

BEYOND
THE
VEIL

By

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BEFORE THE CROSS

As we read our Bibles, starting in Genesis and continuing through the last book of Revelation, we follow God's progressive revelation in His relationship with man.

We read in Genesis that upon the sixth day of creation, God said, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,"* and he formed man from the dust of the ground and placed him in the Garden of Eden. God blessed Adam and his wife, giving them dominion over all the earth, with one restraint. They must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For the day they ate thereof, they would surely die. We read that they ate of it, and on that day, they died as a spirit man. They would remain in this state until a second man was born, who would tell Nicodemus, *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. You must be born again."*

It was in Adam's disobedience that man took the dominion God had given him and surrendered it to Satan.

The Bible identifies Satan as the God of this world in 2 Corinthians 4:4. The one who blinds the minds of men lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine upon them.

We read in Ephesians 2:2 where he is referred to as the prince/ruler of the power of the air.

In Genesis 4, we read that after God had driven Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, they continued to inhabit the earth, now in their fallen state, from the realm of the soul.

Man's evil progressed to the point that by chapter 6, we read that God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continuously.

God repented that He had ever created man.

In Genesis 8, we read that He sent a judgment of water, destroying every living creature on earth except for one man, Noah, and his family, who found grace in His eyes.

As we continue reading, in Genesis 12, we learn of the day God chose to separate the human race into two groups. Here, he made a covenant with one man, Abraham, and swore by His own name that He would bless him and his seed, and through them, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The second group would remain unchanged.

Galatians 3:29 tells us that if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs/partakers of this promise.

This covenant group would come to be known over time as the chosen, the remnant, and later as the Church.

This group was to dwell on the earth and coexist with the remainder of humanity until Christ's one-day return.

At that time, everyone who is alive and all those who have ever lived will stand before God at the white throne judgment. Those who believed in Jesus Christ will pass on and forever be His children in paradise. The other individuals, whose names could not be found, will be cast forever into the lake of fire.

As we continue reading the Old Testament, we find that God took Abraham's seed into Egypt, and as He had foretold Abraham, they would remain there for over 400 years.

In God's time, He heard the cry of His chosen people from the slim pits of Egypt. He sent Moses to deliver them and lead them to the land He had promised to Abraham and his seed.

To Moses, the Eternal Almighty God appeared in the burning bush that was not consumed. It was to this man that God proclaimed Himself to be the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.

It was to this Moses that God gave the 10 Commandments and the Law.

The children of Israel were to obey and live under this law until it was fulfilled at the Cross.

During the forty days Moses spent on the mountain with God, he was instructed to build a tabernacle according to the pattern that God had shown him. This tabernacle was to be divided between the outer court and the inner court. The people were to bring their sacrifices into the outer court, where the priest would then offer the blood as their atonement before God. Within the inner court, the Levite priests were to minister to the Lord. There, beyond the table of showbread, the altar of incense, and the golden lampstand, would be a curtain. Within this veil, a sacred area known as the Holy of Holies was to be established where the Ark of the Covenant would be placed. It was here that God proclaimed His presence would be continuous. The priest would minister daily in the outer court, with the high priest entering the Holy of Holies once a year to appear before God with the blood of atonement.

As we continue reading, we learn of the day when God instructed Solomon to build a temple and to permanently place God's presence and the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, within the veil. The ritual of the Levite offering the blood in the outer court daily, with only the High Priest having access to the presence of God once a year, continued. This tradition would remain with the priest of the tribe of Levi, standing between the common man and the presence of God, until Christ's crucifixion.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see the foreshadowing of the second dispensation of the coming Messiah and the shedding of His blood on the cross. We see the centuries of prophets and the stream of prophecies and events that foretold this second dispensation. It begins in Genesis, the day Adam and Eve tried to cover their own nakedness with fig leaves, which God rejected and replaced with the blood-bought skin of the innocent animal. In Genesis 3:15, God foretells the virgin birth by telling Eve (not

Adam) that her seed would bruise the head of the devil, and he would bruise the heel of the woman's seed.

Amos 3:7 tells us, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets.

In this first dispensation, God chose to reveal the coming changes in His relationship with humanity through the prophets. During the Second Dispensation, God chose to reveal the future events of His shift in relationship with humanity through Jesus Christ. Today, God is revealing His coming changes to humanity through the Church, now one with the Scripture, yielded to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, among the many prophecies concerning Christ, we read that Isaiah prophesied over 600 years before his appearing that he would be born.

In Isaiah 9:6-7, it is written,

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end upon the throne of David and his kingdom to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 11:10 says,

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the gentile seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isaiah 50:7

For the Lord God will help me; therefore, I will not be confounded: therefore, I have set my face like a rock, and I know I shall not be ashamed.

Isaiah 52:14

And many were astonished at you: your appearance was so disfigured that it surpassed that of any man, and your form more than that of the sons of men.

Isaiah 53:3-11

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. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon him; and by his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who shall declare his generation, for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief: When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities.

This sacrificial act of one sinless man's obedience whereby we, through our faith, would receive the gift of righteousness and reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. We read in Romans 5:15-17

This is reiterated in Romans 15:9-11.

And the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, for this cause, I will confess you among the Gentiles and sing unto your name. And again, he says, rejoice, you Gentiles with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and laud him, all you people.

The Messiah, named Jesus, would become the stone that the builders rejected and then become the cornerstone of God's everlasting Kingdom, as prophesied in Psalms 118:20-23.

This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise you, for you have heard me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the headstone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

We see this reaffirmed in the New Testament

Hebrews 9:18,

Then truly, the first covenant also had ordinances of divine service and a worldly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle made; the first wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. After the second veil, the Tabernacle, which is called the Holiest of all. Which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid roundabout with gold, wherein was the golden pot with the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant? And over it the cherubim of glory shadowing the Mercy seat: of which we cannot speak particularly. Now, when these things were thus ordained, the priest always went into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the errors of the people: The Holy Spirit thus signifying that the way into holiest of all was not yet manifested, while as long as the first tabernacle was yet standing.

Hebrews 9:11

But Christ, being come as high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is to say not of this building: neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:9-10 KJV,

Then he said, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He takes away the first so that He may establish the second. By which we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

Through the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, God's relationship with man forever changed.

Matthew 27:51-53

And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

The God who had confined Himself in the Holy of Holies would now leave His place above the mercy seat, and as the Holy Spirit, He would come and dwell upon earth in the temple of man.

Through Christ and Christ alone, everyone, regardless of their identity, can now come and experience God's presence.

After the Old Testament ends, the New Testament begins with the book of Matthew. Here, it is verified that Jesus' legal right is as legislated by the prophecies that preceded his appearance—the son of David, the perfect man, who was also Jesus, the perfect God.

We read in Philippians 2:6-7

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men...

John 1:14 states,

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus came to reveal the heart and desire of the Father towards us.

John 10:30,

I and my Father are one.

John 5:19-23 reads,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things soever he does these also doeth the Son likewise. For the father loves the son and shows him all the things he does, and he will show him greater works than these, which you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and makes them alive, even so, the Son makes alive whom he will. For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son. That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which has sent him.

John 6:35, 38 tells us,

I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall never hunger, and he that believes in me shall never thirst... For I come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me...

John 8:12

I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.

John 11:25

I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

John 14:6,

Jesus said unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes unto the Father but by me."

John 6:63

It is the Spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words I speak unto you are Spirit and they are life.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

In John 10:10, Jesus said—

...the thief comes not, but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

Luke 12:32

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

John 12:24-25

Truly I say unto you, except a corn of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone: but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit. He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life.

Romans 5:15-17

But not as the offence, so also the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, has abounded to many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgement was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one: much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of the righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

At the cross, this broken man would suffer and die, defeated and ashamed, yet He would then arise and proclaim to His servant John in Revelation 1:11, *“I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last...”*

Revelation 1:18

I am he that lives and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Jesus foretold this event when He said, *The same as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so shall the Son of Man be in the grave* (Matthew 12:40).

It was here at the cross that the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot, who was foreordained before the foundation of the world, was poured out for you and me.

The innocent blood of our Lord that cried out from the ground was heard before the throne of the Father in heaven.

We find the voice of blood speaks before the throne of God when we go to Genesis 4, where Cain murdered his brother, with God saying in verse 10, *“Your brother’s blood cries unto me from the ground.”*

We go then to Exodus, where God instructed the people to apply the blood of an innocent lamb above their doors and to the side posts so that when the angel of death passed through the land, they would be spared.

We read in Deuteronomy 21:7-9 that when a murdered man was found in the field, all the priests from the city next to it had to shed the blood of an innocent heifer. All the elders were then to wash their hands over the heifer and say,

“Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it. Be merciful, O Lord, unto your people whom you have redeemed, and lay no innocent blood unto your people. So shall you put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you, when you will do that which is right in the sight of the Lord.

We examine the eternal truth of Hebrews 9:22, which states that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Thus, the offering of innocent blood for the sins of the people was instituted through the law of Moses. This blood would be their covering until the day Christ would appear before the eternal judgment seat of God in heaven with his own blood. We read in Hebrews 9:24,

For Christ has not entered the Holy Place made with hands, which is the figure of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

We read in Isaiah 53:11 *that He shall see the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied.*

We now live in the reality of 2 Corinthians 5:21,

...for he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Today, our Savior's innocent blood, which fell to the ground as the soldier pierced his side, still cries out before the throne of God in heaven.

The lamb slain before the foundation of the world has washed us and made us clean with His own blood. We can now freely call upon Jesus' name and begin our lives of limitless love as we partake of the unsearchable riches that are now ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

We must rest now and believe that we are a new creation through the perfect work of the cross.

In receiving Christ, we do not gain the privilege of beginning a journey towards perfection; instead, we must accept it as a fact.

It starts with Jesus Christ and with the fact that God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.

We must cease seeking to obtain the favor and presence of God and take our seat and rest in who we are in the finished work of Christ. We read Colossians 3:3, *"For you are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*

We cannot reason for this in our minds, but instead, we must accept it by faith alone.

For us to fully understand our place beyond the veil, we must first come to believe and experience the complete union of our old, sinful man with Christ on the cross. We must step into Christ and identify ourselves with him on the Cross before we can participate with him in the resurrection. He united himself with us in our death so that we might be united with Him in His life.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Our old self, which was enslaved in sin and alienated from God, has now been judged, condemned, and executed in Christ. Once we have been united with him in death, we are now united with him as a new creation. In Christ, the new creation, who we now are, has also been raised with him and seated in heaven. It is here we now reign with him in life. This is not to be understood by the fallen mind but rather to be received and known from the renewed mind now ours in Him. This is not something we earn; it is something God has done once and for all in Christ. Our part is to receive it, believe it, and walk in the reality of it. For this is our true identity in Christ. It is here that we now live beyond the veil.

As we come to the revelation and realization of this total union, we can then release our faith and come to the stature and fullness of Christ. We can now accept Isaiah 53:5 *But he was wounded for transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Our old man must suffer and die with Christ. We partake in his death and see our sinful man now separated from the Father as he forsakes us with his own Son. We must also descend into hell and be dead with him.

Just as God reached into hell and spoke to the dead Jesus and raised him from the dead, he has now done the same to us.

Romans 6:5&8

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Now if we are dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

Jesus died a man of the flesh and came forth as the living Son of God. We, too, must enter hell and partake of His death. It is only when we see our old man dead in Hell that we will be free to join Christ in resurrection. From here, we can accept the fact that the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead also raised us in him. It is here that we

become the person spoken of in 1 Corinthians 6:17 *But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.*

Who we are now must be seen and accepted within our inner being.

We see the completeness of this union concerning our spirit man in 2 Corinthians 5:17,

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, has quickened (made alive) us together with Christ, (by grace are you saved), and has raised us together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

It is only when we identify ourselves with Christ on the Cross that we can see ourselves one with him in the resurrection. When we read in Colossians 3:3 *For you are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God.* We can now say, as Christ, we too have spoiled principalities and powers and have made a show of them openly triumphing over them. We now acknowledge our rightful place in the Spirit realms, where we have been raised up and now sit as kings and priests together with Christ in heavenly places. (Ephesians 2:5)

“We are now the righteousness of God in Christ, and this truth sets us free. Free from guilt, free from shame, free from the power of sin, free from the opinions of the world. Like Paul, we can say the world is crucified to us and we to the world. We are no longer bound by its values, its judgment, or its systems. We have been translated into another realm. We live in another place. We live from the throne because we are seated with Christ. We reign in life through the one who gave himself for us. This is the glory of identification. This is the finished work of Christ, and this is the truth

that sets us free. When you understand identification, you begin to live with boldness, with confidence, and with authority.”

—**E. W. Kenyon**

It is here in our legal place of dominion that we rebuke and destroy all the illegal works of evil within the kingdom now ours.

From our place of dominion, we now join with Christ in heaven, from where we look down upon sin, sickness, poverty, and every evil thing against us and rule over all things in Jesus' name.

When the Holy Spirit shows us Christ, and we believe in Him, we immediately begin life in union with Him, with no further action on our part.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live. Yet not I, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Our union with Him begins, therefore, in our union with him on the cross.

