 (NLT) *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”*

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NLT) *“For God bought you with a high price...”*

Romans 8:16 *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”*

Often Christians feel trapped. We fail, so we see ourselves as failures, which leads to more failure. We see ourselves as sinners, which leads to more sin. **We have been deceived into believing that what we do determines who we are.**

Being a child of God who is alive and free in Christ should determine what we do - not our behavior determining who we are. Then we are able to work **out** our salvation, (Philippians 2:12) not **for** our salvation. When we understand who we are in Christ, we **do** works out of our deep love for Him, not out of our attempt to earn His love. You already have it. You “do” because you “are.”

In Christ, You are Accepted

1. You are God's Child.

John 1:12-13 *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

Romans 8:15-16 ¹⁵ *“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”* ¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”*

- You are a child of God and being His child is a right given to you by God Himself.
- You are saved by grace, through faith, not by works.
- You are not saved by how you behave; you are saved by how you believe.

2. You are Christ's Friend.

Think of it like this. How would it be to have an influential person that is your friend? He tells you, “go ahead, we are friends. Use my name. It will open doors for you.” You have access to them and their prominence. It is the same with God and His influence. He's not just saying we are buddies — but you have access to all that He is and all that He has.

James 2:23 *“And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘ Abraham believed **God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the **friend of God.**”*

John 15:15 (NLT) *“I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't **confide** in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since **I have told you everything the Father told me.**”*

A friend is someone you are familiar with. Maybe even someone you are close to. You can confide in each other and be yourself with the person. That is one of the attributes God is to us. We can trust Him and just be ourselves around Him.

3. You Have Been Justified.

Romans 5:1 (NASB) *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

You are justified in, through, and by Christ alone! You have been justified (just as if you'd never sinned); therefore, you have, right now, the joy of peace with God.

4. You are united with the Lord and One with Him in Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17 *“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”*

You have a responsibility to safeguard your mortal bodies from sin and keep it from being an instrument of unrighteousness. Failing to do so would be to violate the unity you have with the Lord. Whatever you are doing to the body, you are doing to the Lord. Remember, it is no longer you, but Christ in you.

Think of it this way. There are places many of us go that we wouldn't want our pastor to know about or say things we wouldn't want them to hear. How much more should we be aware of and guard the places we go, the things we say, what we watch or read, knowing that Jesus is there with us seeing it all? We are one with Him.

5. You Have Been Bought with a Price, You Belong to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *“¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore honor God with your body and in your spirit which are God's.”*

6. You Have Been Adopted (to be God's Child).

Ephesians 1:3-6 *“³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”*

1 Peter 2:9-10 *“⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”*

**Your Heavenly Father didn't need you, but He wanted you!
There are no illegitimate Children of God;
none of you were unwanted or unexpected accidents.**

We are to stop acting like orphans under Satan's control and instead believe and act like what we are: Children of God.

7. You Have Been Redeemed and Forgiven of Your Sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NASB) “¹³ For he has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸ Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

8. You are Loved.

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 3:16-17 “¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Jeremiah 31:3 “The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’”

Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

9. You are Complete.

Colossians 2:9-10 “⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

God’s plan is to present you complete in Christ, for without Him you are incomplete. You were never designed to function independently from God.

**Your identity comes from what God thinks about you.
He created and redeemed you to be His, fully alive in Christ,
and walking in power and love, enabled by the Holy Spirit.**

Colossians 3:10-11 (NASB) “¹⁰ ...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it - ¹¹ a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, and free, but Christ is all, and in all.”

Our identity is no longer determined by our physical heritage, social standing or racial distinctions. Our identity lives in the fact that we who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior are all children of God.

LIFE in light of our identity in Christ is filled with a heavenly Father, a large loving family (Body of Christ), and the understanding that we are citizens of another kingdom – not of this earth.

PRAYER

Father God, You are wonderful and amazing. You alone are the source of my being. Draw me into the solid revelation of who You are and Your Truth. Come, Holy Spirit and set into my heart a sense of who You say I am. Awaken in me the capacity to connect and bond fully with You and others. I choose to be Yours and belong to You. Thank You, Father! I am alive in You, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Identity—What Does God Say?

I AM GOD'S...

- possession (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- child (John 1:12)
- workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
- friend (James 2:23)
- temple (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- co-laborer (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- witness (Acts 1:8)
- soldier (2 Timothy 2:3)
- ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- building (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- husbandry (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- minister/instrument (Acts 26:16; 1 Timothy 4:6)
- chosen (Ephesians 1:4)
- beloved (Romans 1:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- precious jewel (Malachi 3:17)
- heritage (1 Peter 5:3)

I HAVE BEEN...

- redeemed by the blood (Revelation 5:9)
- set free from sin / condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)
- set free from Satan's control & translated into God's Kingdom (Colossians 1:13)
- set free from Satan's kingdom, saved and raised up in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10)
- chosen before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)
- forgiven of all my trespasses (Colossians 2:13)
- washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 1:5)
- given a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- given the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22)
- adopted into God's family (Romans 8:15)
- justified freely by His grace (Romans 3:24)
- given all things pertaining to life & godliness (2 Peter 1:3)
- given great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4)
- given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- given authority over the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19)
- given boldness and access to God (Ephesians 3:12)
- given wisdom (Ephesians 1:8)

I AM...

- complete in Him (Colossians 2:10)
- free from the power of sin (Romans 6:14)
- sanctified (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- a vessel of honor for the Master's use (2 Timothy 2:21)
- kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (1 Peter 1:5)
- kept in the palm of His hand (John 10:29)
- loved and washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 1:5)
- kept from falling (Jude 1:24)
- kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:5)
- not condemned (Romans 8:1-2)
- one with the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- made alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:1)
- blessed with every spiritual blessing in Heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)

- the head and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13)
- a light in the world, a city on a hill (Matthew 5:14-15)
- His sheep (Psalms 23, Psalms 100:3; John 10:14)
- protected from the evil one (1 John 5:18)
- secure in Christ (John 10:28-29)
- set on a Rock (Psalms 40:2)
- more-than-a-conqueror through Jesus (Romans 8:37)
- born again (1 Peter 1:23)
- an overcomer (1 John 5:4)
- healed by His stripes (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24)
- an overcomer by the blood of Jesus (Revelation 12:11)
- sheltered under His wing (Psalms 91:4)
- dwelling in the secret place of the Almighty (Psalms 91:1)

I HAVE...

- access to the Father (Romans 5:2)
- a place prepared for me in Heaven (John 14:1-2)
- all things new in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus (1 Peter 1:3)
- hope as an anchor to my soul, that is both sure and steadfast (Hebrews 6:19)
- authority to tread on serpents, scorpions, and all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19)
- power to be a witness for Christ (Acts 1:8)
- the tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak (Isaiah 50:4)
- the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
- been justified by faith and have peace with God (Romans 5:1)

I CAN...

- do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)
- come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- take up the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts (Ephesians 6:16)
- preach good tidings to the poor and declare liberty to the captives (Isaiah 61:1)
- pray always and everywhere (Luke 21:36)
- defeat (overcome) the enemy (Revelation 12:11)
- crush Satan under foot (Romans 16:20)

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What did you hear in this chapter that you didn't know or hadn't heard?

2. Ask the Lord if there are any names or labels you have received and believed about yourself that do not represent God's best for you. What lies have been attached to that name?

3. What is the truth God says about you?

Let go of what the world says about you and embrace what God says. Begin to study and speak scripture over yourself of what God sees and says. Do it until you believe what God says about you is true. For example: place sticky notes with scriptures on your mirror, on the refrigerator, and in your car to remind you and keep God's Words in front of you and on your mind.

4. What is God speaking to me? How will I respond to what He says?

PART TWO

Sessions 4 & 5

Foundation for Freedom and Healing

Jesus ministered to the broken and lost. He had an ability to deeply address the real needs of people. He provided everything we needed to be equipped to step out as Christ's representatives of the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave His disciples a commission to go and proclaim Him in Word and power. He equipped us with foundational instructions and tools to represent Him well. Jesus came to rescue the lost (Luke 19:10), heal, set free, restore and proclaim the Kingdom of God to others. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). That is good news!

When we partner with the Holy Spirit under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we can live fully connected and empowered by the Kingdom of Heaven.

1 John 3:8 (NASB) *"...the Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."*

"Sozo," which is used 110 times in the New Testament, is a Greek word meaning "to save or make well or whole." According to Strong's Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, **"Sozo" also means "to save, deliver, heal, and preserve."** The writers of the New Testament demonstrated the completeness of the word "Sozo" by using it in different contexts to refer to each aspect of salvation through Jesus Christ.

SALVATION

Romans 10:9 *"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved."* (Sozo)

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save (Sozo) that which was lost."*

HEALING

Matthew 9:22 (NASB) *"But Jesus, turning and seeing her said, 'Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well' (Sozo). And at once the woman was made well."* (Sozo)

DELIVERANCE

Luke 8:36 (NASB) *"And those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well."* (Sozo)

**Question: Jesus is asking you today what He asked Peter: Who do YOU say I AM?
Jesus is the Son of the Living God! (Luke 9:20)**

Session 4: Overview of Freedom and Deliverance

Freedom is not the absence of SOMETHING but the presence of SOMEONE (Jesus!)

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NLT) “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.”

- Freedom and deliverance are for the believer. It is Jesus that sets us free.
- We may use the terms freedom, healing and deliverance interchangeably because it just means being free — being ‘whole’!
- Freedom is when we can respond to God fully as the person He created and redeemed us to be.

Key Concepts for Freedom

- **It is Christ-focused not problem-focused.** We start at the beginning with repentance and making Jesus Lord and then as a follower of Jesus, we passionately pursue a deeper relationship with Him.
- It is knowing God for yourself through reading and knowing the Holy Scriptures.
- It is being a disciple (obedient followers of Christ) not just “believers” who hear, learn and know but never “do” what the Word says. You are zealous, delighted, consistent and excited with your growing relationship with the Lord.

Disciple (New Oxford Dictionary) means a follower or student of a teacher. A learner, pupil, follower, adherent, believer, admirer, devotee, protégé, upholder, supporter and advocate.

Being a disciple is more than just praying a prayer of salvation. It is a life lived out for the glory of God. Following the lead of Jesus, and taking Him at His word. You don’t want any hindrances between you and the Lord. You love what He loves and hate what He hates.

- It is a process of diligence and intentional development as God gives a clear path to maturity.
- It is vital to the life of Christ-followers because “**Found people, find people**” and “**Free people, free people.**”

The Enemy's Goal is to Destroy

1. To prevent the salvation of the lost.
2. To prevent the praise and worship of the One True God.
3. To weaken and divide the Church (People—not a building, denomination or congregation).
4. To torment and oppress the entire human race (especially followers of Christ).

(Scripture references: Isaiah 14:12-15; Ephesians 6:12, Ephesians 1:20-21; I John 5:18-21; Revelation 12:9)

John 10:10 *“The thief comes not but for to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life...”*

Your Response to the Enemy

1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your enemy the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

To be sober and vigilant is to have a sharp mind. To be focused — not to be swayed by anything. The mind not subdued or compromised by a substance or deception.

High Alert—anything preventing you from paying attention, being fully alert and focused.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (ESV) “⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

(Study **Ephesians 6:10-20**. The Armor of God)

Your response is to be sober and alert and not be ignorant of Satan's schemes and to take every thought captive. That means when a thought enters your mind that doesn't agree with the Word of God, you recognize it as a lie and kick it out. Don't meditate on it or receive it as truth. Know it is a lie and counteract it with the truth of God's Word. Ask God to reveal the lie you are believing that is attracting those thoughts in the first place.

