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# Faith



By Nicholas Greijdanus

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# The Believer's Faith

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## Dedication

Nicholas Greijdanus

[nicholasandamy@smartchat.net.au](mailto:nicholasandamy@smartchat.net.au)

[gloryofsharonhealingministry@gmail.com](mailto:gloryofsharonhealingministry@gmail.com)

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Dedication

I thank my wife Amy, my daughter Elisabeth and my sons Jona and Michael for their hard work.

*The Holy Bible, King James Version*. Cambridge Edition: 1769; *King James Bible Online*, 2015.

<http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org>

- Unless otherwise marked all scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV)

ASV= American Standard Version

NLT= New Living Translation

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## Introduction

There are many different sides to the message of faith.

When I was a young believer, I was with the organisation 'Youth With a Mission' (YWAM) for five years.

It was on the Hawaii, USA where my life was radically changed when I surrendered myself to God.

I asked to be baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire, very soon after that, I became a mission builder in Kona, on the big Island of Hawaii where I lived.

There, faith was not just a teaching but a reality for this big YWAM base was built by faith.

People came from all over the world to help build this amazing centre which is still sending out hundreds of missionaries today.

I heard the preaching on faith by Loren Cunningham and saw him live by faith as YWAM bases were built all over the world.

Later, I was also a part of a YWAM base in Ghana, Africa.

Here they had to always pray in the money before anything could be built or organised.

As we were there ministering, we saw miracles and healings as we stepped out in faith.

I was a part of a seven-day miracle campaign led by Reinhardt Bonke where great signs, wonders and miracles happened.

In those meetings, Reinhardt preached a lot about faith.

The difference in these meetings was that the preaching of faith was with demonstration of signs, wonders and miracles.

On my journey of faith, I learnt that it has to be practical but it also has to change us into the image of the God we are believing in.

This means that faith transforms us into the image of the Son of God who showed us who God the Father is.

There is a journey or pathway of faith that we have to learn to walk on, for Christ didn't only come to set us free but to make us free indeed.

This book will help you to grow in your message of faith and also how to become transformed so you can be free indeed.

## Chapter 1: Great Faith

### The centurion

There was a humble centurion whose servant was very sick.

The servant was lying at his house, paralysed and in intense pain.

A Roman Centurion could be compared to a Sergeant Major in today's army.

This man understood who Jesus Christ was and by whom He was sent.

He also understood protocol.

In this way he approached the Master and called Him, Lord; he had great faith in Christ's mission.

He explained the situation to Christ,

The Lord said; shall I come down to your house.

No, he said, just speak the word and my servant shall be healed.

When Jesus heard this He was surprised about the greatness of this man's faith.

(Mat 8: 10-13) When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Jesus said to him, as you have believed, so be it done unto you.

At that moment, the servant was healed.

### On Missions

When I was a young believer, I spent 2 years in Africa as a young missionary.

We were building the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) base and a worker said that his wife was very sick at home.

Their home was about 50 kilometres away.

I said, we can pray for her where we are, by faith, and she can be healed at home.

We prayed in faith.

Later, the testimony was that at the same time as we had prayed, the woman was healed.

### Our Foundation

When Jesus Christ was speaking with the centurion, He revealed great truths.

He said that many people who were born of the Kingdom in a natural way would be cast out into great darkness.

Why would this be so?

As the way into the Kingdom of God, for the Jew and for the Gentile people, is having a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

(Rom 1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Yet others would eat with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

People who were born from other nations like this Roman Centurion.

We can understand here that Jesus Christ was talking about that many natural olive branches or descendants of Israel would be cut off.

- The Roman Centurion also had faith in Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world because he called Christ; Lord.

He had understood Jesus Christ's gospel message of the kingdom of God, therefore he had come.

The Apostle Paul said, "Therefore there is only one true foundation".

(1 Cor 3:11) For other foundation can no man lay that that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

By believing with our whole heart in the redeeming sacrifices of Jesus Christ, we enter into this foundation.

### **Have Faith**

The Bible says that it is impossible to please God without faith.

(Heb 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Why is it impossible to please God without faith?

- Because faith puts our eye's only on God's way.
- Only faith in Jesus Christ can save, heal and deliver us.

All other ways, philosophies and religions lead us to trust in man's ways or demonic spirits.

### **A blue line**

In the end of the eighties, there were a lot of preachers talking about the subject of faith.

Many others were saying negative things about these preachers.

I went to see for myself, what the Bible has to say about faith and believing.

I underlined everywhere in the Bible where it said the word faith or believe with a blue marker (and made a blue line).

I saw that the gospels, especially the gospel of John, talked a lot about faith or believing.

- ❖ And the person who talked about it the most was our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Therefore, Jesus Christ is the greatest faith preacher there ever has been.

He said that whosoever believed shall have eternal life.

(Joh 3:15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

He taught that through faith or believing:

- A. We will be saved and receive eternal life
- B. We will be baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire
- C. We will be saved, forgiven and given eternal life
- D. That God will provide for us
- E. God will do miracles
- F. Healing will happen
- G. Believers will do signs, wonders and miracles
- H. That we will receive peace and joy

- I. That we can grow in holiness and the ways of God
- J. We can do our practical day to day jobs better

## **The Roman Centurion and Authority**

The Roman Centurion understood the importance of authority.

He said, when I say to a soldier to go, they go and do their job.

(Mat 8:8-9) The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. (9) For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*.

He also said, "For I am a man under authority", then the Lord replied, "You have great faith."

(Mat 8:10) When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Then his servant was healed.

(Mat 8:13) And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, *so* be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

The quest for all of us is authority.

### ❖ Authority is the lawful right to use power.

The Roman Centurion understood that Jesus Christ's authority comes from the God of Israel who created heaven and earth.

Our faith has to be in the God of Israel who created heaven and earth.

In the Word, God says that He is only pleased by faith.

(Heb 11:6) But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

## **The God of Israel**

The Lord Jesus Christ always did the will of God the Father and worked under His authority.

The faith in Christ demonstrated by this Roman Centurion released the power of the God of Israel and his servant was healed.

Power is released through the authority of the one we are obedient too.

Christ was in obedient to the God of Israel whom He served and God sent His power to heal the servant.

(Joh 5:19) Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Therefore, Christ knew God's will and spoke the word, then the miracles happened.

## **The God of Israel is Holy**

Power is released through the authority of the one we are obedient to.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was obedient to the God of Israel, the creator of heaven and earth who is holy and who healed the beloved servant of the Roman Centurion.

How can we come in relationship with this powerful God? The Bible says that we can only come to Him if we have a pure heart and clean hands for our God lives on the holy mountain.

(Psa 24:3-5) Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? (4) He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. (5) He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

The Bible says that the almighty God is HOLY.

The angels in heaven cry day and night that the almighty God is HOLY.

(Rev 4:8) And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

The God of Israel also says about Himself that He is holy.

(Lev 21:8) Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, *am* holy.

All of us have sinned and fallen short of His glory.

In our own strength or ability, we can't fix this.

(Rom 3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

### **Only Through Faith**

Our holy God who loves us through His mercy, has made a way for us to know Him and to be saved eternally.

❖ This way is through faith.

Faith in God and faith in the One He sent to save us from our sin.

We have all sinned and all need to repent and believe in the saviour.

(Joh 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah who the holy God of Israel would send to save all men of their sin.

Therefore, Jesus Christ was sent under the authority and by the holy God of Israel, where unto He was obedient to fulfilling the plan of salvation for all who believed.

(Joh 5:24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

This faith is called faith to believe.

Faith is of the heart and as we believe with our heart and confess the Lord Jesus Christ with our mouth, we will be saved.

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

### **A Holy People**

❖ Our faith is not in our faith.



- ❖ Our faith is in the holy God of Israel and in His Beloved Son whom He sent to die for our sins and to be our Saviour.

(Joh 6:39-40) And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. (40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

When we believe, repent, surrender and ask Christ to come and live in our heart, we are born again and receive God's holy divine nature within our heart.

We are then born again of the Holy Spirit.

(2Pe 1:3-4) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

### **Put on the New Man**

When we come to faith and are born again, we put off the old nature/flesh or the old man and put on the new man.

This means that we learn to live in the spirit or in the new nature we received in our heart which is holy.

We are then positionally holy, yet progressively as we grow as a believer, we learn to walk in our daily life in a holy way.

We are then all called to be a holy priest, built together as God's holy temple.

(1Pe 2:5) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we are to grow up as a holy people into a holy nation, to grow up into perfection as holy, mature servants of God.

(1Pe 2:9) But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

### **Salvation Prayer**

If you want to believe and want to repent and give your life to Christ, pray this prayer:

Dear Father in heaven,

Today I repent of my sin and turn and believe in your salvation plan.

Please wash me, Jesus Christ, with your cleansing blood.

I surrender myself to you and believe that you are my Lord and Saviour.

Come now and live in my heart and fill me with your Holy Spirit.

Fill me with your life and peace.

Amen.

### **The light of His face**

God wants us to learn to walk in faith before Him.

When we do that, the light of God's face will shine upon us.

(Psa 67:1,2) God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

For God wants us to seek His face.

Many of us only use our faith to move God's heart and hands. This is so they can see miracles happen. This is not the correct way.

- ❖ God's first desire is that we seek His face that shines with holy light.
- ❖ This holy light will bring us on our knees and bring us to repentance, where His will is not our will and our ways are not yet His ways.

(Psa 27:8) When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

(Psa 24:6) This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

- ❖ When we seek God's face and touch His heart, His hands will be released to bring transformation to the nations and signs, wonders and miracles will be released.

(Psa 67:1,2) God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

## Three different kinds of faith!

There are three different kinds of faith.

This has led to misunderstandings because people who are stretching their faith to grow their measure of faith are being accused of having no saving faith.

It is better not to accuse them for this will stop you from growing your measure of faith. We are all to grow in our faith.

Jesus Christ said, "will I find faith on the Earth when I come" for He also said, "Occupy until I come".

He was talking here about using the measure of faith that you have to stand for Him, not about saving faith.

### The three different kinds of faith are:

#### 1. The believer's or saving faith.

The greatest benefit of faith is that we can become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

- This is the faith to believe that Jesus Christ is the Saviour and to surrender by faith.

This faith also helps us to grow up as a true believer.

It also helps us to change our ways and our lifestyle into the ways of God and a godly lifestyle.

For His divine life makes us grow up, in all good virtues.

(2 Pet 1:3) According as his divine power hath give unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

#### 2. A measure of faith

- Every true believer has a measure of faith.

(Rom 12:3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

This measure will help us to move forward into what God has called us to do and be.

Therefore use the measure of faith you have to grow and push you into what God has for you.

This measure of faith is also the faith whereby, as believers, we are called to be a witness and to pray for healing and deliverance.

(Mar 16:17-18) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

This faith grows as we read and hear the Word of God.

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

(Rom 10:17) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

### 3. The gift of faith

The gift of faith is a supernatural gift of God given to some believers.

We call this the gift of faith.

This is a different gift than the believer's measure of faith.

(1 Cor 12:9) To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.

This gift of faith enables the person to see God do great signs, wonders and miracles.

We see this especially work in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the Apostles Peter and Paul.

We can also call this, having the faith of God operating through these people.

This gift of faith is different than the measure of faith whereby believers pray for healing and doing some deliverance.

In India, I prayed that it should not rain where we were having our revival meetings outside.

Where I was staying it poured buckets of rain.

Where the gospel meeting was going to be held, it was dry.

God gave me a gift of faith, I used it and believed and even the unbelieving Hindus were amazed that it didn't rain where we were holding our meeting.

## Chapter 2: Hearing brings Faith

### The Parable of the Sower

Our Lord Jesus Christ loved to share parables.

These parables contain secrets or mysteries that those who seek, shall find.

One day the Lord was telling them the parable of the sower.

- ❖ This parable has hidden secrets about how the Word of God works.
- ❖ It also teaches us how faith in the Word of God is shown into our hearts and how our faith grows.

This parable also shows that there is a devil that looks to steal or kill our faith. The devil and our fallen nature want to only look at the bright side of life and not protect our eternal salvation.

The good news of this parable is that our faith in God's Word can grow and that we can bring forth a 30%, 60% or 100% harvest.

### The Seed

Let's read the parable of the sower.

(Mat 13:3-9) And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; (4) And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: (5) Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: (6) And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. (7) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: (8) But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. (9) Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Christ said to His disciples that it had been given to them to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

The important thing was to be able to hear and understand the word that is spoken.

To be able to hear, we have to have a repenting, soft and humble heart.

Then the soil of our heart is soft for the seed of the Word of God and faith will arise so that the evil one can't steal it.

We also need to be single-minded and then we will bring forth much fruit.

### How Faith works

- How do we get faith?
- How does faith work?
- How can an unbeliever get faith?

The answer lies in the word of God.

### The Bible says: Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

(Rom 10:17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

We receive faith by hearing the word of God.

The more we hear the word of God, the more our faith grows.

Therefore God has sent preachers to go to all the nations of the world so all people can hear the word of God.

(Rom 10: 14,15) How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

God wants to give unbelievers faith through hearing the word of God being preached to them.

As they listen to the preaching of the Word of God, God gives faith to the unbelievers. Through this faith they can believe, become a believer and a follower of Jesus Christ.

## **The Gospel**

What do these preachers of the word of God preach whereby this faith comes?

They preach the gospel!

The gospel is the good and joyful news that the Saviour has come to the world.

(Isa 52:7) How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth.

This news is 100% good for the people who receive it.

- For they will go from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's glorious light.
- From Satan's kingdom to God's kingdom.
- From prison to freedom.
- From hell to heaven.
- From depression to joy.

## **Meditation on God's Word**

The plan of God is that we learn to hear the Word with our heart and our head.

Many people's faith doesn't go deep for they only hear with their minds.

God wants the word to go deep in our heart as we listen with our minds and our hearts open wide.

Meditation on the Word of God is a great way to let the word go deep in our heart.

(Psa 1:2) But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Through meditation we receive salvation.

When we receive revelation through meditation, our faith grows deep in our heart.

We are now hearing the word with our heart and receive revelation by the Holy Spirit in our heart which makes our faith strong.

This faith in our heart will loosen greater streams of living water for our roots have grown deeper.

(Psa 1:3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The Bible says we must believe with our hearts, therefore, head knowledge has to become heart knowledge.

(Rom 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

## **The word**

There is a very important truth that the Apostle John talks about in Chapter 1 of the gospel of John.

He starts to talk about the word of God in the first verse.

(Joh 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Here, He shows the truth that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one.

He also confirms, with this statement, that the Son of God is God.

### **Creator God**

Then the Apostle John goes a step further.

He says that the Son of God or Word of God created all things.

(Joh 1:3) All things were made by him and with out him was not any thing made that was made.

He is now talking about ELOHIM.

Elohim is the creator God.

God the Son which John calls 'The Word', created all things.

- Elohim is the first name of God in the Bible.

This is in the book of Genesis.

(Gen 1:1) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

When we go to the place where God wants to create man, we see something very interesting.

### **It says God the Creator, or Elohim, said **let us** make man. Therefore we see in "let us" the Trinity Godhead.**

(Gen 1:26) And God said, Let us make man in our 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 creepeth upon the earth.

This is where we see what the Apostle John was talking about.

God the Word (=Son) said, "let us make man".

In other words:

- Elohim (Father God) had the plan.
- Elohim (God's son) created it as He spoke out the word.
- Elohim (God the Holy Spirit) made it into a reality through His power.

As we read John 14 and 16, we see the Son of God clearly speaks about the Father, Son of God and the Spirit of God.

Why is this so important?

True faith can only be given to you by the creator God.

Only God Himself, can save you from your sin and take you from eternal death into eternal life.

Only by believing in the right way will heaven open up to us.

And this was one of Jesus Christ's most important points of His preaching.

In His preaching, He taught us how to truly believe.

### **Being sent**

The Apostle John said in his message that the word of God has life or brings life and this life is the light of the world.

(Joh 1:4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John knew that Jesus Christ was sent from heaven to earth as the Saviour of the world.

### **Christ's testimony**

Jesus Christ's testimony was that He would give us rest and peace as He was the Messiah.

(Mat 11:28, 29) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

He also said that if we believe in Him He would give us living water and living bread.

(Joh 7:38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

(Joh 6:51) I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

He said all of this because He was sent by the Godhead to save and redeem us and to bring us back to the holy loving heart of God.

He said: "Don't just believe in Me, believe in God who sent Me".

(Joh 5:38) And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

The religious Jews didn't want to believe in Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

He said, in answer to this, a prophet in his own town is without honour.

The problem was that the religious Jews tried to understand all things with their own reasoning.

The same problem can be seen today.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin called Mary.

The angels had proclaimed His birth.

(Luk 2:10 - 14) And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The angels had shared the gospel of the good news to men.

This story would have gone throughout all the land.

Spiritual things need to be spiritually discerned.

The religious leaders of that day were full of unbelief.

Even today, many don't believe in the virgin birth but if there was no virgin birth how could the Son of God come to us as the Son of Man?

### **Have faith**

Jesus Christ knew who He was and where He came from.

He knew He came from heaven and was sinless for His blood was from God the Father.

(Joh 6:38) For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

He said He came to do the will of God the Father.

The Father's purpose is that we will believe in His Son and have eternal life.

(Joh 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

### **God's miracles**

Jesus Christ did a lot of miracles.

In the first place, God the Father did these miracles through His Son to show them that Jesus was the Saviour and Messiah.

(Joh 7:31) And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this *man* hath done?

Then Jesus Christ started to challenge the unbelievers and said, "believe me when I say I am the Messiah by the signs and miracles that follow Me".

(Joh 10:37,38) If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father *is* in me, and I in him.

Then the day came that Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead.

The miracle and testimony of Lazarus' death and resurrection brought forth much faith to the people.

This faith refers to Jesus Christ being the way to heaven.

Lazarus himself, started giving his testimony about being raised from the dead to the Jews.

(Joh 11:43 - 45) And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

Therefore, we should also believe that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life.

There is no other way to God then through Jesus Christ.

(Joh 14:6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

### **True versus False**

- Jesus Christ said that He and the Father are one and the same God.

(Joh 10:30) I and *my* Father are one.

### **We need to believe.**

Therefore, we can understand the need to believe that:

1. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are One. They are One God.

Jesus Christ said it again in John 14:11



(Joh 14:11) Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

The result of the works happens through God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ said He would go to heaven and through the Holy Spirit, God would live in us, when we believe.

(Joh 14:23) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

2. God is a God of three persons yet they are one and one God.
3. Jesus Christ was God the Creator and has come to us as Son of God and Son of Man to save us.

These three facts are all through the Bible.

The Islam uses the first part of the Bible for they also talk about Abraham.

They should read the part that it says about God the creator when He says "let us make man".

Then they would understand that God has a Son.

### **False Beliefs**

The Jehovah Witnesses and the Mormons both say that Jesus Christ is an angel or a created person.

This is false.

An angel cannot save your soul, only deceive you.

That is what they are doing, deceiving the people.

- ❖ Jesus Christ is the Word of God and is God.

(Joh 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Only God can take away sin.

He became one of us, yet without sin, and this gave God the authority to take away our sin.

He gave His holy blood to save us.

Therefore we can receive the blood of God the Son and live.

The doctors tell us that a child's blood group genetically comes from the father.

Jesus Christ was born from a virgin; therefore He had the blood of God the Father.

- ❖ When we receive the blood of Christ then we receive God's life as life is in the blood.
- ❖ As we believe in the Son of God we have eternal life.

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

Therefore we need to listen to good preaching about true salvation.

## Chapter 3: Building on the Rock

### A stormy sea

One day, the disciples were going with their boat from one side of the lake to the other side for they were on a mission.

A great storm broke out over the lake of Galilee.

They were almost sinking.

Jesus Christ was sleeping.

They woke Him up.

They said, Master our boat is about to sink.

Christ spoke to the sea and said, peace, be still.

The wind calmed down and the waves ceased.

Jesus Christ, who had done great miracles which they had witnessed, said unto them, why don't you have faith?

(Mar 4:40,41) And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, what manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him.

There is so much we can learn from this story.

Jesus Christ was on a mission to set the Gadarene demoniac free.

They had to go there by boat, in the natural, the devil stirred up a great storm against them.

This opposition didn't touch Jesus, He knew, because holy Father God always revealed to Him where He was going and what mission He was on.

He would also stand these trials for His life was 100% built upon the Word of God.

### It is Written

- ❖ Our Lord Jesus' authority came from God the Father and the Word of God, his ministry was also built upon the Word of God.

Early on in the ministry of Jesus, He was tempted by the devil.

The way Jesus overcame Satan in the wilderness was by using the authority of the Word of God.

He said, "It is written"

(Luk 4:4) And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Our Lord said that our real eternal life comes from the word of God and not from natural bread.

Our real bread is the Word of God.

Christ then opposed Satan three times with scriptures from the Word of God, saying, "It is written".

Therefore, our authority is in the Word of God.

### Christ knew that God is only pleased by faith.

(Heb 11:1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(Heb 11:6) But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

### Faith in the Word of God brings us into the Promised Land and into a deep rest.

Therefore, Jesus Christ could sleep in the storm.

### Entering into God's rest

The Bible says that there is a rest for the people of God.

(Heb 4:9) Thereremaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Yet, in the time of Moses, the people of God could not enter into that rest because of unbelief.

- ❖ Therefore, to receive the promises of God, we need to have faith.
- ❖ Faith in the Word of God.

(Heb 3:17-19) But with whom was he grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Therefore, Jesus Christ shows us how to enter the rest, by being asleep in the boat when it stormed. He believed that God was greater than the storm.

### He had entered the promise of the rest of God because He believed.

### Jesus Christ was also in this rest of faith, or peace, because He had a soft and obedient heart before our holyFather as He walked in the ways of God.

The people of Israel did the opposite.

(Ps 95:10,11) Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said. It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways; Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can enter the real eternal rest of God.

Jesus calls us to believe in Him and to enter in and receive His rest.

Christ gives us this rest as we believe and surrender.

(Mat 11:28-29) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

When we follow the example of Jesus Christ to have faith in God's word, power and ability even when it storms. Then we are building on the rock and the true foundation.

### Martin Luther

### We have explored that our faith has to be built upon the true foundation.

In the Dark Ages, this truth was hidden from the people.

The Roman Catholic Church didn't want people to read the Bible for themselves.

Then God used Martin Luther to reveal this truth.