How can we be sure of this? Because the Bible tells us this is true. God has now put us there. 2 Corinthians 1:21 says, “*Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God.*” It has been accomplished by Him alone, realized by faith, and now received as a gift of grace. Any attempt on our part to discredit this or to try to obtain what is already ours simply retards and hinders the miraculous power of Christ that is now in us today. Our history no longer begins with our natural birth here on earth but has become one with the history of Christ. “Our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away; we are no longer in bondage to sin,” says Romans 6:6.

“That is not an exhortation to struggle. That is history—our history, given by Christ when we are born again. We must believe this. It is true! Our crucifixion with Christ is a glorious historical fact. Our deliverance from sin is not based on what we must do, nor even on what God is going to help us do, but on what is already done for us in Christ.

This was God’s principle from the beginning. In the creation, God worked from the first to the sixth day and rested on the seventh. We may truthfully say that for those six days, he was very busy. Then, with the task he had set himself to now finished, he ceased to work. The seventh day became the sabbath of God; it was God’s rest. But what about Adam? Where did he stand in relation to the rest of God? Adam was created on the sixth day. He had no part in those first six days of work, for he came into being only at their end. God’s seventh day was, in fact, Adam’s first. Whereas God worked six days and then enjoyed His Sabbath rest, Adam began his life with the Sabbath; for God works before He rests, while man must first enter into God’s rest, and only then can he work. Moreover, because God’s work of creation was complete, Adam’s life could begin with rest. And here is the Gospel: that God has gone one stage further and has also completed the work of redemption, and that we need to do nothing whatever to merit it but can enter by faith directly into the values of his finished work.” Watchman Nee

In knowing and living in the crucified life, many believers never truly enter within the Veil.

This can never be realized without the renewing of our minds. This must be achieved; without doing so, much of the truth we receive through the Word will remain locked away within our souls, beyond our reach. No matter how powerfully the new birth has transformed you and how deep your spiritual experience is, or how much you have disciplined your daily life, if your mind is not renewed, you will continue to live within the realm of the natural man. This truth cannot be overemphasized. Your spirit has been recreated and made new, filled with the life and nature of God at the moment of your new birth. However, your mind, your reasoning faculties, your thought patterns, and your habits of perception have not been changed by the new birth. They must be changed through a lifelong, intentional process. That process is what the Bible refers to

as the renewing of the mind. We read about this in Romans 12:2: ‘Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.’ It is not enough to be born again. It is not enough to have received the Holy Spirit. These things make you a child of God, but they do not guarantee you will walk in the riches and victory that belong to you. Because the mind, left unchanged, will continue to function according to the old nature: the old worldview, the old understanding rooted in the senses and the logic of the natural world. That is why our life within the veil is not automatic. The Spirit does not force our mind to change; it is something we must cooperate with. Something you must deliberately yield to by immersing yourself in the word, meditating upon it, and practicing it until it becomes your default way of thinking. This same principle is repeated in several other places in the New Testament. Titus 3:5 says *Not by works done in righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.* Then again, in Ephesians 4:23-24, it says, “*And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*” And Colossians 3:10 where it says, “*and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*” It is an accepted fact that we are now saved, but we must renew our minds. We are redeemed, but our minds must understand our new place in Christ before we can fully walk in it. Our minds must be taught to think God’s thoughts and align with His Word. To reject the lies of the enemy and embrace the truth of our new identity in Christ. This renewal comes through praying in tongues and meditation in the Word. We must let the Rhema of God bring the Logos within our inner understanding into realization. Jesus said in Luke 11:13 *How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.* And again in Luke 12:32, *Fear not, little flock, it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.* God longs to fill every believer with the Spirit without measure. When we ask him he comes and takes up residence and becomes our teacher and brings revelation to those who pray in tongues and renew their minds to accept the fact that they are now one with God in the Spirit, as it tells us we are in 1 Corinthians 6:17 *That we now in our Spirit man have been raised*

with Christ and are now seated with him in heavenly places. It is through our intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit, as we meditate on the Word, that God begins to renew our thinking, cleansing our minds, and rewiring us to understand this reality and live in the present, knowing that all things are possible to those who believe.

“The renewed mind begins to talk differently; it stops asking for what God has already given and begins to thank Him instead. It says my diseases were laid on Christ, and he took them away. I thank the Father, it is done. That is faith in the finished work. That is a mind that has been renewed to know and understand that the Word is more trustworthy than the evidence of the senses. Because yes, the pain may still be there, the symptoms may still linger, but the renewed mind doesn’t accept the voice of the body as the final authority. It says these are the lies of the enemy. The word is the fact, and I choose to believe Christ is now Lord. We refuse to listen to the testimony of the circumstances against us. We choose to believe the Word of God and act upon it. Not because we feel it or see any natural proof of it, but because God has said so. And as surely as God sits on the throne, He will make the Word real in us. Let this be firmly settled: we do not ask for power because the Holy Spirit, the very power of God, is now in us. We do not beg for wisdom, for Christ has been made wisdom unto us. We do not seek redemption because He is our redemption. Everything we need has already been provided in Christ. This is the beauty of our faith life. This is the rest we now have in him. We have stepped out of the old realm of the senses, encompassing feelings and sight. The believer walking in the spirit of a renewed mind has stepped into the walk of speaking our faith, releasing God’s grace and living, and experiencing the unsearchable riches now ours in Christ. Where the Word is the final authority and Christ is all in all. The believer too often remains as Thomas, believing in Christ and yet governed by his senses, “except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, I will not believe, and Jesus in his mercy allowed him to touch and to see, and then he said Blessed are they that have not seen and still believe. This is the life of Faith. Let us not demand evidence before we believe God’s Word. Let us not demand evidence and, in the flesh, make provision before beginning our obedience. Let us believe the Word and then live knowing He cannot lie. We must be renewed in our

minds to accept it, believe it, and walk in it. Renewing the mind is not a one-time event; it is a lifestyle of abiding in Christ as He sanctifies us through the washing of water by the Word, and as we pray in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, casting down every thought that exalts itself against the Scripture. It is here that your recreated spirit becomes the experience of your daily life. As your mind aligns with your spirit, your body will follow. Your emotions will follow, and your circumstances will follow. We keep thinking the Word. We keep speaking the Word. We continually praise God for what He has already done. It is finished! We continue confessing that I am who the Scriptures say I am. I possess what it says I possess. I can do what it says I can do, and He will do what He has said He will do. I walk by faith and not by sight from my place of dominion in Christ. The Word is the final authority, and I will walk in my renewed mind and be as He was while He was here.”

—E. W. Kenyon

Let your mind and soul align with your spirit. You are a new creation now, think like it, act like it, talk like it, and see your life transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Once we realize this fact and enter our rest, then and only then can we begin our lives set free from our sins.

Between the two historical facts of God’s rest in creation and God’s rest in redemption, there lies the whole story of Adam’s sin, which resulted in man surrendering dominion over the earth to Satan, and Christ’s triumph at the cross, where Jesus made a show of openly taking it back.

Colossians 2:15,

And having destroyed principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly triumphing over them in it.

Many believe this and now pray to God in heaven for Jesus to come and use this power on their behalf. But we must understand that beyond this, Jesus not only obtained

dominion over all principalities, and powers, and might, and dominion, and every name that's named not only in this world but also in that which is to come and put all things under His feet, but He has also imparted this to His church.

Ephesians 1:17-23 KJV,

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened that you may know what the hope of his calling is, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. Far above all principalities, powers, might, dominion, and every name that is named not only in this world but also in what is to come. And has put all things under his feet and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

You see, we are the body, and this dominion is also now beneath our feet.

Matthew 28:18-20,

And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying; All power has been given me in heaven and in the earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of this age.

Mark 16:15-18,

And he said unto them, You go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believes not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name, they shall

cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

The fact that the same power that created the heavens and the earth is now living in us must be accepted by us. This is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead.

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you.

Now we will know ourselves for who we are—the vessel of the Holy Spirit with the Spirit of our creator now abiding in us.

The time of Jesus's incarnation as a man has now come to an end. The time in which Jesus walked among men, bringing salvation and reconciliation through His flesh as a man, has now been fulfilled.

The dispensation of God living among men through the Son has now transitioned into the next dispensation of God residing within man. The second dispensation ended at the crucifixion, and the third dispensation began at the resurrection. Our message is no longer a message of history, but now it is a message of the living and risen Christ revealed through us.

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

For those who haven't been exposed to my book, *The Foundations of Our Christian Faith*, I will reiterate the critical understanding of who we are as God's children.

We have each been made in the likeness and image of God. And yet within this, we are different and unique, with individual destinies prepared for our lives here on earth. God gifted us uniquely, and each of us has a special calling and purpose in His eternal plan. No one can ever be like you, nor can you be like anyone else. God loves you completely and made you as you are for His pleasure and glory. For His purpose, you are the height you are, the weight you are, the way you look. You are to discover the dreams and desires He has placed in you as His Spirit works within your spirit to will and to do His desires.

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise.

We must see ourselves as being received and satisfying to God. A perfect God has created us perfect for his individual pleasure, purpose, and place in time.

With this being said, we are all created as man and have the same essence and being.

In the same way God can be seen as triune (three parts), so can we.

MAN IS A SPIRIT THAT POSSESSES A SOUL AND LIVES IN A BODY.

Many great scholars argue that there is no distinction between a person's spirit and soul. This is not true if we place the authority of Scripture above the teaching of the modern church.

Let us examine some verses that confirm that man is composed of spirit, soul, and body.

Luke 1:47

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

John 12:27

Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say, Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose, I came to this hour.

Luke 23:46

And when Jesus cried out with a loud voice, he said, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

We find many more verses in the Bible to support this.

The spirit of man is the part created in the image of God and is born again at the time of salvation.

Scripture speaks of the spirit of man in 2 Corinthians 5:17, where we read,

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

We know this does not refer to our body or our conscious soul.

When we receive Jesus, the perfect Spirit of God comes to live in us. We have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness and now dwell in the Kingdom of light. Our newborn spirit is now alive in Christ. The Holy Spirit is now free to reveal and illuminate God to us through our spirits.

Until we are born again and live spiritually, we cannot even begin to understand the Bible.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 4:23-24

A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

Taken from the writings of Watchman Nee:

And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground” (Genesis 2:7). This refers to the human body. “And breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” This describes how God gave the spirit to man; it was Adam’s spirit. So, man’s body was formed of the dust of the ground, and man’s spirit was given to him by God. “And man became a living soul.” After the breath of life had entered into his nostrils, man became a living soul. The spirit, the soul, and the body are three separate entities. “May your spirit and soul

and body be preserved entire” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The spirit is God-given; the soul is a living soul; and the body is God-formed.

According to common understanding, the soul is our personality. Man became a living soul when the spirit and the body were joined. The characteristic of the angels is spirit, and that of the lower animals, such as beasts, is flesh. We humans have both spirit and body, but our characteristic is neither spirit nor body but soul. We have a living soul. Hence, the Bible calls man’s soul. For example, when Jacob went down into Egypt with his family, the Scriptures tell us that “all the souls of the house of Jacob, that came into Egypt were threescore and ten” (Genesis 46:27). Again, those who received Peter’s word on Pentecost were baptized and “there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

Hence, the soul stands for our personality, for what makes us as man.

The following is a quote from the writing of Andrew Murray:

In the history of man’s creation, we read, “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground (thus his body was made) and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life (thus his spirit came from God) and man became a living soul.” The spirit quickening the body made man a living soul, a living person with a consciousness of himself. The soul was the meeting place, the point of union between body and spirit. Through the body of man, the living soul stood related to the external world of sense and could influence it or be influenced by it. Through the spirit of God, whence he had his origin, he could be the recipient and the minister of its life and power. Standing thus midway between two worlds, belonging to both, the soul had the power of determining itself, of choosing or refusing the objects by which it was surrounded and to which it stood related.

In the constitution of these three parts of man’s nature, the spirit linking him with the Divine was the highest; the body connecting him with the sensible and animal, the lowest; the intermediate stood the soul, partaker of the nature of the others, the bond that united them and through which they could act on each other. Its work, as the

central power, was to maintain them in their correct relation; to keep the body as the lowest, in subjection to the spirit; itself to receive through the spirit, as the higher, from the Divine Spirit what was waiting in its perfection; and so to pass down even to the body, that by which it might be a partaker of the Spirit's perfection and become a spiritual body."

What is spirit? It makes us conscious of God and relates us to God in the spirit.

What is the soul? It relates us to ourselves and gives us self-consciousness. What is the body? It connects us to the world.

—**Watchman Nee**

In his reference Bible, C.I. Scofield explains that the spirit gives God-consciousness, the soul self-consciousness, and the body world-consciousness. Horses and cows are not conscious of God because they have no spirit; they are only conscious of their own beings.

At the time of salvation, we are delivered from the eternal penalty of death brought by the sin of Adam, and our spirit is reborn.

Our soul is the part of us that thinks, reasons, and moves in the realm of intellect and emotions. It is here that we are changed from glory to glory as the Holy Spirit works a renewal and change in us, enabling us to crucify our flesh and yield to the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Our sanctification cannot be accomplished through self-will in struggling and trying, but only by the Holy Spirit as we yield ourselves to God and die to our old self. This is spoken of in 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.