DISCIPLESHIP / The Word of God

John 8:31-36 “³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews who believed on him, “If ye continue in My word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free...³⁶ therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

In the context of human knowledge, many things are true. Yet there is only one truth that will set you free from sin, destruction, and Satan’s dominion and that is Jesus Himself and His revelation of truth in Scripture. He is Truth!

2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NKJV) “*And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*”

- Scripture, especially the original revelation of Jesus Christ and the New Testament (NT) apostles, testifies to the truth that frees one from sin, the world and the demonic (Ephesians 2:20).
- Further revelation of the ‘truth’ is not needed to complete or make more adequate the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Saving truth is revealed only from God ‘by His Spirit’ (1 Corinthians 2:10) and does not originate from or complement any other person, humanistic wisdom, or spiritual philosophy / ideology (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).
- The NT clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself breaks the power and dominion of sin in the lives of those who are His true followers (John 8:31-36). The union of sincere believers with Christ in His death and resurrection will result in freedom from sin’s power and dominion (8:36).

John 8:36 ye shall be free indeed. Unsaved persons are slaves to sin, impurity and Satan (John 8:34; Romans 6:17-20). They live according to the cravings of their sinful nature and the ways of Satan (Ephesians 2:1-3).

- As true believers, we possess salvation in Christ with the accompanying grace of the Holy Spirit residing in us and are set free from the power of sin and immorality (Romans 6:17-22). When we face temptation, we now have the power to act according to the will of God. We are free to be enslaved to God and righteousness (Romans 6:18, 22).
- What Jesus offers us now is the sanctifying power of His life, where as we who follow the Holy Spirit, are set free from the desires of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:16-24) and enabled to live holy lives before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4).

John 8:47 (NKJV) “*He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.*”

Commentary: Stamps, DC. KJV Life in the Spirit Study Bible. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishing.

Genesis 2:9 - The tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Two trees in the garden had special importance:

- The Tree of Life was probably intended to make physical death impossible. It is related to eternal life in Genesis 3:2 and God's people will have access to it in the new Heaven and new earth in Revelation 2:7; 22:2.
- The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was designed to test Adam's faith and obedience to God and His Word (Gen 2:16). God created humans as moral beings with the ability to love and obey their Creator, or disobey Him and rebel against His will.
- It wasn't just about Adam's disobedience to God, but he also did not trust God. When tempted with a lie, Adam and Eve believed the devil that there was something better for them outside what they already had – to be like God.

Genesis 3:22 - to know good and evil.

Through the fall of Adam and Eve, human beings became, to some extent, independent of God and began to distinguish for themselves between good and evil.

- In this world, imperfect and perverted human judgement often decides what is good and evil. This was never God's will, for He intended us to know only good in dependence on Him and His Word.
- All who repent, confess and surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord, return to God's original purpose for humankind. They rely on God's Word to determine what is good.

Roadblocks to Freedom:

- Unsaved
- Unbelief
- Unhealthy relationships / alliances
- Unforgiveness
- Unwillingness to Repent

FOUR Areas to Recognize as Schemes of the Enemy

1. Strongholds

A negative stronghold is any obstacle – person, thought, argument, opinion or anything that exalts itself above God and hinders you from becoming what God called you to be. It is an area in your life dominated by thoughts or actions in opposition to God and His Word. It is returning to the old way of thinking — a wrong pattern of thought.

It is important to catch the lie at the thought stage before taking it in as “truth,” becoming a stronghold. You are to “cast it down,” not meditate on the lie. The enemy likes to keep you trapped, but you no longer have to stay under the enemy's influence!

Review again:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV) “⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Once a stronghold is in place, one of three things will happen when the Holy Spirit tries to convict you of sin:

- You may no longer recognize sin as sin. It will no longer seem wrong (condone it).
- You may recognize it as sin but have very little motivation to deal with it (make excuses).
- You may desire to be rid of the sin but lack the power to deal with it effectively (can't seem to quit — looking at the **problem** instead of **Jesus**).

If this is you, repent. Ask the Lord to show you the truth, and do what He says.

Psalm 18:2 “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

2. Wounds (hurts and traumas) / Life Patterns (cycles you can't seem to break)

Time doesn't always heal everything. Jesus is the only One who can truly heal.

- Have you ever been deeply wounded? (Betrayed, rejected, ridiculed, felt inferior, etc.)
- We tend to be programmed to disguise our pain and just say, “I’m fine!” or “no problem.”
- Pain is very real! Wounds penetrate deep into your heart and can shape who you become and what decisions you make.

(Example: Something someone said or continually said (verbal abuse), physical abuse or any perceived traumatic experience).

The enemy takes advantage of your deep **wounds and hurts** at your weakest moments. He is right there to tell you what they mean. If something traumatic happens to you, he may say, “You deserved it!” or “No one will want you now!” Other people, such as counselors, may also interpret the wounds for you, derived from humanistic theories that miss the truth. The real truth is what God says. He has already provided for you to be healed.

Psalm 147:3 *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”*

Life patterns are areas that are repetitive in your life (a cycle you can’t seem to break). These patterns can also be seen in your generation (your family line) and be influenced by how and where you were raised. These patterns can create a stronghold in your life.

(Drugs, divorce, alcoholism, abuse, poverty/financial issues, sin, etc.)

These areas can be repeated patterns of behavior in families. These don’t have to repeat in your generation, but it can reveal where the enemy has influenced your family in generations past.

3. Lies—How did you respond to whatever impacted you negatively?

Wounds directly partner up with lies. The real issue becomes — are you willing to accept or tolerate Satan’s influence? John 8:44 tells us who the devil really is.

John 8:44 *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father, you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*

The enemy is a liar and the father of lies. His primary weapon against you is a lie. He is incapable of telling the truth!

The enemy lies to you in 3 different areas:

- He will get you to believe lies about God.
- He will get you to believe lies about other people.
- He will get you to believe lies about yourself.

Begin to ask God to show you lies you have believed. The way to break lies is to hear the truth. To know the truth, you have to go to God's Word. Know what is true so that you recognize the lie when it comes.

Example: Counterfeit money - you learn to spot the counterfeit money, not by studying the counterfeit, but by studying the genuine. You come to know the genuine so well the counterfeit sticks out.

John 14:6 *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'*

When you partner with God, recognize the lies of the enemy and receive God's truth so you can break free of **ANY** stronghold in your life. It doesn't matter if it is something you've done or something handed down from generation to generation. You can choose to stop the enemy's power over you. The Blood of Jesus (that He shed for you) made you a brand new creation! The buck stops here!

The Blood of Jesus gives you a brand new life —
the enemy cannot prevail because of the Blood!

You cannot control the actions of other people, but you can choose how you respond to those actions. As a child of God, you have been given victory and the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

Psalms 100:5 *"For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."*

4. Unforgiveness & Idols

Unforgiveness and hurt are usually connected to an idol in our lives. Blessings from God can also become idols. There is always a spirit behind an idol.

Luke 11:4 (NLT) *"And forgive us our sins, as we also forgive those who sin against us..."*

Mark 11:25 (NASB) *"Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions."*

Unforgiveness

Jesus regularly taught the importance of forgiveness because forgiveness is God's provision for **releasing you** from the power and pain of sins committed against you. Forgiveness is a two part process. Jesus Himself showed the two aspects of forgiveness when He purchased forgiveness on the cross (Luke 23:34). The **first part** is choosing to forgive, and the **second part** is entrusting the Father with the consequences and impact of a person's sin against you.

Forgiving doesn't mean you have to be best friends with the person who hurt you or have them be a part of your life. You have to use wisdom. But it does mean that you no longer cringe at the sound of their name. You have completely released them. You are able to sincerely pray for them and release them to the Lord and let Him do His work. Every time the enemy brings up the past offense, release them again. Forgive as many times as it takes so that the enemy no longer has a hold on you in this area, and you can walk in freedom.

Idols

God must have strong feelings on the subject of idolatry because the first commandment given to Moses on Mount Sinai was, *"You shall have no other gods before Me"* (**Exodus 20:3**). We often allow our affections to easily get entangled by people or things other than God, but the truth still remains: we were created to worship the one and only true, living God.

An idol is anything you give a higher priority to than God Himself. Idols are the things or people that consume your time and attention. It is a false god. Idolatry involves any object of worship, strong affection or devotion. Anything you turn to for comfort, security, or a sense of well-being can be an idol. Ask the Lord to identify any idols in your life.

1 John 5:21 *"Little children, keep yourselves from idols."*

Matthew 6:21 (KJV) *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

- We look to everyone and everything but God to fulfill or fill what only God can do.
- We recognize something is missing — we want more. We say, "There has to be more than this!" or "I need to know more about myself / others," or "I need to fill the void." The only one who can truly satisfy us and fill the void in our lives or the "thing" we are searching for is Jesus.

Psalms 107:9 *"For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness."*

Psalms 145:16 *"You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."*

Prayerfully consider the areas on the next page, where people or things may have become more important to you than God, making sure they have not taken the place of God in your heart. In other words, you give more value, room, and time to them than you do God.

But first, let's try to understand the nature of deception. The Bible is clear on not being deceived. We don't set out to be deceived or do it intentionally, but many times we do not understand that what we have allowed in our lives may be the very thing keeping us from freedom in Christ — it may be bringing separation from God. Not that He has changed or moved but that we have in our relationship to Him. Many don't want to have that discussion or think there can be anything in their lives as a Christian that is not of God. As we continue through this manual, **we will be asking the hard questions. We encourage you to get before God, ask Him with an open heart to receive what He is saying to you.** If something hits you like, "No way! Nothing is wrong with that!"...that may be the very place to start and ask God. Ready? Lets start with the meaning of "deceive" :

Deuteronomy 11:16 *"Take heed to yourselves lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them."*

Matthew 24:3-5 *"³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am Christ,' and will deceive many."*

'deceive' (Strong's G4105 *planao*)

- To cause to roam from safety, truth or virtue.
- To go astray, to err, to be seduced, wander - be out of the way.
- To sever or fall away from the path of truth.

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 *"Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and the table of demons."*

2 Corinthians 11:3 *"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."*

Psalms 16:4 *"Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips."*

Potential Areas That Could become Idols in Our Lives:

- Ambition
- Career/Work
- Power/Control
- Busyness
- Financial Security
- Food or Any Substance
- Spouse
- Children
- Parents
- Friends
- Relationships - Boyfriend/Girlfriend
- Progressive Christianity - 'you are enough' (apart from Christ); finding your "True Self"
- Politics
- Approval of Others
- Appearance
- Hobbies
- Entertainment/Television/Movies
- Computers/Cell Phone/Electronics/Social Media/Gaming
- Activities
- Sports
- Ministry
- Physical Fitness
- Celebrities - Athletes/Singers/Musicians/Actors
- World "expert" opinions

The Bible tells you to confess your sin, renounce and turn away from any areas of idolatry or areas where your priorities are skewed. Ask the Holy Spirit to identify areas.

Unbelief

When we don't believe God, we make ourselves in opposition to God. We make ourselves a god unto ourselves, deny His love towards us and His Word, then we open ourselves up for the enemy to agree with us.

Does it irritate you when someone says, "That's incurable, they are just going to die anyway"? I am grieved because it means to us that the person believes that Satan and death are greater than God and the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.

In our ignorance and separation from God, we have asked the medical community to do things they are not qualified to do: pastor, counsel and deal with spiritual issues.

Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24 If we don't believe God heals today; He probably won't.

Matthew 9:29 – "Then touched He their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith be it unto you.' "

Romans 14:5 – "...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Stress: Anxiety – Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusted Thee."