Luther's foundational scripture was Romans 1:17.

(Rom 1:17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

- ❖ Today we know this, that the just shall live by faith.
- ❖ When we believe, not only are our sins forgiven but also our guilt is taken away.

Many people struggle with guilt and its condemnation.

The law puts us all under guilt.

(Rom 3:19) Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

We are not saved through the Law but by faith.

Faith sets us free from guilt and condemnation.

Faith makes us righteous before God.

### **Christ took all guilt**

When people steal things from a shop, they call it a crime.

When they are caught they have to go to court and the judges declare them guilty.

We, as Christians, call the crime a sin and when we sin we stand guilty before God.

The Law says, you shall not steal, lie, murder, or commit adultery.

When we break the law and sin we also stand guilty before God.

The Good news is that, through faith in Jesus Christ our:

1. Sin is forgiven
2. Offence is taken away
3. Crime is paid for
4. Guilt is washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ.

(Rom 3:21 - 26) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

By the blood of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sin.

We are now justified before the throne of God.

This means our sin, offence, crime and guilt are paid for by Jesus Christ.

We are washed clean and receive a godly nature.

The court of heaven has set us free.

1 Joh 1:7 (AMP) But if we (really) are living and walking in the Light, as He (Himself) is in the Light, we have (true, unbroken) fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt (keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations).

Here we see that the blood of Jesus Christ has removed all our sin and guilt.

### **Saved by Faith**

Therefore, we are saved by faith.

Faith that is based upon Jesus Christ's redeeming sacrifice.

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

This is the believer's faith.

There is no other way to be saved.

(1Ti 2:5) *For there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

### **Not by feelings**

The Bible says we are to walk by faith and not by sight or feelings.

(2Co 5:7) For we walk by faith, not by sight.

A lot of Christians base their belief upon if it feels good or being a rationalist.

This is one of the reasons Christians stop growing.

Others are being led away into false religions like the New Age.

❖ We need to base our faith and beliefs upon the Word of God.

We need to change our mind set from rationalism to doing the will of God.

(Rom 12:1,2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Jesus Christ told us that our faith should be that of a little child who trusts his father.

We live:

1. By our Faith
2. By doing God's will
3. Then our feelings will come in line with the word of God.

### **The rock**

❖ Our faith is based upon the whole word of God.

The New and Old Testament are one.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, which is the New Covenant or New Testament, we can understand the Old Testament.

We have talked about Jesus Christ as the word of God.

Yet there is another word picture used in the Old and New Testament where God and the Messiah are seen as the Rock.

❖ It is the Rock of Israel.

(2Sa 23:3) The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God.

This shows our foundation of faith needs to be strong.

It needs to be built upon the rock.

The rock is the word of God and His name is Jesus Christ.

**Honey out of the Rock**

Our God is our rock in hard times.

Through our faith in Christ we will learn how to be safe in hard times.

(1Sa 2:2) There *is* none holy as the LORD: for *there is* none beside thee: neither *is there* any rock like our God.

When we are attacked by the forces of darkness and we learn about the power in the word of God.

As our faith grows, then we are learning to truly stand upon the rock.

(Psa 27:5,6) For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

There we will learn about the sweetness and goodness of our God.

For our God is good and His mercies endure forever.

❖ This is the honey out of the rock.

(Psa 81:16) He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

God wants to reveal true faith and revelation what Christ has done and accomplished for us on the cross.

The revelation of God's love in God's word is also the honey out of the rock.

**A sure foundation**

Our faith needs to have that sure foundation.

Reading and meditating on the Word of God are very important.

When you do that, you hear the word in your spirit man and your faith grows.

Our Lord Jesus talked about this.

He said; "don't build your faith upon sand".

Sand is a picture of building upon your feelings or on circumstances.

He said build your faith upon the rock.

The rock is the Word of God.

The Word is Jesus Christ.

(Joh 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus Christ is God, He came as the Godman to earth. The Son of God, is the Son of Man.

The Jews knew the Old Testament, they knew it meant build your faith upon God and His word.

(Mat 7:24 - 27) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Our feelings and circumstances will change but God's word will never change.

If we want to see lasting fruit in our lives, we need to build upon the rock, God's word.

### **Victory over the gates of hell**

The power of the gates of hell was destroyed when Jesus Christ died on the cross.

God the Father stood up and He himself said to Satan, your power is now broken.

(Col 2:14.15) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

This is why Jesus Christ said: upon this rock will I build My church and the powers of Satan will not be able to stop it.

- ❖ The rock is victorious.
- ❖ The rock is the Word of God
- ❖ The rock is faith in the Word of God

(Mat 16:18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

We have now received the keys of heaven and with this we can loose and bind.

(Mat 16:19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- ❖ Our faith that is built upon the rock or word of Jesus Christ is Victorious Faith.

It will see the enemy run from us as we start to use the keys of the kingdom of God.

### **Standing on God's Word**

The Bible says that all God's promises are yes and amen.

(2Co 1:20) For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Therefore, we are called to stand on the promises of God's Word.

God's Word is 100% true.

Satan is afraid for the authority of the Word of God.

The living word of life, which is Jesus Christ, has defeated Satan on the cross.

(1Jn 1:1) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

With the written word we can quote how Satan was defeated.

(Col 2:14-15) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (15) *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The Living Word, who is eternal life in itself, has given us eternal life as we believe and have faith in the Word of God.

(1 Joh 1:1,2NLT) We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. (2) this one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

### **Made Righteous and Holy**

The sacrifices of Christ on the cross was to make us righteous and holy.

When we believe in Him, we are made righteous and are sanctified, which means made holy.

(Rom 3:24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

In sanctification, we have the 3P's of sanctification. I teach about all three of these in Chapter 12.

The first P of sanctification is positional sanctification.

This means all of your sins are forgiven and you are made 100% righteous and holy.

In this chapter we are talking about positional sanctification.

### **Freedom Lies in the Word**

When I was a young believer, I was tormented by many evil spirits.

This increased when I went to the mission field in West Africa.

In Europe, I was doing well, but in the African nation of Togo, I lost my battle for a season.

I didn't know about my position of faith.

I also didn't know about the first P of positional sanctification.

Our faith has justified us and made us righteous.

(Gal 2:16) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

(Rom 3:24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

One day, I came across a book of Morris Cerullo who taught about our position of victory as believers.

I learnt that:

1. I was 100% forgiven because of faith in Christ and the Word.  
(1Jn 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
2. That I was 100% righteous in the eyes of God as a believer in Christ.  
(Rom 3:22) Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:



3. That I was 100% victorious in Christ over the works of demons, evil spirits and darkness.  
(Luk 10:19) Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

### **The Word's Authority**

After I read the book I started standing on the Word of God in faith and in authority.

All the tormenting, oppressing and harassing demons left.

Christ came for this purpose to destroy Satan's power.

(1Jn 3:8) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

We are now called to believe in the Word of God and exercise our faith and authority.

Now I teach others that they can also be free as they stand in their faith and authority in the Word of God.

### **Rock of offence**

We are called to build upon the rock, Jesus Christ.

Many people speak against this rock.

We are wise when we build upon this rock.

(Rom 9:32,33) Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

God wanted Israel to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

They had great zeal but not the true spiritual knowledge.

We can have much zeal for God but if it is not built upon the Word of God by faith, it will fail.

### **Don't be offended**

Building upon the rock makes us strong in our faith.

We do this through being obedient to what the Bible or word of God teaches.

Obedience to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit's leading is the key to spiritual growth.

❖ Faith comes by hearing and faith grows through true obedience.

### **Rise up**

The way to rise up against offence is to rise up into the word of God and stir up our faith.

When we do this we will see breakthrough, victory, miracles and spiritual growth happen.

Ways in which we can use the Word of Faith:

1. Standing on the promises of the word of God.
2. Speaking forth the promises in the word of God.
3. Proclaim the word of God.
4. Decree the word of God.
5. Declare the word of God.

(Rom 3:26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

6. Do binding and loosing.
7. Listen to the Rhema or 'now' word that God spoke to you. Pray and speak this out.

## Chapter 4: Saved by Grace through Faith

### Moses saw the Glory

Moses had seen God's mighty hand move in great power.

He had seen God send the ten plagues upon the Egyptians and he saw God make a road in the Red Sea whereby Israel could escape from the Pharaoh and his army.

Pharaoh and his army even drowned when the waters came upon them, while Israel reached the other side on dry ground.

Moses wanted to know God in yet a deeper way and prayed, "show me Your glory".

God said, "I will show you My glory".

(Exo 33:22) And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

As God passed by Moses, He showed His glory and by it, He revealed some of His attributes.

(Exo 34:6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

### The Lord Gracious

The Lord God said to Moses, "I am merciful, gracious, slow to anger, patient, longsuffering, good and truth".

Therefore, we see that our God is a merciful and gracious God. Out of God's great lovingkindness and mercy, He has sent Christ to save us.

He has raised us up in Christ to show the exceeding riches of His grace and kindness in the age to come.

(Eph 2:7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Therefore, grace is a part of God's glory and an attribute of God in the glory.

So out of God's glory or God's heart, He has made the plan of salvation whereby we can be eternally saved.

In the ages to come, little by little, we will come to understand how great His glorious mercy, grace and kindness is.

### Saved by grace

- By God's grace we are saved.

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

- The new man, Jesus Christ, has saved us by grace, through faith.

(Rom 5:15) But not as the offence, so also *is* 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, hath abounded unto many.

Under Adam, the first man, all came under sin and its dominion but by God's grace and mercy, Christ Jesus set us free.

- ❖ Through Jesus Christ we have received God's divine nature.
- ❖ Through Him we are set free from the domain of sin.
- ❖ The curse and Satan's power over us is broken.

All of this happens by God's grace, through faith.

(Rom 3:24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

## God's heart

# God's grace is God's heart of love for us.

By God's grace and through the power of grace we will get to know:

- ❖ God's goodness
- ❖ God's love
- ❖ God's tender mercy
- ❖ God's kindness
- ❖ God's humility and gentleness

We also learn the ability to trust.

Grace is an attribute of God.

Grace is in the glory realm of God.

(Exo 34:6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

(1Pe 2:3) If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

We are saved by grace through faith.

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

Through faith we can experience these different attributes of God as we press into the Word of God and the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

## Our hearts established in grace

God wants our heart to be established in his love, mercy, kindness etc.

- ❖ It all starts by our hearts being established in grace.

(Heb 13:9) Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Through faith, we will be established in grace.

By faith press into God's promises.

We have to know, in our hearts, that these promises are the will of God for all believers.

## By faith

- ❖ By faith we press into these scriptures
- ❖ By faith we proclaim these scriptures
- ❖ By faith we stand upon these scriptures
- ❖ By faith we crucify the religious flesh that wants to stop us from entering into the heart of God
- ❖ By faith we press into the work of the Holy Spirit that wants to pour love, grace and mercy out throughout our whole being

## **Rooted and grounded**

God's will for all of us, is to be rooted and grounded in love.

The body of Christ has to learn how to do this.

(Eph 3:17,18) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height.

Only by receiving God's glory, love, grace and mercy will the body of Christ become one.

Jesus Christ said that the glory of God is the power for the body of Christ to become one.

We have to be baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire but also baptised with the glory by the Holy Spirit.

(1Pe 4:14) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

This will help us to love ourselves. When we are full of love we can love one another.

Then the world will see that we are true disciples of Jesus Christ.

(Joh 13:34) A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

## **Dwelling in love**

This grace, through faith, has made the way for us to dwell in God's love.

God wants us to be a dwelling place of His holy glorious love.

For we are a temple of God, and He wants to fill this temple with His love.

(1Jn 4:16) And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Through grace, by faith, this inheritance promise is yours.

You are called to be a dwelling place of His love.

## **Trusting**

By grace, through faith, God wants us to trust Him.

Many times we want to be strong.

But the gospel is the gospel of the cross of Christ.

(1Co 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

- It says to those that are saved, the preaching of the cross is the power of God.

God wants our faith to become so strong that in the softest part of our heart we can be weak before Him.

When we are weak, then He will be strong on our behalf.

- ❖ For we have to let go of ourselves and our self-life.

(2Co 12:10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

When we are able to do this, God can do great miracles through us and heal us in the deepest pain in our heart.

Even if we have suffered any kind of abuse when we were small or when we were growing up.

It is all by grace.

Grace, through faith, brings us deep into the loving heart of God.

Grace and faith is the opposite of pride, works of the flesh and the works of the law.

### **Without the law**

Now salvation and righteousness has come without the law.

(Rom 3:21,22) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.

We are saved by grace, through faith, and this without the law.

Grace and faith redeem us.

Grace and faith saves us.

Grace and faith justifies us.

Grace and faith makes us righteous.

### **Grace and truth**

The Lord Jesus Christ came to make the New Covenant or New Testament with us through faith in His blood of the cross.

It says that Moses brought the law but Jesus Christ brought grace and truth.

(Joh 1:17) For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ brought grace and truth without the works of the law.

He wants us to believe only in Him as the saving Messiah.

This comes to us by grace and this grace, through faith, will enable us to walk in the truth.

### **Abraham**

Abraham was the shadow type of this.

He was born under the curse of sin and was born a sinner.

There was no law yet.

He believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

(Rom 4:16 - 22) Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in

faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

You see there was no law needed to credit him with righteousness.

His faith or believing God credited it to him for righteousness.

## **Moses**

John said that Moses brought the law but Jesus Christ brought grace and righteousness.

Why did God send the law?

Abraham was only one person.

When Moses was raised up as a deliverer, that one man, Abraham, had grown out into a nation of several million people.

A natural nation on earth can't live in harmony with one another and God, without a law.

Every nation and tribe on earth has laws and protocols.

Now, through these laws, Israel could function and live under God's blessings.

Could the Law of Moses save them?**No.**

For salvation or to be clean in the presence of God, God, through Moses, had set up a system of blood sacrifices.

(Heb 10:1 - 4) For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

All of this was a shadow-type of the coming salvation and redemption plan of God, by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

## **Law brings knowledge of sin**

The law was given to man so that they knew they were sinners.

Even the most devoted priest would fail at times.

(Rom 3:20) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

## **It says: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

Why are the people so religiously blind that they think by doing good and keeping the law they can save themselves?

They are full of religious pride.

Pride comes before the fall.

Our salvation comes by grace, through faith.

(Rom 3:20 - 22) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and

the prophets; Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.

The law is here to bring the knowledge of sin.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgment.

(Joh 16:8) And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

We are saved through God's grace and faith in Christ Jesus.

### **The Galatian Church**

We thank God for the protestant church.

Yet many protestant churches are stuck because they don't live by the law of faith.

(Rom 3:27) Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Jesus Christ brought the law of faith.

He said if you believe in Me, you shall have eternal life.

(Joh 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Many Protestant and even Pentecostals don't understand that God works only through faith.

Many think if you keep their traditions and the Law of Moses all is well.

- ❖ By this they bypass what Jesus Christ did for them which is the only basis for salvation and redemption.
- ❖ Only by building with faith, upon the rock Jesus Christ, your spiritual house can be built.

(Mat 7:24) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Many believers, churches and ministers fall in the same trap as did the believers in the Galatian church.

(Gal 3:1,2) O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

They started with grace and faith in the redemption of Jesus Christ but after that they went back under the law and legalism.

### **Galatians Church stuck under the law**

Through faith in the blood of the cross and the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to live a free and victorious life.

(Gal 5:16) *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

- ❖ The Galatian Church let go of this and tried to perfect self by doing the Law of Moses without faith in Christ and the power of God.

(Gal 3:3) Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Is the law gone? NO.



But through faith and living in the spirit, we fulfil the law.

(Rom 3:31) Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

### **Through faith, live in the Spirit**

We are called to live in a close relationship with God.

We are called to have deep fellowship with God.

(1Jn 1:3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

### **By grace, through faith, we are to live life in the spirit.**

(Rom 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

When we do this and kill the work of the flesh through the spirit, then there is no condemnation.

(Rom 8:1) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The Galatians were living back under condemnation.

They were under the spirit of witchcraft because they had a false religious zeal.

This was and is the blind spot for many Messianic Jews.

(Rom 10:1,2) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

They have a great zeal but not the right knowledge.

The knowledge you need is revelational.

For the New Testament knowledge shows it is by faith.

(Rom 10:4) For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

### **Christ is the end of the law.**

### **Righteousness comes by faith.**

Therefore, by faith in Christ and living in the Spirit the law is established in your life.

For Christ fulfilled the law.

(Rom 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

(Rom 3:31) Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

When you have Christ and His fire burning in your heart, you want to love the Lord your God with all your soul, mind, heart and strength. Amen.

God's Spirit will convict you when you sin against God's moral laws.

In the Ten Commandments it says you shall not steal, lie, commit adultery or worship foreign gods/idols. Today this is still true for a believer.

(Gal 5:19-21) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings,

murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

If we live by faith in Christ we don't do these sins.

These sins will stop us from living in the kingdom of God.

Yet, when we sin and confess our sins, the blood of Jesus Christ will wash us of all our sin.

(1 Jo 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Chapter 5: Decreeing our Inherited Promises

### Apostle Paul and the Cross

Apostle Paul was given to understand the mysteries of the cross of Christ.

(1Co 2:7-8) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (8) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Apostle Paul's faith was built upon the finished work of the cross where our Lord paid for our sin and redeemed us.

He also teaches us that we have an inheritance as a believer in Christ.

In this chapter we will study about our inheritance, yet all of it comes to us because of God's great love and our Lord Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Apostle Paul said, "for I determine to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

(1Co 2:2) For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Therefore, his message was the cross and God's power that is released by it.

### The Cross; God's Power

If we want to have a powerful ministry, we need to understand that it all comes through the cross.

The cross of Christ, stained with His blood, has great power.

(1Co 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

❖ All spiritual power outside of the cross, is illegal power.

Derek Prince said that anything that doesn't come through the cross is witchcraft.

Through the work of the cross and Christ's resurrection, the promises of the Holy Spirit comes to us and all of God's promises to us.

### The Power of the Holy Spirit in Paul's Life

The power of the Holy Spirit came into Apostle Paul's life because of the cross of Christ.

(1Co 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

(1Co 2:2-5) For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (3) And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. (4) And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: (5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

He said that because of his faith in the redeeming work of the cross of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit was working in his life.

His faith in Christ and the cross is how he could stand in the promises of the Scripture and the inheritance he had received in Christ.

He said our faith should be in the proof of the power of God's miracles, healing, signs and wonders because of Christ's finished work on the cross. Then also on the promises and inheritance that are attached to it.

(1Co 2:5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Apostle Paul was used to release the power and baptism of the Holy Spirit on the believers in Ephesus.

(Act 19:6) And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

In the church at Ephesus, God used the Apostle Paul in great signs, wonders and miracles.

They were so great, that even healings would happen through laying Paul's handkerchiefs or aprons on the sick and they would recover.

(Act 19:11-12) And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: (12) So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Even the evil spirits would come out of the people who had been sick.

Here we see the great authority of God, which is released when we preach the gospel of the kingdom of God and the message of the cross; for the cross of Christ releases God's authority and power into our lives.

### **In Burma**

In Burma, I saw God's power come down for days in church meetings that I did.

There was a lady who was a worship leader, she was sick and dying of cancer. I prayed of a handkerchief and sent it to her and left to go back to Australia. I heard the news that she was completely healed and was leading the worship in the church again.

As we have discussed, we have to stand on the promises of God and proclaim them. We have to know that we are heirs.

We are heirs of God the Father because Jesus Christ left us an inheritance.

(Rom 8:16,17) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

The inheritance came to us when we became children of God.

Under the law, Israel could not take hold of the inheritance.

Now, because Jesus Christ died, rose and is seated on the throne of God, the inheritance is ours, as we become children of God.

(Gal 4:7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

### **Know it**

If you are not sure that you have an inheritance through Christ, then you can't stand in faith for the inheritance.

When you know your inheritance, you can believe for it.

God only works through faith.

(Heb 11:6) But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The inheritance is yours.

(Eph 1:18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

According to this scripture, we need to know how great the glory of our inheritance is.

It says that we will understand it through revelation.

God's light will reveal it to us.

But you must press in to stand upon the promises by faith.

## **Today**

Many people think that when they are good enough, then in some distant time, they can receive it.

God gave the inheritance to you when you believed. Peace is yours today.

Joy is yours today.

God's goodness and love is for today.

If you have a hard time with this you have to break through the religious walls and lies and claim what is yours today.

Living in the glory of God is for today.

I once saw a young Christian experiencing a lot of glory.

I learnt that you didn't have to wait with it until you are old.

This young man spent up to 8 hours a day in God's glory realm.

The key is to know the glorious inheritance that is for the saints.

❖ Then press into these promises, by faith, until it happens.

(2Co 1:20) For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

All God's promises are yes and amen!

These promises are built upon the inheritance we have received through and in Christ Jesus.

## **The promises of the Holy Spirit**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit with power is yours.

The Holy Spirit was the greatest promise of our inheritance in Christ.

(Act 1:4) And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

(Act 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

(Act 2:4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

They were all filled with the power of God.

The promise was fulfilled that day.

So it is for you today.

(Eph 1:13,14) In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

For here we read that the Holy Spirit was the promise of our inheritance.

Another word for earnest is down payment.

❖ Therefore, the Holy Spirit is our down payment of our inheritance!

Our inheritance starts by salvation, then, when you are baptised in the Holy Spirit you receive power for great service.

God's dreams are yours. God's visions are yours.

(Act 2:16,17) But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even if we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit there is more power to come if we persist in faith.

Press in by faith until greater realms of the holy glory and power will be released on us.

It says the believers will lay their hands on the sick and cast out devils.

This can start on the day you are saved.

We see this in the scriptures.

The disciples were only a short time with Jesus Christ and in that time had already healed the sick and cast out devils.

### A calling

Where people get confused is the difference between calling, sending and ministry.

The promises are for all believers yet not all believers are called to be a pastor or preacher.

Still there are many promises in the Bible are for all believers.

Yet there are other inherited promises whose fulfilment comes when the time has come for some believers to become a minister.

This happens after they have gone through the calling and preparation stages.

Then the day of sending will come and a ministerial power and authority is received.

The Apostle Peter was first called, then he was disciplined to become an apostle to move in signs and wonders.

The great day of sending was on the day of Ascension of Jesus Christ.

(Mat 28:18 - 20) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in 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 the world. Amen.

Then as they went to Jerusalem, the power came down upon them.