Nevertheless, when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

It is from our souls that, by the decisions we make as we yield to the Holy Spirit's influence, we produce the fruits of the Spirit. When we reject this and yield to our carnal desires, we produce the fruits of the flesh (see Galatians 5:16-25).

The body is our physical aspect, the part of us that we can see and touch. It is the temporal part of our being that Paul calls "our tent." It is born from the mother's womb, grows up, grows old, and dies. The body enables us to perceive the world, allowing us to see things, feel hot and cold, and so forth. Even after we are born again, we have the fallen nature within our flesh, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Even after we are born again, this love of the world remains within our flesh. We either crucify it or allow it to destroy us. Our free will determines this. Even saved, we still retain the sovereignty to choose our own destiny.

When we die here on earth, our bodies return to the dust, and our souls go to either heaven or hell.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now I say brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruption must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

As we see in these verses, our physical bodies will one day be resurrected (unless Jesus returns before we die) and will be glorified at that time.

All people who have lived physically and are now in the grave, whether saved or unsaved, will one day be resurrected.

When we are born again, we are delivered from the eternal penalty of sin. This is known as justification.

As we live daily, we are being changed by the Spirit and delivered from the power of sin. This is known as sanctification.

When we die, we are delivered from the presence of sin. This is known as glorification.

You need to be aware of these different aspects of your being and how they relate to Christ. You have been created spirit, soul, and body. Each of these is important to God and should be important to you as well.

By identifying these different parts of your personal makeup, we can rightly divide the Scriptures as we read them. When we read about becoming new, we understand that this is not referring to our physical bodies, but instead to our newborn spirit. When the Word talks about our transformation and becoming more like Christ, we understand that it is referring to the sanctification of our souls. When the Word tells us we will die, we know it is talking about our bodies and not our souls or spirits.

I provide these examples so that, as you read your Bible, you will ask yourself whether each verse refers to your body, your spirit, or your soul.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE HUMAN WILL

When we read of God creating us, saying, “Let Us make man in our own image and after Our likeness,” we realize that just as God reigns in sovereignty, we have also been given the sovereignty (the power of free will) to choose our own destiny.

Our freedom to choose has the power to reign over God’s will and purposes in our lives. No matter how majestic, wonderful, loving, and kind our God is, He has left man’s eternal and daily destiny to be determined by the individual’s own will and decisions.

God is not willing that any should perish, as He tells us in 2 Peter 3:9, and that He will have all men to be saved in 1 Timothy 2:4.

God has placed us between two borders. On the one hand, He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear but will provide us with a means of escape from every temptation. On the other hand, He has promised us that all things are possible for him who believes.

This is seen in its simplest form in Revelation 3:20 KJV,

Behold, I stand at the door and knock: If any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come into him and will sup with him, and he with me.

Jesus knocks and then leaves the eternal destiny of the individual to the will or decision of the one who possesses the power over the door.

If we choose to reject Him, we also reject His forgiveness and the life He offers. We then remain with our father, the devil, and have chosen our place in the lake of fire with Satan for our eternity.

In reference to Christ's human will being surrendered to the will of God the Father, we can read of it in John 10:17-18

Therefore, does my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from me, but I lay it down myself. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again. This commandment I have received of my Father...

The climax of this commitment was seen in His agony at Gethsemane. Although the Roman government crucified Jesus at the request of the Jewish rulers, He initially chose to sacrifice Himself.

Luke 22:41-44

He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done." And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was as if it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

This is most important for us to understand as we follow Christ.

Your life with God will be determined by your surrendering your will to God and your releasing your faith through obedience.

There is a fact stated in Galatians 5:24

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

The Holy Spirit can only express the new life of Christ after the old man's self-crucifixion. We must face the reality; for us to identify with the crucifixion of Christ, we must choose a life of self-crucifixion. We will do this one decision at a time as we yield to the Holy Spirit.

This demands that we daily deny our flesh and discipline ourselves in our personal lives. When we establish the simple disciplines of discipleship in our lives, we are then in a position to know, hear, and release the Holy Spirit within and through us.

God will not do it; others cannot; only you and you alone can determine if you are genuinely in Christ.

God desires it, but He will not determine the outcome of victory or defeat. You will!

But be doers of the Word, and not merely hearers, deceiving yourselves.

Once we have disciplined ourselves and determined to live the crucified life of the Spirit, we will find true discipleship.

Luke 14:26-27

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not bear their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

John 12:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone: but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit.

Colossians 3:1-5.

If you are now risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on the things on the earth. For you are dead and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with him in glory.

Every true disciple must go alone with God, consecrate themselves, and set their face like a rock to obey God and His will for everything concerning their remaining life here on earth. There is no other way to obtain the great destiny Christ is calling you to.

“Until self-love is abandoned, the believer shall ever shrink back when called to actually take up the Cross of Christ.”

—**Watchman Nee**

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.

There must be a crucifixion of our self-will — beyond surrender unto total death — before the Spirit can mold us as a disciple.

Our first calling is not to do, but rather to die.

Jesus referenced this when he spoke to his disciples: *“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

We find this in Galatians 5:17

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh: and they are contrary to one another: so that you cannot do the things you desire.

This is a reality we will face every day until we pass from this life.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

Nevertheless, the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His. And let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purges himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and fit for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Suppose we do not incorporate the disciplines of discipleship into our daily routines. In that case, we will find ourselves unable to respond in the spirit and become overcomers in those moments when we are tested.

It is not the big things that conquer us, but the little things we fail to do in preparation for the big things before they arrive, that determine victory or defeat.

When we have disciplined our flesh and live a life of spiritual discipline on both the inside and the outside, we will know the victory Christ has provided for us.

A true disciple of Christ will always have these personal disciplines molded into their life, with a clear understanding that they are not to improve on the perfect work of Christ but rather to bring us to realize the unsearchable riches that are now freely given.

READ AND STUDY THE WORD

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

PRAYER

Everything begins in prayer

In the Spirit

In your understanding

In watching and in fasting

GIVING your money

In faith, releasing your miracle increase.

CONFESSION WITH YOUR MOUTH

Your mouth is the steering wheel of your destiny.

Faith is never silent.

In the Spirit through prophecy

In the soul, by proclaiming the creative power of God

WORSHIP

Releasing God's presence and power

WITNESSING TO THE LOST

What you hear in the ear must be shouted from the housetops.

Many of us hold these things in our minds, but we never discipline ourselves to make them the center of our lives.

We must be honest with ourselves as well as with the Holy Spirit and others in what we are doing at any given time, whether it be in the flesh or in the Spirit.

Everything else, from our jobs to our families, to our fellowship with other believers, must be put into order around these first priorities for our lives.

In establishing these disciplines, we need to examine ourselves every night as we pray and give the Holy Spirit time to reveal where we have yielded to the flesh during the day.

We should make an inventory of our time for the next thirty days. Before we sleep, we will record the actual amount of time we have spent in personal prayer, reading the Bible, and each discipline we are incorporating into our lives. As we take the time to do this, we will discover if we are actually doing the right things or if we are agreeing to them in our minds while letting the things of the Spirit slip away from us.

During the thirty days, we can make the necessary changes to become true champions for God.

This is a beneficial practice to engage in periodically throughout our lives.

Once we have established the disciplines of true discipleship, we are in a position to decide, “How much do I want from God?”

The disciple too often interprets this as “What do I want in ministry,” which is not what it means at all. Our goal as children of God is to obtain the stature and fullness of Christ. See Ephesians 4:13.

Our will and decisions must be set first to know and be as Christ. This can only be achieved by the power of the Holy Spirit in those of us who live a self-crucified life.

Proverbs 25:28 says: “He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a broken-down city without walls.”

Our control center is our will, and we make our choices from it. This transpires within our souls. We then crucify ourselves to the life of the Holy Spirit now living within us.

We find this in 1 Timothy 4:13-15, where Paul instructs Timothy to give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. *Neglect not the gift that is you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the presbytery. Meditate on these things; give yourself wholly to them; that your profit may appear to all. Take heed unto yourself and the doctrine; continue in them.*

2 Corinthians 6:1,

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that you receive not the grace of God in vain.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27,

Know you not that they who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? And every man that strives for the mastery/victory is temperate/self-controlled in all things. Now they do it for a corruptible crown, but we for an incorruptible. I therefore run, not uncertainly; so I fight, not as one that beats the air; But I discipline my body/flesh and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Jude 3,

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

As we seek to be His disciples, we find the greatest enemy we will ever face is within ourselves. If you want to know the truth, this is why many believers of today have so little power. They have deceived themselves into believing they are disciples when, in fact, they are not.

“The thriving disciple has reduced to habit those personal disciplines that conquer the unsuccessful believer.”

—Pastor Jim

Too many believers have taken the almighty God and reduced Him to a servant chained within the confines of their own lazy habits and undisciplined lives.

It is a tragic reality when, after being born again, people walk in a life dominated by the soulish realm without a relationship with the Holy Spirit that comes through disciplined obedience; they find themselves living with a form of godliness while denying the reality and power of Christ.

The greatest obstacle to the Great Commission is not the unbeliever, nor is it the devil himself. It is simply the believer walking in the flesh, seeking to move the church forward through programs and pursuits that originate from the good intentions of their soul, rather than from a disciplined and surrendered vessel that releases the Spirit of Christ through a crucified life.

Life in the spirit comes from who we are, not what we know or do. The fruit of our Christian faith first begins in our personal lives, which will ultimately be reflected in our ministry lives. Corinthians 4:1-2

Let a man so account/consider of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful.

The carnal Christian is a hindrance and shame not only to himself but also to God.

As one man said, "I cannot hear what you are saying; I am listening to what you are doing."

Let us pray for God to convict us and discipline us until we walk in the love of Christ as vessels of honor.

Thank God for His grace and mercy.

The simple reason the Bible calls this crucifixion is that it is painful and requires the death of our self-will and desires. I remind you again of our Savior.

Isaiah 50:5-7

The Lord has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned back. I gave my back to the smiters and my cheeks to them that plucked out my hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord will help me; therefore, shall I not be confounded: therefore, I have set my face like a flint, and I know I shall not be ashamed.

We set our faces like flint and begin our walk with God. We go and sweat our drops of blood in our own personal Gethsemane as we crucify our will unto the will of God our Father.

1 Corinthians 15:31

I protest by your rejoicing, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

Now it is safe for us to say we have answered the invitation. From here, we begin our life within the veil.

Christ promises those of us who keep His commandments, in John 14:23

If a man loves me, he will keep my words: (not only believe but also live) my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.

It is the disciple who has set his will and disciplines his life who realizes the fullness of John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father the husbandman. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he takes away, and every branch that bears fruit, he prunes it, that it brings forth more fruit. Now you are clean through the words that I have spoken unto you. Abide in me and I in you. As that branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abides in the vine, nor more can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches: he that abides in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit: without me you can do nothing. If a man abides not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is

withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you will, and it will be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, shall you be my disciples.

You see, God is not focused on what we do and the fruit we bear; He is focused on who we are and who we are becoming. We are to move from being the *newborn baby* spoken of in 1 Peter 2:2 *and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*, spoken of in 11 Peter 3:18. Our destination is found in Ephesians 4:13: *until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto the stature and fullness of Christ.*

Everyone who has been born again and lives the crucified life becomes more and more transformed into the likeness of Christ. We will come to have the desires of the Father's heart. We will identify with and become one with God's heart of love for the lost—that which brought Christ to come and die for you and me—that which now moves us to take up the cross and be like him. God is love, and he who lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

We can set aside everything else about Christianity and all that we will ever accomplish or achieve in the Kingdom until we, too, have God's heart in love and live by esteeming others higher than ourselves.

On the day of judgment, we will not be judged for our religious activities but rather for our love.

Matthew 25:34-46 KJV,

Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand. Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me meat: I was thirsty and you gave me drink: I was a stranger and you took me in: Naked and you clothed me: I was sick and you visited me: I was in prison and you came to me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord,

when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in? Or naked and clothed you? Or when did we see you sick or in prison and come to you? And the King will answer and say to them, truly I say to you Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me. Then shall he say to those on the left hand, depart from me you cursed into everlasting fire: prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you give me no meat, I was thirsty and you give me no drink, I was a stranger and you took me not in, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then shall they also answer him saying, Lord when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and not minister unto you? Then shall he answer them, saying truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did it not unto me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

We will be judged for our love and rewarded for our works.

Matthew 10:42 KJV,

And whosoever shall give a drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, truly I say to you, he will in no way lose his reward.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 KJV.

For no other foundation can man lay than is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest for the day shall declare it because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work remains which he has built thereon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved yet so as by fire.

Revelation 3:18 KJV.

I counsel you to buy of me gold tested in the fire, that you may be rich and white of raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear, and anoint your eyes with eye salve so you can see.

THE THIRD DISPENSATION

I have known people who have lost loved ones who have never been capable of moving on. Their loved ones are now dead, but they continue to hold them as if they are still alive. They have never been able to know them in any other way than as they were in the flesh.

It is so critical for us as believers to obey God and deal with the reality of the death of the human man, Jesus. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:16,

Wherefore henceforth (from this moment forward) know we no man after the flesh: yes, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now from this time forward we will know him not in this way anymore.