The antidote for fear is fellowship with the Godhead. **2 Timothy 1:7** tells us "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Power represents the Holy Spirit, love represents the love of the Father, a sound mind represents the Word of God, Jesus. If you are listening to the Word of God, fear does not have anything over you. If you are listening to fear, you are not listening to God. What did God say?

Matthew 16:25 *“For whosoever will save his life will lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”*

Philippians 4:6-7 *“⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God which surpasseth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Jeremiah 31:32-34

“³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, [a] though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their [b] hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Jeremiah 23:1

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the Lord.”

Psalm 37:39 *“But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.”*

Psalm 18:18-19

“¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. ¹⁹ He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.”

Psalm 23:1

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

Psalm 97:10

“You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.”

Psalm 83:18

“That they may know that You, whose name alone is the Lord, art the Most High over all the earth.”

TAKE ACTION:

Sanctification as an impartation—not imitation.

Tragically, the frequent question we get from ‘the world’ - “how can you tell a Christian from the rest of us? - just as drunk, drugged, depressed, etc.?”

Through Christ, we are on a journey of being “sanctified.” Our lives should look different than those of nonbelievers because of Jesus. Many of us are called ‘radical.’ Radical and extraordinary should be normal and distinguished for a Spirit-filled Christ follower.

Sanctification means holy, set apart and used for God.

Impartation means to give, convey, or grant; to communicate the knowledge of.

So “sanctification as an impartation” means impartation of the holy qualities of Jesus to me.

- The gifts such as patience, love, holiness, faith, purity, godliness, self-control that is exhibited through every sanctified heart - your whole being — is from Jesus in us.
- Sanctification is not drawing from Jesus the power to be holy, it is drawing from Jesus the very holiness that is exhibited in HIM - and He now lives in me! His righteousness!
- Full surrender is key!

Therefore, NOW, I can begin to live a life of inexpressible order, soundness & holiness. No excuses! Jesus must be Lord! You must completely surrender - no other gods!

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What is the definition of freedom?

2. Are you struggling with any area mentioned in this chapter? _____ Are you saved? _____
Have you been baptized in water? _____ Are you baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence
of speaking in other tongues? _____ Are you struggling with 'Unbelief'? _____

Strongholds, unforgiveness, core lies, life patterns, idols?

3. Ask the Lord "if I could just _____, I would have peace or joy."

4. What is the Lord showing you? What lie am I believing in this area?

5. What is the truth of God's Word over this area?

- Release it to the Lord.
- Renounce the lie; ask Him for forgiveness.
- Embrace the truth and walk as a new creation in Him. Healed, set free, delivered.

6. What is God speaking to me?

The Healing Ministry of Jesus

Introduction to Healing: Love is the Foundation

Galatians 5:6 (NIV) “...the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (NASB) “¹ If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

We love people and we know that love connects people to God. God so loved the whole world that He sent Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. Jesus ministered with love, compassion, and power. He instructed His disciples to go and do the same.

1 Peter 3:8 “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.”

Perspective on Healing

In **Exodus 15:26** God said, “I am the Lord who heals you.” (Jehovah Rapha)

- **Healing is the nature of God.**

Jeremiah 30:17 (NLT) “‘I will give you back your health and heal your wounds,’ says the Lord.”

Psalms 103:2-3 (NASB) “Bless the Lord...forget none of His benefits...who heals all your diseases.”

- **Healing is the promise of God.**

2 Corinthians 1:20 tells us that all of the promises of God are “yes” and “amen” in Jesus Christ.

DECLARE: I am a receiver of everything that Jesus died and paid for in my life.

The Ministry of Healing Began with Jesus. It's Jesus being Jesus!

Acts 10:38 “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him.”

Luke 4:40 “When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.”

**People need to see and hear of signs of God's love and power in order to believe.
- A witness to Jesus being alive, the same today and forever!**

John 20:30-31 “³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

John 2:11 (ESV) “This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.”

- **Jesus commissioned others to heal the sick.**

Matthew 10:1, 5, 7-8 (NIV) “¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions...⁷ “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”

Luke 10:1 & 9 (NIV) “¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

- **Jesus was crucified, buried, risen and ascended into heaven and left His ministry to His disciples.**

Healing ministry continued after Jesus' earthly ministry. He poured out His very Spirit on 120 people in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord (already ascended) worked with them and confirmed His Word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20)

- **Healing as a ministry of Jesus today.**

Mark 16:17–18 tells us those who believe will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover. There are still believers today, so those who believe in Jesus have the same power and authority the disciples of Jesus' day had.

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

John 15:3-8 “³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

Your Authority in Healing (in context with a close relationship with Jesus - ABIDE)

Jesus healed by commissioning others and giving them authority.

- **Power** is the ability to affect something or make it happen (God’s part) - His power.
- **Authority** is the right or authorization and responsibility to do it (Our part).

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

2 Peter 1:2-4 “² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

We have the fullness of God in us. After Jesus secured victory over sin and death through His sinless life, His death on the Cross and resurrection, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name (Philippians 2:9). Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19) and was given absolute authority with direct access to the Father at all times. His absolute authority has been granted to us, as believers, within the context of His closeness to the Father AND in the context of a close relationship with Jesus and His Father.

We can now access the throne room too because of Jesus. We can “*come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in a time of need*” (**Hebrews 4:16**).

Our authority is not something to take lightly, nor is it something delegated to just anyone. It is something bestowed by a Father upon His children. True authority is directly related to one’s relationship with God as our “Father” because only from this relationship do we go forth as ‘sons.’

Jesus sent out His disciples before leaving this earth. He said “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go...*” (**Matthew 28:18-20**). His followers went out with the assurance of Jesus’ absolute authority, granted from the Father. They went out in response to Jesus’ command to them and using His Name to trample on the power of the enemy.

We are instructed to go do the same thing, in the same authority and assurance of Jesus’ power flowing through us. He trusts us – the question becomes, do we trust Him?

When we speak words that are authorized by the Father — our Father — they have supreme weight in the spiritual realm. When you are submitted to God (under His authority as a son), the devil has to flee from you (James 4:7). Sickness and disease are no match for a son who knows his (or her) authority in Christ! If we speak a word of authority to a sickness or condition (like Jesus rebuked the fever from Peter’s mother-in-law in Luke 4:39), then our expectation would be that it will leave. We must be submitted to God, our Father, through His Son, Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6-10 “⁶ And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Matthew 28:18-20 “¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

What Jesus modeled was the ministry of preaching, teaching and healing. Healing ministry should be part of every ministry because it is God’s desire to heal. Jesus is perfect theology. He modeled and demonstrated the heart of the Father in every situation. In the New Testament, Jesus never turned anyone away. **He healed everyone who came to Him.**

Mark 16:17-18 “¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

“Divine healing is the act of God’s grace, by the direct power of the Holy Spirit, by which the physical body is delivered from sickness and disease and restored to soundness and health.”

Marie Woodworth - Etter

These signs WILL follow you if you will simply believe Jesus.
He wants to heal the sick and set people free through you!

**Our job is to lay hands on the sick and agree with God’s Words in Jesus’ Name.
God’s job is to heal them.**

Healing is God’s Redemptive Plan

Ephesians 2:8 (KJV) *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God."*

It took faith to become a child of God. By grace we were saved through faith. As children of God, we own all that Jesus has done for us – He gave His life for our salvation – our wholeness – body, soul (mind, will & emotions) and spirit. Now we can understand why Peter said, "... by whose stripes you were healed." **The manifestation of our salvation becomes reality when we believe and act on the Word of God – we simply believe and act on what the Word says.** Healing becomes a reality in our lives when we act on the words, "*By HIS stripes, we were healed.*" **1 Peter 2:24** – It is acting on the Word that brings results.

**Biblical faith is not just intellectual trust — it is obedience!
This is critical — acting on and responding to what God said!**

Psalms 107:20 *"He sent His Word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions."*

The Bible teaches us that we have an enemy – the devil - fighting against us, and he is going to do his best to rob and cheat us out of our healing. **John 10:10** states that *'The thief comes not, but to steal and to kill, and to destroy ...'* But when we are equipped with the Word of God, we can resist the devil.

If we will give the Word of God the same opportunity that we give natural medicine, a doctor or what another practitioner prescribes, we will be healed! We urge Christians to believe because God’s Word has lost its reality to them. We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph 1:3) if we only believe and take Him at His Word.

Proverbs 4:20-22 (KJV) *"²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²² For they are life unto those that find them, and **health** to all their flesh."*

NOTE:

According to The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the Hebrew word in verse 22, "health" actually means medicine. This scripture actually says, "... they (God's words) are life unto those that find them and medicine unto all their flesh."

There are three things we are told to do with the Word of God: 1) Attend to it or put it first; 2) listen to it; and 3) keep it in the midst of our heart. (Proverbs 4:20-22)

John 6:63 (NKJV) *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak are Spirit and they are life."*

Ephesians 1:3 (KJV) *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."*

1 Peter 2:24 (KJV) *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."*

Remember—Jesus said on the cross, 'It is finished!'

Matthew 8:16-17 (NKJV) " ¹⁶ When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.' "

Infirmities: disease, sickness, weakness.

Sicknesses: malady, infirmity, disease.

Isaiah 53:3-6 (KJV) " ³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Psalm 91:16 (NKJV) "With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Psalm 103:2-5 (NKJV) " ² Bless the Lord, O my soul. And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Mark 9:23 (NKJV) "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'"

Romans 10:17 (KJV) "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

Psalm 119:89 (KJV) "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

Hebrews 10:23 (KJV) "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised."

Receive Healing

1. Start with a right heart before God and pray.

James 5:14-18 (NIV) "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

2. Know and believe that Jesus has already provided healing.

Isaiah 53:4-5 " ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

3. Settle the issue that healing, like salvation and deliverance, is in the atonement.

- Jesus, by giving His life on the cross, paid the price for our salvation and healing. There is power in the blood of Jesus!

1 Peter 2:24-25 “²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

John 3:16-17 “¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

- Saved is “Sozo” meaning not only saved from sin but salvation of soul, body, and spirit - saved, healed, & delivered.

Through Christ’s atonement, God provided many blessings for the world He loves. Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection became a complete triumph over Satan and the kingdom of darkness.

The Atonement Affords Freedom From Every Bondage:

- Freedom from bondage to sin, guilt and shame, demonic oppression, to any or all satanic activity, to sickness, disease and mental illness.
- Labels keep you trapped. Labels predict and control behavior — who you become; your actions begin to mold to the label!

NOTE: PULL off any labels that have been spoken over you or that you have spoken yourself. NO excuses! Labels — psychology, trauma, informed care, programs using — “I AM” this, etc. You can now say “I WAS.” 1 Cor. 6:9-11: *You were these things!* Labels keep you trapped. Life is managed around the label. Let the Kingdom of God manage your life as you ‘**seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**’ (Matthew 6:33)

We receive healing like we receive salvation or deliverance. **We receive His free gift by grace, not works. We believe in Jesus and believe Jesus** - not only believe in the man but take Him at His Word.

4. Focus on God's Grace - His Goodness.

Let Jesus be Himself and do what He does – saves, baptizes, heals and delivers because He is good.

Acts 10:38 (NLT) *“And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”*

2 Corinthians 12:9 *“...My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”*

Colossians 2:13 *“And you...He has made alive together with Him.”*

John 10:10 *“...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

Psalms 103:1-5 “¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! ² Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with

5. Rest

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

If God said He'll do it, He will. You can count on His Word. We walk by faith, not by sight. Don't look at what you are seeing, but rest in knowing that God is at work, and He who began a good work in you will complete it.

