

WHAT TO DO
WHEN YOU CAN'T
DO IT

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INTRODUCTION

I want to talk about something in this book that is a key to being able to be a victorious Christian. It will make the difference in whether you are an overcomer or a loser, whether you are a winner or a loser. If you want to do something for the Lord it will make a difference in whether you can do something supernatural, or if you just do something ordinary. Even if you are not a minister, or if you aren't doing something for the Lord in the ministry, God still wants to use you in a mighty way to reach out to others around you and to make a difference. You see we aren't saved just to hide this thing away, but He calls us all to shine like a city on a hill. Matthew 5:14-16 says, "*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*"

We are created with a purpose, and that purpose is to be a light so that others can see the One we are following. We are created with a purpose to make a difference in the lives of those who are around us, to lead them to our Father in heaven. The problem is that so many Christians are a lie. They don't realize how to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. They don't even know that they can be led by God. They don't understand how they can do the things that God has called them to do. All they can see is the can'ts. All they can see is that they can't do it. So instead of being a light, they are a blight. Many of them struggle just to hang on only to come to the place where they give up and go back to the things that God set them free from. I am writing this to tell you how to do the things that you can't do. First though we'll talk about how you can live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. We'll talk about how you can be the way you need to be when you can't do it. You can live a life that is light to others around you. You can live a life that will lead them to the Lord. You can make a difference in the lives around you. Keep reading. Find out what to do when you can't.

**HOW TO BE WHAT YOU NEED TO BE
WHEN YOU CAN'T
BE IT**

Chapter 1.
If You Think You Can't
You Are Halfway There

Believe it or not, coming to the place where you know that you can't do it is the beginning of getting it all to work out. You are right. You can't do it. You can't live a holy life, you can't live a life that is a light to others, and you can't serve God. You just can't. You aren't perfect enough, righteous enough, talented enough, or gifted enough to do any of those things God requires you to do. So what kind of God would require us to do things that we can't do. It is kind of like if a teacher gave her kindergarten students Algebra and got mad because they couldn't do it. A lot of times, we see God like we would see that teacher. We stop there with our understanding. We see Him that way, and we don't go any further. We start out serving God but quit because we really want to, but we can't, so we don't. Who would want to go through all that for real for a God that requires things of us that we can't do? We stop there, but don't go on to find out that God has set a lot of things in motion to enable us to do what we need to do.

There are also a lot of people who start serving God, even becoming ministers and workers in God's kingdom, but they realize that they can't do it. Then they quit, or they get burned out, or they turn to sin and become a blight. My tomatoes this year got a blight. They just rotted from the inside out on the vine. Blight is spread from tomato to tomato. That is what happens when a minister becomes a blight. That rot is spread from tomato to tomato, from person to person until the congregation is rotten at the center. When we feel that starting, how can we stop it? First you have to find out how to be who and what you need to be, then you can find out how to do what you can't do.

Whether you are trying to live for the Lord as a minister or not you need to know how to do what you can't do. That starts by being able to be who you need to be, and what you need to be, when you can't be it. We find a key to what is required of us as leaders and workers and as any of God's children who want to be used by Him. The key is in this scripture. I Corinthians 1:27-29 tells us the kinds of people that God is looking for to do something for Him. I have a study Bible and it titles this section of scripture as being God's tool chest, the people that He chooses to use as tools to build His kingdom. Before I tell you about the scripture, get out a pencil and paper and write out the characteristics that you think people who do something for God have to have. Maybe one might be hard working. You can go on from there. When you get that done, keep reading. Now no cheating, don't look ahead before you do this. Seriously it will really help you if you do this. Stop reading here and make your list, then continue on to find out what God says about the subject.

Now let's see if you put down the same characteristics that we read about in these verses. Let's see what the characteristics are that God puts down. I will give you a little outline of what He is looking for. Here is the list. He is looking for the foolish, the weak, the base, and the despised. No kidding. Those are the people that He can use. If you don't believe me keep reading. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."

What is all this about? You are probably asking yourself this question. How can this be so? To give you a little illustration I want to give you my testimony. I started to title this book *How To Write Books and How To Do Anything For the Lord*. I guess that in the natural I could tell people how to write books. I have written nearly 30. As far as telling how to do things for the Lord, I guess I am qualified in the natural. We have a

Christian Academy. We've had that program for 30 years. God is using it to change the lives of children and young people. I also work with our college program, New Life Bible College and Seminary. We have 40 or more college extensions around the world who are training pastors, missionaries, teachers, and workers in God's kingdom to go out. I write music and record it. People have told me that I was really special, that I was really gifted, that I was really talented. People also ask me how I find the time to do all this. Here is my "secret" of how I have done all of this.