Man's relationship to Jesus has now changed. He will never again walk among us as a man. After His ascension, the Bible tells us concerning Jesus, the human man, that He is forever dead! The Son of God, spoken of as the Logos and as being God, is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, praying for us.

We are no longer dead with Christ on the cross; we have been set free with Him through His resurrection to experience that which is now ours within the veil.

The great majority of the Christian world is still weeping at the foot of the cross. The consciousness of man is fixed on the Christ who died, not the Christ who lives. They are looking back to the Redeemer who was, not the Redeemer who is.

— **John G. Lake**

Just as the prophets in the Old Testament foretold the time when Jesus would be born as a man and die on the cross, they also foretold the day when the Spirit of God would dwell within humanity.

If we are not careful, in the same way the scholars and priests missed Jesus's coming, we now stand in the same danger of missing the truth that Jesus is no longer on this earth. God, as the Holy Spirit, is alive within the Church today. He is living and releasing His reality and power not only to the church but also through the Church/His body.

The Scriptures clearly tell us this is God's good and perfect will.

Blindness among the most learned somehow causes them not to grasp and experience this fully.

As Jesus approached the end of His life on earth, He imparted to His disciples an understanding of the third dispensation that would come into being after He returned to the Father. He explained to them that, in place of Himself among them, He would send the Holy Spirit, who would reside in them. The voice and reality of God would transfer from Jesus to the believer.

We now walk with the fullness of God's reality inside of us.

In the Old Testament, humanity received the Law of Moses and served God from the soul/mind, and from their understanding, they responded in obedience.

During this time, the prophets foretold of the time (New Testament) when man would be reborn in the spirit, and the spirit would dwell in the spirit of man.

Let us see this in the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Jeremiah 31:33

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove the stony heart from your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do them.

This is reaffirmed and established in the New Testament:

Hebrews 8:10-11

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws in their minds, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be my people: And they shall not teach every his neighbor; and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Jesus spoke of this in John 7:37-39

If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believes in me, as the Scriptures have said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” By this, Jesus spoke of the Spirit that those who believe in Him should receive. For the Holy Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

And again in John 14:7

Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you and shall be in you.

We read in the Old Testament where God proclaimed to His people that He would dwell among them.

Exodus 29:45-46,

And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God.

Leviticus 26:12

And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you will be my people.

Deuteronomy 23:13-14 KJV,

And you shall have a paddle upon your weapon. It shall be, when you will ease yourself abroad, you will dig therewith, and shall turn back and cover that which comes from you: for the Lord thy God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you, and to give up your enemies before you; therefore shall your camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in you and turn away from you.

When comparing the Old Testament and the New Testament, we observe a notable difference.

Now let's read 2 Corinthians 6:16-18,

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Today, God no longer walks among us but instead walks in us.

In the Old Testament, God was among the believers as they walked in obedience to the law, relating to Him through their minds from within their souls. In the New Testament, God lives in us and communicates with us through our reborn spirit.

In the Old Testament, God the Father spoke. He poured out His Spirit/anointing on kings, priests, and prophets.

When Jesus walked among us, the Holy Spirit spoke through Jesus, revealing the Father to us.

Today, God, who is now present in the Holy Spirit, speaks through the believer, revealing Jesus to the world.

Revelation 19:10

Worship God: For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.

The same as John the Baptist spoke of Jesus when he said, “For whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for God gives not the Spirit by measure unto him,” So now, as we enter the new dispensation, we find Jesus telling the believers that God without measure nor restraint would fill them with the same Holy Spirit he filled Jesus with. They would possess the Holy Spirit in totality and do greater things than He had done.

When we read of Moses as he revealed and taught the kingdom of God to the Church in the wilderness, so Jesus, the man, revealed the kingdom and heart of the Father to man. At the end of Moses’ ministry, God called him up to the mountain to die, just as Jesus was called to his mountain to be crucified. The new leader, Joshua, would not introduce new ideas but would rather build upon what Moses had established and express it in power and triumph as he led the people into a new land of victory.

Just as Moses revealed this change of leadership in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ followed a similar pattern before He returned to the Father. Having finished his work, Moses gathered the people together and introduced them to Joshua, the new leader, who would lead them across the river and into a new land. Joshua was not to teach anything new but rather to remind them of the truth and guide them as they obtained their inheritance. The same is true of the Holy Spirit.

The journey to the Promised Land was completed at Moses' death. The people would never again seek to arrive. They were to begin a new dispensation of simply crossing over into a life of fighting and conquering the land already given to them by God.

We see this same progression now with Jesus. When he cried out, "It is finished!" At that moment, the promised land was freely given. We must go forth and, by faith, receive the unsearchable riches now ours through the Holy Spirit.

We see this truth in Acts 5:3-4

But Peter said to Ananias, Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own power? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied unto men, but unto God.

Peter, in referring to the Holy Spirit in verse 3, then identifies him as God in verse 4. He had transitioned from knowing Christ as God on earth to proclaiming the Holy Spirit as God among them. The authority that had been transferred to the church is evident in Peter's pronouncement of the penalty for their sin.

We can also see this in practice in the third chapter of Acts, where Peter no longer prayed to Jesus for the miracle but instead, knowing the power of Christ now abiding in him, simply said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

As Jesus neared the end of His earthly ministry, He began to teach and prepare His disciples for this new dispensation of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that He might abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you and shall be in you. I will not leave your orphans. I will come to you.

John 14:16

And I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may live with you forever.

John 16:7

Nonetheless, I tell you the truth; it is necessary for you that I go away: for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Following the Resurrection, Jesus returned to earth still as a human man. He ate with His disciples and instructed them for another forty days. During this time, He instructed them to wait for the coming of the third member of the Trinity. To stay in Jerusalem until the Spirit arrived. He then laid aside His humanity and ascended through the clouds to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

The Scripture was fulfilled, and now the newborn man, being the temple of the Holy Spirit, is free to prophesy, express the voice of God in the here and now, to cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, and bring the presence and power of Christ himself into the room. We are now the testimony of Jesus and worship God. The same power manifested through Jesus Christ, the one-man, in the second dispensation, is now abiding in the triune man of this third dispensation.

The believer is commanded to “covet to prophesy” and “desire earnestly the best gifts.” Through this living relationship with the Holy Spirit, the church now reveals the love, power, and reality of the one true living God, just as Christ did when He was among us as a human.

The Holy Spirit’s mission to reconcile the world through Jesus Christ was fulfilled at the resurrection. The focus of the Holy Spirit has now changed. The church must recognize His leadership as they cross the “Jordan River” and begin to conquer the promised land of “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.” That which has now been commissioned to the Church.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and now dwells with the same power and reality within the body of Christ as he did when he was physically here.

Matthew 28:18-20

All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Therefore, Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things and lo, I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth.

Mark 16:15-18

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believes not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name, they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, 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.

We are no longer on a journey toward God. We have already arrived! The continuation of God the Father's love to humanity, which he revealed through Jesus Christ, is now released into the newborn believer, producing the same power and sovereignty that it did in the first man, Jesus.

The Cross of Jesus Christ has done a total and complete work of redemption in us.

We must accept the Word of God; there is no limit in the heart of God to His reality and presence now living within us. We manifest it through our mouths. It is realized by releasing our faith and speaking with the creative power that Jesus had while He was here.

Luke 17:20-21 *The kingdom of God comes not with observation: neither shall they say, lo here! Or, lo there! For behold the kingdom of God within you.*

Just because scholars and preachers reject this the same way they did Jesus while he was here is no reason for us not to believe the Word of God. They say they believe it, but in practice, they deny this truth.

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

While the children of Israel remained in the wilderness, we read in Deuteronomy 29:5

For forty years, the Lord led you through the desert, but your clothes and sandals didn't wear out, and I provided you with special food.

Joshua 5:12 states that when the nation of Israel entered the Promised Land, upon their arrival, the manna ceased, and they were then responsible for their own provision.

So, it is now with the believer. Our life comes from the redemption of Jesus Christ. Everything we are to possess comes from his crucifixion. Christ now gives us this promised land as a gift, and we must obtain it by faith. Romans 5:2 tells us that being justified by faith in Christ gives us access to God's grace. This is the door into the unsearchable riches now ours.

Knowing faith without works is dead; we must seek to be led by the new leader appointed to bring us into this new land.

Third John so perfectly reveals this new land to us in saying: Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health as your soul prospers.

We see that this new land is a threefold blessing of Spirit, soul, and body.

In the Spirit, where we have now become one spirit with God.

In the soul where we are to come out of need and poverty and reign as kings with Christ.

In the body where Jesus' stripes have already healed us.

The Holy Spirit has been given to create this threefold blessing and to bring us into the unsearchable riches now ours through faith.

The Holy Spirit is fulfilling the covenant that God gave to Abraham and his seed and swore by His own name to keep.

Let's examine the covenant we now find given to those who believe.

Hebrews 6:11-20

I will paraphrase it for you. So that you would not become inactive, as you emulate those who inherit the promises through faith and patience. For when God made a promise to Abraham because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you, and so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men truly swear by the greater authority, an oath for confirmation, and this ends all questions as to it being the legal property of the one to whom it is being given. Wherein God is willing to show more abundantly to those who receive this through Christ the eternal fact of His counsel, He confirms it by an oath. That by two eternal and unchanging things, in which God couldn't lie we might have a strong knowing this is true as we who have fled for refuge to and lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which we have as an anchor of the soul, which holds us unmovable and which enters into that within the veil (the very presence of God himself.)

We must understand that today, we are to know the realm of the Spirit not only as priests but also as kings in the dominion Christ returned to us in his resurrection and triumph. This will not come to the indifferent or lazy; it must be apprehended and brought into reality in our present lives through the good fight of faith.

Jesus told the disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes, he would guide them into all truth.

For he will not speak on his own authority; but whatever he hears, that he will speak, and he will show you things to come.

As we obey his voice, our new leader will bring us into our inheritance as kings and priests, both so freely given at the cross and now ours through faith.

The Apostle Paul writes to the disciples in Ephesus (the location of the disciples mentioned in Acts 19) that he was praying to God *that their eyes of understanding might be opened so that they might comprehend the exceeding greatness of the power they had received.* They would be able to understand that they were now temples of the Holy Spirit with God the Father and God the Son living in them. God would not do for them, but rather, God would do all things through them.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now unto him that can do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Now, we must see this verse clearly. It does not say that God will do these things as we ask Him, but rather, it clearly states that He will do this according to the power that works in us.

If you want something you have never had, you must do something you have never done.

We are now alive in the Spirit, and Jesus/the Holy Spirit/God now dwells in us as we walk in union with the Spirit.

HOLY SPIRIT

In studying the three dispensations found in Scripture, we see the never-changing God the Father. We also see Christ not yet sent in the Old Testament, manifested as a human man in the incarnation in the second dispensation as the Savior. At the end of this second dispensation, we read of Jesus in Hebrews 3:1, who has returned to heaven, where He rests as the Apostle and High Priest of our profession in this dispensation.

We see the first dispensation of the Holy Spirit beginning in Genesis 1:2, where it tells us the Spirit moved upon the waters. He also fulfilled the will of the Father in the world during this time. In the second dispensation, He lived in Jesus and enabled Jesus to fulfill the will of the Father. Today, the Holy Spirit is our living relationship with the divine personage of God among us. He is the agent, or we could say the facilitator or administrator of the kingdom here on earth today. As we allow Him, He will bring us to fulfill the will of Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, by taking the Gospel to the end of the world. We will reveal Christ with the same miracles, signs, and wonders as Jesus did.

Acts 1:4-5, 8

And being assembled with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which saith he, You have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence. But you will receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly, there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:39

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

When we search the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, we find nothing that suggests a limitation of this outpouring that began at Pentecost and continues today. When Peter spoke of his time as being the last days, surely this would include the days we are living in now.

In the book of Acts, in the decades following the day of Pentecost, we see a clear pattern of people receiving Jesus as their Savior and then, through a second experience, receiving the infilling or the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit.”

In chapter 9 of Acts, we read of Paul’s experience when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. When Paul asked Jesus what he should do, Jesus instructed him to go to Ananias and receive the Holy Spirit. Ananias then came and said, “The Lord, even Jesus that appeared to you in the way as you were coming here, has sent me that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

If we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus, then what is this?

We see the same distinction between receiving Jesus as Savior and receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts 19 in the account of Paul when he came to Ephesus. Paul, clearly knowing you do not receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit when you are born again, asked them,

“Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?” Then said Paul, *“John truly baptized you with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe in him which should come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.”* When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. We read that after they had received Jesus as Lord, they were then baptized in water. After completing this, Paul then laid his hands on them, and they received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit came upon them, they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

When someone says you receive everything concerning the Holy Spirit when you are born again, ask them for the time and place they healed someone, cast out a demon, or opened the eyes of the blind. When you ask me and others who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we will gladly give you the time and place and furnish you with the names of those who witnessed it.

Acts 8:5-7, 12, 14-15

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip said, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies and that were lame were healed. ⁽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. ⁽¹⁴⁾ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. ⁽¹⁵⁾ Who when they came down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: (for as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 10:44-46

While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came

with Peter, because that the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Luke 11:9-13

But I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and you will find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asks receives, and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks a fish, will he, for a fish, give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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?

The work of the Holy Spirit is both in our souls and also released through our spirits.