6. Leave no room for doubt.

The enemy's strategy is to lie to us. **Doubt is the result of believing or entertaining a lie.**

Many people want to see the results before they believe they are healed. **Faith demands we believe we are healed before we see results.** For example, if the symptoms come back, the enemy would say you are not really healed. That is a lie! Give the enemy no place. Choose to take God at His Word and stand on it until you see the manifestations of His promise to you.

All lies lead to hopelessness, and hopelessness is not of God. He is our Hope!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: “⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, Neither fornication, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were [e] sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen.”

Declare the Truth

Just as I accepted Jesus as my Savior for life, I accept Him as my Healer for life. I no longer live with sickness and disease. I can enjoy a long life of health. Jesus, Himself, took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses. What He bore, I need not bear! Because He bore my infirmities, because He bore my sicknesses, I am healed! I am free! I choose to live long on the earth, to go home when I am full of years and at God's appointed time.

I am a believer, not a doubter. God's Word works! All things are possible to those who believe. And I believe God's Word. I believe God is my Savior, Healer, Deliverer and Provider, in Jesus' Name! I accept His Word, and I acknowledge that God's Word is truth. I will not forget His benefits. He is my Healer, and according to the Word of God, I am healed, and I receive it. I keep the Word of God before my eyes. I am well and whole and doing what God has called me to do.

In the face of symptoms, pain or anything else that the devil tries to use to cause destruction, I will speak the truth of God's Word and receive my healing because by Jesus' stripes, I am healed. I want everything that belongs to me in Christ. I don't want to settle for second best or third or fourth best. If the Bible says it's mine, I am going to believe it and receive it, through faith, in Christ's finished work on the Cross as I abide in Him.

Healing was not just for the first disciples. The power of God is still present today to heal, deliver and set people free. I receive the healing power of God through faith and prayer. I can minister that healing power to others because Jesus is the Healer flowing through me. I pay attention to the Word of God. I take heed to the Word that I hear. I line myself up with the Word. For as I am in agreement and obedient to God's Word, I will see results. Thank you, Jesus for saving me, healing me and filling me with your Spirit so that I can become all that God has created and redeemed me to be – a witness to your goodness and grace!

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What does God's Word say about healing?

2. Are you struggling with any area mentioned in this chapter? _____

3. Ask the Lord if there is any area from which you need healing.

4. What is God speaking to me?

5. Write out your prayer to the Lord.

Session 5: Recognize Oppression and Eliminate It

Oppression is real and is from the enemy. We don't want to give the devil a place or platform; however, the devil is real and he is your enemy. His plan is to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). Part of being aware of the attacks of the enemy's schemes is to understand his role and his place. While he may seek to destroy you, his place is under your feet!

Romans 16:20 (NASB) *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet..."*

Psalm 8:6 (NASB) *"You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet."*

Where do Satan and Demons Come From?

They are created beings – **Satan is not the opposite of God. He is not equal to God in any way. God has no rival (no equal)!** Satan is a being originally created by God to be good.

1. He was an Angel of the highest rank (a Guardian Cherub) named Lucifer (Ezekiel 28:12-18). He knew the Glory of God as few other creatures knew it.
2. He became jealous of God's Glory and desired to be like God, if not become God himself (Isaiah 14:12-14).
3. Because of this pride, he was cast out of God's presence and lost his position. He became the epitome of that which is ungodly (Luke 10:18).
4. When he rebelled, he took one-third of the angels with him (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:3-9).
5. He desires to be worshiped (Matthew 4:8-9). He is a murderer and liar (John 8:44). He is waging war against you (Ephesians 6:11-12).
6. He does not have the power to create – only to imitate or counterfeit, manipulate, confuse and deceive. He has power, but it is limited. He doesn't want you to know that. (Read limitations in the book of Job) (1 John 5:18; Hebrews 2:14; Matthew 4:1)

Man was given dominion (authority, control, and rule) over the earth at Creation but gave it over to Satan when he sinned. Satan now has limited rulership over the earth until Christ's return. Satan knows he is defeated but he tries to hurt God by turning His creation, whom He loves, away from Him. Satan desires that man worship him, not God. It is a battle for our souls. Whom will we serve and worship? We get to choose! **There is no neutral ground.** If we belong to Christ and know our identity in Him, Satan's legal right to have dominion over us is broken. This doesn't mean he will automatically leave us alone. However, Jesus won a decisive victory over Satan on the cross. The battle is won, but we participate in occupying our territory until Jesus comes. Satan's power is broken when we stand in our authority in Jesus Christ. It is when we don't understand and exercise this authority or don't come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ that he easily influences and destroys.

Can Demons Affect Christians?

Because we live in a world under the rulership of Satan, he can oppress the body and soul of a Christian particularly in areas not under the Lordship of Christ. He can oppress (persecute, abuse, torment, depress and keep someone in hardship through the unjust use of authority). Jesus came to save the lost, heal the sick, deliver the tormented and provide reconciliation to God and eternal life with Him. If the believer is dealing with something, Christ came to set them free!

1 John 3:8 *"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."*

It doesn't matter what the issue is; the answer is always JESUS!

Healing, Deliverance, and Freedom really can be used interchangeably. **Remember that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. It's about the presence of Jesus - us being full of Him - not just the absence of the enemy.** Anything that stands in the way of our relationship with Him needs to be removed, whether it's anger, unforgiveness, strongholds, bondage, addiction or even demonic oppression. No matter how we define it, the key for the believer is to receive freedom that is only found in Jesus.

Divine healing is the act of God's grace, by the direct power of the Holy Spirit, by which the physical body is delivered from sickness & disease and restored to soundness and health.

Marie Woodworth - Etter

No Fear in Deliverance

Deliverance is probably not what you've heard that it is. It is not like in the movies or Hollywood. It is in the Holy Word! It is for believers! It is nothing to be afraid of and is totally non-threatening to the individual. **It is simply healing by removal of the cause of the problem.** Deliverance is often without any significant manifestation (outward sign) and is completely non-threatening to the one receiving the ministry. It is simply praying for the individual, inquiring of the Holy Spirit, and letting Him do the work. We are just facilitators for people to encounter God's Presence. We do nothing apart from Jesus!

If all permission to be there, and to stay there, is canceled, then the demons must be obedient to the command, in the name of Jesus Christ, to leave. Deliverance cannot take place against someone's will and can even involve more than just his or her *willingness* to be free. Often it requires a *desire* to be free.

Deliverance is a truth encounter, not just a power encounter. It is not a ritual or formula. God will speak to the person personally. Demons are all liars, but they will submit to the truth of the Word of God and the powerful name of Jesus Christ. The bottom line - you choose if you want to live free. You choose to follow Jesus. No demon can stop you from calling on the name of Jesus!

Command the demons to go and never to return in the NAME of JESUS. They will do as they are commanded, period. Every demon power will bow at the name of Jesus Christ. Now that you know the foundation of the gospel, are aware of the enemy's schemes, and how you as a believer are set free, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any access points, lies, sins or beliefs that give the enemy an entrance to your life. Ask Him to reveal them so that you can walk in the freedom Christ paid for you to have.

Spiritual Warfare Should Not Be Complicated

The world of magic, sorcery, and witchcraft has captured the minds, imaginations and hearts of this generation like nothing else before it. Yes, we are at war – but how do we enforce the victory that is already ours through the cross?

It is easy for Christians to be led off course. The enemy has used spiritual warfare as a decoy within the Church to absorb time, effort and valuable resources to focus on past wrongs, when everything we have is already given to us in Jesus. People are searching everywhere for healing and deliverance, but the true key is **obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit**, not simply taking someone else's method and expecting the same result.

One of the greatest needs in the Church is that we return to the simplicity and fullness of God's Word. We have complicated things to the point that the average believer stands confused and in needless bondage. **Our view of God should be so much greater than the view of evil.**

Psalm 81:13-14 “¹³ Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!
¹⁴ I would soon subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries.”

There is only one reason why we suffer defeat at the hands of the enemy and that is because we take our eyes off Jesus and are enticed by sin. It is just like the Old Testament – Israel’s sin was disobedience in failing to keep God’s Word. Loving obedience to God and His Word places God on our side and victory is assured.

The Finished Work of Jesus

We have lost track of this one simple, yet imperative truth and replaced it with a vast spectrum of complex ‘solutions’ and interventions. Unfortunately, the average believer, in his biblical insecurity **and** knowing of God’s word, has become caught up in various false doctrines, thinking ‘experts’ have discovered some lost revelation that holds the key to spiritual victory. The finished work of the Cross is all we need to receive answers to our prayers, healing and staying free. May God open our eyes afresh to the value of getting alone with Him in prayer and in His Word. A right heart before God is all that is necessary for answered prayer to become the person God created and redeemed us to be.

When Jesus ascended into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of God, His fulfillment of the new covenant was completed. We now have access to the throne room of God because Jesus is our High Priest (Hebrews 5).

The Good News

Jesus came to set the captives free.

Luke 4:18 (KJV) “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*”

Acts 10:38 (KJV) “*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*”

Jesus Gave You the Same Authority

Luke 9:1-2 (KJV) “¹ Then he called his twelve disciples together, {Divine call} and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.” {Spiritual authority is never exercised over people, but only over the spirit world of darkness.} “² And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.”

"Jesus" is the Name of absolute authority. His name is above all other names. The authority of Jesus' name is given to everyone who believes in Him for salvation through the forgiveness of sins. Every believer has the right to tell demons, "GO" in the name of Jesus, and the demons must obey.

Know who you are in Christ. Know who you are fighting and know how to fight.

Jesus says in **Mark 16:17-18**, *"and these signs shall (not maybe) follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues."* Verse 18 says, *"they shall take up serpents..."* (this refers to putting away demonic spirits not actual snakes).

In **Luke 10:19** Jesus says, *"I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."* (This is the domain of spiritual authority. It is only over spirit beings and not over humans).

We are told in **2 Timothy 1:7** that *"God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind."* Such power comes from the Holy Spirit.

Legal Permission of the Enemy

When you enter into the spiritual realm by participating in demonic activity, you are inviting (invoking) spirits and are entering by your own authority, making it legal! Jesus came to set the captive free and you, as a follower of Him, have authority. The enemy can only gain access by your own consent. Permission can be granted in many ways. The Holy Spirit honors your will; demons must also. They cannot intrude without some kind of permission. Once permission is granted, the demon takes up residence in the soul or flesh and begins to build a kingdom bent on destruction. Jesus says that Satan works to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10). There isn't a demon power with any other function. Once the door is opened then **oppression** begins because the demon has been granted permission to be there.

Participation = Permission

Part of the freedom and deliverance process is to determine what entryways are granted to evil spirits or what permission the demons have to be there. The fact that they are there indicates they have permission. **The question now is, do they have permission to stay?**

Example: There was a shed whose door was left open overnight. The owner realized things were being chewed on and destruction was happening in the shed. The opened door let a rat in! Once the owner realized a rat was in there, he kicked it out and shut the door. It no longer had permission to be there (door was now closed) or to stay.

Things to remember:

1. “Manifestation” of something does not equal the Holy Spirit.

Many times in churches or other places, if we see a manifestation of something or feel something, we assume it is always the Holy Spirit. We need to not take things at face value — being moved by what we see or feel, but discern. What is the ‘gospel’ being preached? Is Jesus being exalted? Are people being convicted, corrected and led to repentance? The Holy Spirit will not exalt Himself above Jesus.

Jesus never describes the Holy Spirit as an emotional response. He describes Him as a helper, a comforter, a counselor and an advocate. The Spirit dwells inside of each believer to teach, to remind, to guide into truth, to convict, to empower obedience, and to bear witness to Christ.