Jesus Christ said; don't leave Jerusalem without the promised power for your ministry.

(Act 1:4) And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

Then Peter became Apostle Peter endowed with power when the power and fire of the Holy Spirit came upon him. He then preached on that day of Pentecost and led 3000 to Christ.

This was the fulfilment of the apostolic ministerial calling he had all along.

## Promises for all

Now we have to understand that there are many inherited promises for us all.

These inherited promises need to be acted upon.

Many believers don't rise up into all God has for them.

Therefore we need to read the inheritance list: the Bible.

We are all children of God and received an inheritance as the children of God.

- ❖ The greater power of God will flow through us as we grow up and become of age as the sons of God.

Know God's inherited promises are for you.

Stand in them.

## Abraham

Our justification is not through the law but by faith.

Justification means being forgiven of sin and made righteous.

(Rom 3:28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Through faith in the redeeming blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ we are made righteous.

## Therefore, by faith, we are made righteous.

Abraham is the Old Testament person whereby the Apostle Paul explained how faith works.

After Abraham, the law came, by Moses.

Many people think that by keeping the law and being good you are saved.

No, the law shows that no one is good.

The law is here to show that all have sinned.

(Rom 3:20) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

- The Bible shows that the promises of salvation, justification and being made righteous come to us through faith.

I grew up in a Christian Reformed home.

As I was born in a Christian family, the church said I was a Christian.

This goes against Jesus Christ's teachings.

He said you can only be a part of the kingdom of God by being born again.

(Joh 3:5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Only by a person having faith in Jesus Christ and asking Christ to wash them of their sin as they repent and ask Jesus to come into their heart, can they be born again.

Read the whole chapter of John 3 and you will understand.

Being a Christian or becoming a Christian starts with personal faith.

### **Father of faith**

The Apostle Paul calls Abraham the father of faith.

(Rom 4:3) For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

We will now study the story of Abraham, for Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Abraham lived with his family in Haran.

God told him to follow Him to the place God had for him.

(Gen 12:1) Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee.

Abraham obeyed God.

God promised him a son and the promise was through his bloodline all nations would be blessed.

For the Messiah would be born through his bloodline.

Salvation would come for all who would believe in the Messiah Jesus Christ.

(Gal 3:8) And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Through Abraham's line, all nations would be blessed.

God told Abraham he would inherit the land which is Israel today.

He would become a great nation.

A nation as numerous as the stars in the heaven and the sand on the seashore.

All nations would be blessed through his bloodline.

(Gen 12:2,3) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

### **Abraham believed**

God took Abraham through many tests.

Some he passed, some he failed.

However, when God spoke to Abraham again and again, Abraham believed.

(Gen 15:6) And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham believed in the coming Messiah Jesus Christ.

God preached the gospel to him.

(Gal 3:8) And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

The gospel to him was that through his seed, the redeemer would come.



## Abraham believed and God counted it to him for righteousness.

- ❖ Righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Abraham's faith is a shadow type of it.

Abraham was the father of those whose righteousness was of faith.

(Rom 4:13) For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

The promise to Abraham of being an heir was therefore about righteousness through faith.

- His faith in the Messiah was therefore based on grace and not law.

(Rom 4:16) Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

Abraham's faith was based upon the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, whereby he would be made righteous.

Jesus Christ said that by believing in Him or having faith in Him, we would be saved, have eternal life and be made righteous.

(Joh 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

All the promises of inheritance are for us and we can stand on them by faith and declare them because we are now believers.

As we mature in our faith, we will see more and more inheritance break forth in our lives and in the physical realm.

Part of the breakthrough comes by learning to live and walk in the spirit.

### **Decreeing Our Inherited Promises**

We are God's children and we are heirs of the Father.

(Gal 4:7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Our older brother, Jesus Christ died and because of this we have received an inheritance.

Now we need to activate our inheritance.

We do this through our faith.

### **Faith**

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

Therefore, as we learn to confess, declare and decree the word of God, faith rises up on the inside of us.

- ❖ Faith is the currency of heaven.

As we learn to live our lives led by the Holy Spirit we will get revelation of the will of God for our lives as believers.

- ❖ This is the living word of God for us called the Rhema word.
- ❖ We also have the written word called the Logos.

We can confess, proclaim, declare and decree both types of Word.

### Ways in which we can use the Word of Faith:

1. Standing on the promises of the word of God.
2. Speaking forth the promises in the word of God.
3. Proclaim the word of God.
4. Decree the word of God.
5. Declare the word of God.  
(Rom 3:26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.
6. Do binding and loosing.
7. Listen to the Rhema or 'now' word that God spoke to you. Pray and speak this out.

### **Faith into Action**

Now we need to put our faith into action.

### **We do this by:**

#### **1. Standing on the promises of Word of God**

Standing on the Word is believing the promises in the Bible and praying, speaking or declaring them out loud.

God has given us His written word.

We call this the logos word.

In it God reveals His will for our lives, purposes and plans.

Our inheritance is revealed in it.

This also includes God's provision of our daily needs, divine healing and God's blessings.

We need to learn now, to believe Gods promises are yes and amen. You can believe as you stand on His promises, that God will reward your faith.

#### **2. Confession - Speaking forth the promises in the word of God**

(Rom 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

By our confession or speaking God's word, faith is released and God's Kingdom and His Holy Angels work on our behalf.

By standing on our inherited promises and confessing them with our mouth we will see them come to us.

#### **3. Proclaim the Word**

We are to proclaim God's word in prayer and over impossible situations.

Proclaiming is to announce something officially or publicly.

(Isa 61:2) To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

Jesus Christ spoke this scripture out loud and proclaimed in Nazareth that the acceptable year of the Lord had come. (Luke 4)

Then God moved everywhere with great power, signs, wonders and miracles through Jesus Christ's ministry.

He had used the scripture of old as God's time for His ministry had come and Christ announced it publicly.

In this example, we see Jesus Christ the written word (Logos) and the living word (Rhema) work together.

We are also to use God's word in proclaiming it out loud and announce it publicly.

#### **4. Decree the word of God**

A decree is an official order or decision.

The Bible says decree a thing and it shall be established.

When we decree the Rhema word (revealed word) or the Logos word (written word) we are putting our faith into action.

(Job 22:28) Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

A king decrees a thing.

We are called as kings to decree the decrees of the kingdom of God.

(Pro 8:15) By me kings reign and princes decree justice.

We are to decree God's rhema and logos word for our lives.

God wants to bless us but by faith decreeing it we put our faith into action, so we see it being manifested.

For faith is the currency of heaven.

#### **5. Declare the Word of God**

Declaring is saying something clearly or firmly.

You declare something at an airport as you bring it in to a country and a war is started by a declaration.

We are now to speak forth or declare the Word of the biblical promise, so it will be on Earth as it is in Heaven.

(Psa 2:7) I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

❖ Now we are called to declare His decrees.

We have to declare God's decrees with our mouth.

We can do this by speaking out scriptures.

Or we could say thanks and praise in singing the word of God.

This will release our faith.

We are bringing heaven into the earthly realm by declaring God's word.

Our declaration of war is against the powers of darkness.

We bring in the heavenly blessings and miracles as we break through in declaring God's word.

#### **Angels**

As we are speaking forth God's word and declaring the decrees of the word of God, we are putting angels to work.

(Psa103:20) Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Angels are the heavenly soldiers of the King of kings.

Angels can't do much until we start to pray, praise, decree, declare, speak and confess God's word. For we are God's ambassadors on earth.

They are the heavenly army who get released in a greater way when the ambassadors on Earth start to declare and do God's word.

Our faith also gets activated by declaring God's decrees.

## **6. Loosing and Binding**

The same is true for loosing and binding.

We are God's police force here on earth.

### **Loosing**

We have to loose God's work and angels.

We do this by speaking this out.

(Mat 16:19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

We have received the Kingdom keys because Jesus Christ gave them to us.

We are called to loose God's heavenly angels.

We are also called to loose the power of God in signs, wonders and miracles.

### **Binding**

Our mandate is also to bind the evil power and spirits that work against us.

We do this by speaking it out.

This includes spirits of sickness and disease and all the spirits of unbelief.

## **7. Listen to the Rhema or 'now' word that God spoke to you**

God has a plan and purpose for us individually.

We need to learn to hear the voice of God.

It says My sheep hear My voice.

(Joh10:27) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me.

With our spirit we seek God. Our spirit is the candlestick of the Lord.

(Pro 20:27) the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

So God speaks to our spirit with His still voice.

We can ask God for scriptures that He has for our personal situations.

Then we have the living word or Rhema for that situation.

## **Growing Up**

Our foundation is to learn what our inheritance in Christ is and who we are in Christ.

This is our start as a child of God, yet when we grow up and mature in character, then we must learn to live in the spirit and to hear the rhema word of God.

### ❖ **God wants us to grow up from child to a mature son.**

True maturity in our faith is learning to live in the spirit, living a Christ-like lifestyle and hearing and doing God's rhema word.

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

We grow up daily by crucifying our flesh where we fall into sin or its weaknesses.

We repent and confess them to God, keeping short accounts.

Then we grow in being holy as you live out your salvation with fear and trembling.

(Gal 2:20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

## **In Christ and Authority**

In the next chapter we read who we are in Christ and the chapter after that our authority in Christ.

The scripture about who we are in Christ and our authority are the scriptures which are most powerful to confess, decree, declare and proclaim.

So get ready to know all about your place and authority in Christ.

## Chapter 6: Believer's Victorious Promises and Entering God's Rest

### Jehovah Shalom

One of the names of our God is Jehovah Shalom.

The word shalom has many different meanings, like peace, rest, wellbeing and wholeness for body, soul and spirit.

The Messiah that was promised to Israel would bring shalom or peace of the city of Jerusalem, while the meaning of the name Jerusalem is city of peace.

Israel was set free from his enemies through victorious wars, this led to peace.

Our Messiah, Yahshua, will do this when He comes back the second time.

The first time Yahshua came was to bring peace between God and us through His blood sacrifice on the cross.

(Rom 5:1) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

He also destroyed the power of Satan and his evil forces whereby we were held captive and under slavery. Satan held the power over death.

(Heb 2:14 NLT) Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death

### Christ gives Shalom

When our Messiah was walking on the Earth, He saw the bondage and slavery His people were under in the natural and the spiritual.

❖ He said to them, "Come unto Me, you who are heavy laden and I will give you shalom or rest".

(Mat 11:28-29) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

❖ He is the King of peace who brought in the kingdom of God, which brings forth righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

(Rom 14:18) For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

All of this comes to us through faith in the Son of God, sent by God so the Holy Spirit can be poured out in us.

(Joh 7:38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

### Faith Brings Rest

Today, many are under great pressure or stress.

Our Lord promised to give us peace, shalom or rest.

Rest comes to us through believing in Christ.

(Heb 4:3) For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

When we believe, we learn to live and walk in victory.

Victory over sin, Satan, darkness and sickness.

Our Lord called us to live through faith in His shalom.

He Himself lived out of this victory.

Satan found nothing in Him and Christ walked in great authority so that evil spirits left at His command.

(Mar 1:39) And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

### **Healings on the day of Rest**

Our Lord said that He is Lord of the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is the day of rest.

To demonstrate this, he healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.

(Mar 3:2,5) And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbathday; that they might accuse him. (5) And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

By this story, we can see that Christ can give us rest from our problems as He promised.

(Mat 11:28-29) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

We can receive shalom, peace, rest, wholeness for our soul and healing for our soul, body and spirit.

Through faith in Christ we can receive rest from our spiritual battles, for in Christ we have the victory and authority over all the power of the enemy.

(Luk 10:19) Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Now we are going to learn how to use the victorious weapons of faith that Christ has given to us.

### **Victorious Faith**

Faith in Christ's redeeming work and therefore faith in God brings much victory.

The word of faith is the ground on which we stand.

This is faith in the inherited promises.

(1Jn 5:4,5) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Jesus Christ has overcome this world.

He overcame sin, death and Satan.

Now, through faith, we can overcome the world.

We need to put our victorious faith into action in our lives.

We have to use our faith as the sword of our mouth by speaking out the victorious word of God.

(Heb 4:12) For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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 intents of the heart.

## **From darkness to light**

Christ placed us from darkness into light.

Now we walk in fellowship with God in the light.

We can experience God's great love for us.

For in God's holy light is His love.

(1Jn 1:5 - 7) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

There is deep fellowship and intimate love in this place.

This is where we experience the great grace of God's love.

(1Jn 1:3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

You can experience this great love now.

Press in, for this is for you.

This light is a glorious light as well.

(Rom 5:2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

By faith, you can experience the glory of God now.

The believer's faith is the way into the merciful heart of God.

## **From Prison to Paradise**

What Christ has done for us:

Took us out of darkness	Into God's holy light
Took us out of Satan's kingdom	Into the kingdom of God
Took us out of hell	Into heaven
Took us from prison	Into paradise
Took us from depression	To joy
Took us from restlessness	To the kingdom of peace

We are in the kingdom of light.

(Col 1:12,13) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son.

## **My testimony of standing in victory**

I was a young believer, a missionary in West Africa.

I was in a place where many missionaries die, sometimes within a few months of arrival there.

I was on the YWAM mission base for a time.



This place used to be a place to sacrifice people and a place where witchdoctors were healing people under Satan's power.

I was badly attacked spiritually.

I didn't have the victory then, it was a very hard and disappointing time for me.

Then I went away to the city of Lome where I read a book of Morris Cerullo.

- ❖ He taught about the victorious inherited promises there are in the Bible.
- ❖ I learnt about my position of victory.

I had to stand on the inherited promises of God's word.

Then I went back and I had the victory.

Jesus Christ came that He might destroy the power of the devil.

(1Jn 3:8) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

God, in Christ Jesus, has made us of the inheritance of saints in the light.

Therefore, the darkness has to flee as we stand on the victory of God's word.

### **Soldiers**

We are called to be soldiers of God's kingdom.

We are fighting an enemy.

The enemy wants us to keep sleeping and not rise up.

(Eph 6:12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

We are also called to bring the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ into dark places.

We are called to drive out these forces of darkness.

Only as we bind the strongmen can we take the spoil.

We have to put on the armour of God as we go.

(Eph 6:11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

### **The shield of faith**

Roman soldiers had a shield.

The Apostle Paul says we have the shield of faith.

The shield of faith is the believer's faith.

As long as you stand in the victorious promises of God's word your shield will be strong.

These victorious inherited promises are here to strengthen your shield of faith.

When Peter looked upon the waves instead of Jesus Christ, he sank.

Look upon God's word and you will live in victory and peace.

## **The sword**

The sword is the weapon to attack the enemy with or to break the attack upon our lives.

The sword is the victorious word of God.

(Eph 6:17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

We are called to bind and loose.

- Binding the works of the dark enemy.
- Loosing the kingdom of God and its host.

When we do this, we will see the supernatural manifestation of God work.

We will see people saved and signs, wonders and miracles will happen.

## **Learn to overcome**

Our faith is what overcomes the world.

(1Jn 5:4,5) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Our faith is in the belief that Jesus Christ overcame the world for us.

Therefore all the glory goes to Him.

It is all through grace.

He said it is finished. We have to believe in what He has already done.

We don't have to pay for our sins, He paid.

We don't have to defeat Satan, He did.

**Out of faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ we tell the devil to go.**

He is an illegal spirit. Out of Christ's victory, we tell them to go.

Through grace, He wants us to bear much fruit.

Therefore press in.

## **Four weapons of Faith**

### 1. Our faith

The first weapon is our faith that overcomes the world.

(1 Joh 5:4,5) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God.

We need to use our faith as a weapon.

Faith is the currency of heaven.

Our faith can move mountains.

## 2. The blood

Our faith is in the blood of Jesus Christ that has redeemed us.

It has redeemed us from sin, Satan's power, eternal death and God's judgment.

(Rev 12:11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death.

Now through faith in the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ we can experience peace, joy and freedom.

When we are under attack of the enemy we use this powerful weapon of faith in the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ.

We use scriptures to break through until we experience the victory.

## 3. The Name of Jesus Christ

At the name of Jesus Christ every power of hell has to bow.

His name is now the highest there is.

(Phi 2:10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.

As you believe and use your faith in the name of Jesus Christ you will see victory.

## 4. The word

We have to use our faith in the word of God.

We do this by confessing, declaring, decreeing and proclaiming it.

The word of God is our offensive weapon of warfare.

(Eph 6:17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

For this sword is powerful and pierces everything.

(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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 intents of the heart.

## **The victorious church**

The church that is built by faith upon the rock will be victorious.

The glorious victorious church will stand in hard times and they will push back the gates of hell and win souls because of it.

A dead traditional church will not be able to stand, therefore we need to be in our first love and on fire for God.

We need to use our faith to be part of the glorious victorious church.

(Mat 16:18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Peter means small, a small pebble.

Then Christ refers to the words Peter said, You are the Christ.

This rock is the revelation that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and therefore the rock we build our faith upon.

### **The victorious kingdom of God**

Jesus Christ came and preached; "Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand".

(Mat 4:17) From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Our faith is not only in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Our faith has to be in the King of Glory who is the Messiah and therefore our Lord and Saviour.

(Psa 24:7,8) Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

The church has to open its gates to the Lordship of the King of Glory of the kingdom of heaven and of God.

When the believers put their faith in this, then God's kingdom can move with great power and the church will grow.

(Mat 12:18) Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

When these kingdom manifestations happen through faith in the church then we see the true victory God has for His church.

### **The way of peace**

In the beginning of the chapter we said that Christ wants us to receive His rest, or shalom, through faith.

(Mat 11:28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Now we want to learn more about entering His rest through faith.

God's ways are very important.

One of the ways of God is the way of peace.

(Luk 1:79) To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

(Rom 3:17) And the way of peace have they not known:

God wants us to enter the way of peace.

We can enter this peace when we have faith in Jesus Christ. Then He wants us to grow up in peace.

He wants us to become strong in peace so we can become peacemakers.

This can only happen if we let God take all our unrest and fear away.

This brings us to the subject, entering His rest.

### **Entering His rest**

God wants us to learn to abide in Him.

Only in this way will we bring forth fruit.

❖ **We learnt that the words peace and shalom can also be translated into quietness, stillness and rest!**

Through faith, God wants us to enter his rest.

This is the promise for us as believers, to enter His rest.

(Heb 4:1) Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

**A dream**

I was in a conference and some things had upset me.

That night I had a dream.

God spoke my name, "Nicholas", and said to enter His rest.

He told me to read Hebrews 3:8.

(Heb 3:8) Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

God said, Nicholas, don't harden your heart. Enter My rest.

**Israel**

(Heb 3:15 – 19) While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

It says that Israel didn't obey and believe therefore they couldn't enter the rest. **Their promised land!**

That generation didn't enter it.

How do we enter God's rest?

We do this by obedient surrendering, through faith, in God's word and God's way.

It said, Israel could not enter the rest because of unbelief.

- ❖ Unbelief stops us from entering God's rest.
- ❖ The other key that stops us from entering God's rest is that they didn't walk in the ways of God!

(Psa 95:10,11) Forty years long was I grieved with *this* generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

True faith becomes obedient to God's word and God's ways.

Israel hardened their hearts and could not go into the promised rest.

Now, there is still the promise of rest.

David said there is still a rest to go into after that Joshua had brought Israel in the promised land.

This is the rest that Jesus Christ talked about.

(Mat 11:28 - 30) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

### **His promised Land**

God had promised Israel a land of milk and honey.

God also promises a land of great glory and blessings to us.

By being obedient to God's word and faith in His word we enter this promised land.

**In this land of promises there is rest, greater peace, joy, love, acceptance and the Father heart of God.**

### **Becoming still**

The dream I had helped me to surrender to the stillness, quietness or rest in God.

I was a very driven young believer but in my heart, there was not a deep peace.

Yes, in Christ I had peace but Christ wants me to also become peaceful in all facets of my life.

This is why the way of peace is important.

- ❖ As long as we try to do God's work, God can't work through us.
- ❖ Only by entering the rest of God, can we start the process whereby God starts to work through us!

(Heb 4:10,11) For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

By believing, surrendering and having faith in God's word and ways, we shall enter the rest.

To live in and out of our first love is the way to grow in these deep realms of shalom, peace and rest.

If we have left our first love, we have to repent and turn back to our first love.

That is the place of great intimacy and fellowship with God and of fruit bearing.

## Chapter 7: Abundant Life and True Identity

### Life

Our Lord Jesus was sent from heaven to earth by Father God to bring us eternal life.

In heaven, there is a river of life that comes from the throne of God.

(Rev 22:1) And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Christ came to restore us back into relationship with god.

Through His blood sacrifice on the cross, we can receive this pure stream of life in our hearts.

(Joh 4:14) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

It is the Spirit of God that will pour out these streams of living water, as we believe in Christ to be our Lord and Saviour, who reconciled us back to the eternal God.

(Joh 7:37-39) In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

This living water is the abundant life that Christ came to give us.

### The Indian River

In India, we have the Ganges River, which is most holy to the Hindus. Every year, they go by the millions to bath in it at Varanasi, for they believe that their sins will be cleansed.

Ganges is the Elephant God and this river comes from the Himalayan mountains. They say that the river starts in heaven.

My question is who paid for their sins?

The God of the universe is holy, which means morally pure, sacred and complete. You can't come into the presence of the holy God as a sinner.

A price for sin needs to be paid.

Therefore, Christ said, "I have come as a ransom (as the price) so many can be saved from sin".

(Mat 20:28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Does the water of the Ganges River really cleanse?

### Idols can't give Life

In many nations like Indonesia, Africa, India, Nepal and China, people serve idols.

They bow down to them and burn incense to them.

Many are in slavery to the demon spirits behind these idols.

They are in fear of these demon gods and therefore keep these religious practices going.

❖ The Bible says that idols can't give life and are not profitable.

(Isa 44:10) Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image *that* is profitable for nothing?

They can't deliver you from bad spirits and you always have to give the idols more.

(Isa 44:20) He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, *Is there not a lie in my right hand?*

### **Abundant Life**

The goodness of the gospel of Christ and the message of the cross is that Christ has come to give us eternal life and to deliver us from all darkness.

He said, "The thief comes to steal as you worship your idols and give all those sacrifices to dark spirits but I have come that you will have abundant life".

(Joh 10:10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

This abundant life is full of blessings.

This life is the light of the world and it shines forth into our heart out of God's glorious holy presence.

In it is His pure love, goodness, mercy and kindness.