First, within our souls to sanctify us so we may produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Here we must yield to the Spirit and, by our free will, choose to walk in them. These fruits we find listed in Galatians 5. For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, and self-control; against such, there is no law. Love is expanded and clarified in 1 Corinthians 13, where it is identified as our highest priority. As we live in them, we come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Fruit grows through our souls as we make our decisions and respond to others and the events in our lives around us.

Secondly, the gifts are released through our spirits and are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. These are gifts given to us that we choose to respond to and release through our spirit. They are the reality and power of Christ manifested through us. It is here that we realize, "*These signs shall follow those that believe,*" as we fulfill the great commission. We are to follow after love and desire the gifts, especially that we will prophecy.

To enter fully into our life within the veil, we must speak in tongues. Let me help you understand why.

At the time of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, man quit relating to God and to life from his spirit. He was left to relate to life through his logic and reason.

The soul became dominant and ruled over the man.

When we are born again, we become alive in the spirit and capable of relating to God the way Adam once did before his fall. As we speak in tongues, the spirit part of us takes authority over our soul realm and speaks to God without the hindrance of our fallen intellect.

Praying in tongues is our gateway into the supernatural.

1 Corinthians 14:2

For he that speaks in an unknown tongue does not speak unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him: however, he speaks mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:4

He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.

1 Corinthians 14:14

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

When we pray in tongues, we bypass our mind/soul and speak mysteries as we speak unto God. It is critically important for us to pray in tongues as we live in these end times, so that God can do what He wants to do within our vessel.

In 1 Corinthians 14:18, Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, *“I thank God I speak in tongues more than you all.”*

Can God really change our language and allow us to speak in languages we have never learned? The answer is yes!

In studying Scripture, we find in Genesis 11:1, 6-9

The Lord said, 'If as one people speaking the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other. So, the Lord scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. This is why it is called Babel, because there, the Lord confused the language of the whole world.'

God, in His sovereignty, changed the language of man and confused it.

In the same way that God had the power to change the language at the Tower of Babel, He has the power to give us a language we have never learned.

When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of tongues.

At Pentecost, God chose to use people's tongues, and they spoke in languages they had never learned. This is still true today when we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In Zephaniah 3:9, we read, *The day will come when God will return to the people, a pure language.*

This will be true for all believers in the resurrection. and it is true today for us when we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

One of the primary reasons people claim tongues are not for today is that God gave the gift of speaking in tongues to preach the gospel to the diverse groups gathered in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. This is not true, for they all spoke the one common language of the Roman Empire at that time, which was Greek. When we read the second chapter of Acts with an open mind and heart, we see that after the people gathered and heard the disciples speaking in tongues about the wonderful works of God, Peter then stood up and preached the gospel to them all in the common language.

The speaking in tongues brought them to the place where they were willing to listen to Peter proclaim salvation through Jesus Christ. Speaking in tongues was definitely a sign to those who heard that God was among the disciples.

Nowhere in Scripture do we ever see where tongues were ever used to preach the Gospel, and nowhere does it say this was the reason for them.

Another error is when people say tongues were only given until the Bible was written. They anchor this in the Bible passage 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, which states, “Love never fails.” But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. Some claim the perfection referred to in this verse is the Bible.

If we are honest, this cannot refer to the Bible, as it states that knowledge will pass away at this time. When they finished writing the Bible, knowledge did not pass away. You cannot believe only half of a verse and then pretend the other part isn't there. This obviously refers to the time when Christ returns, the perfect will come.

In the church, almost everyone has some understanding of the Holy Spirit, except for the practice of speaking in tongues. This is the only gift that deals with the believer's pride. You can sit at the table with everyone until you speak in tongues. When you do this, you then find the reality of Jesus' words in Matthew 10:34-36: *Think not that I have come to send peace on earth, but a sword, for I have come to set a man at variance against his father and the daughter against her mother and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.* We suddenly find ourselves rejected by men and a person acquainted with sorrows. Accused and vilified as we release the truth that we are spirit and now speak not unto men but unto God.

The gift of tongues is our open pipeline to God's voice. Every Christian is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and can speak in tongues. Paul said, “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding.” The spirit he is talking about is

the human spirit. Understanding is what we comprehend within our minds. This is also true when we sing.

The gift of tongues is received when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and it resides within us from that time forward. God desires each of us to use this gift and pray in tongues, just as Paul did, who used this gift constantly.

There is also the gift of tongues that is manifested during a service and given to the church. The instructions concerning this gift are found in 1 Corinthians 14:5, which tells us we can speak and interpret in tongues to the body. It tells them to pray that they might interpret, and if there is no interpreter, they should pray in tongues to themselves.

It is through the interpretation that the church is then edified.

This is also true for us as individual believers when we use our prayer language; we should pray that the Holy Spirit will give us the interpretation. When determining the Lord's will regarding the challenges we encounter daily, it is advisable to pray in tongues and seek the understanding of those prayers.

When the gift of tongues and interpretation is used in the church, it edifies the church; when we use it in our prayer life, it edifies us as believers.

THE REASONS GIVEN IN THE SCRIPTURE FOR SPEAKING IN TONGUES ARE:

1. To speak unto God: 1 Corinthians 14:2 *He that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto man but unto God.*
2. To edify/build up the one doing it: 1 Corinthians 14:4 *He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.*

3. For a sign to the unbeliever: 1 Corinthians 14:22 *Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not.*
4. As a gift to the congregation: 1 Corinthians 14:27 *If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret*

There is much teaching that only some believers are given the gift of speaking in tongues. This contradicts the rest of Scripture. Paul certainly taught that everyone was to speak in tongues. In verse 5 of 1 Corinthians 14, the apostle says that he desires everyone to speak in tongues.

Why would God only allow some of us to speak directly to Him through tongues, and not everyone?

Why would God only allow certain people to edify themselves and not everyone?

God is no respecter of persons. We read that everyone began to speak in tongues on the day of Pentecost, as well as at the house of Cornelius, and among the believers in Acts 19.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Question 1:

When I am born again, do I have the Holy Spirit?

Answer:

Yes, when we repent of our sins and ask Jesus to come into our hearts, the Holy Spirit comes and works regeneration in us, transforming us from the kingdom of darkness into a new creation in Jesus Christ.

Question 2:

Can I receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and not speak in tongues?

Answer:

Yes, you will receive it; you just won't release it.

Jesus told his disciples they would receive power from on high and be witnesses of him in all the world. After we receive baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues, we are free to release the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are the manifested power and reality of Jesus Christ.

Another argument that people who do not speak in tongues use is that the fruit of the Spirit (love) is more important than gifts.

We know that God is love and that the most significant priority for everyone is to live in a way that reveals this love to others. We manifest this love as we release Christ's presence and power through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Let us look at the typology of gifts and fruit in the Old Testament.

The robe of the High Priest was adorned around the hem with bells (gift) and pomegranates (fruit). We find this in Exodus 28:31-35. And you shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. And there shall be a hole in the top of it, in the middle thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work around the hole of it, as it were the hole of a habergeon, that is not rent. And beneath the hem of it, you shall make pomegranates of blue and purple and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof: and bells of gold between them round about. A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate upon the hem roundabout. And his sound shall be heard when he goes into the Holy place before the Lord and when he comes out, that he die not.

With every step the priest took, the bells and pomegranates moved together with his walk. When one of the pomegranates (fruit) fell off between the bells, it caused the sound of a brass gong or a tinkling cymbal. There was a dead and quenched sound when the bell (gift) was gone.

We see this same pattern in 1 Corinthians: Chapter 12 represents a bell, Chapter 13 is a pomegranate, and Chapter 14 is the bell again. This is indicative of our walk today. With every step we take, there should be both fruit (pomegranates) and gifts (bells). Without the fruit, we are without love, joy, and peace; without the gifts, we are without the power. The balance is perfectly stated in verse one of chapter 14 in 1 Corinthians: “Make love your goal while desiring spiritual gifts, especially that you might prophesy.

This balance is necessary for our Christian Walk. We are to walk in love and the fruits of the Spirit while releasing the resurrection power of Jesus Christ through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

How confused some Christians are as they discuss which is more critical when there should never be one without the other in a Christian’s life: 1 Corinthians 12:1 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I would not have you ignorant.*

When we love the Lord with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength, and we love our neighbor as ourselves, it is impossible to love with the same power and reality as Christ did without the gifts of the Holy Spirit operating in our lives.

We must go beyond our minds. Through our minds of logic and reason, we walk under the law of the Ten Commandments, but when we walk in the Spirit, we walk under the new perfect law of Liberty, where, in loving the Lord with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength, we fulfill the law as we walk in the Spirit.

Jesus said, Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets: I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Galatians 3:24

The law was our schoolmaster to bring us into this new walk of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:14

For all the law was fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

We now know God from our spirit as we walk in communion with the Holy Spirit, not from the head but from the heart.

It is here we now walk in the perfect law of liberty where Christ has set us free.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty with which Christ has made you free. And be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage.

Romans 8:14

For those who are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT

We look at the relationship within the Holy Trinity to understand our relationship with the Holy Spirit. We read in Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* Hebrew scholars inform us that the word ‘God’ is in the singular, and the verb ‘make’ is in the plural form. We read in verse 2, *And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.* We follow this by reading Genesis 1:26: *And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.*

As we consider this, we can go to Colossians 1:12-19

giving thanks unto the Father, who has made us fit to be partakers of the saints’ inheritance in light. Who has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things exist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.

This indicates a relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God the Father speaks his word, which passes through the authority of the Son, with the Spirit then moving upon the face of the waters.

We see the authority given to the Son in John 1:1-4:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was true in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him, nothing was made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. We continue reading verses 10-14: He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

At Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, we see the Voice of the Father speaking authority to the Son, with the Holy Spirit being given and becoming the agent through which the authority of the Son then began his ministry of miracles and the reconciliation of lost people unto Himself.

Jesus, born of a woman, was fully human, just like us. It wasn't until he received the Holy Spirit at the time of his baptism that he began his earthly ministry.

The power of Christ was through the Holy Spirit, which he has now released upon the church, which He confirms in saying, *Truly I say unto you, He that believes on me, the works that I do shall he also do; and greater works than these shall he do because I go unto my Father.*

In saying, "*because I go unto my Father,*" he was referring to the truth that he was yet to triumph over the Devil at the Cross.

From this context and understanding, Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit and the relationship the Holy Spirit was to have with the church after his return to heaven. He understood that when he returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit's ministry or purpose upon the earth would change. It would no longer empower him to reconcile lost people

to God, but would now empower the Church to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth.

We now begin to understand Jesus when he said in John sixteen, verse 7: *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

The next thing we need to realize is that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are simply manifestations of the reality of Jesus Christ in his personal expression of love, mercy, and kindness through his disciples today.

These gifts are the Logos passing through us and being released as the Rhema.

Hebrews 5:14

But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

We see that even though the gifts of the Spirit are gifts, as believers, we must develop our senses or learn in our souls how to recognize and release them as they are given to us by the Holy Spirit and pass through us.

Just as your muscles can be exercised and developed, your spiritual awareness can be developed and increased through faith.

2 Timothy 1:6

Wherefore I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of God which is in you by the putting on of my hands.

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is fragile. In the ministry school, I gave the students an egg and instructed them not to set it down for 24 hours. Any indifference on their part, and it was broken.

In Scripture, the Holy Spirit is presented as a dove. After spending an afternoon in the field with them, I found them very timid. The slightest move of my hand, and they would fly away.

We must develop our awareness of the presence and voice of the Spirit and then yield. Initially, we are hesitant to respond in faith because we fear being wrong. Our desire for God's manifested reality must be stronger than our fear of man and making a mistake.

Many years ago, when the Lord was starting to use me, I was in a meeting where some people were attending for the first time. They said they were new to the area and were seeking the Lord's direction for their lives. As we prayed for them, the Spirit gave me one word. Tarry? I was embarrassed to speak it out. I didn't understand what it was or what it could mean. I just kept quiet. As everyone stayed up at the front talking and fellowshiping, I went to leave. As I reached the door, the woman interrupted everything by pointing at me and, in a loud voice, said, "The Lord is saying you have a word for us." There was nothing I could do but confess I had only one word. When I told her in front of everyone, she and her husband reacted immediately. They said they were sure the Lord had directed them to come to that city, and they had been there for three days, but had found nothing. They had decided to attend the meeting and then leave the area. My fear of man had stopped the reality of Jesus in their lives. The next day, they found employment, and as far as I knew, they were still living in that city.

One night in Montana State prison, after preaching, the inmates came forward, and the Holy Spirit did many wonderful things. Our time was over, and the guards interrupted what was happening. They came and tried to stop it. They got on both sides of me and were taking me out of there. As they did this, the inmates continued to seek out the ministry. The guards became very forceful in discouraging them. This continued as we left the building and went across the open area outside. After a hundred feet or more, they had all given up except one inmate, who refused to leave. Finally, I demanded that the guards stop and give me just 3 minutes. They backed off, and I placed my hand on his shoulder and said God wants you to know you can make it. He immediately began to cry brokenly. When he could talk again, he told me that the past week, he had been in

his cell alone and had found Jesus. The Lord had told him he would one day preach. When he shared this with his cellmate, who was a believer, his cellmate told him he was overjoyed that he had been saved. But that he was not very educated and could not speak very well, and that, as for him being a preacher, he would probably never make it. When he went to the Bible study and told them what had happened to him, they said the same thing: as for him being a preacher, he would never make it. He then went to the prison chaplain, and as they talked, the Chaplain also said he would never make it. He said, "I have been on my knees alone with God in my cell for the past three days and told him, if that was you, God, please send someone to me who will tell me I can make it." He then squared his shoulders as a changed man, and as he was taken away, he said, "I will make it!"