1 John 4:1 *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

2. Signs and wonders (or manifestations) do not equal right relationship with God.

Many places in the Bible, we see God moving mightily through signs and wonders. He will do what He desires to get His peoples attention or to move on their behalf. However, many today who call themselves believers, operate in gifts (seen to some as signs, wonders or manifestations of the Holy Spirit). We begin to see these gifts and assume the person using these gifts is right with God and everything they do and say must be of God. However, the Bible warns of false signs and lying wonders that are not of God. There are times when God uses someone not right with Him to prophesy, to accomplish His will (Ex: Balaam, Numbers 22-24). We need to believe God and His Word and not put more value on what is seen than what He has already said. God can use signs, but He has already given His Word. We need to believe without having to see.

John 4:48 *“Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”*

Matthew 24:24 *“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”* (Also **Mark 13:22**)

2 Thessalonians 2:9 *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”*

Example: A true story of a Pastor in Africa — Jesus said, “If I came today, I would not take you.” Shock of all shocks! He was seeing marvelous healings and miracles; hundreds of people getting saved at his services. He had hidden sin that was separating him from God. God was telling him to deal with it. Go and sin no more! Eternity is at stake.

3. Check your own heart and life to make sure you are right with God.

Use God-given discernment when “seeing” or “experiencing” manifestations as to whether it is of God or not. If not of God, have nothing to do with it.

1 Corinthians 10:21 *“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.”*

Matthew 6:22-24 *“²² The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

Romans 1:18 *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”*

2 John 1:7-11 *“⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. ⁸ Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. ⁹ Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; ¹¹ for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”*

1 John 5:21 *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”*

Possible Doors to Enemy Oppression:

1. **Disobedience / Unconfessed Sin** — Sin in your life leaves areas still under the control of the enemy of your soul. **Romans 13:13-14** says, “*Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust.*” Paul was writing to Christians like you and me, not to pagans.
2. **Unforgiveness, Bitterness, Anger** — Will give permission for demons to torment believers. (Matthew 18:21-35)
3. **Immorality** — Sex outside of marriage or any perversion or expression outside of genetic and biological male and female. This not only opens doors to demonic oppression but can also create a soul-tie that gives demons permission to stay until the influence is broken — the sin dealt with through repentance. Pornography is a strong addiction bent on your destruction.
4. **Lust** — This includes lust for money and material things or for bodily appetites such as food and sex. Envy, covetousness and jealousy are certain doorways or demonic influences.
5. **Pain** — both physical and emotional — Pain will many times invite an addiction, demonic influence, to numb the pain resulting in more bondage. Pain causes people to become vulnerable and react impulsively, be irrational, or violent to stop the pain. Emotional pain can be feelings of rejection, abandonment or negative words spoken by other people, such as a parent, doctor or teacher that result in ridicule, humiliation or condemnation.
6. **Negative Words Spoken** — As children of God, our tongues have a lot of power. “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit...*” **Proverbs 18:21**. “*Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life...*” **Proverbs 13:3**. God greatly desires for us to use this power to bring glory to His name and His kingdom. He wants us to speak with love and boldly declare truth, declaring or speaking in agreement with God’s words. Satan tries to keep people in the dark about the power of our words, entices us to use them for harm instead of hope. That is why we must surrender our whole selves to Jesus Christ. When we call Him Lord, that makes Him our Master and makes us His slaves so that the Lord can enable us to speak in agreement with His Word. When Jesus is Lord, negative words you have spoken or that have been spoken over you lose their power. Going forward, the Holy Spirit will convict you about putting voice to the negative thoughts about yourself or others.
7. **The Mind** — The mind is clearly the battlefield. Whatever you allow through your eyes and ears can be entryways for demon powers. Entry points can be books you have read; something as simple as fascination with Greek, Roman or Egyptian mythology; or movies that involve fear, depict sin, as well as TV programs and cartoons. Fantasized creatures becomes children’s friends — these imaginary friends are familiar spirits. Children can become tormented by nightmares and act out. Parents bear a heavy responsibility and yet many simply turn their heads.

If you are looking into the Word to condone or get permission to do something, that is a red flag! There are no gray or neutral areas!

Closing Spiritual Doors to the Enemy

Don't dabble in or play games with the occult - even out of curiosity! Be vigilant!

1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

Today, many people dabble in the mystical, occult arts. Is there anything wrong with being involved in these practices? Yes, the Bible takes a clear position on this subject, strongly denouncing these practices. God created us and therefore owns us. He has a right to set the rules for our lives. God's Word indicates that these practices are part of Satan's strategy of evil tricks and deception, designed to lead us astray. Satan and his demons are real beings set on our destruction. Christians are warned in **Ephesians 6:11** to... *“put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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.”*

The word “occult” is generally associated with secret knowledge and practices dealing with the supernatural or “psychic” phenomena, often for the purpose of obtaining personal power. Occult practices rely on demons or spirits to achieve their goals. Occultism is rapidly increasing throughout the world. There are now thousands of publishers of occult books and magazines (not to mention websites). Interest in the occult has been promoted by the New Age movement, the rise of Neo-paganism, movies and even some music artists/genres. Always check the source - where did this originate? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to stay away from and close the door. **The enemy comes in like an angel of light, trying to make things look innocent and fun.** But they are not. They are access points - permission for him to oppress.

Close the Door

The NT warns all believers against idolatry and worship of false gods. Today, idolatry manifests itself in various forms. It explicitly appears in false world religions, as well as sorcery, satanism, and other forms of the occult – such as energy healing, universalism and martial arts. It is found wherever believers participate and trust in the world's wisdom that opposes God or is contrary to God's commands as revealed in His written word. Finally it occurs within the church when people believe that they can serve God and experience His salvation and blessings, and still participate in wicked pagan practices of the world at the same time. God warns us to stay always from all forms of idolatry (1 Cor 10:14; 1 John 5:21).

People naturally look to other things and places to obtain what they perceive they don't have. God desires we have child-like faith – God said it, now believe it and settle it once and for all. Jesus is more than enough!

Romans 1:16 *“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes...”*

Isaiah 33:13-16 says,

“¹³ Hear, you who are afar off, what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might. ¹⁴ The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: “Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” ¹⁵ He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil: ¹⁶ He will dwell on [a] high; His place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; Bread will be given him, His water will be sure.”

Scripture is telling us that there is no protection from God for you if you do not hide your eyes from seeing the shedding of blood and hold your ears from what's happening in evil. When you watch those things in video or TV – horror, mutilation, and murder – there is no protection from God from fear and tragedy.

We must guard our hearts as to what we look at. Does it have evil, violence, rape, murder – does it portray or endorse other spiritual philosophies outside of God? When you open your eyes and heart to evil things or things that oppose God, you are desensitizing yourself to the Spirit of God and condoning it in your heart. Even if you are not doing it – only watching or reading - you are participating as an accessory to evil because you are condoning or endorsing it.

Works of the Flesh

Galatians 5:19-20 (KJV) “¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,”

Witchcraft (Sorcery): Strong's #5331 in Greek. It is the word pharmakeia. It is from the root word numbered word 5332, pharmakeus, which means a drug, i.e. spell-giving portion; a druggist (pharmacist) or poisoner, i.e. a magician, a sorcerer. Going back to 5331, it literally means in Strong's – medication (pharmacy).

What would you want for your children? Your child to be maintained on a drug while living here on earth or would you want to get to the root problem or eliminate the problem, therefore eradicating the symptoms and restoration to health? God shares a more excellent way – He offered up His life, shed His blood for the remission of sins and through the atonement, we were made whole! That is our prayer.

However, the greatest miracle and the most important pursuit while on this earth is to know God personally, through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. The transformation of lives because of a new regenerated heart – alive in Him, is the most important decision you will make. Aligning our lives with God’s Word and knowing Him as our Lord and Savior is more important than anything because where you spend eternity is at stake. A transformed heart and our eternal salvation with Jesus is the greatest miracle of all.

If you are being managed by your diseases, then we bless you and continue to pray for you. We will encourage you and walk with where you are in your faith and knowledge of God. Our desire is to not represent your disease management; but represent your freedom in Jesus Christ. We minister the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gospel of the Father who sent Him and we choose to believe and hold out for Him. May it be unto us according to His Word. Our prayer is that your faith would grow as you grow to know God. We are not seeking after healing miracles, we are seeking to know our Healer!

Luke 1:37-38 “³⁷ For with God nothing shall be impossible. ³⁸ And Mary said, Behold the handmaiden of the Lord, be it unto me according to Your Word...”

There are many professing Christians that no longer believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, without error and is the standard by which we live and will be judged. Many have been taught that His grace abounds regardless of what or how we live. Many are taught that God is love and that He understands and is okay with our habits, hang-ups and life choices, regardless of what God’s Word actually says. Because of so many false doctrines, confusion and a false sense of perception of who God is and our relationship to Him, people are living in deception apart from God. What He demands is trust and obedience. Yes, God is loving and gracious, but He is also a just judge.

Deuteronomy 32:4 God is true and just. *“He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without inequity, just and right is He.”*

What is hindering you from walking in wholeness and the fullness of God?

No Excuses for Demonic Entanglement

We learn from the OT that the fundamental nature of Israel’s repeated spiritual decline is their failure to separate themselves completely from the evil culture around them. Instead, they questioned the standards of God, began to forsake the covenant relationship with God. They began to want the benefits and pleasures of the nations around them and they quickly lost confidence in the power of God. Inevitably, the **syncretism** of the other cultures, lifestyles, and worship of other gods took place. Likewise in the NT, Jesus and the apostles reveal that toward the end of the age many within the church will depart from the true faith in Christ and His revelation / commandments in the Bible (Matt 24:10-12, 24; 2 Tim 1:15; 4:1-4; Rev 2-3).

SYNCRETISM =
the fusion of diverse philosophies or practices;
the fusion of pagan religions with Christianity

In the OT, such as the book of Judges, we see demonstrated the disastrous effects of compromise, falling away, and bondage. Only a fervent faith, a sincere gratitude, a persistent attempt to seek God and His ways and a constant rejection of the ungodly ways of pagan society will enable God's people to maintain their first love, vision, and purity.

Unbelief and rebellion are not insignificant. They are an affront to a righteous God and as such will be visited by His judgement. When people of God compromise their relationship with God, they will lose God's promised blessings and presence. However, God is a merciful God, ready to respond to sincere repentance from His people. He always makes possible a new beginning by grace through faith in Him.

The Nature of Idolatry

Why was idolatry so attractive to the Israelites? The same reasons it is attractive and seductive today. God's people are influenced by nations and the culture around them and begin to compromise by participating in or imitating the things they see and believe might benefit them, instead of obeying God's command to keep themselves holy and separate from them. Today, people are participating in anything that works – regardless of the source, composition, or truth. Tragically today, just like in Bible times, God's people believe it is possible and justifiable to worship both the Lord and other gods.

The Bible makes it plain that a carved idol in and of itself is nothing – (1 Cor 8:4; 10:19-20). However, behind all idols and pagan spiritual practices, are demons, spiritual beings controlled by Satan. In other words, the power behind idolatry is the power and activity of demons, and demons do indeed have great power in this world. Christians know, of course, that the power of Jesus Christ is greater than that of demons. Nevertheless, Satan as the 'god of this world' (2 Cor 4:4) exercises tremendous power in this present evil age (1 John 5:19; Luke 13:16; Galatians 1:4; Eph 6:12; Heb 2:14). He has the power to produce counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders (2 Thes 2:9; Rev 13:2-8, 13; 16:13-14; 19:20) and to impart physical and material benefits on people.