This light of life will heal your heart pain and set you free of your bondages.

In it God's Father heart is released and you can grow up as a son of God.

(Rom 8:15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

### **Abundant Life and Our Identity**

- ❖ Our identity is in Christ and because of this we are children of God and this releases the riches of God's divine nature in our lives.

Therefore, in Christ, there is now no condemnation, no guilt and shame.

(Rom 8:1) There *is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

- ❖ In Christ we are living in the spirit of life which is our inheritance and this has set us free from the law of sin and death.

(Rom 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Our Lord Jesus told us that He gives life more abundantly to us as believers and we receive this as we become a believer and therefore live in Christ.

(Joh 10:10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

His promise to us is that if we believe, rivers of living water would flow out of our innermost being.

Rivers of life of the Holy Spirit is part of the inheritance of a believer who is in Christ.

- ❖ Therefore, in Christ, rivers of life will flow out of us.

(Joh 7:38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

### **Our True Identity**

- ❖ When we learn to know who we are in Christ, we get to know our true identity we have as believers.

- ❖ Our true identity lies in who we are in Christ.



❖ In Christ, we are beloved children/sons of the Father.

Therefore, in Christ we can grow in the knowledge of how great God's love for us is.

(1Jn 3:1) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Before we were believers and born again, we were slaves of sin under the power of Satan and eternally dead because we were separated from God.

Today as a born again believer, we are alive in Christ, forgiven of our sin and we also have power over Satan, demons and sin.

(Rom 8:1-2) There *is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Through our faith in Christ, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has given us life.

This law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death, therefore, in Christ we have power over sin.

In Christ we are also restored back to a relationship with God the Father.

(Rom 5:10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

❖ Therefore, in Christ, we have become children/sons of God and are called to grow in sonship with our heavenly Father.

(1Jn 3:1) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

(Joh 1:12) 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:

❖ We are now sons of God and in this lies our true identity.

❖ As we learn who we are in Christ, we will grow in the knowledge of who we truly are as sons of God and grow in our true identity.

## The Riches of His Glory

The riches of His glory have been released through our new birth because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. This is ours in Christ.

(Php 4:19) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Yes, God supplies all our daily needs according to the riches of His glory.

As we believe and stand on His word, He will supply the car, clothes, food and place to live.

However, this promise goes much further.

In the riches of His glory, we have received His glorious divine nature.

❖ Our God is holy and holy is the highest level of glory.

❖ In Christ we are made holy because we are sanctified through His blood and we can walk out of and live in His holy presence.

(2Pe 1:3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

❖ In Christ, we are called to walk in the glory and minister out of His virtue or power.

This means that as we learn to walk in faith in the riches of His glory, we will see signs, wonders and miracles happen as we minister the gospel.

We will also grow, through the riches of His glory, in patience, love, goodness, kindness and godliness.

- ❖ This is the riches of His glory in Christ is also the place we grow in our love relationship or intimacy with God and Christ.

This is also the place where we grow in our first love.

### **Glory in Hardship**

- ❖ Through faith in Christ, we have access into the grace of God.

(Rom 5:2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Through faith, we stand in God's grace, which releases the glory of God in our lives.

When hard times come and our faith is tested, we need to proclaim, pray and speak out the word of God.

When we press through faith in this grace, we will see more releases of the glory of God and at the same time we will grow in the glorious attributes of God's divine nature.

(Rom 5:3-4) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; (4) And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

As we keep standing on His word during hard times or tribulations, we grow in patience and hope and will experience more of the love of God through the Holy Spirit.

### **Who we are in Christ**

As believers our true identity lies in Christ.

That is why we are studying who we are in Christ.

All of God's promises in Christ are yes and amen.

(2Co 1:20) For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

- ❖ In Christ, all God's promises are available for us.

Therefore let us now read who we are in Christ.

### **A New Creation**

Believing in Christ has set us apart from all other religions for in Christ we become a new creation as soon as we are born again.

(2 Cor 5:17 AMP) Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come!

- ❖ In Christ we are a new creation.

All other religions try to become better through good works, however the people are yet sinners.

We, by God's grace, receive His divine nature which makes us a new creation which enables us to be a better person.

As we repent of our sin, turn from our wicked ways, ask God for forgiveness of our sins and ask Christ to live in our heart, we are born again into God's nature.

As believers, we have God's divine nature in us and we are called to grow up into mature sons of God as we abide in these virtues.

(2Pe 1:3-4) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

### **A New Creature**

In Christ, not only have we become a new creation but also a new creature.

This means that all old sins and moral failures are forgiven and now you live out of the new life you received.

- ❖ Therefore, in Christ you are a new creature and are morally pure.

(Gal 6:15) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Many believers are stuck in a religious mindset, but real Christianity is having a relationship with God the Father.

- ❖ Religion says you are never good enough but by believing in Christ a new creature. God says you are now a beloved child.

- In Christ you are a child of God.

(Gal 3:26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

The good news of the gospel is so good that you are no longer a sinner but a new creation, a saint with a glorious inheritance.

(Eph 1:18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

The Bible even says that the seed of Christ in you can't sin.

(1Jn 3:9) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Out of this seed you are born again, which has changed you from a sinner into a saint.

- ❖ In Christ, we don't sin, yet when we go live in the flesh, we are able to fall in sin or sin.
- ❖ Therefore, life in the spirit is the life we live in Christ and is the place we grow in being holy.

The battle is the battle between the spirit and the flesh.

### **Justified and Made Righteous By the New Melchizedek Priesthood**

Our Lord Jesus Christ was and is a high priest according to the Order of Melchizedek.

(Heb 5:9-10) And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (10) Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

This priesthood is based upon grace.

Through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as high priest in this New Testament order, we receive salvation, life more abundantly, peace (shalom), joy, love, righteousness, mercy, justification, sanctification, glory and baptism of the Holy Spirit, as well as His gift, etc.

Many of the traditional believers from traditional churches, still live under much condemnation because they look to the Old Testament Aaronic priesthood and the Law of Moses as the source of life.

This is a wrong way as the law shows that we are sinners who need a saviour. Therefore this points us to Jesus Christ whose priesthood is based upon grace and He also has given us grace and truth.

(Joh 1:16-17) And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. (17) For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Christ's priesthood from the order of Melchizedek, is from heaven and brings us into the kingdom of God and its fullness and blessings.

- ❖ In Christ, we have become righteous because we are justified and redeemed by His blood as He is the high priest according to the heavenly order of Melchizedek.

(Rom 3:21-22) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; (22) Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

- ❖ The priesthood of Melchizedek is the order whereby, through faith in Christ's blood, we have been made righteous.

## **Into The Heavenly Court**

The blood of Jesus Christ has gone into the heavenly courts and therefore, through the heavenly court we are justified.

(Heb 9:23-25) *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. (24) For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: (25) Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

Justified means pardoned or set free.

- ❖ Therefore, in Christ we are justified and made holy.

The way to the throne and presence of God is now open for us because of the blood of Jesus Christ.

- ❖ This Melchizedek priesthood of grace comes from the throne of God.

Now in boldness we can come before God the Father with our prayer requests without feeling condemned or guilty because we are made righteous.

- ❖ For in Christ we are made righteous.

(Heb 4:16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

(Rom 1:16-17) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

## **Justified and Forgiven**

Through God's grace and redemptive plan, we are now forgiven of our sin as we believe in our Lord and Saviour.

- ❖ Therefore, in Christ, we are justified through the redemption.

(Rom 3:24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

We are forgiven and God's anger has turned away from us in Christ. For justification means being excused of sin and its punishment.

Through this, eternal life is received and the kingdom of heaven is opened.

(Joh 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

- ❖ In Christ we are justified and therefore we have received peace with God.

(Rom 5:1) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

- ❖ We have not only received peace with God in Christ but through being born again, we have the virtue of the peace of God flow through us.

The Holy Spirit is the umpire or agent of the peace of God in our lives.

(Rom 14:17) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

- ❖ Through being in Christ, the Holy Spirit releases the rivers of life and glory as well as the virtues of righteousness, peace and joy.

As we live in the spirit, the realms of the kingdom of God are released in and through us by the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ For in Christ we are seated in heavenly places.

(Eph 2:6) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

## Chapter 8: Our Authority in Christ

### The Quest: Authority

Once I heard a preacher say, “Authority is the quest”.

He was right, Christianity is not a power struggle but instead learning to live under authority.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was fully submitted to God’s rulership, will, plan and purpose. Therefore, He spoke and moved in great authority.

(Mat 7:29) For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

### Authority in Action

Jesus Christ, who is God, came to earth as the Son of Man, He gave up His authority as God in order to save us.

On the day He was baptised by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit came upon Him as a dove.

(Luk 3:21-22) Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, (22) And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Then Christ fasted for forty days and this gave Him the authority and the power of the Holy Spirit came upon Him.

(Luk 4:14) And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through the entire region round about.

From then on, great signs, wonders and miracles happen through Jesus Christ.

One third of the healings occurred because the demons that had afflicted the people left under the authority of Christ.

(Luk 4:31-32) And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days. (32) And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

As Christ was preaching in the synagogue in Capernaum, an evil spirit who had possessed man started to shout at Jesus Christ.

Christ told the evil spirit to come out and the demon threw the man on the floor and came out.

(Luk 4:33-36) And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, (34) Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, *thou* Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. (35) And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. (36) And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word *is* this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

He said that the kingdom of God had come, by the Spirit of God, the devils were cast out in His ministry.

(Mat 12:28) But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

### Doing Good

Everywhere the Messiah went, miracles happened as the evil spirits came out of people and their bondages were broken.

The results were that many oppressed were set free and sick people were healed.

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

As our Lord Jesus moved under the authority of God’s kingdom, God anointed Him with power.

In Isaiah it says that the government of God would be upon His shoulder and this means God’s authority was upon Him.

(Isa 9:6) 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.

In chapter one, we talked about the Roman Centurion and later in this chapter we will learn from this story that authority and faith go hand in hand.

We can see this faith work here in Christ's ministry and we as believers are called to follow in His footsteps.

## **The Believer's Authority**

The believer's authority lies in Christ.

- ❖ When we get to know who we are in Christ we grow in our God given authority.
- ❖ We are called to learn to stand in this authority.

(Mat 28:18 AMP) Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

Jesus says here that all authority/power to rule in heaven and on earth has been given to Him.

Without authority to rule we will have no real power.

- ❖ In Christ, we have authority to rule and reign.

God gave Adam dominion to rule the earth.

Adam was the first earthly ruler.

(Gen 1:28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Adam ruled over the Earth and gave all the animals their names.

Yet Adam lost his dominion to Satan, which was his authority or power to rule on the Earth which God had given him.

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

God said that Adam was to have dominion, which is power to rule, over every living thing that moved upon the Earth. This includes the snake whereby Satan spoke to Eve.

Satan stole the dominion kingdom keys from Adam and Eve.

The Second Adam, Jesus Christ, took back the stolen dominion keys from Satan.

Therefore, we now can rule and reign in Christ, in righteousness on the earth.

(Rom 5:19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

(Rom 5:21) That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has taken these keys of death and hell and has given them to us.

- ❖ Therefore, in Christ we have been given the keys of the kingdom so we can rule and reign with Him.

(Rev 1:18) *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

By repentance, believing in Christ and being born again, we have received eternal life, righteousness and authority to receive the keys of the kingdom.

## **Authority and Rulership of God given to Christ**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and the Son of God, is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. Christ has been given the rulership of the government over all and of the church by God the Father.

This is the **authority** of His Lordship.

Christ's Lordship or dominion is His **authority** to rule over all.

Lordship or dominion gives power to rule.

(Mat 28:18 NLT) Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and Lord, both now and into the Millennium (the thousand-year reign of Christ on Earth).

(Col 1:18 NLT) Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. All things are put under the feet of Christ as He is seated on the right hand of the Father.

Now, Christ is seated far above all principalities, powers and dominions; in this age and the age to come (the Millennium).

(Eph 1:21,22 NLT) Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

### Christ is seated on the throne at the right hand of the Father in authority, power and majesty.

(Heb 1:3) Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

#### ❖ We have received this authority, power and might which is in Christ.

(Eph 1:19,20) And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward 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*,

#### ❖ The Bible says this authority is our inheritance in Christ.

(Eph 1:18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

#### ❖ Out of this authority in Christ, we have received authority to rule.

The quest is authority.

#### ❖ Out of His authority, we are called to rule and demonstrate God's power to this world.

(Luk 10:19 NLT) Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

God's power works through us because of this **authority** that has been given to us.

By praying for healing the sick and delivering people from evil spirits, we see God's power in manifestation.

### In Christ the Angels Harken to His Word

We are now called to learn to stand in the authority we have as believers in Christ.

Our authority in Christ comes from and through the word of God for Christ and the Word/Bible are one and the Word is God.

(Joh 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

As we start to stand in prayer, on the Word of God and who we are in Christ we start to exercise our authority through this the angels of the kingdom of God are starting to work on our behalf.



(Psa 103:20-21) Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. (21) Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

- ❖ In Christ, the angels hearken unto the words of the Bible when we speak or pray them and are released to work on our behalf.

## Authority and The Centurion

In Chapter One we talked about the great faith of the Centurion.

Now we want to learn from the same Centurion what he knew about authority.

Why did he have great faith in the Messiah/Christ?

He had great faith because he understood the principle of authority.

He understood that Jesus our Messiah was sent by God and therefore moved under God the Father's authority and so had the power to heal.

He described that he was a Centurion who was under authority and he himself had been given authority over the soldiers.

(Mat 8:9) For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*.

The Centurion went so far as to say that if he says "go" to a soldier to do a job, the soldier goes. So all he asked of Jesus Christ was that He speak the word for his servant's healing.

(Mat 8:8) The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Jesus Christ said to the Centurion that 'Your faith is great and therefore your servant is healed because you believed'.

The servant was healed at that same moment.

Therefore, our authority comes from Jesus Christ who has sent us to go into all the world to preach the gospel. So in Christ, we have authority to be a witness.

(Mat 28:18 AMP) Jesus approached and, <sup>U</sup>breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

Now we are to stand in our authority in Christ Jesus and we will see God's angel armies move on our behalf. Signs, wonders, miracles and salvations will happen.

(Mar 16:15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

(Mar 16:17-18) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

## Living Under Authority

The abundant life comes to us as we live in the spirit in Christ and don't live in the flesh.

- ❖ If we go back to living in the flesh, we step away from our God given authority.
- ❖ Being in Christ is living in the Spirit.
- ❖ Therefore in Christ, we have abundant life.

(Rom 8:1-2) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The greatest quest is authority.

Out of God's majestic rulership, God has authority and the ability to release His power.

(Psa 96:6) Honour and majesty *are* before him: strength and beauty *are* in his sanctuary.

(Psa 96:10) Say among the heathen *that* the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.

Satan has power but no true authority to rule on Earth and Christ gives us authority and power to drive out demons and the works of the devil.

Our authority lies in who we are in Christ and as we live in the spirit, and then we walk in this authority.

(Rom 8:5-6) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (6) For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

- ❖ Obedience is therefore the key to walking in the Spirit, authority and to living in deep peace.

A sinful lifestyle, or living in the flesh, and rebellion takes our authority away.

King Saul lost his authority as King because he lived in rebellion against God and lost his position of being king.

(1Sa 15:23) For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

Being fleshly or carnally minded brings death and enmity against God.

(Rom 8:6-7) For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. (7) Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

- ❖ In Christ, we have authority and power to walk in obedience and peace.

The more we stand in our position in Christ and the more we live in the Spirit; the more abundant life and peace will increase.

(Rom 14:17) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The more we repent of our fallen and rebellious ways, the deeper we will live in the peace of God.

(Eph 2:14) For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

The deeper we surrender to God's authority and grow in the knowledge of Him, the greater our peace will be.

(2Pe 1:2) Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

Therefore we need to let God's peace rule in our hearts as we surrender ourselves to God.

(Col 3:15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

## Victory

Our victory in Christ lies in the victory Jesus Christ had on the cross on our behalf.

- ❖ In Christ we have received victory over sin, rebellion, Satan and the demons, to be able to reign in righteousness.

In the first place, Christ redeemed us on the cross and out of this we received redemption.

(Rom 3:24-25) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Redemption means salvation from sin by a blood sacrifice and being bought back.

Redemption and being redeemed is the whole package of salvation, so it has several different pieces to it.

## Victory Over Darkness

We have authority over the realms of Satan and his demons because of Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross.  
On the cross, Christ had victory over Satan and His victory gives us the authority over Satan and his foes.

(Col 2:14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Then Jesus Christ took the keys of death and hell from Satan when He confronted him in Hades.  
Now He has taken these kingdom keys and given them to us.

(Rev 1:18) I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

He said to the Apostle Peter that He would give the apostles and the believers the keys of the kingdom.

(Mat 16:19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

❖ In Christ we have the power to bind and loose.

Now we are called to use these keys.

We have keys to:

A. Bind

Bind the powers of Satan and the demons.

Bind sickness and evil spirits, for example demons of sickness and evil spirits of anger and murder.

B. Loose

Loose the heavenly angels and the kingdom of God on Earth.

Loose signs, wonders, miracles and salvation.

Loose the power of the Holy Spirit, His fire and healings.

(Mat 16:19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Our Lord also gave the disciples, and us today, the authority to cast out evil spirits.

(Luk 10:19) Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

This is our God given authority in Christ.

Use it.

## Chapter 9: Made Righteous through Faith

### God's Holiness Revealed to Man

- ❖ The greatest truth about who the God of the Bible is that He is holy.

Also, God as the holy God is righteous.

- ❖ We all need to be saved from our fallen nature and sinful ways because God is holy, which means morally pure, and we all fall short of this holiness.

(Isa 6:3-5) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. (4) And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. (5) Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts! The Lord, high and lifted up.

Everything in and through the Bible is bowing down for the Holy God.

### Today's Gospel

Today, the Western Church's gospel is centred on a God of love.

Much of it is pulled out of context.

Yes, God loves us with His agape love.

- ❖ However, Jesus Christ preached everywhere: Repent for the kingdom has come. He preached about the kingdom.

(Mat 4:17) From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

This preaching of Jesus Christ was very different to how the preachers of today preach.

Today's preachers mostly don't understand that our holy God has to send sinners and backsliders to hell.

We are called to repent and be changed to become holy men and women, for the Bible says that without holiness, no man shall see God.

(Heb 12:14) Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

### Repentance

#### Why did he preach repentance, because our God is holy?

(Mat 6:9) After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Jesus Christ preached repentance for we have all sinned.

(Rom 3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

- ❖ The Father in Heaven is holy or, in other words, is perfect and pure.
- ❖ The kingdom of God is perfect and pure.

Only by repentance and being redeemed by the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, can we enter the kingdom and become a forgiven child of God.

Jesus Christ prayed to the HOLY FATHER.

(Joh 17:11) And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

Jesus Christ prayed to the Holy Father and we also need to worship Him as our Holy Father.

As the Father is holy, we needed redemptions when we were sinners. This redemption gives us the full package of salvation.

### **Christ's Redeeming Sacrifice at the Cross**

Our Lord Jesus Christ's main ministry on earth was to die for our sin, trespasses and rebellion on the cross; to redeem or buy us back by paying with His blood and body as the price for the forgiveness of sin.

(Mat 20:28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Our God is holy and only by us repenting and receiving forgiveness, through faith and being born again, can we be restored back into relationship with God. Being born again means receiving His divine nature.

We call this the preaching or message of the cross whereby God's power is released for those who believe.

(1Co 1:17-18) For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. (18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

- ❖ All our faith has to be based upon Jesus Christ's redeeming sacrifice on the cross.
- ❖ This is the gospel of the kingdom: that we can be saved and redeemed as we believe on Christ's death for our sin on the cross and His resurrection.

(Joh 3:14-15) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: (15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

If we believe in the one God sent, we will have eternal life.

(Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### **At The Cross**

When the hour came that He was arrested and beaten for us, He received many lashes as they whipped Him with a Roman scourge.

(Joh 19:1) Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged *him*.

(Isa 53:5) But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

The soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head and a purple robe on His body.

They mocked, beat and humiliated our Lord, after that He carried His cross to Calvary.

(Joh 19:17) And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

There they put nails in his hands and feet as they had laid Him on the cross, this was called a crucifixion.

(Joh 19:18) Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

He died and, on the third day, rose again from the dead.

After His resurrection, in the next while, He appeared to up to 500 people.

Then He ascended into heaven, was seated on the Father's right hand, and then He poured out the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul said that all of this is the preaching of the redemption at the cross of Christ, and it has to be the main focus or message.

(1Co 2:2) For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

### **The Redemption**

We are justified, made righteous and holy or sanctified in Christ, through the redemption.

We all needed to be redeemed.

Now we are going to study how this comes about and how to activate it.

We were all sinners, living under the curse, separated from God and on our way to hell.

God, in His great love, made the way of escape for us.

He brought redemption through Christ Jesus to us so we can be restored back in fellowship with God, become a new creation for we are saved from the curse and hell.

### **The Benefits of Redemption**

- A. Christ paid for our sin and we received forgiveness through the redemption.
- B. We receive God's righteousness and holiness.
- C. The curse of the Law is broken.
- D. The power of Satan is broken over our lives.

(Rom 3:24-25) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

### **Redemption means salvation from sin by sacrifice.**

We are saved by faith in the covering blood of Jesus Christ over our past sins.

(Rom 3:25) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Therefore, we are redeemed through grace by faith.

(Eph 2:8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

- ❖ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, from sin and our sinful nature and from the curses through the power and the blood of the cross.

(Gal 3:13) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree.

He also took God's wrath away as we are justified through the redemption and reconciled us back to God.

(Rom 5:9-10) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

- ❖ Therefore, we need to have faith in the power of the cross and the power of the blood which we call the redemption.

Through the gospel of the cross, redemption has come to us.

Redemption is the full package of salvation, and in this package are 8 topics.

### Eight topics of Redemption

Through being redeemed we are:

1. Justified
2. Made righteous
3. Reconciled
4. Covered (propitiation)
5. Forgiven
6. Purified
7. Sanctified or made holy
8. Glorified

- ❖ All of these eight topics of the redemption plan work by faith.

Why?

- ❖ Because we are saved by faith.

Redemption is the full outworking of salvation.

These eight truths are foundations of our faith.

### 1. Justification

All men were under sin and ready for eternal punishment.

However, Jesus Christ came and died for us so we could be justified.

Justification means, being excused.