When we speak what the Spirit leads us to say, we never know what miracles will happen or what God will do.

An example of developing our relationship with the Spirit can be seen when two people fall in love and desire to be together. They begin to learn about each other, live to please the other, and fulfill their desires. They develop a relationship by doing what the other person desires and expects of them.

As they spend time together and focus on one another, a deep relationship of love is established.

When one becomes insensitive to the other's heart, they grieve the other who no longer desires to communicate and share their feelings and life with them.

I know a couple where the man would not stop drinking with his brothers and causing trouble. This continued until the day she told him that if he would not forsake this, she would leave him and never come back.

This is the most extreme situation, and may God forbid that we ever reach it in our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, I love the way my wife senses my desires and needs and yields her life to me. I long for the moments when we can open our hearts to one another. After spending so much time together, we have come to know each other's needs and desires. Many times, without asking, we serve one another because we have come to know each other so well.

The Holy Spirit is our counselor and comforter, our closest friend, and ever-present as we live in an intimate relationship with him.

Genesis 18:17

And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and he shall bless all the nations of the earth.

Our goal in life is to become so pleasing to God that He chooses to share His heart with us and reveal His love and reality to others through us.

The Holy Spirit is a divine person with feelings and emotions. He can be grieved:

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit can be quenched: 1 Thessalonians 5:19 *Quench, not the Spirit.*

Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit is the highest responsibility in our walk of love with Christ. When we are insensitive to him, he will be grieved and not express himself.

We know he will communicate with those who walk with a pure heart and press into his presence: Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Some years ago, I received a phone call from a woman who was attending the church I was pastoring at that time. She asked if I could help her recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit, as she was unsure whether she was hearing Him or something else. I said yes, and before I could say anything more, she told me she was on her way to my house. I had time to pray, and when she arrived, the Spirit had given me the answer for her. After prayer, I asked her to recall the last time she had heard the Spirit speak to her, and she refused. I then asked her to repent and ask forgiveness of the Holy Spirit for her disobedience.

Each time we say yes and yield to the Spirit's gifts, the voice becomes louder and easier to discern. Conversely, each time we quench and do not yield, the voice becomes weaker and more complex to determine the next time.

The Holy Spirit is different from what our parents were teaching us. When our parents asked us to do something and we did not respond, they would raise their voices and demand that we obey. This is not so with the Spirit; the first time he speaks, it will be the loudest. If we fail to respond, he will soon be quenched. The same is true when someone is ignored and passed over in a conversation. When they are ignored, they withdraw and no longer contribute; it is the same with the Holy Spirit.

We know He manifests Himself through those who take the time and seek him.

The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the Church: Acts 13:2

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work, whereunto I have called them.'

The Holy Spirit can be insulted: Hebrews 10:29;30-31

Of how much worse punishment suppose you, shall he be thought worthy who has trodden underfoot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant that he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done despite unto the Spirit of Grace?⁽³⁰⁾ For we know him that has said, 'Vengeance belongs to me, I will repay, Saith the Lord.'

And again, 'The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.'

Just as Jesus, the Son, came to earth in the person of his flesh and formed a relationship with his disciples, as they walked with him, they could see him and touch him in the flesh. Today, the Holy Spirit is within us, and the continuing presence of Jesus is revealed to us in the Spirit and manifested in reality and power through us. The person of the Holy Spirit lives within us today, and Jesus' reality and power can be known, realized, and released through the Spirit-filled believer. We are to take this, experience this, manifest this, and shout it from the rooftops to the ends of the earth.

This reality too often remains dormant and silent beneath the dominance of our soul.

Two important things must be established in our daily lives for us to live in the Spirit. One is to be in Scripture, and the other is to pray in tongues. If we incorporate these into our daily habits, we will remain prepared to embody God's presence as He releases and manifests Himself in the present moment.

I cannot express to you enough the absolute necessity for you to develop a life of meditating in the Word and praying in tongues, the same as the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 14:18)

THE GIFTS

When approaching the manifestation of God's reality among us through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we must first refrain from taking them into our soul realm and seeking to analyze, categorize, or define them specifically. They cannot be understood any more than God's sovereignty can. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are as unique and different as God Himself.

Never discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit with anyone who has not been baptized in the Holy Spirit and earnestly desires to move in the Spirit. Analyzing the gifts and putting them into order in our minds will only quench them. Seeking to understand and define them intellectually, and gaining knowledge about them, can at times strengthen our soul realm to the point that we limit the Spirit from having the liberty it needs to flow through our spirit man.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit must be understood as the Logos of God becoming the Rhema at that perfect place and time. They will never contradict the Logos or written Scripture.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *addressing each one* (not just some, but everyone), *that the manifestation of the Spirit is for the common good.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-10

Now there is a diversity of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. To another Faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of

miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues.

The gifts have been given to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and to confirm His reality and presence, drawing souls to salvation in His name.

If these gifts aren't flowing through your life, something is being withheld, not by God but by you. Total surrender to Christ in everything we are, desire, hope, or possess must be followed by obedience through faith.

Many believers believe they have received certain gifts, and the extent to which they manifest the reality and power of Christ has been predetermined by God.

This is not true.

Through the baptism in the Spirit, He has been given without measure to us. If this weren't true, the Bible would not instruct us to desire the best gifts and covet to prophecy. Christ manifested all the gifts and, in turn, told us that we would do greater things than He did. He has promised that whatever we ask in his name, we will receive.

I have personally witnessed all nine gifts being released at different times, by the grace of God and the will of the Holy Spirit, through me during my ministry.

“We do not have the right to be passive or remain silent. Silence is rebellion. The gifts begin to flow as the flesh dies. God has placed the gifts in you and now waits for your surrender.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is not the same as the manifestation of his reality and power through the believer. Being content in finding the presence of the Spirit in worship is a long way from being an obedient vessel. You can be filled with the Spirit, carrying the potential, yet never reveal His reality. You can believe and possess and still remain silent in disobedience. It requires brokenness and death to self. A sacrifice on the altar, fully available to the Spirit, not only in church but every day, sacrificially living

only for Christ. Here we find the invisible becoming visible, and we realize the reality of Christ walking on earth through us today.

If the gifts of the Spirit are in you, why are they still unseen? If the Holy Spirit is marked by the power the Scriptures declare, that is the question heaven is asking, and Hell is asking it too. Because where the Spirit dwells, He moves, when He moves, He manifests, and when He manifests, nothing stays the same. The gifts of the Spirit were never given to be hidden. They are not decorations; they are not badges of honor. They are divine instruments placed within you by the Holy Spirit to glorify the name of Jesus and bring people into the saving knowledge of His grace. And that includes you. The church today is filled with believers who speak of the Spirit but rarely walk in His manifestation. They talk about the gifts, but they never release them. They defend doctrine, but they don't demonstrate it because something is locked inside, and they don't know how to release it. But today the Holy Spirit wants that which is buried in you to come alive. He is not asking you to chase the gifts. He's asking you to yield to his government because the gifts don't flow through ambition; they flow through alignment."

—Pastor David Yonggi Cho

We should aspire to attain various gifts with no restrictions or limitations on those we wish to pursue. Thus, the Holy Spirit is free to use us for one or all of them over our lifetime.

Prophecy. Prophecy comes from 3 sources. One is an evil spirit: 1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God: because many false prophets are gone into the world.

The second source of prophecy is from the believer's soul. It can be very scriptural and correct and sound very spiritual, but it does not carry the direct voice of the Holy Spirit.

We are instructed to judge each prophecy and discern whether it is from an evil spirit, from the flesh/mind of the person, or is genuinely from the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See you do it not: for I am your fellow servant, and of your brothers that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

True prophecy is the Holy Spirit passing through a person's human spirit and using their voice to speak God's word into the present.

Old Testament prophecy differs from modern Church prophecy. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon the prophet as God revealed his plans and purposes through the prophet to others. In the Church today, believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit, with the Spirit dwelling within them.

We are told in 1 Corinthians 14:3 that he who prophesies speaks unto men for edification, exhortation, and comfort. Comfort includes confirmation as to what the Holy Spirit has spoken previously to those who have been listening.

The believer does not live his life through the leadership of prophecy.

The Holy Spirit operates in relationship to us in agreement with the pattern of relationship shown to us in Matthew 18:15-17. *Moreover, if your brother shall trespass against you, go and tell him about his fault between you and him alone; if he will hear you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not listen to you, then take with you one or two more witnesses, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he will not hear you tell it to the church, but if he will not hear the church, let him be unto you as a heathen man and a publican.*

This is the principle by which the Holy Spirit operates in his communication with us as believers. We see this in 1 Corinthians 11:28-31

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he that eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason, many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

In our relationship with the Spirit now living within us, He will always speak to us first concerning His desires and plans for us. This is, of course, true only when we walk in communion with Him as a disciplined and consecrated disciple.

I was ministering in a city, and I brought a prophecy over a man who was to be a teacher. When he said he did not think this was so, I immediately told him to reject the prophecy if he did not have a witness in his heart. Some weeks later, I was in another meeting in a different town and heard a missionary speak the same prophecy over his life. This confirmed to me that the Holy Spirit had spoken through me to the man, and the man was rejecting it; thus, the Spirit had brought another witness. I then went to the man and encouraged him not to deny this and to search his heart and obey. I did not have a way to follow the man, but I knew what the next step would be if he continued to resist: he would be confronted with an altar call in the future to repent and obey.

A prophecy is to be judged. 1 Corinthians 14:29 *Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.* This refers to one service and does not restrict any believer. Verse 31 says, *“For you may all prophesy.”*

Among the other things, prophecy is the avenue God uses to give ministry gifts to maturing believers. This is done within the confines of the church through anointed and proven elders. 1 Timothy 4:14 *Neglect not the gift that is in you, which was given by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

Sometimes, someone desiring to prophecy may do so from the flesh. There are also times when someone speaks prophecy in the spirit and then adds their own thoughts and desires at the end, thus being part of both the Spirit and the flesh.

Often, this behavior causes confusion, anger, and division, prompting the group's leadership to deny its validity in the services. We know this is wrong in reading 1 Thessalonians 5 19-20: Quench not the Spirit and despise *not prophesying*. I am aware of many groups that did not adhere to scripture when issues arose concerning prophecy. Instead of correcting and maturing everyone, they despised it and stopped the Holy Spirit from ever speaking through prophecy to them again

As the believer begins to exercise this spiritual gift, the group around them must be mature enough to discern, instruct, and perfect them.

True prophecy is a direct word from God, and the leadership must be open to the correction and change it may bring. This is the primary reason many groups have quenched the Holy Spirit's voice among themselves. The leadership refuses to submit and yield to the Holy Spirit's correction.

The gift of prophecy is generally developed in a small group first and later expressed in the larger congregation. (This is not a restriction but rather an observation.)

Standing next to an older, mature person who moves in the gifts is the best training school. As the Holy Spirit was training me, when I felt I had a word, and as I silently asked Him if it was really from Him, a more mature person would speak out the same word God had put in my mind. Over time, this gave me the confirmation and courage I needed to release the gift.

We read in 1 Corinthians 14:24

But if all prophecy, and there comes in one that does not believe or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: and thus are the secrets of his heart manifest; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Many churches that have not valued prophecy and do not share it in their meetings have remained barren, producing no lasting fruit, as people remain unchanged. People come and go because they see nothing convincing them that God is in the group. Had prophecy convinced them God was present, they would have stayed. We must embrace Revelation 19:10: *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

Just as the Bible commands us not to steal, it also commands us to covet to prophecy.

The ministry of the Prophet is one of the five-fold anointings that are operating in the New Testament today. Ephesians 2:20 speaks in reference to the apostles and prophets of the past and to those of today, saying the church is built on the foundations of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.

The prophet will have eyes in the Spirit to see and establish the purpose of the local body in the beginning, as well as what requires correction within the individual and the corporate body of believers over time. Once the church group is established, this ministry will continue to guide the group in doing the will and purpose of the Holy Spirit, if allowed by the leadership. They will also prophecy and discern as the Holy Spirit releases the ministry gifts as the believers mature and mentor the young believers who are coming into this calling.

Beyond this, within the body of believers, the office of the Prophet is still in the world today. The Prophets of today still speak prophecies to a group, a city, an area, an entire nation, or to the nations—they prophecy warnings and promises. Prophecies can include time, place, event, group, or individual. They can be for today, tomorrow, or many times both, and often reveal things of the past to validate the word. We see this in

Acts, particularly in the ministry of Agabus, where in chapter 11, he foretold the impending famine, and in chapter 21, the arrest that would follow Paul in Jerusalem.

In the Old Testament, we find that Elijah had a school for prophets.