This relationship between idolatry and demons is seen more clearly when we realize how intricately pagan religious practices are linked with such things as spiritism, sorcery, divination, enchantment, witchcraft, necromancy (2 Kings 21:3-6; Isaiah 8:9-11; Rev 9:21). According to Scripture, all of these occult practices involve paying homage to demons.

The NT calls covetousness (greed) also a form of idolatry (Col 3:5). Because demons are able to give material benefits and perform miracles, signs and wonders, people who are not satisfied with what they have, or even know what they have in Christ, will not hesitate to give their

allegiance and trust to the principles and desires of those spiritual beings who can get them what they want. Though people may not worship gods made of wood and stone, they do worship the demons that stand behind greed, discontent and pagan religious practices. Jesus' statement that we "cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24) is essentially the same as Paul's warning that believers "cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons (1 Cor 10:21).

God's Response to Idolatry and Syncretism

God will not tolerate any form of idolatry or mixture of spiritual practices and philosophies (syncretism). God repeatedly warned against the worship of any God except the Lord God of Israel. Linked with His command not to serve other gods was a command to destroy all the idols and to break down the images and altars of the pagan nations in the land of Canaan. God became angry with His people for failing to be separate from the rituals and lifestyles of the pagan nations as well as for failing to destroy all the idols in the promised land. Instead they participated in and adopted the worship of false gods, which are demons. God punished them by allowing their enemies to gain control over them! They found themselves in pain and bondage.

God backs up His warning with the statement that those who engage in any form of idolatry will not inherit His kingdom (1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Rev 22:15). The good news is that once you know truth, you can repent and return to God, through His Son, Jesus Christ. There will be a day when the Lord comes that people will no longer have a chance. Call upon Jesus today, while you have today!

There are many doorways. Here are just some that may surprise you:

- Free masonry, Elk Lodge, Shriners, Secret Societies, Illuminati, Kabbalah, Knights of the Templar, Illuminated organizations
- Ouija boards
- Harry Potter or any demonic, horror book, movie, or game
- Pokémon cards and characters
- Psychology - study of the 'soul.' Carl Jung (Occultist) founded theories and inspirations from a 'spirit guide' named Philemon, and other dead people (necromancy), which has become the basis of modern psychology. He is just one of many occultist or atheist founders of psychology that Christians submit to and practice their theories as truth. Psychology / Psychiatry is secular humanism, which is a religion without God. Tragically people are trapped in deception by these theories for diagnosis, behavior modification, mind control, predictive conditioning using pseudo-science labels and chemical alteration of the mind/brain with drugs. Interestingly, in Rev.18:23, God uses the word 'sorcery' as deceiving the whole world. Sorcery (GK pharmakeia — drugs, magic potions). Do your own research!

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- **Mythology** (i.e. Greek and Roman mythology were real religions and worshipped real demons – they are still real demons on the earth. They are just repackaged today because we believe these demons or gods are fictional as mythology). What deception to the believer today!!
- False Religions: Mormonism, Catholicism, Christian Science, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism
- Spiritism Eastern and mystic religions, to include Native American religious traditions
- New Age – New Thought
- **Enneagram**—sometimes called the Sacred Enneagram. An occult symbol repackaged today with a New Thought/New Age philosophy by spiritual leaders such as Richard Rohr, used as a self-enhancement, personality assessment, leadership building & prayer tool to find your ‘True Self.’ This is a false gospel using Christian language and Scripture out of context. This is in our churches and Bible schools as harmless and spiritually neutral. Don’t be deceived! This is a false Jesus!
- Witchcraft, Occult (witches, sorcery, etc.)
- Satanism, Demon worship
- Fortune tellers, Mediums, Spirit Guides (*are invoked in Mindfulness*), Contemplative prayer
- Black magic, Voodoo, Vodun, Chaos magic, (any magic)
- Spells, Enchantments, Omens, Oracles
- Levitation, Séances, Hypnotism, Clairvoyance, Astral travel
- Color therapy, Handwriting analysis
- Crystals, Horoscope, Tarot cards, Palmistry, Lucky Charms, Magic 8 ball, Tea leaves
- Astrology, Vedic Astrology
- Water Witching/Dowsing (looking for underground water with a stick) / Pendulum swinging, hand fastening/pagan wedding, Feng Shui/Chinese geomancy, singing bowl
- **Channeling — Reike, Therapeutic Touch, Raindrop Therapy** aka Holistic Health Energy Healing
- **Energy Healing** - A belief that energy has divine properties (origin Taoism) or consistency of a ‘Life force’ or psychic/mystic energy flow through psychic energy centers or ‘chakras’ (mystical and mythological energy centers assigned to the body and organs, which also correspond to a specific pagan god. The basis of all Eastern religions, New Age and Energy Healing modalities). Many alternative medicines are packaged with occult teachings and procedures and treatments behind the product – such as essential oils (the word ‘Essence’ in aromatherapy has a different meaning than just the juice of a plant; philosophy is that god (divine life force in pantheism) is in all matter. Energy therapies such as Therapeutic Touch, Reflexology and Reiki are dangerous occult practices taught and practiced by health care professionals. Beware!! Believers are being deceived. They are consenting to invoke (summon, command) demonic spirits simply by participating.
- **Yoga** – Yes, YOGA!!! Believers again are being deceived and wonder why they are chronically sick, in bondage, not happy – stressed, obese, hopeless. These practices are packaged as ‘wellness’ or ‘exercise’ programs. It began as and still is a religious practice/form of worship to other gods in other religions, but sold as exercise in America. Because we view Christianity as intellectual religion, we are deceived. Other religions embrace movement and sound as vital parts of their spirituality. Yoga means ‘yoke’ or ‘unite’: ‘union’ with the god consciousness! The word ‘*namaste*’ a Hindu word that literally means ‘*the god in me bows to the god in you.*’ Know before you go.

- Martial Arts
- Eckankar—'co-worker with god,' worldwide religion — demonic path promising spiritual freedom.
- I Ching — Classic of Changes (book), ancient animal divination — numbers, hexagram
- La Regla Lucumi — African Caribbean inspired religion paired with Catholic saints and rituals. Lucumi means "my friend."
- Lycanthropy — transformation into animals (Ex: a wolf)
- Macumba — Brazilian spiritism paired with Roman Catholic religion — uses sorcery and rituals.
- Psychometry — Greek (meaning "the soul") - paranormal activity and history through touch of an object.
- Rosicrucianism
- Santeria — 'way of the saints' - same as Regla Lucumi.
- Runes — reading like tarot cards, etc. Norse mythology — language before Latin
- Shamanism — African magic through a witch doctor. Founders of wellness companies actually boast about this being one of their founding philosophies, among others, for promoting healing products.
- Scrying — looking into a crystal ball or anything to give visions. (Ex: fire, smoke, water, mirror)
- Thelemite — English term from the Greek word meaning 'to will, want, wish or purpose.' "Exploring and expressing myself is my right and my purpose." Social/Spiritual philosophy - 1900's, Alexander Crowley - English mystic and ceremonial magician. He believed he was a prophet of New Age.

** This is not an exhaustive list, but a few of the more common ways the enemy could gain a foothold in our lives. It is important to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas that are under the control of the enemy. Our intellect, reason and natural minds are capable of being deceived, however, when we invite the Spirit of Truth to expose the hidden (occult) things in our heart, He is faithful to do it. Spiritual beings need to be invited through spiritual doors. We have authority to prevent spiritual doors to darkness from opening through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

**DISCERN the Source. From what 'womb' was the origin or conception?
John 10:10 RULE: *God / Life? Or Satan / Death? You choose.***

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GOOD NEWS

The good news is, if you have participated in these things, renounce it, repent and return to the Lord. Read God's Word for truth. Ask Him to help your unbelief. What an awesome God we have, that He desires fellowship with you and has provided everything you need to live a life holy and pleasing to Him. Begin to know God – not just His names – but know Him and He will reveal Himself by His names! You can't help but love Him and want to trust, obey, and please Him. You will see that He is good! His goodness is what leads to repentance. He delights in you!

REPENT Ask Jesus to forgive you for _____ (whatever it is you have been embracing as truth, or an activity / participation contrary to the Word of God). Commit to make Him Lord, follow Him, and trust and obey His Word.

RENOUNCE the practice in Jesus' Name. Totally turn away from the practice.

COMMAND the anti-Christ spirits that had invitation to be there, and anything attached to that lie, to leave now, in Jesus' Name.

RENEW Embrace the truth and walk in the newness of your revelation of Jesus Christ and His truth.

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV) “¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you will appear with Him in glory.”

REJOICE in what Jesus has done!

Give Him an opportunity to reveal Himself to you as your Healer, your Provider, your Peace.

The Kingdom of God is God's domain and Jesus is the King. If we have received and accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, we are in God's family and have personal access to Him. In that relationship we love, honor, respect, and out of reverential fear, we don't want to tarnish His name or not represent Him well. We love Him and want to please Him; we want to trust Him and live for Him and Him alone.

The fear of the Lord produces so many blessings: life, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, protection, mercy, righteousness and blessings. It is an expected part of life. Life here on earth is not perfect – it is not free from trials and tribulations, but with God, who is good, life is worth living.

Know God; Believe God; Get into the Word of God.

Prayer rephrased from **Isaiah 11:2-3**

May the Spirit of the Lord rest upon you. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding. The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. May your delight be in the fear of the Lord. May you not judge by the sight of your eyes, nor decide by the hearing of your ears; but may you walk in truth and righteousness and pursue the Lord God at all costs. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Eliminating the Enemy's Influence and Oppression: Prepare Your Heart

- Associate deliverance with Jesus and freedom rather than demons and bondage.
- Exercise your faith.

Philemon 1:6 *“that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”*

- Believe that freedom and healing, just like salvation, are God's gift to you through grace in Jesus Christ. This is the same faith you believed in Jesus to save you (the greatest miracle of God).

Example Prayer of Deliverance

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I come against any demonic spirits and I cast out your activity in my life, now! I declare that I have confessed and repented of every known sin, and that Jesus Christ has forgiven me. I declare that Jesus is my Lord. My life belongs to Him! I confess that I am redeemed by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) out of the hands of the enemy!

The Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed me and set me free from your oppression. You have no legal right to touch me. I drive you from my life now, and I command you to leave in the Name of Jesus! I choose Jesus today, and I believe Him as Truth.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that Your blood and Your authority have set me free!

FEAR OF THE LORD

God tells us to love Him and obey His commandments and walk in His ways. He means what He says. He has given us His Holy Spirit so that we can have fellowship and communicate with Him through His Word. Yet many take God for granted; in other words, many have lost the fear of the Lord. Many boast that they are saved and if one sins, everything is okay because we have forgiveness. What God's word actually says is, to 'repent' which means to turn around, walk away from your sin. When God reveals something from His word, as wrong or opposing God, we must turn around and walk away from it. The Holy Spirit will also uncture or nudge you to warn you, but you can ignore Him. We are to no longer participate in it, regardless of what other people do or believe.

When one continues in sin, or anything God views as harmful or evil, it is willful disobedience to God, which will have consequences. The seriousness is that the consequences could affect your eternal destiny! Continuing to participate in something you know God abhors, your heart is not really turned towards God, but to your own desires and your own flesh. You are deceived to believe that because Jesus forgives you of your sins, you can continue in a relationship with God. In the Bible, God eventually turns people over to the consequences of their desires. He removes His blessings and protection, if necessary, to get their attention. God is concerned more with the condition of your heart and your eternal destination than with your comfort.

The fear of the Lord is reverential fear. It is being in awe of God. We are taught not to be afraid of Him; however, that is only if you have a right relationship with Him. *Matthew 10:28* tells us '... to fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.' *Hebrews 10:31* says, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." You are fooling yourself if you think there will not be consequences when we do or participate in things that God warns us not to do.