- Justification is being excused of sin and its punishment.

(Rom 3:24,25) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

- ❖ Through the redemption which was Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross, we are justified.

(Rom 5:9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

God is holy yet our Lord Jesus Christ is the High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek that has bought us back.

With His blood, He paid the price.

His blood has also washed the heavens clean.

(Heb 9:23-24) *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. (24) For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

He is also our advocate in the heavenly court room.

(1Jn 2:1) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Therefore, we are set free of all our sin, guilt and shame and we now have access to the throne of God.

(Heb 10:19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.

### As we are justified, we are made righteous.

(Rom 1:17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

### By faith

Justification comes through faith.

(Rom 3:28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Many people believe that they are good because they do good things.

Others think that the law saves them and therefore live by the law.

NO, only through faith are you saved.

❖ Faith in the blood of Jesus Christ saves and justifies you.

(Gal 5:4,5) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

In the Jewish Galatian church, they started to go back to the law for salvation.

Paul said no, if you go back to salvation through the Law, you are coming back under the yoke of bondage.

Then Christ has no effect on you.

❖ Justification is not through the law of Moses but through the law of faith and makes us righteous.

(Rom 3:26,27) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Your position of freedom before God is through justification by faith.

Don't let condemnation rule that you haven't done enough for God.

Stand on the scriptures based on faith.

Faith in the redemption.

Faith in the justification through the redemption.

(Rom 3:26) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

## 2. Made Righteous

We just learnt that through the redemption we are justified.

➤ Through being justified we are made righteous.



(Rom 3:24,25) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

## **A Holy and Righteous God**

Through faith in the redemption, we become righteous.

(Rom 1:16-17) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

- ❖ Through the gospel, God's righteousness is revealed.
- Gospel preachers have to be preachers of righteousness.
  
- If we only preach about love, people can't understand about heaven and hell!
  
- If we preach about God that He is holy and in his holiness, He is perfect love, righteousness and justice, then it all makes sense.
- For the gospel is the message that God's holy love, through faith in Christ's blood, wants to forgive people's sin and make them righteous.
- Then they will stand just before a Holy God and don't have to go to hell but will go to heaven.

## **No guilt**

When we know that we are made righteous, we don't feel guilty anymore.

(Rom 1:17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

We know that our sin is forgiven and our inner nature is made righteous.

When the feelings of guilt, shame or condemnation come, we can stand on the inherited promise that we are made righteous.

For God's righteousness comes into our lives by faith.

(Rom 3:22) Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.

This works through the believer's faith.

As we are believers in Jesus Christ, by faith we have received it and we stand in it on the promises of God's word.

- ❖ When feelings of guilt, shame and unbelief come, we have to declare that we are made righteous by the blood of Christ.

(Rom 3:26) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(Rom 5:9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

## **Imputed righteousness**

God's righteousness is imputed into our spirit by faith through the blood of Jesus Christ and His divine nature.

We receive this as we believe and are born again.

(Rom 4:24-25) But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; (25) Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Our born again spirit is made righteous.

## **Adam**

Adam and Eve were without sin.

The day they listened to Satan's advice to sin, sin became imputed to them.

Now they had a sin nature.

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

We can understand imputed to be like a white linen garment put in a dark dirty pink dye colour and then the linen garment becomes pink.

This is what happened to Adam; he received a dirty sin nature.

## **Christ**

We are imputed with God's righteous nature as we are born again and have faith in Jesus Christ.

(Rom 4:22 - 24) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Through Christ the dirty pink colour is taken out of the linen garment and now our linen garment is made as white as snow.

Through the redemption we are washed by the blood and made whiter than the snow.

The miracle is that the red dyed effect from Christ's blood makes us white as snow.

Our garment is now made a garment of light, Hallelujah.

God's righteousness is now imputed into our lives.

We are now a new creation. We are made 100% righteous.

(Rom 3:22) Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

## **Made righteous through faith**

- This imputed righteousness comes to us through faith.
- Righteousness works through faith
- The believer's faith

(Rom 3:21,22) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.

Therefore, we are the righteousness of God because Jesus Christ lives in us.

The life of Jesus Christ in us is God's imputed righteousness in us.

(2Co 5:21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- ❖ Then by faith and through faith we can stand on the scripture about God's righteousness that we are righteous.
- ❖ When Satan says you are a bad person, say; "In Christ I am the righteousness of God, so flee from me in the name of Jesus Christ".

### **As the stars of heaven**

God's promise to Abraham was that his descendants would be as the stars of heaven.

(Heb 11:12) Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

Abraham went to Canaan by faith as he believed God.

Abraham believed God that out of him this mighty nation would grow.

He believed God, that the Saviour of man would come through the nation of Israel, therefore through his offspring.

Salvation is from the Jews.

Judah was a great, great grandson of Abraham. The tribe of Judah is where the Jews come from.

Judah is one of the twelve tribes and together they are called Israel.

Abraham believed this.

(Rom 4:17) (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

It was credited as righteousness to Abraham because he believed this.

Rom 4(20-22) AMP No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question)concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God, fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised. That is why his faith was credited to him as righteousness (right standing with God).

His faith was credited to him as righteousness; therefore, he is the father of faith, so to speak.

(Rom 4:16) Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

Therefore, Abraham is a shadow type of New Testament faith.

Yet only in the New Covenant, through the blood of Jesus Christ, can we be born again.

When we are born again we have the righteousness of God within our spirit.

Abraham couldn't have it yet on the inside or be born again for Christ Jesus had not yet died for his and our sin.

Therefore, he is a shadow-type of a believer.

### **No striving**

We should, therefore, let go of all striving.

Striving in the law won't save us.

Good works won't save us.

We have to let go of all pride and our own religious ways and live by grace and faith.

Once we believe and are born again, good works will follow our faith.

### **3. Reconciliation**

In our holy God and in His holy kingdom there is righteousness, peace and joy.

(Rom 14:17) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Jesus Christ came to reconcile us back to God. For we, because of sin, were enemies with God.

(Eph 2:16) And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

#### **Meaning of Reconciliation**

- Old enemies become friends again by covering offences

#### **Enemies of God**

Now sinful man had become an ENEMY OF GOD.

Being a sinner and living in sin, makes you an enemy of God.

This is because man had chosen for Satan's side.

Man came under Satan's rulership and Satan's kingdom.

Sin separates.

Through the fall of man, man is separated from God.

(Rom 6:23) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through sin, Adam and Eve lost fellowship with God which is eternal death. They also lost their peace with God.

#### **The Way Back**

How to come back to God:

Christ made the lasting sacrifice that has brought peace between God and man.

We call this RECONCILIATION.

(Eph 2:16-17) And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

(17) And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Jesus Christ came and preached about peace with God: He said, repent for the kingdom of God is here.

We can now choose to reconcile with God and have peace with Him while living in the kingdom of God.

(Rom 5:10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

#### **The Benefits of Reconciliation**

- A. Our sin is covered
- B. Gives eternal life
- C. Brings peace between god and man

- D. Brings peace in man's heart
- E. Restores fellowship with God

### **Life and fellowship**

Our spirits were out of fellowship with God.

Now, the reconciliation has brought us eternal life, peace and fellowship with God.

(1Jn 1:2-3) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

## **4. Propitiation or Covered**

### **Meaning of propitiation**

Propitiation means to cover or to appease (bring peace).

- We are covered by the blood of Christ and we call this propitiation.

(Rom 3:25) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

What are we covered from?

We are covered from God's wrath to come on sin, its judgment and being sent to hell.

- ❖ Through being covered by the blood of Jesus Christ we are delivered from justly deserved wrath, and we come under the covenant of grace. This all by God's own act.

(Rom 5:9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

We have now come under the covenant of grace and our sins and judgment are taken away because of Christ's propitiatory sacrifice.

(1Jn 2:2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

- ❖ Therefore, we are covered by grace through faith.

### **By the blood, we are covered from:**

- God's judgment
- Our sin
- Guilt and condemnation
  
- ❖ Christ has become our covering and mercy seat.

Through faith in Christ, we are now seated on the mercy seat with Him.

Therefore, there is no condemnation in Christ.

(Rom 8:1) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

## **5. Forgiven**

We are forgiven because of Christ's redeeming blood.

Jesus Christ came to redeem us so our relationship with God could be restored.

Our redemption came through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for us.

❖ Without the shedding of blood there is no remission or forgiveness of sins.

(Heb 9:22) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

❖ Jesus Christ said "I am going to shed My blood for the forgiveness of sin".

(Mat 26:28) For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

We are forgiven and redeemed because of the propitiatory sacrifice.

Being redeemed, we are therefore forgiven and made righteous.

We are justified because we are redeemed.

Being justified means being forgiven of sin and punishment.

❖ Therefore, because we are redeemed and justified, we are forgiven of all our sin.

The outcome of forgiveness is that we are made righteous and a new creation.

## **6. Purified**

Purified means made clean and pure.

Through Christ's blood, we are made clean and pure.

The blood of Jesus Christ has washed away our sin and filth.

We are now a new creation and born again because Jesus Christ's blood cleansed us, made us pure and given us divine life.

(Tit 2:14) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all our sin and has made us pure.

(1Jn 1:7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

## **7. Sanctified**

When we were redeemed, Jesus Christ came to cleanse us through His blood and give us His divine nature. We call this SANCTIFICATION.

### **The Meaning of Sanctification**

Sanctification means set apart, or growing in being holy.

(Heb 13:12) Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

There are three levels of sanctification.

### **Benefits of Sanctification**

- A. We are washed clean
- B. We receive God's divine nature

C. We become God's holy people, His holy priest

By the one sacrifice Christ made on the cross, we become a new creation and are born again, our spirits are made 100% pure or holy.

(Heb 10:10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Christ died and gave his body as a sacrifice once for all.

### **Made Perfect**

The life we receive from Christ through faith is perfect life.

(Heb 10:14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Sanctification is the process of being made holy and becoming perfect as we are set apart for God.

We receive Christ's perfect life in us through the Holy Spirit as we believe.

### **His Divine Nature**

We had a fallen nature and were living in darkness. Now we have received His divine nature and are living in the light of God.

Now we can grow in His divine nature and let our light shine more and more.

### **Three Different Kinds of Sanctification**

Sanctification can be divided into three categories:

1. Positional sanctification – you are holy.
2. Progressive sanctification – this is growing into a holy life.
3. Perfection – this is reaching maturity in your daily walk.

#### **1. Positional Sanctification**

Through faith in Christ, we receive God's divine nature and his godliness through the Holy Spirit. Through faith we can stand in these promises.

(Act 26:18) To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

#### **2. Progressive Sanctification**

Progressive sanctification is growing in being holy in our walk and our lifestyle.

Through this divine nature, we can now grow in being kind and loving. We can learn to be righteous through His godliness that is in us, growing in His righteousness all the time.

(1Th 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **3. Perfection**

God is looking for a mature bride.

Perfection means maturity.

The end result or state in the road of sanctification is to reach perfection.

(Eph 5:27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Our Lord is waiting to marry a mature or perfect bride.

## **8. Glorified**

Glorified is that we have received His divine nature.

Part of the redemption is that we have received the divine nature of God because, through faith, we are born again.

(2Pe 3:3-4) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, (4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

God, in Christ, has called us to glory and virtue in this life on Earth.

We are called to shine this glory outwardly and fill the Earth with the knowledge of His glory.

Through the redemption and the process of being born again, we have received God's glory inwardly.

Also precious promises are given to us which is our inheritance here on Earth to walk in the manifest glorious presence of God in this life.

(Eph 1:17-18) 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: (18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Therefore, we are called to grow up in this glorious divine nature of God and are changed from glory to glory.

(2Co 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.



## Chapter 10: Faith is of the Heart

### Faith

We need faith to enter the kingdom of God.

Yes faith to be born again.

For faith is of the heart.

(Rom 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

God's desire for us is that we want to love and serve God with all our heart.

❖ God deals with our heart so we can believe with all our heart.

### Peter and Eternal Life

Peter heard the Lord Jesus Christ preach that He was the bread of life and if Peter would believe in Him as Messiah, he would have eternal life.

(Joh 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Believing, or having faith, would be the key to receive this eternal life.

(Joh 6:47) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Our Lord did great miracles.

He also used miracles to illustrate spiritual mysteries.

One day, He multiplied two loaves of bread so that a multitude of people were fed with it.

Earlier, He had said that He was the bread of life, then He added, if you don't eat His flesh and drink His blood, you would have no life in you.

(Joh 6:53-54) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (54) Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Many didn't want to follow Him after He said these words.

He then said to His twelve disciples, "how about you, are you also going to leave Me?"

Then Peter replied that he would stay as Jesus had the words of eternal life.

(Joh 6:68-69) Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (69) And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

### Peter's Trial

Peter had faith in his heart, for he said, "You are the Christ".

Yet he was going to go through a trial whereby his whole heart would surrender.

When Jesus was arrested and they asked Peter if he knew Him, Peter denied Him three times.

Then the roster crowed three times as the Lord had foretold, Peter left and wept in deep repentance.

Later, after the resurrection, Christ asked Peter three times if he loved Him.

(Joh 21:17) He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son of Jonas*, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Why did Jesus do this?

He did this for faith is of the heart and he wanted the full surrender of Peter's heart.

### **Apostle Peter Preaches Faith**

Once Peter had surrendered with his whole heart, he was ready for his ministry as Apostle.

He was used on the day of Pentecost as a mighty preacher, also in the house of Cornelius.

In the message to Cornelius and his household, he said, "if you believe on His name, you shall be forgiven".

(Act 10:43) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

In the Bible, apostle Peter preached about repentance, faith, forgiveness, eternal life and baptism.

As a result, the Holy Spirit was poured out as a sign of eternal life for all who believed or had faith.

(Act 10:44) While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

### **God Looks at the Heart**

What does the Lord God look for in a believer's life?

The Lord looks at our heart.

This is what God said to Samuel.

(1Sa 16:7) But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

### **What Qualities is God after in a Believer's heart:**

1. Faith
2. Gentleness and humility
3. A pure heart
4. A soft and surrendered heart
5. A contrite and obedient heart

Christ shows all of these qualities as He walked on the Earth and said, "I am humble of heart".

(Mat 11:29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

### **Faith is of the Heart**

- ❖ A great principle in God's kingdom is that faith is of the heart.

(Rom 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- ❖ When we talk about faith is of our heart, we are talking about our spiritual heart and not a fleshly heart. The Bible says that through being born again, we would receive a new heart; this is a heart full of faith.

(Jer31:33) 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.

The Hebrew word for heart is Labe.

- ❖ Labe is used for feelings, will and the intellect (this is our soul).
- ❖ It is also used for the centre of all (our spirit).

The Greek word for heart is Kardia

Kardia is used for:

- ❖ Mental and moral activity
- ❖ It is the hidden spring of a person's life
- ❖ It is the seat of sin
- ❖ Chief organ (is the natural heart of the body)

This is why faith in Christ gives us a new heart for the born again life flows from within.

Our spirit is born again and our heart is made new. Life flows out of our born again spirit into every part of our lives.

## **Our Heart**

Our inner heart contains:

- ❖ Our soul
- ❖ Our spirit
- ❖ Our conscience

(Heb 10:22 NLT) let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

## **The Hidden Man**

Scripture regards the heart as the sphere of divine influence.

(Rom 2:4-5) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (5) But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

The heart as lying deep within, contains the hidden man. The hidden man is our spirit.

(1Pe 3:4) But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

The spirit is the seat of moral nature and spiritual life.

(Mat 15:19-20) For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: (20) These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

(Pro 4:23) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

When we have a new heart or are born again, God's divine life and divine nature flows from our born again spirit through our new heart.

(2Pe 1:3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Our heart is sanctified; however, we are also called to go through the process of progressive sanctification of our heart.

Why is our heart sanctified? For our heart carries our conscience.

Baptism helps to bring peace to our conscience as our body is going under the water, for it is with our body that we have sinned.

(1Pe 3:21) The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

## **A Holistic Hebrew Culture**

Our Lord Yah-shuaHaMasiach (Jesus) was a Jew and salvation comes from the Jews.

The Hebrew culture is based upon a holistic life and lifestyle. The Greek culture is only based upon spirits and its gods. God said to the Hebrew people that they would love the Lord their God with all their soul, all their strength and all of their heart.

(Deu 11:13) And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

(Mar 12:29-30) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments *is*, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: (30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

The Hebrew culture deals with all aspects of life and every aspect is important to God. In the Old Covenant, God gave laws for the land, for family for marriage and for worship. In the Greek culture, only the spiritual is of high value.

Our Christian faith is based upon the Hebrew culture and therefore Christ spoke about the whole person and especially about the heart.

So in the gospels, we see Christ address us about our heart, our soul, our spirit and our body. He said, "blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God."

(Mat 5:8) Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Christ dealt with the whole person, for God deals with the whole person and the heart deals with the deep parts of our whole lives.

❖ Therefore, faith is of the heart.

(Rom 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

❖ With our heart we believe and with our mouth we confess unto salvation.

## **A New Heart**

The promise the Lord gave us is that we would receive a new heart.

(Jer 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.

With the new heart, we can boldly come before the throne of God because we are washed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

(Heb10:19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

- ❖ We are called to draw near with a new and true heart full of faith.
- ❖ For we are called to enter God's presence with our heart.

(Heb 10:22 NLT) let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Therefore, we are to come into the presence of God with our heart, that is with our heart, spirit and our new soul. There is now no condemnation for our heart for we are in Christ Jesus.

(Rom 8:1) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

God's glory wants to shine on our whole person for our whole heart is made new.

If we would only focus on our spirit, we would follow the Greek culture.

- ❖ In the Hebrew and New Testament, we are called to come boldly unto the throne with all of our heart, soul and spirit.

We should not compartmentalise and just focus on body, soul and spirit, but enter God's presence with our whole being.

- ❖ This is why we experience the Holy Spirit's touch on our emotions, body, spirit and our whole heart.

(Rom 5:5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

- ❖ For the love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

God's love is poured out on our hearts

God's love is poured out in our soul, thereby also our emotions.

God's love is poured out in our spirit.

## **Faith and Miracles**

On the day of Ascension, the Lord gave the disciples the great commission.

The great commission is to preach the good news of the gospel that salvation through Christ is for everyone.

(Mar 16:15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Faith in Christ is the way to be saved.

(Mar 16:16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

He also said that faith would release miracles, signs and wonders.

(Mar 16:17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

The disciples were called to believe that God would use them in signs, wonders and miracles so that they would be a tool to see many being saved and relieved from their trouble.

## **Unbelievers and Hardness of Heart**

Just before the Lord released the disciples into the great commission, He had to deal with their unbelief.

Unbelief would stop them from fulfilling their mission.

When the Lord arose and appeared to different ones, He sent them to tell the rest, yet they didn't want to believe. On the day of ascension, the Lord appeared to them all and rebuked them for their hardness of heart.

(Mar 16:14) Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

- ❖ True faith softens the heart.
- ❖ Unbelief hardens the heart.

The Lord had spoken to Thomas earlier that he must believe in the risen Christ; he was not to be without faith.

(Joh 20:27) Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

We are blessed when we believe even when we have not seen.

(Joh 20:29) Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

### **Faith Moves Mountains**

When our Lord had come down from the Mount where He was transfigured by the glory of God, He encountered a problem. There was a moonstruck boy possessed with a demon. The disciples couldn't cast the demons out but the Lord was able to cast it out. He then said, if you have faith like a mustard seed, you can move a mountain."

(Mat 17:20) And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Then later on, when He had cursed a fig tree, the Lord taught them that by faith, which is of the heart, you can receive what you need as you speak forth the Rhema word of God (The word of the Lord given at that moment).

(Mar 11:22-24) And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. (23) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (24) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

In this scripture, the Lord said that they should not doubt in their heart.

Why does Christ say not to doubt in their heart? Because faith is of the heart.

- ❖ With our heart we have faith as we hear the word of the Lord.
- ❖ At the same time, we need to respond to the Holy Spirit when He shows us where we need to change and grow into Christ-likeness so that we respond right and not to harden our heart.

Many believers only want the blessings but don't become Christ-like.

- ❖ If we speak and believe only to get what we want, our hearts can be far from God and we are hypocritical.

There are many who say they follow Christ, yet don't have the true fruits of Christ-likeness.

(Mat 15:7,8) Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, (8)

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Being a hypocrite means you are acting a part on a stage before people. You do not show the real you.

True faith brings forth the fruits of the Holy Spirit and shows the real you.

Our heart has to become like Christ's heart, humble and full of faith.

Then our faith will also move mountains.

The fallen heart is the seat of sin and therefore our heart has to become Christ-like.

(Mat 15:19) For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

### **Apostle Peter's Faith and Healing**

Peter and John saw a lame man at the Gate Beautiful.

They said, "silver and gold we don't have, but what we have we give you, rise and walk".

The man rose and walked.

(Act 3:8) And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Then a crowd ran to them at this place of Solomon's Porch,  
Earlier on, we saw that Peter preached faith for salvation, here we see that Peter also taught them to have faith in the name of Jesus Christ to receive healing and miracles.

(Act 3:16) And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Peter's heart was made soft and God could now move mountains through Peter's faith.

### **Living Faith or Hypocrisy**

Living faith brings true transformation.

When we are transformed, we become transparent.

True faith is of the heart and makes our heart look like Christ as the fruit of the Spirit grows in our spirit which our heart reflects.

(Gal 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Being a hypocrite is the opposite of true faith.

Our Lord was angry with many Pharisees and called them hypocrites.

(Mat 23:25-26) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. (26) *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

They made themselves look good on the outside but their hearts were far from God and therefore Christ called them hypocrites.

A hypocrite is a pretender, a stage actor.

The word hypocrite comes from a Greek stage actor.

These Greek or Roman actors spoke from behind a mask with mechanical devices for augmenting the force of the voice.

The gospel has been given to uncover us from our masks to reveal and transform our hearts.

Jesus said we were to first clean what is inside the cup, then also the outside.

For He said that all the sin starts within the heart.

(Mat 15:19) For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

The truth is that if our faith doesn't help us to change our heart, then we won't truly be the light of the world.

Most believers who keep living from behind their so called religious mask, will fall away in the long run.

King David understood this after his great sin of adultery and murder.

He said that God wants to establish truth in the inner part of us.

(Psa 51:6) Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

We need to daily deal with the sin of our hearts at cross of Christ, wherever we struggle, so that the transformation of our heart, soul and spirit takes place.