The word of wisdom is a revelation by the Holy Spirit concerning a particular situation or issue in the present. We see an example of this in Isaiah 38:21, where Isaiah says, *Take a lump of figs and lay it for a plaster upon the boil, and he shall recover.*

I witnessed this when going to a house where a woman was lying on the floor, wasted away to nothing more than skin and bones, so weak she could not stand. Her sister was also present with Tuberculosis. In their house were graven idols of Mary and of saints they had been praying to. God gave a word of wisdom, “break the idols and break the curse.” The idols were broken and destroyed, and when we prayed in the name of Jesus Christ, they were healed. Over the coming months, they were restored to good health.

We see the word of wisdom in the account of Jesus telling the disciples, who had fished all night and caught nothing, to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, and it was filled to overflowing.

I have asked for and received the word of wisdom when approaching someone I wanted to bring to Christ. The Holy Spirit revealed the way to get him to allow me to talk to him, and in doing so, he was saved.

I call this asking God for his divine strategies concerning life, ministry, and business success.

The word of knowledge is the Holy Spirit revealing a fact concerning a person or situation. It may reveal something that is going to happen. At times, after we receive a word of knowledge, we will need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit for a word of wisdom on how to proceed with it and share it effectively.

The first time I received a word of knowledge, I was on my way to deliver a clothes washer to a woman. As I was on my way, I received a word of knowledge that a dog was going to bite someone. When I arrived at the house, the dog came out and bit me. Now, being more mature, I realize that if I had prayed for a word of wisdom when I received the word of knowledge, I could have avoided the pain.

I received a word of knowledge for others while working as a fireman. We had arrived at the fire, and I was in the process of turning the water on for the men holding the hose, ready to attack the fire. As I was praying in tongues, the Holy Spirit said to me that the electricity was still on. I shouted to the man responsible for shutting it off, and he cried out, "Oh my God, I have forgotten." He then shut it off. If the men had sprayed water at the fire with the electricity still on, they would have all been electrocuted and killed.

There was a time in a church I was pastoring when a young couple came to me for counsel and prayer. After we finished the meal, two older women and I met with them. The man wanted to receive the fullness of the Spirit. His wife said that in the middle of the night, he would pray in tongues, but when he was awake, he was unable to, no matter how much he wanted to and how hard he tried. The one woman, through the gift of discerning spirits, said I break this spirit of embarrassment in Jesus' name. The man immediately began praying in tongues. This was amazing, and after a time, the woman asked to be prayed for because she was overweight. She had been a slender, attractive woman up until a year previous. She had started to gain weight and was now grossly fat. The second woman, through a word of knowledge, quietly said, "Adultery." The young woman broke and began weeping. She confessed that a year before, she had committed sin with a man she worked with. Since that time, she had hated herself and despised her beautiful body, which had attracted the man to seduce her.

Some years ago, my wife and I were walking into the Walmart store in Jamestown, North Dakota; as we said hello to the man who greeted us at the door, I received a word of knowledge that I was to talk to him. I then told my wife, "Go ahead, and I will find you later. I then went and started talking to him. He mentioned something that made me realize he was a Christian, and I said, "God is good." He replied, "He sure is; he

healed my heart and cured my cancer.” He was 80 years old. He told me that quite some years before this, he had contracted cancer, and while battling it, he had a heart attack. After the doctor had given him three months to live, he returned for a check-up. As he sat in the waiting room alone, the nurse told him, ‘I have to go and retrieve some of your medical records.’ She then got up and left. A young woman came in and, after sitting down, asked him how he was doing. He said he was pretty good, seeing how he had only three months to live with cancer and now had suffered a heart attack. He said she seemed so kind and friendly and asked if she could pray for him. When he agreed, she prayed and then left. When the nurse came back, he asked her who the lovely young woman was who had come in, sat down, and talked to him. The nurse said there was no young woman because it was a secure area. She said she had locked the door when she left, and it was locked upon her return.

When he went into his appointment, he had been totally healed.

I shared this later with a group in another state, where a man was skeptical. He told me later that he had gone to James Town and verified that the man was working at the store.

At times, in a meeting or as a minister, we will receive a word of knowledge concerning an issue in another person’s life. We mustn’t share this information immediately. We can cause much harm and division without the Holy Spirit giving us the word of wisdom as to how and when to apply it. Should you ever receive information about someone else, you must never sin by sharing it with anyone else until you have shared it with the person in private.

The discernment of Spirits is a gift that can be seen in discerning evil in the human vessel, as well as in specific situations or areas

We see this in Matthew 16, where Jesus, after telling Peter he would build his church, speaks directly to him and says, “*Get behind me, Satan: you are an offense to me.*”

In considering the gift of discerning of spirits, we can experience it in various settings, including church meetings and among individuals.

First, we must be careful not to overlook the sinful nature in each of us that must be crucified. It is not an evil spirit that makes us gossip, overeat, lust in the flesh, or seek to be exalted and noticed. This is just a plain sin in the heart, and it can only be repented of and removed from our lives through the fruit of the Holy Spirit (self-control).

This is evident in Acts 8:18-24. Peter did not deliver the man but instead confronted the sin.

We read of Paul discerning an evil spirit in the young woman and then casting it out by his word. Acts 16:16-18. *It came to pass as we went in prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: the same followed Paul and us and cried, saying these men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this she did for many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*

The gift of discerning spirits reveals to us what is of the flesh and what is from an evil spirit. The evil spirit is in control of the person's personality and decisions and must be cast out so the person can be free to choose by their own will. If the person desires and chooses to continue entertaining the spirit, we will not be able to deliver them.

We will also encounter discernment during a church meeting. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will know if the Holy Spirit is present in the meeting and when it is not. We will differentiate between emotion and genuine spiritual worship. We will be able to discern if the pastor has appointed the worship leader or if they genuinely have the calling and anointing to be there. We will also discern whether the service is under the administration of the Holy Spirit or the control of the human soul realm.

The discernment of spirits will allow us to judge prophecy.

At one time, I was pastoring a church where the gifts of the Spirit were very active. This caused people who needed the Lord to come and visit on Sunday mornings. I began to realize that when the new people came, there was a regular member who would get up and give a message in tongues that were eerie and very unsettling, discouraging them from coming back. Through the gift of discerning Spirits, I realized this was from Satan; I took authority over this and stopped the damage it was doing to the work of Christ.

Demons and strongman demons rule certain cities and areas. These demons seek embodiment in a person from which to operate. The discernment of spirits will enable us to identify and bind the strong man spirits that are over an area or group of people.

I was living in an area where the suicide rate among teenagers was one of the highest in America at that time. One Sunday evening, a young pastor from a nearby church called my home and asked if I would come quickly to deliver a violent man who had injured another member and needed deliverance. I began praying in tongues and drove to the church. When I arrived, I found a young man lying at the altar, and the pastor was at the back of the church, looking out from the nursery room. The people were all in their chairs, looking frightened and praying. I walked to the rear of the church and told the pastor that the man had been delivered from the demon before, but he had invited it back in, and I was going home. As I was leaving, I went past the man at the altar, and he begged me to help him. I knew then I had permission to do something. I told him to stand up, and when I put my hands on him, I discerned a strong man's spirit of suicide. I then took authority over it in Jesus' name and cast it out. He immediately began to weep, and his mother came forward and began to hold him and weep also. There was then a roar like a lion, and I turned to see and hear another man say in an evil voice I will tear you in two and destroy you. Again, through the gift of discernment and a word of knowledge, I said to everyone present: "This is the same evil spirit." I then asked them to pray as I cast it out and forbid it from entering any other human being.

After this, I was encouraged as the suicide rate in the area was much lower.

To another faith. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit gives us a knowing that he is going to do something that will allow us to do something. It is a release of the Holy Spirit that provides us with the reality of true faith, allowing God's miracles to occur.

Some time ago, the Lord put it on my heart to go to Katar and visit. I had the money for our tickets, so I purchased them and made plans to go. We were to leave on Tuesday of the following week. On Friday, before we were scheduled to leave, we didn't have the money to go. At lunch, my wife asked me what we were going to do. I had received the gift of faith, and I told her I was going to pack my suitcase, be at the airport, and get on the plane. By Monday afternoon, the money arrived. We then went to Katar, led a man to Jesus, and baptized him in the Arabian Sea. From there, we ministered in the Philippines and then returned to America.

The best explanation I can give concerning the gift of faith is when God fills you with such a knowing and confidence that you are willing to risk your life, that it will come true.

Many times, we see the word of knowledge as the key the Holy Spirit uses to release the gift of faith, which, in turn, releases the power gifts of healing and miracles.

As we were starting our ministry school in the Philippines and were scheduled to have our first meeting, I was praying in the afternoon. I received a word of knowledge concerning a woman who had been suffering much pain in the area of her female parts. At the meeting that evening, I asked everyone to stand, bow their heads, and close their eyes. I then asked them to cross their hands and place them on their body below their waist. I told them we would then pray for a woman who had been having pain and illness in her body for some time in that area. I was praying and did not watch to see if anyone responded. When we were finished, my wife told me one of the young women who had come from Myanmar had broken down and begun weeping as I prayed. I had noticed she was very skinny and looked ill when she arrived. I later found out she had been in much pain for many months. When she went to the doctor with her mother, the

doctor said nothing could be done and said she should go home and possibly die. That night, she was healed, and over the following months during school, she was fine and gained weight to look very healthy the last time I saw her.

Faith is the only gift that is also listed as a fruit. Once we receive the gift of faith, we must seize upon it with our natural soul to release and birth the result. This is done first by our confession and thanksgiving that it has already been done. We follow that by planting a seed of faith through our actions.

Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* By our confession, we allow God to complete the process. By our speaking doubt, we eat the fruit of what we confess and kill it.

Our confession is followed by our actions, which confirm our beliefs.

One night, I was in a tent crusade in Helena, Montana, standing by a man who could barely walk with his crutches. As God touched him, he dropped one crutch and threw the other one as far as he could over the head of the lady playing the piano and against the front of the tent. He then shouted, "I am healed." First, he slid one foot forward, then the next. He began to walk slowly, then increased his pace to a faster and faster speed. He then began to run around all the people in a big circle, shouting I have been healed! I have been healed! In talking to him, he told me he had been beaten by several men and thrown over a cliff. His bones were so badly broken that they could no longer support his weight or allow him to walk without crutches. His healing miracle began with his confession and was completed by his action towards it.

The gift of faith enables us to transcend all circumstances and mental reasoning, elevating the issue to a point where it is simply the issue and God's eternal power over it. Knowing everything is possible, we speak and see things happen not as they would naturally remain.

The gifts of healing. Mark 16:18 *They shall lay a hand on the sick, and they shall recover.*

We must understand that the gift of healing may be evident immediately or develop over time.

I was in Malawi at a meeting where two women brought another older woman between them who could not walk by herself. As she sat in the chair, the Holy Spirit urged me to take a bottle of water, put some in my hand, and rub it on her knees and lower legs. Nothing happened, and the other two women helped her to her feet. Upon returning to America, I received a message from the Pastor: “She was seriously sick. She was unable to walk. Today, she walked to church and gave her testimony that she was healed.”

We see that not all healings are miracles. When Jesus prayed for the ten lepers, it happened later.

The biggest hindrance to the gift of healing is that most people doubt themselves when they pray and do not see the gift of miracles, and then say to themselves, “It isn’t going to happen.” The sin of disbelief enters their mind, and after that, they never expect God to heal people when they pray. We notice in Mark 16:18 that it says they shall recover. This recovery may take some time.

There are times when a person needs to take action to receive healing. We see this in the account of Jesus healing the ten lepers.

At the end of a church service one Sunday, a good man who was a member came forward for prayer. He had a high fever and was very sick. As I laid my hands on him, the Lord gave me a word of knowledge that he had been talking about me behind my back and being a part of creating chaos in the body. When I told him this, he began to weep and asked my forgiveness. He was immediately healed. After we ate lunch, he traveled with me to another town that afternoon.

I was traveling with an older Pastor named Bob Hoover many years ago. As we traveled across Montana, he shared with me that he was getting up early in the morning and spending time with God. I asked him if he had a prayer or Bible study routine, or what he did. He told me he did nothing but wait in silence on God. He then told me how, a

few weeks previous, he had been at a meeting where he had prayed for six young people from a group home who were deaf and mute. Nothing happened, and after the meeting, he was with the pastor, who received a call. When the children arrived at their home, they could all hear and speak.

This gift of healing, many times, requires laying on of hands, and James 5:14 speaks of anointing the person with oil.

We see healing through the command of Peter in Acts 3.

Are you seeing this gift as the same as a miracle, or do you realize it is a gift to minister in the power of Jesus's name and authority in relationship with the Holy Spirit?

It is to be administered not from our own desires or understanding but rather under the Lord's direction and authority. We see this in Acts 9:36-40. *Now there was in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, who, by interpretation, is called Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and deeds of charity, which she did. And it came to pass in those days that she was sick and died. Whom, when they washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was near to Joppa, and the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he came, they brought him into the upper chamber, and all the widows stood by him, weeping and showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth and kneeled down and prayed, and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.*

Let us be filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, and obedient to the Spirit.

The working of miracles. A miracle is an event that occurs that is impossible without God's sovereignty making it happen. This is accomplished by the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, now living in us, manifesting the Rhema of God through us.