When the final wrath of God is poured out, those on the receiving end will be very afraid. But in Him, we do not have to fear but we must live in the fear of the Lord – recognize God in all His majesty and power and ask ourselves if we are fully surrendered under His Lordship. Do we trust and obey Him because we love Him? Do we know He is good and has our best interests, regardless of our circumstances? Can we trust Him to know when He says to come and separate ourselves from the world and its pagan practices? We obey Him because He knows best and is faithful to His Word.

In our culture today, there are so many expert voices from professional people who promote their theories and practices that tell us what to think, what is truth and how to behave or comply, especially when it comes to our physical body and soul. Most are compassionate individuals who are serving to help people in distress. Unfortunately, believers listen to them, take them at their word, and trust the institutions that are venues for deceit and compromise. As believers – true Christ followers – we are to view the world and make decisions based on the authoritative word of God, the lens of the Bible. The Bible – God's holy word is the only truth. God gave His word so that we would know Him, choose to be in covenant with Him and live within the parameters and promises of His Word.

What God says in His Word is the final authority.

Proverbs 30:5-6 “⁵ Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. ⁶ Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove (rebuke, chastise) thee, and thou be found a liar.”

When we have physical, emotional or spiritual issues – it doesn't matter what the issue – the answer is always the same – Jesus! So then, who and what is your source of truth? When we make decisions, it is based on the truth of God's Word. Often, though, believers turn to everyone and everything to eliminate their pain and suffering except God. You are diligent to do whatever someone else tells you to do. Then you pray that God will help them treat you effectively instead of trusting in Jehovah Rapha (God your Healer). When one is stressed or anxious, it is customary to seek out a professional for medication instead of calling on the Prince of Peace whose Spirit is living inside a devoted Christ follower. Many do not get into the Word of God, but seek out alternative medicine and therapeutic treatments that, for the most part, originate from the occult.

What are we doing? We are drawn to anything that works quickly to eliminate our pain or satisfy our hunger for something more, no matter what the source. Yes, they work – but from what source and at what cost? This does not please God and will eventually lead to torment and destruction.

Psalm 16:4

“Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips.”

Jeremiah 5:22-25

“²² Do you not fear Me?’ says the Lord. ‘Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. ²³ But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed. ²⁴ They do not say in their heart, ‘Let us now fear the Lord our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest.’ ²⁵ Your iniquities have turned these things away, And your sins have withheld good from you.”

Deuteronomy 32:16-18 (NKJV)

“¹⁶ They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. ¹⁸ Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.”

Deuteronomy 32:16-18 (KJV)

“¹⁶ They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. ¹⁸ Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.”

Where is the fear of the Lord? Who are we to take lightly His grace, or His Word? We mix various world philosophies, treatments and tools with Scripture, and attempt to make it Christian, not knowing that many things have a spiritual component behind it. For example, yoga is not just exercise, it is a yoking or invoking a Hindu god which is in reality a demon. Because many believers do not know the full counsel of God in His Word, people may not know that God calls this mixing (syncretism) and lack of separation from the world, an abomination.

Syncretism (n):

Reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief, as in philosophy or religion. Attempted union of principles or parties irreconcilably at variance with each other.

The American Heritage Dictionary

Is the combining or merging of various distinct beliefs or schools of thought, particularly in religion or philosophies, thus asserting an underlying unity and allowing for an inclusive approach to multiple faiths. It implies a selective adoption of elements from different beliefs without necessarily blending them into a new, cohesive belief system.

Religious syncretism – the fusion of diverse religious beliefs and practices. *Britannica*

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 (NKJV)

“⁹ When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. ¹³ You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. ¹⁴ For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 (KJV)

“⁹ When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. ¹¹ Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. ¹² For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. ¹³ Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. ¹⁴ For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.”

Deuteronomy 28:14 (NKJV)

“So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.”

Deuteronomy 28:14-15 (KJV)

“¹⁴ And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. ¹⁵ But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:”

Revelation 22:15 *“But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”*

Think about all of the ‘world’ theories and systems that promote man’s wisdom from various sources except God. Psychology, contemplative mystic practices, energy healing and other systems and theories of false doctrines are lies. They undermine the Holy Spirit. Satan attempts to deceive by usurping God’s Word and His position through lies and counterfeit signs and wonders.

The ‘world’ represents everything that is opposed to God, His Kingdom and His righteousness.

Destructive Doctrines

2 Peter Chapters 1 & 2 warn us of false doctrines and teachings. Beware – do not be deceived.

Joshua 24:15 *“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or these in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house we will serve the LORD.”*

Revelation 18 – satan deceives all the nations by sorcery (magic/witchcraft/drugs) – people easily follow the antichrist into a one world government and one world religion – they worship him. How can this be?

Romans 1 – God turned them over to strong delusion – those who worshipped the creature instead of the Creator – idols have no power for themselves, but trusting in them for help and protection is indeed the worship of demons.

2 Thess 2:10-11 ... because they refused to love the truth (God’s ways) and so be saved. Therefore, God sends them strong delusion, so that they believe what is false (follow a false line of reasoning).

God warns us repeatedly not to do thing things the pagans do – ‘*do not learn the way of the nations...for the customs of the people are delusion ...*’ (Jeremiah 10:2). He warns us to prevent heresies from being introduced to us that would cause us to go astray from truth. God is serious, and we cannot be casual with our relationship with Him. It is a costly exchange to follow your own heart and participate in things that God warns us about.

Blending spiritual or pagan practices with being a devoted Christ follower is compromise; it is being exploited by people for gain. You are giving permission to ‘host’ a demonic presence to train or disciple you. Pay attention to things that influence you. Do your research – know the source and the spirituality behind them. You will be shocked at how casual we are to accept things because they work or someone deemed them safe and trustworthy, but they are not of God.

Spiritual Secrets – Mind & Body (Spirit)

There is a spiritual component to most of the alternative medical treatments, behavior modification, self-improvement and wellness movements. All of these are packaged as exercise, leadership tools, personality assessments, alternative medical treatments, etc.

Because Christians define their religious beliefs in terms of intellectual creeds and statements of faith rather than body/mind rituals, many do not recognize the practices such as yoga, acupuncture, acupressure, Reiki, Therapeutic Touch, Transcendental Meditation or ‘Mindfulness,’ psychophysiology, martial arts, aromatherapy (essential oils) – any mind/body alternative wellness/medicine practice or therapy as a universal or metaphysical spirituality. Dr. Candy Gunter Brown, a professor of religions and spirituality, conducted a nine-year study on evangelicals and their significant shift from serving one God to many Gods (religious pluralism).

Dr. Brown (2013) described the incidences of the adverse negative effects of the ‘vital force’ or ‘life force’ in the energy practices. These adverse effects included insanity, violence, and mental breakdown with these practices.

Where did it all Begin? The Roots of a Tree. Man chose knowledge over Life.

References:

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- Stamps, DC. Commentary. *KJV Life in the Spirit Study Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishing.
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Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What did you hear in this chapter that you didn't know or hadn't heard?

2. Ask the Lord if there is any area that you have given entrance to the enemy in your life.

Renounce (repent of) the areas you have participated in that are not of God and have opened doors to the enemy.

3. Ask the Lord if there are any items that you need to get rid of. Are there lies I have embraced?

4. What is God speaking to me? What is the truth to replace those lies?

Receive His forgiveness and be restored back to God. Begin to praise Him and thank Jesus for what He has done.

PART THREE

Session 6

Staying Free — You Grow and Go!

Grow - Be a Disciple of Jesus.

The world is desperate for hope. You carry life & hope!

We want to encourage you to continue growing in the Lord and be a true follower (disciple) of Jesus Christ.

A disciple is someone who:

- Obeys/follows His commands.
- Lives a life laid down, fully surrendered to Jesus.
- Accepts the teaching (the Word of God) as truth, learns from the Word, acts and speaks like his Maker, teaches others and assists in the spreading of His message.

Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled with a yoke of bondage.”

The last part of that verse in the New Living Translation (NLT) says “... *don't get tied up again to slavery of the law.*”

- Once you have been set free, walk as free. Don't turn back to the old ways of doing things, the bondage, wrong thinking, etc. Catch the plot of the enemy at the thought stage. Follow God with your whole heart and expect to see Him move mightily in your life.
- Don't put the chains back on! Things happen but we walk free. The armor of God is real — we are ready to contend for what we have been given — victory!
- ***Proverbs 23:7*** “As a man thinks so is he,” NOT *what*. God's perspective, His instructions and outcomes are good!

Matthew 16:24 (NLT) “*Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If any of you wants to be my followers, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.’*”

- Jesus calls you to take up your cross and follow Him. In other words, be His disciple. To be His disciple, you must put your own life aside in order to follow Him, learn from Him, listen to Him, and obey what He says. You can trust that He will take care of the rest.

Philippians 4:9 (NKJV) “*The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*”

John 8:31-32 (NKJV) *“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”*

- You have to abide first! (John 15:5)
- The evidence that you are His disciple is that you know and obey His Word.
- As a disciple, you are to read and study the Bible and obey what it says. It is not possible to be a disciple of Jesus without obeying His Word (John 13:31-38, John 14:15).

John 14:6 (NLT) *“Jesus told them, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’”*

- The Bible, the Word of God, is the source from which you get life.

Through the Word, you get to know Jesus as:

The Way - the way you should go. You can build your life on the foundation of Gods’ Word and see the world through His eyes (biblical worldview).

The Truth (Jesus) which will set you free.

The Life that is found only in Him.

- There is a difference between a biblical worldview and a Christian worldview. Biblical worldview sees the world through the “lens” of the Word of God. A Christian worldview sees the world through the “lens” of a religion, denomination or self interpretation. We have to take God at His Word and use the Word to interpret the world, our lives, etc.
- Not everyone who calls himself a “Christian” is a follower of Christ. To grow and go, you will want to make sure to know who you are following.

Go! Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT) *“Jesus came and told His disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”*

Mark 16:15-18 (NLT) *“And then He told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.’”*

In Christ you have been given the command and authority to “Go.” You don’t have to wait for a special word to be commissioned. Jesus has already given every believer the “go ahead” of what to do in His name. You will get a more specific assignment from the Lord as you walk out life with Him but for all of us - the main commission is the same. Go! Make disciples, heal the sick, set the captives free. You can do that today. Below are some things to remember as you step out in faith and pray for people as the Lord leads you.

Why should you pray for the sick, lead people to freedom or preach the gospel?

1. There are sick, oppressed, hurting and unsaved people needing Jesus.
2. Jesus did it. He healed, cast out demons, raised the dead, all while preaching the Gospel!
3. He instructed us to go represent Him, making more disciples.
4. Step out — even if you don’t feel like you are ready. Don’t let the enemy stop you. Trust the Lord that you have all you need to represent Him well.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. God’s Word tells us it is through the Blood of Jesus and His finished work on the Cross that people can come to repentance, be healed and set free.
2. Know in your spirit that God extends grace to us through faith in His Son, Jesus. It is His will to save, heal, set free and equip people to live fully in Him.
3. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Everything He has said is true and He will do what He says.
4. His righteousness is greater than our sin. There is nothing too big or too bad for Him to restore.
5. Everything must bow to the name of Jesus. There is nothing that can come against the name of Jesus. We have authority in His name to tell the enemy to GO!

6. The Word of God is Spirit and life (John 6:63); health to our body (Proverbs 4:20-23).
7. There is an element of mystery in praying for people, but it is wonderful and amazing to see lives changed by the power of God and see them falling in love with Jesus.

Wrap Up — Now What?