### **An Evil Heart**

The nation of Israel didn't enter the Promised Land under Moses. Their children went in under Joshua. Therefore, the warning for us in the book of Hebrews is that we not harden our hearts as Israel did in the desert.

(Heb 3:8-9) Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: (9) When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

It says that when you harden your heart, you will have an evil heart of unbelief.

(Heb 3:12) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Therefore, we are to exhort one another daily not to harden our hearts in unbelief.

(Heb 3:13) But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

We can harden our hearts through:

1. Sin
2. Doubt
3. Unbelief

God wants to write His laws in our heart and make our heart soft and pliable in the presence of God, full of faith, by circumcising it.

(2Co 3:3) Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

As we let God circumcise our heart and grow in faith, then we will enter the Promised Land of rest.

(Heb 4:10-11) For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. (11) Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

This is the rest that Christ promised us if we come to Him, believe in Him and learn of Him.

(Mat 11:29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

### **Surrender**



One of the important ways to become like Christ is to surrender our heart fully to His heart. Christ said that if you take up His yoke and you learn from Him, then your soul shall find rest. We have to let go of our religious striving and working in the flesh to surrender to His yoke and learn of His gentle and humble heart.

When we believe and surrender our soul deeper, we will find rest.

### **Hardened Hearts of the Pharisees**

Christ went into a synagogue, full of faith with an obedient heart to God the Father. In the synagogue was a man with a withered hand. The attitude of the people in the synagogue was disbelief. They were spectators that were not welcoming, they did not welcome their Saviour, Healer and Messiah.

(Mar 3:5) And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Christ wanted to help that man and His heart was for the Jews to grow in faith.

However, Christ became angry and grieved in that place because of their hardness of heart.

(Mar 3:5) And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

When there is a hardness of heart, there is no real room for faith. On the other hand, when there is a soft believing heart, there can be great faith. Only through Christ's faith could the man receive healing. In another place like Capernaum, all were healed because of the faith of the people.

### **They Believed**

When Jesus Christ did His first miracle, which was turning water into wine, the disciples believed in Him.

(Joh 2:11) This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

As they saw Christ ministering and manifesting His glory by signs, wonders and miracles, their faith grew. Therefore, Christ said that on the day of ascension that those signs would follow them if they believed. Faith was the key.

(Mar 16:17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

In the book of Acts, we specifically see Apostle Peter being used in great signs and wonders, as we have discussed in this chapter, for he believed in his heart and had a soft heart after he had repented when he failed Christ.

### **Healing of Broken Hearts**

Jesus came to heal the broken hearted.

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

When your heart is broken, hurt and wounded, it is hard to keep standing in a high level of faith.

Why is this? Because a broken heart makes you double-minded and James says that a double-minded man faith is a like an unstable wave.

Jesus came to heal the broken hearted so they can learn to stand in faith that moves mountains.

This is why we need to be open for inner healing.

### Free Indeed

TD Jakes says, "True freedom comes by God's mercy".

He says that the good news is that we are not just called to be free but free indeed.

(Joh 8:36) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Freedom is being led out of imprisonment or living outside a prison.

Free indeed is to have all the benefits and blessings of the kingdom of God and living like a son, having the fruits of the Spirit and the victorious life of a son.

We are going to see this same message in the story of the Israelites coming out of Egyptian slavery.

### Egyptian Slavery

Moses, who was a Hebrew child, grew up in the house of Pharaoh.

One day, he saw injustice being done to a Hebrew slave by an Egyptian.

He became so angry that he killed the Egyptian.

When the people started to talk about it, he became afraid and fled to a far country.

Some years later the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses as a burning bush.

(Exo 3:2) And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

God said to Moses that he was standing on holy ground.

God called Moses to deliver the Hebrew nation, He had seen their affliction and wanted to deliver them.

(Exo 3:7-8) And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; (8) And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

God's promise was not only to make them free but also to bring them to a good land flowing with milk and honey.

They were not only called to be free; but to be free indeed.

### Freedom

God led them out of their Egyptian slavery by sending ten plagues.

After the plagues, the Egyptian leader let them go to worship their God.

Yet Pharaoh, the Egyptian leader, hardened his heart again and chased them to the Red Sea, so God split the Red Sea, making it dry land to let the Israelites escape.

As they arrived on the other side, the water fell onto the Egyptian army and they were all killed.

(Exo 14:27-28) And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

(28) And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, *and* all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

Now the Hebrew slaves were free, free to become the nation of Israel.

### **The Desert Test**

God then lead the nation of Israel with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

They received supernatural food from heaven called manna.

They received miracle after miracle, yet they had to believe that God was going to bring them to this promised land.

They were free, yet in their heart, they complained, murmured, were angry and rebellious at times.

They came out of Egypt, yet Egypt was still in their hearts.

God was testing His people in their trials, by showing His majesty in order for them to learn to fear God and therefore not to sin.

(Exo20:20) And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

The people of Israel failed the test and hardened their hearts.

In the last chapter, we saw that faith is of the heart.

(Rom 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Israel hardened their heart for they didn't believe and therefore they couldn't go into the promised land.

(Heb 3:17-19) But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? (19) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

### **Entering the Promised Land**

Joshua and Caleb had a different heart than the other Hebrew people, they believed in God's great goodness.

Their hearts were soft and they spoke words of faith.

They said, we can easily conquer the giants of the promised land for our God is great, just fear God.

(Num 14:6-9) And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: (7) And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, *is* an exceeding good land. (8) If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. (9) Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.

They also came out of Egyptian slavery and were set free, yet these two men led the next generation into the promised land, for they were free indeed.

These two men were free indeed for they lived in God's presence with Moses, they also had a victorious mindset for their faith was in a big God.

They believed in God's greatness and experienced it. They were used to be victorious over their enemies and conquer the promised land.

They ate of the fruits of the promised land, they ate the honey and drank the milk.

As believers, we are called to possess our promised land just like Joshua and Caleb.

### **The New Nature**

The new nature is God's nature in us, which is the nature of our promised land.

When we believe and are born again we are a new creation and all things have become new. "All things are new" means we have received a new nature and walk in the newness of life. Out of our new heart we live in the spirit.

(1 Pet 1:3-4) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust

We are now called to live out of God's divine nature whereby we are born again and receive divine power to grow up in godly life and Christ likeness.

(Rom 6:4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- Therefore, as believers we are called to learn to walk in the spirit.
- Walking, through faith in Christ, in the spirit out of God's spirit is true victorious life.

### **The Old Sin Nature**

When we become believers God keeps us here in the world to train us how to overcome the lure of the flesh, the sinful world and the evil powers of satan. This is to train us to be overcomers. When we have become believers in Christ we are baptised in water as a sign that we have died to the lust of the flesh, world, sin and darkness.

- ❖ Baptism is for us to be a witness of our new life and to be a witness in this world as we walk in the newness of life.

(Rom 6:4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life

In Christ we have died to sin and our sin nature yet our sin nature is still here while we live in this old body.

(1 Co 3:2,3 NLT) I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?

When the believers die at the end of their life their sin nature goes with them into the grave. When the rapture or the calling away happens, all dead saints will receive a new resurrected body. The ones that will be raptured will be changed in a twinkling of an eye and their body will become a new heavenly body and their old sin nature will be gone forever.

(1 Cor 15:51&52) Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- ❖ The crux of all of this is that as long as we are living as believers and therefore a new creation, the old sin nature is still in our being.

- ❖ However, we are called to live out of the new nature.

Therefore, we are called to live by faith in the Spirit.

So we are to follow God's word in obedience, walk by faith and live in the spirit.

### Different Biblical Words for the Old Sin Nature

- Old man
- Sin nature
- Flesh
- Carnally minded

### Different Biblical Words for the New Nature

- New man
- A new creation
- Walking in the spirit
- New or divine nature

### Free Indeed

Our Lord didn't only promise us to be free but to be free indeed.

(Joh 8:36) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

In the story of the Israelites, we saw that when they were free, they experienced God's supernatural deliverance, miracles and provision of manna. Yet they were in the desert and not in the promised land.

When Jesus Christ spoke about free and free indeed, He said it to those who believed already.

(Joh 8:31) Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

- ❖ He wanted the believers to not only be free but to go for free indeed.

In other words, He was saying you can be a believer, follower and even a zealot for Him, yet still be a slave to sin.

(Joh 8:34 AMP) Jesus answered, "I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, everyone who practices sin *habitually* is a slave of sin.

A believer in Christ can still be under bondages of sin, like porn, addictions of alcohol, lying etc.

A believer can also still be in a prison of bitterness, unforgiveness, revenge, hate, violence and destruction (such as cutting yourself).

There are believers who have only a little bit of freedom and haven't learned how, through the cross, faith and the spirit filled life to be free indeed.

### Sonship

True glory, freedom and victory lie in sonship.

Our Lord said that the slave doesn't remain in the house but the son does.

(Joh 8:35 NLT) A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever.

I work with people who come out of the drugs, alcohol and other addictions.

Most come to Christ, are born again, baptised and they start to be part of the family.

The sad news is that, later on, many of them fall back to their sinful lifestyle.

Why? They were still a slave to their sins and didn't learn to live as sons.

A slave is not a permanent member of the family but a mature son is.

### The answer to becoming free indeed lies in sonship.

Sonship is the place where, through faith, we have a revelation of the glorious heart of our heavenly Father.

In sonship we learn how good, loving, caring and kind our heavenly Father is.

In the place of sonship, we learn that we are forgiven and saved by grace, not by works, law or legalism.

(Eph 2:8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Through our faith, which we received by grace, we will have encounters with the loving heart of our heavenly Father whereby we will know that we are sons.

In these encounters, experiences, visions and revelations, we will know that Abba Father has put a ring on our finger and beautiful shoes on our feet just like the prodigal son received when he came back home.

In other words, through faith, we meditated on God's word and receive revelations, encounters whereby we receive impartations of God's glorious heart and His power.

All of this will bring us in a place of 'free indeed'.

In this place, we taste the good things of the age to come and the Holy Spirit will pour out Abba Father's love in our heart.

The Spirit of adoption and sonship will also be poured out in our heart by the Holy Spirit who cries Abba Father.

(Rom 8:15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Free indeed is being one with the Father heart of God.

It is knowing that you were conceived and birthed in love in the kingdom of God as His child and as a babe in Christ, you were nurtured by His loving heart.

### **Deception or Abundant Life?**

When we have a word in the Bible, it can mean different things.

Take the word "flesh", it can mean the body, meat or the sinful nature.

The Bible says that in the Last Days, Satan will try to deceive the multitude and even the elect if it were possible.

- ❖ One of the lies of today is that a believer doesn't have a sin nature anymore and by this lie, Satan is trying to make the believers lukewarm.
- ❖ The truth is that there are different words of the sin nature, yet all of these different words for sin nature in the Bible state that the believer has to daily crucify or put the old nature to death.

(Rom 8:12,13 NLT) Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

- ❖ The different words for sin nature are flesh, sinful nature, old man and carnal man.

The other part of the truth is that, as believers, we don't live from our old sin nature or old man anymore, we have to learn to live from the new nature or new creation.

❖ We call this living in the Spirit. Yet, at this time, our old sin nature is still in our body.

(Rom 8:13) For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

This is all spoken to believers who are called to become free indeed.

In Colossians it says to the believers exactly what they have to put off or crucify.

(Col 3:5-9 NLT) So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. <sup>6</sup> Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. <sup>8</sup> But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behaviour, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.

Then it also tells us to put on the godly qualities.

(Col 3:10,12 NLT) Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. <sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Living by faith in the spirit through the Holy Spirit, we will start to experience the abundant, victorious life of the promised land that Christ spoke about.

(Joh 7:38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

This spirit filled life and becoming like Jesus is our promised land. Then you become free indeed.

## **Different Words for Sin Nature**

### **Fleshly**

Greek is sarkikos which means

- A. the flesh or carnal
- B. nature of the flesh (sinful nature)
- C. sensual

Spiritually speaking fleshly is therefore being carnal, sensual and living from our sinful fallen nature.

(Gal 6:8 NLT) Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

### **Carnal**

Greek is sarkikos which means

- A. Flesh
- B. Sensual
- C. Carnal denotes the sinful elements of our old nature by reason of the descent from Adam
- D. Having its seed and drive force in the animal nature

(1Co 3:3) For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?



(1 Co 3:3 NLT) for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?

### **Old Man**

Greek is *archaios* which means

- A. Original
- B. The believer's former self before his conversion – his old man

(Rom 6:6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

### **Sin and Sinful Nature**

Sin in Greek is *hamartia* which means

- A. Missing the mark
- B. Principle or source of action
- C. Governing principle or power

Nature in Greek is *phusikoks* which means

- A. According to nature
- B. Governed by mere natural instinct

Therefore, the sin nature is the principle source of power that comes by our natural or fallen nature.

We are not called to go by this natural fallen nature but by the spirit to kill the work of the sinful nature or flesh.

(Rom 8:13) For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

(Rom 8:13 NLT) For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

### **Be Hot**

Much of today's church is lukewarm and lost the fire they once had.

The Lord calls us to be hot for Him.

(Rev 3:15) I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Why are many lukewarm?

I believe that deceptive teaching, which is appealing to the flesh, has made many lukewarm.

So they only drink milk to feel good. Pastors of these 'feel good' churches only serve milk and therefore they don't grow up. This keeps believers controlled by their sinful nature.

To grow up, pastors have to feed their sheep meat. Meat shows the difference between the sin nature and living in the spirit.

(1 Co3:2-4 NLT) I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, <sup>3</sup> for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel

with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? <sup>4</sup> When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?

## **A Fire Needs Fuel**

We are called to be a living sacrifice and a sacrifice without fire smells.

(Rom 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We are therefore called to crucify ourselves and to put our old man, flesh or sinful nature on the altar.

When we do this, the fire of the Holy Spirit has fuel to burn.

As we do this daily in prayer and worship, we will be on fire every day.

John Wesley said, "I put myself daily on fire so that the world sees me burn".

When we live the crucified life, we are free to live in the spirit.

(Gal 5:24,25 NLT) Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. <sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Then we will be free indeed as we surrender our self to the cross of Christ and to God's fire on the altar and learn about His goodness in that place of freedom in the spirit.

## **Different Words for New Nature**

### **New Nature**

The Greek is kainos which means

- A. Different nature from what is contrasted to old.
- B. Fresh

(2Pe 1:4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

### **New Man**

The Greek is kainos which means

- A. A new character of manhood spiritually and morally
- B. After the pattern of Christ

(Col 3:10) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

### **New Creation**

The Greek is kainos which means

- A. A new character or manhood spiritually and morally
- B. After the pattern of Christ

(2Co 5:17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

## **New Spirit**

The Greek is pneuma which means

- A. Liberty as of a son
- B. The new life

(Rom 8:4-6) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (5) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (6) For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

## **Spirit versus the Old Sinful Nature or Flesh**

To be free indeed is to experience and live through faith in the moving and infilling glory of the Holy Spirit.

(Rom 8:9,12,13 NLT)<sup>9</sup> But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) <sup>12</sup> Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

The Holy Spirit will give us the strength to overcome the old sin nature and pour out God's glory and living water in us.

By abiding in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit will grow in us.

The weapons of our warfare are spiritual and powerful and therefore they give us victory over the realms of darkness.

(2Co 10:4) (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

## **Battle Between Old and New Nature**

There are 5 chapters in 5 different Epistles of the New Testament that talk about the battle between the new nature in Christ and the old sinful nature and how to have victory.

This was one of apostle Paul's main teachings in the churches he started.

These chapters are:

1. Romans 8
2. Galatians 5
3. Ephesians 4
4. Ephesians 5
5. Colossians 3

Romans 8 is the clearest of all of these and shows us how to kill the works of the sinful nature through the power of the Holy Spirit which flows through our new spirit and heart.

Read through these chapters and pray them through so you can break through in the victorious living as a believer.

Some of the other chapters show clearly the sin of the flesh which stops us from entering into the kingdom of God.

If we, as believers, start to sin more and more, we are grieving the Holy Spirit.

(Eph 4:30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

As we grieve the Holy Spirit, our fire goes out and we become lukewarm.

The fire goes out because we are living back in our sin nature, old man or the flesh.

We can't please God in the flesh, we can only please God by living by faith and living in the new creation or in the spirit.

In the next chapter, we will teach that through progressive sanctification, we have to walk this process out on a daily basis.

Progressive sanctification, godly character growing, discipleship, sonship and becoming an overcomer all leads us in the same way; to perfection, which is the third part of sanctification.

The Holy Spirit gives power to our spirit to walk and live in victory.

(Col 1:10&11) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

## Chapter 12: The Three P's of Sanctification

### Apostle Paul's Journey

In this chapter we are learning about the 3 P's of sanctification.

We receive God's divine holy nature as we come to faith and are born again, yet we also have to grow up as believers so that our behaviour will also reflect God's glorious holy nature.

We are now going to look at Apostle Paul's life, how he became a believer, how he then grew up as he went through his trials and tribulations to become a mature apostle of God.

When Paul was persecuting believers, he was encountered by God and the glorious light of Christ. It blinded him for three days.

(Act 22:11 AMP) But since I could not see because of the [glorious intensity and dazzling] brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

He then repented, believed and was saved. Ananias was then sent to him. He baptised Paul and his sight was restored while he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Act 9:17-18) And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. (18) And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Soon after that, he started to preach the gospel in Damascus.

(Act 9:20) And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

### Paul's Testing Time

Paul had received God's forgiveness and therefore he was a new creation, he was sanctified by the blood of Jesus.

(Heb 10:14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

We call this positional sanctification.

He was forgiven, saved, cleansed and therefore sanctified, yet his lifestyle still had to change.

When we grow up as believers, we grow in godly character, so that our lifestyle becomes a holy lifestyle.

We call this progressive sanctification.

God's plan with Paul was to let him be changed through suffering for Christ's name's sake for he had been full of anger and hate.

(Act 9:13-16) Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: (14) And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. (15) But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: (16) For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

After a while, the Jews of Damascus wanted to kill him so he had to escape.

This was the first test of faith Paul had to endure.

He was on his journey, which is the race of faith, and he wanted to win.

(1Co 9:24) Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

## **Paul's Growing Up in Christ**

Apostle Paul had a great hunger to know Christ in a deep way.

(Php 3:10) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

To grow in this strong faith, he didn't look to man but he let himself be taught of God.

He went up to Arabia to grow spiritually.

(Gal 1:16-17) To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: (17) Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Why to Arabia?

Well, Arabia is where the real Mount Sinai is, where Moses and the Israelites were taught of God. It is also the place that Elijah had the encounter with God.

(Gal 4:24-25) Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. (25) For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Paul was taught by the Spirit of God in Arabia, for he had been a Pharisee and a scholar and knew he needed to understand the New Covenant.

Therefore, his faith was based upon the cross and the revelation and power of the Holy Spirit.

(1Co 2:2,5) For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

## **Character Growth**

Later, Paul went to Tarsus. Barnabas then took him from there to minister in Antioch.

Then they were sent out of Antioch to go and preach for the Holy Spirit told them to.

(Act 13:2) As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

They preached as a team of four: Paul, Barnabas, Silas and John Mark.

John Mark leaves for a time and Barnabas, who is a man of compassion, wants to take him back.

This leads to a dispute between them, in this dispute, we see that Apostle Paul is angry.

(Act 15:39) And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

In one translation, it says that it was a bitter dispute.

Paul had been an angry Pharisee, maybe he had been wounded by his father and had become a religious fanatic out of anger and hate. This led him to enjoy stoning believers to death.

Barnabas then takes John Mark as his partner and Apostle Paul takes Silas.

However, much later, Paul must have grown up, for he says to please bring John Mark to him for he is of great help.

The Father's love may have healed Paul's heart and set him free of his thoughts of anger and bitterness.

(2Ti 4:11) Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Apostle Paul, because of His great revelation of God's love and goodness, is used in a great way for the gospel and plants many churches.

He also shares that a true apostle is able to handle much hardship for this is true spiritual growth.

(2Co 11:23) Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

From Apostle Paul we can learn that we grow in faith and godliness during tribulations and when we are weak, God is strong.

In those hard times, the glory of God and His power was poured out in signs and wonders was present in Paul's ministry.

(Rom 5:2-5) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; (4) And patience, experience; and experience, hope: (5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

In these hardships, the love of the Father was poured out in Paul's heart and this made him press into his high calling in Christ.

(Php 3:10) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

### **A Mature Bride**

Our Lord Jesus Christ is waiting for His bride to come to maturity.

Another word for maturity is perfection.

❖ Perfection is the third stage of sanctification.

Now Jesus is waiting and ministering to His bride in order for her to become glorious.

(Eph 5:27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

As believers, we are called to grow from glory to glory.

As we live in our first love and stay in our first love we will be changed from glory to glory.

(2Co 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

When we come to faith in Christ we are starting a journey.

This journey is our walk of faith whereby we grow from being a young believer to a strong believer to a hero of the faith as we saw in Apostle Paul's life.

### **The Five Wise Virgins**

In the Bible is the story of the ten virgins. They were all waiting for the bridegroom.

(Mat 25:1) Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Yet five kept growing spiritually for they pressed in to their first love for the bridegroom.

They knew that their Christian journey wouldn't be easy and made sure that when it would get difficult, they would stand the test and face their trials in faith.

They were like the Apostle Paul, they were pressing into the things of the Holy Spirit and were changed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Their bride cry was, that we may know Him.

(Php 3:10) That I may know him

❖ This gave them the extra oil!

(Mat 25:4) But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and of the first love.

In the Bible, oil was used to anoint a priest as a sign that God was upon them.

Fragrant oils were also used to make Queen Esther ready for her wedding.

The five foolish virgins didn't grow spiritually and because of this, they didn't enter the wedding feast. They didn't have any extra oil in their flasks.

(Mat 25:9-12) But the wise answered, saying, *Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.* (10) And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. (11) Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. (12) But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

The five wise virgins had their bottles filled with extra oil. They knew Him, He knew them. Therefore, the five wise virgins went into the wedding.

This is a lesson for us to be like the five wise virgins and grow up spiritually in the 3 P's of sanctification.

Yes, the five wise virgins went into the wedding!

## **The 3 P's of Sanctification**

We are on a journey of spiritual and character growth, which makes the fruit of the Spirit evident in our lives.

In this growth there are three stages of sanctification, which I call the 3 P's of sanctification:

1. Positional sanctification
2. Progressive sanctification
3. Perfection

### **1. Positional Sanctification**

Sanctification means being set apart, being restored in holiness.