It is not fitting to teach or try to describe something unexplainable. We can only testify to that which we know as true and have seen with our own eyes.

I have witnessed God's healing power many times, often in the form of a miracle.

I was in Cambodia, and a sixteen-year-old girl came to me, saying she had been fasting and praying for someone to travel down the Mekong River to her village and share the gospel of Christ. When I asked her what church she attended, she said she didn't have a church. When I asked her how she knew to fast and pray, she told me she had come to the city for school and was staying with her grandmother, who had a Bible. She had been reading it and had found Christ. She said it was there that she saw how, when people fasted and prayed, God answered their prayers.

We then secured a boat and went to her village.

Upon arrival, it took some time to obtain the village leaders' permission to share the Gospel with the people. After that, we held a meeting under a house situated on concrete pillars, about eight feet in height, due to the flood stage during the wet season. When I finished teaching, we then prayed for two women to receive Jesus. After that, we prayed for two more. As we prayed, the older lady stood up and began swinging her arm, talking loudly and excitedly. I was concerned and asked the young woman interpreting for me what was wrong. She said nothing was wrong. The woman was telling everyone that her arm, which she could not move, had been healed, her eyesight had been restored, and she could see everyone clearly again.

As we were leaving, my interpreter came to me again and said they were asking me to cut their belts off. They wore belts to ward off evil spirits. Now they had Jesus, and they were no longer afraid. Glory to God!

Now that we have studied the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it is up to each one of us to desire the best gifts and covet the gift of prophecy. Let each of us ask the Holy Spirit to enroll us in his school of the prophets.

Let us commit our lives daily to praying in the Spirit and living in the Word.

Many hear this and choose not to pursue it. They receive the Spirit, the wind, and the fire, but in the end, have only the smoke.

We can find churches all over the world that preach Jesus while denying the power now ours through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They remain ever-learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. They continue to believe that education and structure can bring the reality of Christ to this world, rather than forsaking their pride and control, praying in tongues, and allowing Christ to build the church.

As believers, we are now expected to be connected to God through our spirits.

Today, the reality of Jesus' words is being fulfilled. John 4:23-24 But the hour comes, and now is when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in Truth.

Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Jeremiah 23:23

After we are born again, it tells us in Philippians 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God which worketh in you to will and to do of his good pleasure.

It is God's desire for every believer to live and function from beyond the veil. It is from here that the church will write the final chapter of the Book of Acts. They will do it in the same power and reality of the Holy Spirit that we see upon Peter and John in chapter three and Paul and Barnabas throughout their missionary journeys.

Jesus is telling us the same thing he told them then, and he is saying it even now to you and me: 'Go, ye!'

VISION

Talk about faith! God had the faith to entrust the Gospel of Jesus Christ to new believers, instructing them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

When the Gospel has been preached to the ends of the earth, He will return.

The new believer, now entered within the veil, must accept who he is.

1 Corinthians 6:14-15 & 19-20

And the Lord has both raised us up with the Lord and will also raise us up by his own power. Know you not that your bodies are the members of Christ?

What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For -you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your Spirit, which are God's.

I am afraid that, for the most part, believers have taken this to apply to the abstract without fully grasping it and living out the reality of God's plan and purpose for their lives here on earth.

We see that it very specifically tells us to do it in our bodies. How do we do this? It tells us how in John 14:23 & 15:7-8

If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you will, and it will be done for you. Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be my disciples.

This can only be accomplished through people who have a vision. Those who have relinquished everything, consecrated themselves, and through obedience have come into alignment with God's good and exact and perfect will.

We must come within ourselves to realize and possess our position in Christ beyond the veil. We have become the new creation, now joined in Spirit with Christ in the heavens, and we will accept the race we have been chosen to run. From our position of rest and dominion, we will enter into a relationship of intimacy with the person of the Holy Spirit.

From this position of dominion, we pray our prayers of faith. Here we will receive dreams and visions and go forth to do great exploits and bring forth His kingdom. This is the strategy of God and the avenue He uses to increase the peace and government of the kingdom and fulfill our prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy *will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*"

Everything God is doing today in His kingdom comes through the Church. It begins in prayer and is fulfilled through the dreams and visions of the believers.

The difference between a daydream and a vision is commitment.

It is not the intellectual that matters to God, nor those who point out where those doing actual work in the harvest are not exact and perfect in their performance. The power of Pentecost is found with those beggars who have cast their garments behind them and are actually following Jesus in the way. Those who dare to pray, Oh God, please let me win, and if I perish in my attempt, let it be for your glory.

Very soon after we are reborn, God will reveal his will and purpose for us. Through dreams and visions from the Holy Spirit, we will come to live and demonstrate the living power and reality of God. It is in this arena that God has chosen to answer our prayers and manifest his glory.

We see this in the life of Abraham. God gave him a dream and vision of who he was to

be. He took him and showed him the stars in heaven, telling him to look and imagine his seed as the stars in heaven and the sand by the sea.

He revealed to Jacob the colored livestock in a dream. Then, in faith, Jacob laid the rods in the feed troughs and saw the miraculous.

God put the vision into David through the prophet, to Mary by an angel, and to Joseph through a dream. To Peter on the rooftop by a vision.

As they aligned themselves in obedience and through their faith, they brought glory to God.

We see this in Abraham, who went out without knowing where he was going, and then in Genesis 24, when Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for his son, Isaac. He told him, *“The Lord of heaven, which took me from my father’s house, and the land of my kindred, and which spoke unto me, and that swore unto me, saying unto your seed will I give this land; He shall send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife unto my son.”* The servant would later report, I bowed down my head, and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the right way to take my master’s nephew’s daughter unto his son.

We see this same pattern in the New Testament in Acts chapter 8, where the angel of the Lord spoke to Phillip when he was bringing revival to Samaria and told him to go toward the south, unto the way that goes down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. Again, we see the servant in obedience to the Father, without knowing the reason, going out, and while he was in the way, God led him to the Ethiopian Eunuch. This time, it was to secure the Bride of Christ.

Paul testified to the elders of Ephesus. *And now I go bound in the Spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Ghost witnesses in every city, saying that bonds and affliction abide me. But none of these things move me, nor do I count my life dear to myself. So that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

The vision begins with God and is brought forth through death to logic and reason, relinquishment of everything, and coming into alignment with the Holy Spirit, through obedience to his leading, no matter the cost.

As the seed is planted in the womb, the things of God begin in secret. Some nine months later, a life comes into being upon the earth from the seed in the womb. So, it is with our vision. There is a point at which our vision begins in the spirit, as the gift of faith comes into our consciousness. Then begins the process of realizing what has been revealed. This occurs as a result of the fruit of faith that must be cultivated within our souls and may take many years to be fully realized.

We see this in Jeremiah 32:6-8:

And Jeremiah said, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum, your uncle, shall come unto you, saying, buy me my field that is in Anathoth; for the right of inheritance is yours to buy.it So Hanameel, my uncle's son, came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the Lord, and said to me, Buy my field, I pray thee that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is yours, and the redemption is yours; buy it for yourself. Then I knew it was the Lord.

It then took time and obedience to fulfill God's plan.

We see this in the life of the Apostle Paul, who, after taking the Gospel across the nations, continued to pray in Philippians 3:7-15

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yes, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him not having mine own righteousness which is of the law but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith, That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might

attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained either or were already perfect. But I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ. Brothers, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth for those which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature be thus minded, and if you are otherwise minded, God will reveal even this to you.

You see, Paul understood that in God's calling, He has a plan and a vision for our lives. Paul had a dream and a vision. We see this in the book of Romans, which he wrote before he ever traveled there. In Chapter 15, we read that he confessed his vision and told them he was on his way to Spain.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.

The kingdom now waits for those who will join this child and discover the zeal of the Lord of Hosts, who yearns to partner with them.

Let us look at Habakkuk 2:2-3. And the Lord answered me and said, "Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets that he may run that reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end, it shall speak and not lie; though it tarries, wait for it because it will surely come. It will not tarry."

First, we see that our vision must be confirmed and made permanent by writing it down. We then begin ordering our lives so as not to delay or abort it through our disbelief. Thus, we start to run towards it.

When we examine the vision, we see first that we are running, meaning we prepare ourselves for the fulfillment to happen. We then read where it tells us to wait for it, for in the end, it will speak. Jeremiah did nothing as he waited for the Lord's confirmation. When the nephew came, he said, "Then I knew it was the word of the Lord."

So, for me, when I think the Lord is leading me, I see a red light. I then wait for the Lord to confirm it. Once I believe I have the vision, I continue to pray and wait on the Lord. I do nothing to move towards it. Once I receive confirmation from beyond myself or "the vision speaks," I then see this as my green light to release my faith and run with abandon in the fulfillment of it. Here, the Lord doesn't speak; the vision does. In other words, God will create the natural circumstances that make it happen.

In the area of Spiritual guidance, three things must agree: the witness, the word, and the circumstances. When we receive what we believe the Lord is speaking to us, we have the witness. We find this in James 3:17-18, But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy, and the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. We then search the Scriptures and confirm the witness by the word. Once we have done this, we wait for God's sovereignty to agree through the circumstances. We do not force it to happen through our flesh. We walk by faith and receive that which begins in God and is brought forth by his grace.

Let us reach beyond our souls and enter this new dispensation of the Holy Spirit relationship. Let us cross the threshold into this last new frontier of the living reality of Christ revealed through us today.

Oh, the wonder of wonders, almighty God now living in us, desires to come to the lost and weary souls yet to be saved with healing and deliverance through our dreams and visions. Here, we will reveal the reality of Jesus Christ as He is today on earth, just as He was yesterday, and shall be forever.

“The only limit to the power of Almighty God lies within you.”

—**Kathryn Kuhlman**

“This is a great summation. Brothers and sisters, I want you to see Jesus this morning because if we don’t see Him, we miss so much. Both grace and gifts are equally abundant in Him. As you set your strength on Jesus, and as you allow the Holy Spirit to penetrate every thought, always bringing unto your mind a perfect picture of holiness, purity, and righteousness, then you enter into Him and become entitled to all the riches of God. How do we measure up? God gives the measure. On the riches of God, this is a lovely word. ‘But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.’

Beloved, what are we going to do with this golden opportunity? With this inward pressure of a cry of God in your soul? Are you going to let others be crowned, and you lose the crown? Are you willing to be brought into captivity for God?

‘In you all.’ Think of that; God is in you all. Who is God? Who is the Holy Spirit? Who is Jesus? Is it possible to have any real conception of the mightiness of the power of God? And yet you take the thoughts of Jesus and see that all the embodiment of the fullness was right in Him. And I have him. And I have the Holy Spirit that is as great in equality for those three are one, and joined equally in power. They are perfectly one.

When the Spirit enters the body, how many are there in the body? You have Jesus already. When you are baptized, you have the Holy Spirit. And now God is in you all. Hallelujah! Talk about Sampson carrying the gates. If you know your position, you will take both the city and the gates. Go in and possess every part of the land. For surely there is a land of gladness, a land of pleasure, a land of peace.

And remember, brothers and sisters, when the Holy Spirit gets all of us, and we only speak with the Spirit's power and the Spirit's words, we find out it is always more and more and more. Oh, yes, we will magnify the Lord for all these things. If we don't, the stones will begin to cry out against us." Smith Wigglesworth

I will encourage you with the things Apostle Creed preached with such conviction and anointing so many decades ago that were written for life upon my soul.

Romans 12:1 tells us that offering our bodies as a living sacrifice is Holy and acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service. He would then say, "Reasonable service doesn't mean you are doing something special or that you need to be called. Any sensible person would never think of serving God in any other way. He would then say, "So crawl on out on the limb of the tree, take a saw and reach around behind yourself and cut the limb off, and fall on into Jesus."

I will ask you what he would then ask us young converts, "Are you living with your suitcase packed?"

When he prophesied and the Holy Spirit sent me to Valier, a city I had never been to, to raise up a church there, I have never forgotten what he said when I told him that he had never even heard me preach: "I don't have to; you simply need to obey." Little did I know that in my obedience to the Holy Spirit, I would be taken around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"The church and the world are starving for the demonstration of the gifts of the holy spirit in the believer today."

—David Yonggi Cho

This is the hour to release our faith and step across the threshold into the fullness of the third dispensation. Here we will embrace the God who is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34 Romans 2:11), the one true God who now is extending His sovereignty to us (Matthew 17:20, Luke 1:37). Nothing shall be withheld from us as we speak our faith

(Mark 11:23, Luke 17:6). We will now live our lives and reign as kings (Romans 5:17), knowing the God of creation has proclaimed a limitless release from His omnipotence through us, The Messiah places his sovereignty at our disposal by saying, “whosoever can ask and whatever they desire” and then proclaims, “I will do it” (John 14:12-14). That encourages us to do so, that our joy may be complete—John 16:24. Our Lord, who enables us (Philippians 4:13), our God, who declares His joy is to give us the kingdom. (Luke 12:32), the one who has lifted us with Himself and seated us in heavenly places at the Father’s right hand (Ephesians 2:4-5), living today as the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), with God the Father and God the Son dwelling in us (John 14:23).

We now live knowing that we walk in communion with the Holy Spirit, and as Jesus was here on earth, so now are we.

1 John 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world.

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