You are commissioned to go make disciples. Free people, free people.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV) “¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

1. Live your life with Jesus as Lord and Savior

Remember when we only emphasize the work Jesus did for us as Savior rather than submission to His position of authority as Lord, it creates a significant flaw/fault in our foundation.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV) “⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

We submit to Him as our supreme and only King and then we benefit from His salvation. This plays out:

- Whether we see the reason or not – we firmly adhere to His words, wisdom, counsel, correction and instruction.
- We no longer evaluate what is good or evil by our perspective. We evaluate by God’s perspective as revealed in His Word – even if it is good. (Ex: the tree of good and evil led to destruction). God is LIFE.
- We live in Him; His life becomes ours.
- He will not come into our lives as second to anything or anyone else.
- Disregard for His Lordship is a reason why some prayers aren’t answered (disobedience, unforgiveness, not treating spouse well, etc.)

- It is impossible to follow Jesus without denying ourselves (forsaking our ways) and embracing His supreme authority. Take up our cross (incorporating empowerment to walk away from sin and the world's systems).
- We can't use human reasoning to determine our actions or beliefs. We must truly follow His leadership. I am no longer independent. Now we can take up the cross and be empowered to live like Christ. We draw from Him.
- The life we have now is by faith in His ability working in and through us.

Jesus warns us – that after His departure another gospel would be proclaimed and widely accepted which would offer salvation apart from lordship.

Matthew 7:21 (NKJV) *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”*

2 Corinthians 11:4 (NKJV) *“For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!”*

- Man would reduce Lord to merely a title rather than a position that Jesus holds in their life.
- People will call Him Lord, but not deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him.

The foundation is vital! A house must be founded on the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

2. Stand firm in the Lord

Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV) *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives...”*

- **Crowd darkness out.** Begin to fill your life with the things of Jesus. Let Jesus dominate your life and any demons will become more and more uncomfortable.
- **Starve darkness out.** Demons feed on the works of the flesh. They feast on hatred, bitterness and unforgiveness. Remove from your life the things on which demons feed.
- **Command darkness out.** As you fill your life with the things of Jesus and cut off the works of the flesh, the position of any demonic influences will become weaker and weaker.
- **Stand your ground.** Take up the sword of the Spirit (the Word of God). Submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Confront the enemy with the truth of God's Word and stand against him until he flees – he has to!

God assures us that when **we submit to the Lordship of Jesus, we can then “resist the devil and he will flee” (James 4:7)**. When you have confessed and repented of every known sin, take your stand against the enemy by praying a simple prayer like the one below. You don’t generally need to know the name of a demon. Simply address the demon in terms of what he does. (For example: spirit of fear, spirit of lust, spirit of infirmity, etc.)

Pray in faith and boldness, based on the promises of God’s Word. As you pray the following prayer, take your stand against every demonic spirit that is oppressing you! Take your stand, resist the devil, and He WILL flee! Thank God, by faith, He has set you free!

Sample Prayer of Deliverance

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I come against all demonic spirits, and I bind your activity in my life and tell you to “GO now,” in Jesus’ Name! I declare that I have confessed and repented of every known sin, and Jesus Christ has forgiven me. I declare that Jesus is my Lord. My life belongs to Him! I confess that I am redeemed by the blood of the Lamb out of the hands of the enemy!

Biblical HOLISTIC Health: The Lord is the Shepherd and Healer of His People

1 Peter 2:23-25 (NKJV) “²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Psalms 23 (NKJV) “¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.”

We pray that you have been blessed through this study and that you continue seeking God and walk out His plans and purposes for your life!

Go back through this manual as often as needed and review the additional material at the back as you walk out your life in freedom in Christ. Remember to always seek the Lord. He knows where you got off track or were derailed by something. He is the answer to fix it. He is all you need!

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What truths from the Lord do you need to remember as you continue your walk with Him?

2. What has He told you to do and will you obey His leading?

3. What is God speaking to me? My response and next steps.



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Scripture References for Salvation

*Scriptures are King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Isaiah 53:4-6 " ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:16-17 " ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

John 8:12 (NKJV) "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.' "

John 8:31-32 " ³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 10:10 (NKJV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

John 11:25-26 " ²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

Romans 1:16-17 " ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Romans 3:10-12 " ¹⁰ As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.' "

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:6-8 " ⁶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure (perhaps) for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸ But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 10:9-11 " ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, 'Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.' "

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NKJV) " ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Colossians 2:13 (NKJV) "And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven your trespasses."

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

1 Peter 2:22-25 " ²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: ²³ Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously: ²⁴ Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. ²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

1 John 2:4 (NKJV) "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

1 John 2:15-17 " ¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 3:4-10 " ⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. ⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. ⁶ Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. ⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. ⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. ¹⁰ In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

Scripture References for Water Baptism

*Scriptures are King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Mark 16:15-20 “¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. ¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

Acts 2:37-38, 41 “³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ... ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Acts 8:12-13 “¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”

Acts 10:48 “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”

Acts 16:14-15 “¹⁴ And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵ And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.”

Acts 16:30-33 “³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”

Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized.”

Galatians 3:26-27 “²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Scripture References for the Holy Spirit

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:2 “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving (hovering) over the surface of the waters.”

Genesis 1:26a “Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

Exodus 31:1-3 “¹ Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship...”

Numbers 11:29 “But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!"

Judges 3:9-10a “⁹ When the sons of Israel cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the sons of Israel to deliver them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. ¹⁰ The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel.” (Their first judge)

1 Samuel 10:6 "Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man." (King Saul)

1 Samuel 16:13 “Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.”

2 Samuel 23:2 “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”

Psalms 51:11 “Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”

Psalms 139:7 “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Isaiah 11:2 “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him...”

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners...”

Ezekiel 36:27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

Micah 3:8a “On the other hand I am filled with power - with the Spirit of the Lord - and with justice and courage...”

Zechariah 4:6 “Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit', says the Lord of hosts."

Scripture References for the Holy Spirit

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 1:18 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 3:11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Mark 13:11 "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit."

Luke 1:35 "The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

Luke 3:21-22 " ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

John 3:6-8 " ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 3:34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure."

John 6:63a "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing..."

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose it to you."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

Acts 2:38 “Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Acts 19:6 “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.”

Romans 5:5 “And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

Romans 8:26-27 “²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:11 “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

1 Corinthians 12:3 “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 “²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

Galatians 5:22-23 “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Ephesians 4:30 “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is God-breathed (given by divine inspiration from His Spirit) and is profitable for instruction, for conviction (of sin), for correction (of error and restoration to obedience), for training in righteousness (learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately - behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage).”

Titus 3:5-6 “⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

1 Peter 1:2 “According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.”

2 Peter 1:21 “For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

Scripture References for Healing

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 20:17 “So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children.”

Exodus 12:13 “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 15:26 “And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

Exodus 23:25-26 “²⁵ So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. ²⁶ No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.”

Deuteronomy 7:15 “And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.”

Deuteronomy 11:8-9 “⁸ Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it; ⁹ And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.”

Deut 23:5; Nehemiah 13:2 “I turned the curse into a blessing unto you, because I loved you.”

Job 5:26 “Thou shall come to thy grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.”

Psalms 29:11 “The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.”

Psalms 30:1-3 “¹ I will extol thee, O Lord; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. ² O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. ³ O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.”

Psalms 41:2-4 (NKJV) “² The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, And he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. ³ The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed. ⁴ I said, ‘Lord, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.’ “

Psalms 91:10 “There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come near thy dwelling.”

Psalms 91:16 “With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Psalms 103:3 “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”

Psalms 107:20 “He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions.”

Psalms 118:17 “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.”

Psalms 147:3 “He healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds.”

Proverbs 4:20-22 “²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

Isaiah 32:3-4; 35:5-6 “The eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. The eyes of them that see shall not be dim and the ears of them that hear shall hearken. The tongue of the dumb shall sing. The tongue of the stammerer's shall be ready to speak plainly. The lame man shall leap as a deer.”

Isaiah 38:20 “The Lord was ready to save me.”

Isaiah 40:29, 31 “²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. ³¹ But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 41:10 “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Isaiah 46:4 “And even to your old age and gray hairs I have made and I will bear, even I will carry you, and I will deliver you.”

Isaiah 53:4-5 “⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Isaiah 57:19 “I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.”

Isaiah 58:8 “Thy light shall break forth as the morning and thine health shall spring forth speedily.”

Jeremiah 30:17 “For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord.”

Jeremiah 33:6 “Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal

Scripture References for Healing

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 4:23 “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”

Matthew 8:17 “He took Himself our infirmities and bare our sicknesses.”

Matthew 9:29 “According to your faith, be it unto you.”

Matthew 10:1 “And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

Matthew 14:14 “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”

Luke 9:1 “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.”

Matthew 14:36 “As many as touched Him were made perfectly whole.”

Matthew 15:26 “Healing is the children’s bread.”

Mark 7:37 “He hath done all things well: He maketh the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak.”

Mark 9:23, 11:22-24 “If thou canst, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

Mark 16:17-18 “¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

Luke 9:11 (NKJV) “Jesus spoke unto them of the Kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.”

Luke 9:56 “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”

Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 13:16 “And ought not this woman...whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond...”

John 1:4 “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

John 6:33, 35 “³³ For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ... ³⁵ For I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth in me shall never thirst.”

John 6:63 “The words I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.”

John 10:10 “...I am come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly.”

Acts 4:29-30 “²⁹ And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, ³⁰ By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.”

Acts 9:34 “Jesus Christ, maketh thee whole.”

Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

2 Corinthians 4:10 “....the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”

2 Timothy 4:18 “The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and preserve me unto His dear Son's heavenly kingdom.”

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

James 5:14-16 “¹⁴ Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

1 Peter 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

2 Peter 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV) “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Scripture References for the Fear of the Lord

Deuteronomy 6:2 "... that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged."

Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,"

Deuteronomy 31:12 "Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law."

Joshua 24:14 "Now therefore, fear the Lord, Serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the river and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!"

Job 28:28 "And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.' "

Psalms 12:1 "Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments."

Psalms 33:18 "Behold, the eye of the Lord is on on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy."

Psalms 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him and delivers them."

Psalms 89:7 "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him."

Psalms 103:17 "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children,"

Psalms 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever."

Psalms 128:1 "Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways."

Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way. And the perverse mouth I hate."

Prov 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Prov 14:26 “In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence and His children will have a place of refuge.”

Prov 14:27 “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.”

Proverbs 19:23 “The fear of the Lord leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.”

Proverbs 22:4 “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.”

Isaiah 11:2-3 “² The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; ”

Malachi 3:5 “And I will come near you for judgement; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, against perjuries, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien - because they do not fear Me, says the Lord of hosts.”

Acts 9:31 “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”

Scripture References for the Book of Ephesians

EPHESIANS Chapters 1-6

Chapter 1 NKJV

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Redemption in Christ

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, **5** having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. **7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace **8** which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, **9** having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, **10** that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. **11** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **16** do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, **18** the eyes of your [i] understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **19** and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power **20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all principality [g] and [h] power and [i] might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Chapter 2 - By Grace Through Faith

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Brought Near by His Blood

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ Our Peace

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Christ Our Cornerstone

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians Chapter 3

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Purpose of the Mystery

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. 14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians Chapter 4 - Walk in Unity

4 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Spiritual Gifts

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The New Man

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Do Not Grieve the Spirit

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let* each one *of you* speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Chapter 5 - Walk in Love

5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Walk in Light

8 For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

Walk in Wisdom

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Marriage—Christ and the Church

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

Chapter 6 - Children and Parents

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Bondservants and Masters

5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bond-servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. 9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

The Whole Armor of God

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [b] wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

A Gracious Greeting

21 But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; 22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and *that* he may comfort your hearts. 23 Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.



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