In positional sanctification, which is sanctity, we are made 100% holy.

Sanctity is holy or sacred.

(Heb 10:14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

We are made holy through faith.



(Act 26:18) To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

By faith, we are made 100% clean or pure.

This is true because of our positional sanctification in which we stand by faith.

We are made 100% holy because Christ lives in us.

### **With boldness**

We can come with boldness before God's throne because we are 100% clean, pure and sanctified.

We don't come as beggars but as children, or sons to the Father's throne.

It is His throne of grace and the Father is waiting for us.

(Heb 4:16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### **Dead Traditions**

Our Lord taught that we have to be careful of dead traditions. Dead traditions will try to stop living faith. I was brought up in the Reformed Church.

Later on in life, I did not stay in the Reformed Church, I became born again in the Baptist church in the USA. When I learnt about standing in faith, the old religion in me rose up. These old dead religious thoughts in me fought with the living faith, how to stand in faith in the Word of God.

Many Protestants have the same battle with living faith.

### **God of Reason**

One day I was listening to a preacher on how to believe and how to receive by faith.

I was upset about what he preached.

- ❖ Then God rebuked me and He told me that I was under the European spirit of reason.

God told me that I need to repent of it and learn about faith.

- ❖ Everything that fights biblical faith is not of God.

(Rom 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

I had to renew my mind through biblical faith and cast down my wrong religious thoughts and reasoning.

Living in faith and standing on the promises of God helps us to see God's inherited promises of peace, joy and love breakthrough.

We will also then see God's supernatural miracles and breakthrough in our lives.

## **2. Progressive Sanctification**

As a young believer my first growth as believer was with Youth with a Mission. I learnt how God wanted us to grow up spiritually to become a disciple.

We call this progressive growth or progressive sanctification.

Later on, I became a part of a Full Gospel Church. There I learnt a different approach in how to study the Bible.

For years I could not understand the difference.

They were teaching that God's promises were for now. At this moment.

Today I understand that what the Full Gospel Church was talking about was our position of sanctification and in YWAM they were talking about progressive sanctification or spiritual growth.

### **The Study Bible**

One day as I was reading a Study Bible.

It stated that there is:

1. Positional Sanctification
2. Progressive Sanctification
3. Perfection

Then I understood that I had learnt about two of these truths but in two different camps of the body of Christ.

Many churches or ministries have only one of the three viewpoints.

The full truth is that we need all three.

### **Progressive sanctification is:**

- ❖ Progressive sanctification is character growth or growing in maturity and integrity and discipleship.
- ❖ Progressive sanctification is the process of becoming holy or holy making.
- ❖ In progressive sanctification, we grow in holiness in our lifestyle, actions and deeds.
- ❖ In progressive sanctification, we also grow in holiness or sanctification in:
  - A. Our heart
  - B. Body
  - C. Soul
  - D. spirit

(1Th 3:13) To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

- ❖ We need to use our faith to grow in being holy in our heart, body, soul and spirit, for His holy character and virtues grow in us.

(1Th 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's will for us is to be the salt and light of the world.

We won't really shine unless our ways and lifestyle become more and more morally pure.

- ❖ Sanctification means being set apart in order to grow in being holy.

It says that without holiness in our lives we won't see God.

(Heb 12:14) follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

- ❖ This means that confessing we are holy is just not enough, our lifestyle has to become holy.

Holiness is being morally pure.

Many Christians struggle with all kinds of unclean sins, yet we are called to grow in moral purity.

As sons, God sometimes disciplines or chastises us so we grow as mature sons.

Through the process of sanctification, He wants that we grow up in the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

(Heb 12:10,11) For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

- ❖ To live there we stand in the positional promises of God's word
- ❖ To get there we also have to daily crucify the works of the flesh that still pulls us towards sin.
- ❖ Only the blood of the cross and surrendering daily to this work of the cross will change our weaknesses.
- ❖ We have to learn to live through the new nature and in the spirit.

(Gal 6:8 NLT) Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

### **Blessings of Progressive Sanctification**

1. Help to bring forth good fruits
2. Overrules bad habits
3. Takes away our wrong behaviour patterns
4. Brings healing to our whole being
5. Gives strength over temptations

### **A. Progressive Sanctification of the Heart**

Faith is of the heart.

God wants to change our stony hearts to a heart of flesh.

(2Co 3:3) Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

A heart of flesh is a soft and obedient heart full of faith.

King David prayed that his heart be made clean.

(Psa 51:10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

He understood what our Lord Jesus later said, that the roots of our sin is in our heart, where our spirit lays.

(Mat 15:19-20) For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: (20) These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

To see our heart become soft and have victory over our daily sins is a process.

Within our heart is our soul, conscience and spirit.

Our whole heart needs to be progressively sanctified.

(1 Th 3:13 AMP) so that He may strengthen and establish your hearts without blame in holiness in the sight of our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His [a]saints (God's people).

God wants to strengthen and confirm our faith in our hearts.

He also wants to establish our heart in purity in our daily walk.

All of this softening of your heart can only happen as your heart is established in grace.

(Heb 13:9) Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Daily we need to see that it is not our own strength whereby we grow spiritually but God's grace.

This grace of God which comes to us daily by the redeeming sacrifice of the cross of Christ.

We are called to purify our hearts as believers wherever we are still double-minded, this is part of our progressive sanctification.

(Jas 4:8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

In today's church, there are many believers who have a broken heart and are double souled.

Through faith and the progressive sanctification process, healing and deliverance can happen.

### **Healing the Broken Hearted**

Jesus' ministry to the broken hearted and setting the captives free is also to broken hearted believers.

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

We call this the ministry of inner healing and deliverance to believers.

Pastors who only believe in positional sanctification (the first P) don't understand this because they have had wrong training. They can't understand that believers require inner healing and deliverance.

In many bible schools they teach about the 3 P's of sanctification; for even John Wesley taught about all three.

All 3 P's of sanctification are clearly in the Bible.

As we saw earlier on, a believer with a broken heart is double minded and can't stay strong in faith.

(Jas 4:8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

A double minded or broken hearted believer is unstable in all his ways.

(Jas 1:6-8) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (8) A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Even when I was a believer my heart was broken as my hurts as a young boy were great

I was abused, traumatised, beaten and hurt as a young boy.

After I had spent 5 years with YWAM and seen people saved, healed and some pastors trained, I wanted to start a great ministry.

In the mission, I had received a lot of inner healing and deliverance. Yet, God said, you still are not totally inner healed or free and therefore not ready for a big ministry.

It took 10 more years to be healed and grow in inner strength, then I was sent to preach to the nations and my faith was then strong enough.

I led many souls to the Lord.

Therefore, inner healing, deliverance and discipleship is part of the progressive sanctification and our second P.

## **B. Progressive Sanctification of the Body**

As believers, we are called to wholly be progressively sanctified.

(1Th 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have already dealt with the heart, now we are going to talk about progressive sanctification of the body, soul and spirit.

The Bible says that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

(1Co 6:19) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

In this context, Apostle Paul says to believers to flee all sexual immorality for he who commits sexual immorality sins against their own body.

(1Co 6:18) Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

We are called to cleanse ourselves and to consecrate ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles our body and spirit.

This cleansing and consecration of our body is the process of progressive sanctification.

(2Co 7:1) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

As believers, we are not to let sin reign in our bodies but to crucify its passions and to live in the Spirit, then we rule over it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Rom 6:13,15) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. (15) What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Our Lord Jesus then goes on to say that we need to be radical against the sins of the body for He says it is better to go to heaven with one eye or with one leg then to go with two of them to hell.

So stop yourself if your eye leads you to sin, or your feet take you to sinful places.

Our bodies are, in themselves, good and redeemed but it is the fleshly, old sinful nature that we need to put to death, this tries to rise up to use our body so we will give into sin.

Put this fleshly longing to sin with your body to death.

(Mar 9:47) And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

One day, we all have to appear before God's judgment seat, if we judge ourselves now, we will receive a greater glory then.

On the day of judgement we will be judged for the things we did in or with our body.

(2Co 5:10-11) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (11) Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

### **C. Progressive Sanctification of the Soul**

The soul is part of our whole person who is being progressively sanctified.

(1Th 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When we believed and were born again, a regeneration of our soul took place.

It says in the Bible that our soul, through our hope in Christ, is within the veil in heaven.

(Heb 6:19) Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

So when we are born again, we receive a new heart and a new spirit. Our soul is part of the new heart in Christ.

### **Our Soul**

Our soul is divided into emotions, mind and will.

The Lord Jesus promised that if we would come to Him and believe, we would receive rest for our soul.

(Mat 11:28-29) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

When we are born again, we are born again of the spirit, receive a new heart and receive rest for our soul.

We especially need this peace or shalom in our mind and emotions.

Therefore, part of the progressive sanctification of the soul is the renewing of our mind.

The mind is part of the soul and much of our spiritual battles start in our mind.

(Rom 12:2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Reading, memorising and meditating on scriptures as well as standing, by faith, on the promises of God, helps us to win these battles.

Being born again starts with the spirit and the Holy Spirit flows from our spirit into our new heart, soul and its mind.

Therefore, praying in the spirit builds up and renews our mind.

(Eph 4:23-24) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

It says that we have to put on the new man and Ephesians 4 shows that this is a process of growing in being holy.

Then, later, James says that as you are being changed, your soul is being saved: or in other words, you are growing up in progressive sanctification of the soul.

(Jas 1:21) Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Another part of the progressive sanctification of the soul is the healing of our emotions and the surrendering of our will.

They also call this healing of the broken hearted and it brings more freedom from bondages.

The damage to our emotions that occurred before we came to Christ often makes it hard for believers to deal with anger, bitterness and other sides of our emotions.

(Eph 4:31-32) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

God wants to heal our emotions, bring freedom and renew our minds. This will bring the promised rest to our souls as we learn from Christ.

Healing of the soul is part of the inner healing and healing of the broken hearted.

(Mat 11:29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

When we mature in this way, we will grow in godliness, for Christ says he is gentle and humble of heart.

In this process of progressive sanctification, we will become more like Him.

### **Progressive Sanctification of the Spirit**

We are born of our spirit and are called to worship God in spirit and truth.

(Joh 4:24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

However, we are called to grow spiritually and we call this progressive sanctification.

(1Th 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This scripture shows us that we need to be progressively sanctified wholly, which includes our spirit.

Apostle Paul tells the Corinthians to be cleansed from all their spiritual pollution.

Corinth was a place of much idol worship and temple prostitution.

He tells them that they can't be unequally yoked.

They were believers yet their traditions and their surrounding still had a hold of them.

❖ Therefore, he calls the believers to cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit.

(2Co 7:1) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Through idolatry, sexual or ritual abuse and even aggressive verbal abuse of a father, the spirit of a person can be wounded, damaged or broken.

(Pro 18:14) The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

When these people come to Christ, they have to go through a process of their broken heart being healed and their wounded spirit made whole, free and strong.

(2Th 2:13) But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

In the New Living Translation of the Bible, it says, “who makes you holy”.

(2Th 2:13 NLT)As for us, we can’t help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth.

When healing takes place, our wounded spirits and our spirit grows in strength then we have to learn to live out of our spirit and make good choices over our sinful nature so that we grow in being holy in our spirit.

(Gal 5:17 NLT) The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Eternal life and God’s spiritual rivers will start flowing through us when we learn to live through the Spirit.

(Rom 8:13-14) For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Our spirit can be an angry, proud, or arrogant spirit.

When we come to Christ, He cleanses our spirit and we have to repent of these traits, then our wounded spirit receives healing and the fruits of the Spirit start to grow.

(Gal 5:22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

We are called to put on love, kindness, gentleness and humility.

It is a choice we make of our spirit so the fruits can grow as we are in union with Christ.

(Col 3:12) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

### **3.Perfection**

In the Eighteenth century, there was a holiness movement where their main focus in the preaching was the third P of sanctification: perfection. It started by the preaching and ministry of John Wesley. God moved in those days with the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. Today god has started a new wave of this holy outpouring.

In the book of Hebrews, we are called to go onto perfection.

(Heb 6:1) Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

In progressive sanctification, we learnt that this is the road of holy making in our actions, deeds and lifestyle.

(2Co 7:1) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

We are called to follow in the same path of the church at Corinth whereby they had to come out of these traditions and culture of idolatry.

These surroundings polluted their body and spirit just as today we see nudity on billboards, in shops and magazines.

As believers, they had to cleanse themselves from all filthiness of their body and spirit.

❖ Then they were told to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord.



The fear of God would be the power, help and strength to perfect holiness.

The outcome would be perfection.

Perfection is coming near being perfect and being perfect in everything.

### Perfection means maturity, complete!

Holy means sacredness, morally pure and completed.

Therefore, perfection or being complete or mature is being holy.

This is why God is raising up a holy, glorious spotless church.

(Eph 5:27-28) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

The Apostle is first referring to the love between a man and a woman during marriage. Therefore, he is calling the bride to come forth out of the church for not all the church will be part of the bride.

The cry of the bride is, "that I may know You".

The cry of the bridegroom is, "that I may know you".

(Rev 22:17) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The bride is made ready for the marriage feast of the Lamb and to rule with Him on the throne.

Ruling on the throne as the Queen bride is for the overcomer who is made perfect.

Therefore, let us strive unto perfection.

Letting the fruit of the Spirit grow into maturity and growing in godliness is part of being perfect.

(Jas 1:2-4 NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

One of the important ideas to learn for perfection is to die to self and self-will.

In perfection we have learnt not to do our will but the will of the Father.

(Heb 13:21) Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Chapter 13: Faith and Fullness

### Three Stages

Our growing faith is a journey.

In the last chapter we learnt about the 3 P's of sanctification. We see this principle of three in different places in the Bible.

Our Lord Jesus Christ walked through three stages.

His first stage was from 0 to 13 years.

When a Jewish boy becomes 13, he attends Bar Mitzvah, they dance with the Law in a great celebration at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

From 13 to 30 is the apprenticeship. Jesus was a carpenter. In the Jewish culture, when they reached 30 years of age, they became the owners of the business.

The life of a butterfly also goes through three stages.

Stage 1 is the caterpillar, stage 2 is the cocoon and stage 3 is the butterfly.

### Three Stages of Apostle Peter

Apostle Peter also went through three stages.

A child is a son of a father and an heir but has not yet come to age as a mature son.

(Gal 4:1) Now I say, *That* the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

A father will not give a son his car keys until he is of age and has a driver's licence.

The same was true for Apostle Peter, he had to go through a three stages of learning.

A father has an appointed time for a son to be running his business.

(Gal 4:2) But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

### Peter as a Disciple

In Peter's journey of faith, we see him in his first stage is as a disciple.

Andrew was Peter's brother and brought him to Jesus.

(Joh 1:40-42) One of the two which heard John *speaking*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (41) He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. (42) And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Later on, Jesus chooses the twelve disciples and Peter is one of them.

The Christ gives His disciples authority and power to cast out unclean spirits and to heal sickness.

(Mat 10:1) And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Later on, He gives authority and power to the 70 believers.

They are all full of joy, for they see the sick set free of demons and sickness.

(Luk 10:17) And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

When I was a young believer, the Lord anointed me to pray for deliverance for young people.

They were changed and could grow more easily in their spiritual growth as they were free.

I still needed to grow more in godly character, yet God used me as a young disciple.

Peter failed as a disciple when he denied Christ.

This was a major crisis in his life for Satan did not want him to go to his second stage.

However, the Lord restored him so he could be used on the day of Pentecost.

### **Peter's Second Stage**

Apostle Peter was one of the 120 in the upper room.

He had not condemned himself because he failed.

Christ restored Peter and he was there when the Lord ascended into heaven.

Christ told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high.

(Act 1:4,5,8) And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. (5) For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence (8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the 120 disciples who had waited in the upper room.

They spoke with other tongues as the Holy Spirit fire was upon them.

(Act 2:3-4) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Many people gathered as they heard this mighty sound like a rushing wind.

They saw the fire on the apostle's heads and asked what it meant.

So Apostle Peter rose up and entered into his second stage.

He preached to all of them and explained to them that this outpouring of the Holy Spirit was what the prophet Joel had said.

(Act 2:16-17) But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; (17) And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

As a result of God's Holy Spirit moving and Apostle Peter preaching, 3000 were saved.

(Act 2:41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

### **Apostle Peter's Third Stage**

After all the good things that happened in Jerusalem, the religious leaders were becoming alarmed.

Peter and John prayed for a lame man and he was healed through faith in the name of Jesus.

(Act 3:16) And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

As they were preaching to the people, the priest came and they were arrested.

(Act 4:3) And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Peter and John had to go through hardship so their character could grow and their faith would become solid.

As they went through their test and trials, God gave them boldness.

Then Peter was ready for his third stage.

In this place, he learnt to abide in the Shekinah glory of God.

He had reached the stage of fullness.

(Eph 3:19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

As Peter abided in the Shekinah glory, they fullness of God manifested all around him.

They laid the sick on the streets as he passed by. The sick were healed because of the abiding Shekinah glory presence Peter lived in.

(Act 5:15-16) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. (16) There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

## **The Growing of our Faith**

Now we have looked at how Apostle Peter walked through the three different stages of his life and ministry.

As he heard the Lord speak and Peter was obedient and took risks, his faith grew.

(Rom 10:17) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

As you hear, believe, obey and step out, your faith grows.

### **Stage 1: A Caterpillar**

The butterfly goes through three stages.

The first stage is that of a caterpillar.

When a believer is new and on fire, he keeps on reading the Word and is listening to many preaching's.

Jesus said, "blessed are the hungry for they shall be filled". Spiritual hunger is a key for revival.

This is why a new on-fire believer doesn't stop eating.

In this place, there are the signs and wonders for believers but it is just the start of the moving of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

This is like being a caterpillar that is eating leaves all day long.

He grows and grows until he is ready for stage two.

## **Stage 2: A Cocoon**

In the cocoon stage, he is resting all the time.

This is a true picture for a new believer coming to stage two.

The pupa is resting on the outside but on the inside the transformation process is going on in an amazing way.

In stage two, a believer learns that he can't do it himself.

A true believer at this place, learns to surrender his heart to God totally, he also enters into the rest of faith.

(Heb 4:1-2) Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. (2) For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

Therefore, we are to learn to live in the Spirit totally; His sword will go and pierce through all our motives, decisions, plans and purpose, heart, soul and spirit.

This allows us to enter the rest by faith, so we are like a pupa and then we can come forth as a butterfly.

## **Stage 3: A Butterfly**

A butterfly was born to be a butterfly, yet it had to go through the three stages.

We are all called to live and minister out of the Shekinah glory of God just as Jesus and Peter did.

(Joh 1:14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Therefore, in stage two we are called to be reformed and transformed in our mind and our whole being so that we look like Jesus Christ and minister like Him (which is stage three).

(Rom 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

In the Greek, the word transformed is Metamorphosis.

This is the same word used for the process of the caterpillar turning into the butterfly in the cocoon.

Therefore, stage three is entering into the Shekinah glory ministry.

It is to live and minister in the abiding glorious holy presence of God.

Hearing how, where and when the Father wants to minister through us. In this place we are secure in the Father heart of God and minister out of His love, goodness, mercy, grace and truth.

(Joh 5:19-20) Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. (20) For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

Here is where the greater miracles and wonders for the multitudes so they can believe and be saved.

Jesus Christ moved in these miracles and transformed sons are called to do the same.

## **A Touch of Fullness**

As a young believer, you can have a touch of God's fullness.

(Rom 5:2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

You can also see some manifestations of fullness work through you in the form of signs and wonders.

Yet to live in the abiding presence of God's glory or fullness is only for a son who has come of age.

All of us are called to go through the three stages or the 3 P's of sanctification, for faith is a journey.

Today, many people say that the first P of sanctification (positional sanctification) is the finished product or station. This started with the movements that started in the 1970's.

Before those days, the voice of healing movement, which started in 1948, had stopped for the ministers had grieved and quenched the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

In the voice of healing, men like A.A. Allen, Gordon Lindsay, Jack Coe, T.L. Osborne, Oral Roberts and especially William Branham were mightily used by God in signs, wonders and miracles.

In the meetings of William Branham, some of the healings that were happening as were in the ministry of our Lord when He was on earth.

These men were walking in the realms of abiding glory.

Today, God's glory has come back to earth for the equipping of the saints to bring in the End Time harvest.

In some nations, the End Time harvest has already begun, therefore we have to grow up as sons and mature.

This can only happen if we go through all three stages, confessing our faith is not enough.

We need to learn to be obedient to the promptings and leadings of the Holy Spirit.

If we do, we can come up higher.

(Rev 4:1) After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

### **The Glory River of God**

We are called to live by faith, walk by faith and swim by faith.

What is swimming or floating by faith?

Swimming by faith is being totally surrendered to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

You see, Ezekiel saw a vision whereby the prophet saw a river come out of the temple.

He could go into the river in different degrees or levels.

Before this river came into being, the glory of the Lord came back to the temple.

The glory had left early on because Israel had worshipped idols.

(Eze 8:10) So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, poured upon the wall round about.

(Eze 10:18) Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.

Now God's glory came back again, to the latter hoses of the vision after the time of God's judgment was finished.

(Eze 43:2,4,5) And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice *was* like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. (4) And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect *is* toward the east. (5) So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.

The latter houses will be filled with greater glory.

(Hag 2:9) The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

At the end of the 1960's, the glory of God's manifest presence left the Earth but now it has come back.

We are called to go into the glory river of the Holy Spirit of the latter houses.

It is up to us how deep we want to go.

We can learn to go ankle, waist, shoulder deep or learn to surrender 100% and swim or float in the glory river.

### **Deep Calls to Deep**

The Spirit of God is calling us to go deeper.

Faith and the moving of the Holy Spirit have to go hand in hand.

It was said of Barnabas that he brought many to the Lord.

He was a man of faith and a man full of the Holy Spirit.

(Act 11:24) For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

The Holy Spirit makes our faith practical.

(1Co 2:5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

As we obey the Holy Spirit and use our faith as He directs, we will see much fruit.

Barnabas and Paul were later sent out by the Church of Antioch to plant churches for the Holy Spirit had told them to do so and they brought forth much fruit.

(Act 13:2-3) As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (3) And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

The Bible says that deep calls to deep. This call is for us to go deeper in the water or river of God so we can move to fullness.

(Psa 42:8) *Yet* the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song *shall be* with me, *and* my prayer unto the God of my life.

Ezekiel had seen the glory of God come into the latter days' temple and a river came out of it.

By faith, he was called to go into it.

### **Level One: Ankle Deep**

He first went ankle deep into the glory river.

(Eze 47:1,3) Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house *stood toward* the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south *side* of the altar. (3) And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters *were* to the ankles.

Ankle deep is the place where we receive strength, where our feet are shod with the gospel of peace.

So many only keep evangelising out of the ankle deep water, yet God has fullness for us.

### **Level Two: Knee Deep**

At the next step or level, the water was knee deep.

Knee deep speaks of kneeling to pray and worship.

(Eze 47:4) Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters *were* to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters *were* to the loins.

We are called to worship in Spirit and truth, the Greek word here for worship is to bow and kiss.

(Joh 4:23) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Knee deep shows that we are to become surrendered to Christ the King and His Lordship.

Then we will see an increase of God's glory move through us.

### **Level Three: Loin Deep**

The third level was to the loins.

(Eze 47:4) Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters *were* to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters *were* to the loins.

This level is the level of reproduction and where all uncleanness needs to be taken away.

Once we are purified, God brings multiplication in our ministry.

### **Level Four: Swimming**

The fourth level is the place where we let go of all of the flesh and learn to totally live in the Spirit, swim in the glory level.

(Eze 47:5) Afterward he measured a thousand; *and it was* a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

The Bible says that the water of the glory river brings life, healing and a harvest of fish.

This glory river speaks of the great End Time harvest.

### **Sons**

Our true identity lies in that we are loved by God and children, sons of God growing in our Father.

Sonship is growing in our identity, by abiding in this love, we mature.

Our identity as children lies in who we are in Christ as beloved of the Father.



God has a glorious inheritance for His children.

When a son becomes of age, he receives the fullness of the inheritance.

(Eph 2:18-19) For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. (19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Even the creation itself is eagerly awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God.

(Rom 8:19,21) For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. (21) Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Confessing is not enough, God wants to manifest His glory through His sons.

Mature faith learns to abide in Abba's abiding glory.

The Father manifested His glory through Apostle Peter once he was swimming in the glory river.

When God's manifest Shekinah glory was manifesting through Apostle Peter, the sick where healed and the demon possessed were set free.

(Act 5:15-16) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. (16) There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

## Chapter 14A: Faith in the Blood

### Redemption and the Blood

As believers, everything we receive from God comes through the redeeming sacrifices of Jesus Christ. The blood of Christ is an important part of it.

(1Pe 1:18,19) Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

In the Old Covenant we talk about the atonement.

(Lev 16:18) And he shall go out unto the altar that *is* before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar round about.

What we call atonement in the Old Covenant, we call redemption in the New Covenant.

In the Old Covenant they killed and sacrificed animals.

They used their blood to make atonement between man and God.

In the New Covenant we talk about redemption because now, through faith in the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ, we are redeemed and saved by His blood sacrifice on the cross of Calvary.

### Different functions

- ❖ The body and the blood of Christ are both part of the redemption yet they have different functions.
- ❖ When we talk about the body, or the bread, we are also talking about the cross.

For on the cross the body died.

At the Last Supper, Jesus Christ said; “eat my body and drink my blood for the forgiveness of sin”.

(Luk 22:19,20) And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

- What many believers don't know is that the blood of Jesus Christ deals with our sin and the cross deals with our heart.

That is why this chapter has been put into 2 parts, so you can appropriate your faith in the right way.

God wants us to understand these differences so that we can use the promises of the blood and the body (or cross) in a powerful way.

We have to do something with these promises. Faith has to come into action.

Faith without works is dead.

Use your believer's faith in these promises and their differences in prayer.

### Functions of the blood and the body of Christ through redemption

In the redemption there are different aspects of what God has done for us.

Therefore when we talk about the redemption, we talk about forgiveness, justification and other things at the same time.

Now we are going to see the 8 points of what the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ has done for us and 8 points of what the body and the work of the cross has accomplished through the redemption.

Functions of the blood	Functions of the body or bread or cross
1. To forgive sin	1. To forgive sin
2. To give life	2. To bring life
3. To reconcile us with God	3. To crucify the flesh
4. Propitiation	4. To bring victory over sin
5. To purify	5. To break the curses
6. To bring victory	6. To break demonic power
7. To justify us	7. Healing of the body
8. To sanctify us	8. To bring brokenness so we can abide

## **By faith**

Now we are going to learn more about the 8 points of the function of the blood of Jesus Christ which are ours in the redemption.

Through faith, we have to put them to work in our lives.

(Rev 12:11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

We have to use our faith in the blood to be victorious on a daily basis.

## **Faith in the function of the blood**

### **1. To forgive sin**

(Mat 26:28) For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Jesus Christ talked to the disciples about the New Covenant. He said He would shed His blood for the forgiveness of as many as would believe in Him.

### **2. To bring life**

The life of the flesh is in the blood.

Jesus Christ gave His blood and His body so we can have life.

(Lev 17:11) For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

The Jews were upset when Jesus Christ said they had to drink His blood.

He was speaking in spiritual terms.

Holy Communion gives us His life.

Faith in Christ gives us life.

(Joh 6:53) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

### **3. Reconciliation brings boldness.**

(Heb 2:17) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Jesus Christ is our great High Priest.

He gave His blood once for our sins.

- Now He is seated on the throne of grace and we can come to God with boldness, in prayer and faith, standing on the inherited promises.

(Heb 4:14) Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

(Heb 4:16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

## 4. Propitiation

The word propitiation means being covered.

We are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

(Rom 4:7) *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

We are covered from:

- God's judgment
- Sin
- Guilt and condemnation

(1 Joh 2:2) AMP and he [that same Jesus himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice ) for our sins , and not for ours alone but also for [the sins] of the world.

Christ Jesus has become our mercy seat.

## 5. To purify us

Through the blood, we are washed clean.

It washes our sin away.

It washes our filth away.

It sets us free of guilt and condemnation.

(1 Joh 1:7) AMP but if we [really are living and walking in the light, as he {himself} is in the light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses (removes) us from all the sin and guilt[keeps us cleansed from sin in all it's forms and manifestations].

The things on earth and in heaven are purified by the blood.

The blood was even taken to heaven to purify all things.

(Heb 9:22 - 24) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

Through faith in Christ we are now seated on the mercy seat with Him.

## 6. To bring victory

The blood of Jesus Christ makes demons tremble.

By using the blood of Jesus Christ, by faith, in spiritual warfare, we can receive breakthrough.

(Rev 12:11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Therefore, by faith, sing a song about the blood and about the name of Jesus Christ and you will see the enemy flee.

## 7. To justify us

Through the blood of Jesus Christ we are redeemed and therefore forgiven of sin.

We are made just before the law court of heaven, through the covering given by propitiation which is received by Christ's sacrifice.

(Rom 5:9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Justification means being excused.

(Rom 3:24,25) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

We are now excused and don't receive judgment but eternal life.

We are now excused and, through faith, have become righteous.

The out working is that we have peace with God.

(Rom 5:1) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

So if you have lost your peace but have asked forgiveness, stand on these promises and peace shall be restored.

## 8. To sanctify us

We have received life and God's divine nature because we are sanctified through the blood of Jesus Christ.

(Heb 13:12) Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Sanctification makes us perfect because we have received the life of God.

(Heb 10:14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

When condemnation comes, stand on these promises by faith.

## Chapter 14B: Faith in the Bread of Life

The blood and the physical body of Christ have different functions.

Some of the aspects and functions are the same, sometimes it overlaps one another and when put together the promise is released.

- We have the blood
- We have the body of Jesus Christ which is represented by the communion bread

We see in Colossians, there it talks about the blood of the cross.

(Col 1:20) And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, / say, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

God's peace comes through both the blood and the cross working together.

Therefore, redemption through the blood of the cross gives us the full perks.

- ❖ Now we are going to see what Jesus Christ and His body did for us on the cross as He was crucified for us.

When we speak about the cross, we speak about:

- a. The physical body of Christ on the cross.
- b. The communion bread.
- c. The cross where Christ died on.

### The function of Christ's body on the cross and the communion bread

#### 1. To forgive sin

Both the blood and the physical body of Christ are part of the forgiveness of sin.

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

Eating the communion bread, by faith, sets us free of the sin of the body, soul and spirit.

The power of sin in the body was broken on the cross.

Now, by grace and faith, we can have victory over the sin nature in our body, soul and spirit.

It says He bore our sins in His body.

Now our body can live righteously through faith in His sacrifice.

#### 2. To bring life

Jesus Christ said that if a wheat seed would stay on its own it would not produce life.

The world was under sin, death and destruction.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to physically die so we would receive His life.

The out working of both the communion blood and bread is to give life.

He said; "I am the bread of life that came from above".

(Joh 6:41) The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

If you eat my body you will live.

(Joh 6:48 - 50) I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

He then said if you eat my flesh, which is the bread of life, you will live.

(Joh 6:51) I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Then He puts both principles together.

For the blood brings life.

And the bread as a physical body gives life.

(Joh 6:53,54) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

When we take communion or read scriptures about the bread and the blood, we can receive God's life by faith.

When we feel spiritually dead in an area of our lives, we can stand on these promises of life by faith.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to die and be resurrected so we can have eternal life.

### 3. Crucify the flesh

The cross is the symbol of death over our sin or fallen nature. The body or flesh of Christ died on the cross.

Therefore, the communion bread gives us God's life.

God wants us to live out of the new man and the life of God.

(Rom 6:11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, back to life. He had been a physical sacrifice for us.

Now every time the old sin nature tries to rise up, we have to put it back to death.

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

We have to crucify the flesh if it rises back up.

Therefore, the cross is the instrument whereby we put, the sinful deeds of the flesh we are still struggling with, to death.

(Gal 2:20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

As we do so, we live through the life of the risen Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit in our new man or nature.

The communion bread is a symbol of all of this.

## 4. Victory over sin

Christ's body died so we can live out of God's divine nature.

❖ The communion bread represents victory over sin in our body.

Therefore we can use our body for righteousness.

(Rom 6:13) Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

Sin shall not have dominion over us for we are under grace.

Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

When we live by faith, in the righteousness of God and live righteously, we have victory over sin in our body.

## 5. To break curses

Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse.

One of the curses is the curse of the Law.

Many of our forefathers sinned against God's laws and made evil covenants with idols and other gods.

God's word says that because of it, they have put us under curses.

Through the work on the cross, Jesus Christ set us free from the curses.

❖ The cross broke the curses.

(Gal 3:13) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

❖ Therefore, the communion bread gives us the power over the curse.

Now we can receive the blessings.

(Gal 3:14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The blessings come through faith.

The law is still here.

(Rom 3:31) Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

We live by grace, through faith, so we are not under the law.

### **Renouncing the Old**

As believers, we can still struggle in our soul and see oppression of the enemy through generational curses.

Out of the position of being alive through faith in Christ, we confess the word and we renounce where there still is resistance in our life.

(Rom 10:8,9) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.



To break through by renouncing is to see further victory in our lives.

### We do this from the position in Christ that all things are new.

(2Co 5:17) Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

### Lazarus' resurrection is our example.

Lazarus came out of the grave alive as Jesus Christ spoke.

We are born again and therefore, alive in our spirit.

Lazarus still had his grave clothes on.

Jesus Christ said; "take off his grave clothes".

(Joh 11:44) And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

➤ By renouncing, by faith out of the new creation we are in Christ, we take off the old grave clothes.

The grave clothes are where there are also religious generational bondages.

We can also use the communion bread to break through the generational curses.

## 6. Breaking the demonic power

Jesus Christ's victory was on the cross where Satan's power over man was broken.

God the Father broke Satan's power because Jesus Christ was obedient unto the sacrifice on the cross.

(Col 2:14,15) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly triumphing over them in it.

Therefore, the bread of the Holy Communion symbolises victory over the power of Satan.

For this purpose, Christ came to earth, so that He might destroy Satan's power over man.

(1Jn 3:8) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Stand on the victory Jesus Christ had on the cross for you by faith.

## 7. Healing of our body

The bread of Holy Communion also stands for the healing to our whole being:

- Spirit
- Soul
- Body

Healing is in the redemption.

In the Old Covenant, God says; "I am the God that healed thee".

We are healed through the body that was broken for us, the body that received the stripes.

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

## 8. To bring brokenness so we can abide

The cross deals with our heart.

Christ's body and heart was broken on the cross for us.

The Communion bread represents the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a broken heart; as mentioned by King David when he repented from his sins.

(Psa 51:17) The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Living daily at the cross in this way, will bring brokenness of self will and religiosity.

For our new life comes from God after we are broken of self.

God wants us to abide in Him so we can bring forth much fruit.

In order to abide, we need to be broken of self and have a broken and contrite heart.

(Joh 15:5) I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

The Father purges us or prunes us there where we fail at times.

(Joh 15:2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

The cross is the symbol of the brokenness and surrender to God.

Surrendering, brokenness and abiding is the place of great fruit bearing.

### **Ministry of Jesus Christ and the Woman Who Touched Him**

Jesus Christ was on His way to raise Jairus' daughter from the dead.

There was a woman in the crowd.

She had an issue of blood.

She said, if I can just touch Him, I will be healed.

(Mar 5:34) And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Jesus Christ said, your faith has made you well.

How did she get her faith for a miracle?

The word had gone out that Jesus Christ healed the sick.

She had heard the word of faith.

She believed what she heard and was healed.

### **Two blind men**

After the healing of this woman more happened.

Two blind men ran after Jesus.

They said, Son of David have mercy on us.

They had heard what had happened.

They had heard the word of faith.

Then Jesus Christ asked, do you believe that I can heal you?

(Mat 9:28) And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

They said yes.

Then He said, according to your faith it has been done.

(Mat 9:29) Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

Their faith had grown for they had heard with faith.

(Mat 9:30) And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See *that* no man know *it*.

They started to tell everybody that Jesus Christ had healed their blindness.

Therefore, more people would hear with faith and more would be healed.

### **Hearing of Faith**

God's promises are all through the Old Covenant that the day would come that all who believed would know God for themselves.

Their stony heart would become flesh.

The Spirit of God would come and live on the inside.

(Gal 3:14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The blessing of Abraham came to us through Jesus Christ.

The Bible even says we receive the promises by faith.

The promise is the Holy Spirit.

### **Holy Spirit Promised**

The promises of the Holy Spirit and the moving of the Holy Spirit come through faith.

Faith that comes by hearing the word of God.

(Gal 3:2) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The Bible also says that faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.

(Rom 10:17) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Paul challenged the believers and told them they should stay on the right path.

The right path was and is:

- Faith comes by hearing.
- The promises of the Holy Spirit come by hearing the word of faith.

I grew up in a reformed church.

I didn't have the Holy Spirit in my life.

When I heard the word of faith preached, I received Jesus Christ in my heart and He resides there through the Holy Spirit.

Then I heard God wants to baptise you in the Holy Spirit and fire.

I heard the word of faith and believed.

(Gal 3:5) He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Then I asked God to baptise me with the Holy Spirit and fire.

This baptism of the Holy Spirit has totally transformed me.

It has taken me out of sin and given me power over sin.

### **The promises**

The promises were that all should be:

- ❖ Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Prophecy.
- ❖ Speak in tongues.
- ❖ Dream dreams.
- ❖ Grow up as sons who manifest God's glory

This is for the believers.

(Act 2:14 - 18) But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

The Apostle Peter said "this is that".

They were all filled or baptised with the Holy Spirit.

This was the fulfilment of the promises.

It is the seal of the promise.

(Eph 1:13) In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

We believe as we have heard the word.

Receive the promises.

We are also sealed with the Holy Spirit through the infilling and baptism of the Holy Spirit and power.

Jesus Christ promised us the power of the Holy Spirit for service.

(Act 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

All of this comes by the hearing of the word of faith.

Some argue about it.

When they do, they haven't heard the word of faith.

We need to listen to the word.

Tradition and dead religion has put death over the word.

We need to repent of it.

Then we will hear and receive the greater outpouring of God's Spirit in our life.

Learn to hear with faith.

### **Believers Called to Heal the Sick**

Jesus Christ was the best signs and wonders worker there was in the Bible.

Jesus Christ did what the Father wanted Him to do.

So He believed the Father.

Therefore, we have to follow in His footsteps.

He didn't only want that the ministers of the gospel would do miracles and heal the sick, He also wanted the believers to do this.

(Mar 16:17,18) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they 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.

It says that the believers will heal the sick.

You say, I can't do it.

Well, God will do it through you, as you believe and step out by praying for the sick.

(Gal 3:5) He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

This scripture asks a question.

The answer is in Hebrew 11:6

(Heb 11:6) But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Without faith we cannot please God.

Therefore, with faith, we please God.

Therefore, by the hearing of faith, and, as believers praying for the sick, God does miracles.

### **Being sent**

On the day of Ascension, Jesus Christ sent the 11 disciples out.

We find this account in three different places in the Bible.

(Mat 28:18 NLT) Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."

Jesus Christ said, all authority was given to Him.

- In heaven
- On earth

He said the sending words – Go into all the world, teaching and preaching.

We see this in Acts 1

He adds there that they would receive power of the Holy Spirit to do the work of God.

(Act 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

He said you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Why? Because now all authority and power in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Jesus Christ by the Father.

The works of God's power, signs, wonders and miracles were going to happen through the Holy Spirit.

Earlier Jesus Christ had said that the helper or comforter would come.

(Joh 14:15,16) If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

The Holy Spirit is a person and He would

- Comfort
- Help them
- Reprove or convict of sin
- Reprove or convict of righteousness
- Reprove or convict of judgement

(Joh 16:8) And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead.

He is a person and one of His assignments is to bring God's power to Earth.

### **The Believers**

Part of this sending out is to the believers, sending them forth to do signs, wonders and miracles.

(Mar 16:17,18) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they 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.

The key here is to believe.

In other words being a believer that believes in God's supernatural abilities.

The best way to being equipped is through building your faith, being baptised in the Spirit and receiving the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many believers limit the power and working of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The promise is that you shall receive power.

(Act 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

This is the greater realm for the believers to move in.

We move with faith and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **The keys**

We have learnt about faith.

God moves through faith however we must combine the 2 forces.

The believer's faith in God's Word and the moving and working of the Holy Spirit.

If you study the book of Acts and look for the keys that the Apostles were using, the first key was faith in Christ and God's word and then the second key was the working of the Holy Spirit.

(Act 2:2-4) 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 it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

All through the book of the Acts they didn't follow man's opinion but were obedient to the voice and moving of the Holy Spirit.

### **Healings**

We are sent.

Now we have to go.

Now go by faith in the word of God to do your assignments.

We need to learn to surrender to the voice and moving of the Holy Spirit.

To grow and to go deeper into our love relationship with God we need to daily learn to fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

(2Co 13:14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

Then go and pray for the sick by faith.

Lay your hands on the sick by faith.

The more you exercise your faith the greater the miracles.

John Wimber did the same

The first 1000 people he laid hands on, nothing happened.

However, he pressed on and then the miracles started to happen.

Then he was used around the world to teach believers to see miracles, signs and wonders happen as they stepped out.

I personally also see more miracles and healings happen as I go in faith and follow the directions of the Holy Spirit.

If you haven't been baptised with the Holy Spirit and with fire, the promise remains.

(Mat 3:11) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

This power will equip you to serve god in the power of the Holy Spirit so many will be touched, saved, healed and delivered.

(Act 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We are all called to be witnesses and need this baptism of the Holy Spirit to be more effective.

If you want to receive this, pray the prayer on the last pages of this book.

### **Heaven's Abundance**

Through faith, God also wants to supply our needs and wants.

There is great abundance in heaven.

In the Kingdom of God there is more than enough.

I have heard about Heaven's treasure rooms; rooms with all the body parts we need here on earth for the sick.

When Jesus Christ walked the earth, He helped the people in their daily needs.

(Act 10:38) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, a healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

Everywhere there was lack He supplied.

If people were sick, He healed them.



He is our example.

He said, if we believe rivers of living waters would come out of us.

(Joh7:38) He that believeth o me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

### **His riches in glory**

God has great riches in His glory.

Out of this He wants to supply our daily needs

(Phi 4:19) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ taught that we need to pray for our daily need.

(Mat 6:11) Give us this day our daily bread.

We have to pray with faith to receive them.

### **Help in our day of Need**

Through faith, God wants to help us when we are in need.

Time after time in the Bible, we see how God helped His people in their day of need.

We see this with the people of Israel when they went through the desert.

God fed them with bread (manna), meat and water.

He wants to do the same for us.

### **Testimony**

When Amy and I were getting married we had little money.

So we had to pray everything in.

We made a list and prayed for all we needed.

God was faithful, He supplied all we needed according to His riches in glory.

## Word of Faith Scriptures

(Heb 11:1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(Heb 11:6) But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

(Mat 9:22) But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

(1Jn 4:4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

(Rom 3:28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

(Rom 4:5) But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

(Eph 2:8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

(Rom 3:24,25) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

(Gal 3:24) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

(Rom 5:1) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

(1Co 16:13) Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

(2Co 5:17) Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

(Job 22:28) Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto the: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

(Gal 2:20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

(1 Cor 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

## Victory Scriptures

(Rev 12:11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death.

(Col 2:14,15) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly triumphing over them in it.

(Luk 10:19) Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

(1 Joh 5:4,5) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God.

(Eph 1:17) 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.

(Eph 1:19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.

(Gal 3:13) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree.

(Rom 8:1,2) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

(1 Pet 2:24) who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: By whose stripes ye were healed.

## Salvation Prayer

If you haven't given your life to Christ and want to do it, you may pray the next prayer.

Dear Father God,

I confess I have sinned.

I hereby repent of my sin and ask you to forgive me of my sins.

Please wash me of my sins with the blood of Jesus Christ.

I give my life to you, please come and live in my heart,

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

### **Prayer for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire**

God also wants to fill you and baptise you with the Holy Spirit, power and fire.

This so you will experience Him in a greater way and be empowered for service.

Pray,

Dear Father, please baptise me in the Holy Spirit, fill me with His fire and power.

I receive this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## **Baptism**

When you believe and receive Christ in your heart as Lord and Saviour, then the next step is to be baptised.

Baptism in water is your testimony of your faith.

Jesus told His disciples to baptise the believers.

(Mat 28:19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Then it is also important to find a group of true believers and go to their Christian meetings.