Here is a hint of how I have done all I've done for the Lord. It is a song that the Lord gave me the day before I started this book. When the Lord told me it was time to start another book, I asked Him what it was to be about. I was excited because He is always cool to work with. I often don't know the whole picture of what a book is going to turn out to be like. He is the director, and I just follow His directions. He has helped me to write some amazing books. When I am done with one, I often go back and read it over and over because I didn't have a clue of what the finished product would be like until after it was done. When I started this one, I had some health issues. I started to tell God that I couldn't do it. I couldn't write a book. I wasn't physically able. Now I know better than to tell Him that. I will tell you in a little bit how I learned that one. I sat down, and I put the song that I told you about on to play over and over, and I started listening and writing.

That is a little bit of how you can do things for the Lord. Here is the words to that song:

You Can Do It Through Jesus

Verse 1

Paul was a man with a problem-what he needed to do he couldn't

Making it even worse was he wanted to do what he shouldn't

He didn't stop there to become a loser, but he found a way to become a winner

This is what he said

Chorus

I can do it through Jesus, not I but the one living in me
 I can do it through Jesus
 I can be more than I need to be, If I yield and let Him rise up in me
 I can be set free

Verse 2

You say that you can't do it, you can't live for Jesus
 Maybe it's because you try too hard, and you don't let Him do it
 If we had a big yield sign to remember who is in us
 Let Him rise up, He's a winner, He'll help you overcome

Chorus

I can do it through Jesus, not I but the one living in me
 I can do it through Jesus
 I can be more than I need to be, If I yield and let Him rise up in me
 I can be set free

This is the key to finding out how to live a life that is a light to others, and how to be used by God. It is also the key to find out how to be who you need to be when you can't be it. It is to start out knowing that you can't do it. I have no doubt that this book will turn out to be a powerful one that will touch lives. I know this because I have written other books when I could barely sit, let alone write. I was totally dependent on God to help me write, and He did. It was His thing His way. That is a supernatural thing that will touch and change lives. If you want to do something for the Lord and you want to be a person who is a light to others around you, the first step is realizing that you on your own, in the natural, can't do it. You can't even live a life that is

pleasing to the Lord, or a life that is a light to others until you realize that you can't do that. We can't.

Our righteousness, the best we can do, is just filthy rags. Where did I get such an idea? From Isaiah 64:6, "But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." We are human. Compare human to God. The best we can do is not near enough. I think that is why people turn back from following God. Or even worse than that they settle for compromise. They start taking the attitude that it is OK to do whatever they want to do, even if God's Word says not to. They make excuses for their sin. If you are excusing sin away (and you know which things and attitudes are sin even if you want to try to fool yourself into thinking that you don't. God will let you know) then that is a dangerous place to be in. I have good news for you. You don't have to do that anymore. We are going to talk more about how you can live an upright life. So many people start out serving God, then it gets so hard that they just get too tired to do it. They settle into compromise. Well, I am here to tell you that there is a better way. It starts by realizing that you can't. But you don't just stop there. The next step is that you realize that through God you can. You can supernaturally, stupendously, overcomingly do it all.

Back to how I do what I do for the Lord. I realized a long time ago that I couldn't do the things that I have to do, and I can't be the person I need to be to be able to do them. I realized though that really has nothing to do with it. I mentioned that I learned not to tell God that I couldn't do something. Here is how He gave me that lesson. When He told me that He wanted our ministry to start a Christian school and that He wanted me to be the director, I told Him I couldn't do that. I wasn't kidding either. I knew I couldn't do it. Or so I thought. I never will forget His reply. I can remember almost the direct quote of what He told me. I have thought about this many, many, many times since then. He said, "I created the heavens and the earth. How dare you

tell me that you can't do what I have ordained for you to do." Wow. That was over 30 years ago. I still remember it like it was yesterday, because it made that big of an impression on me. You can tell the things that God speaks to your spirit, because they will stick to you that way.

I almost told Him this morning that I couldn't do it. I almost told Him that I felt too bad, that I couldn't do a book right now, and in the natural that was really, really, really true. But I got up and started anyway. That is another key. Don't let your flesh stop you. If God tells you that you can, you will be able to. So get up and do it. Don't just sit there. If you dare to start, you will be able to do it far better than you could have if you could do it in the natural. Because it won't just be you doing it, it will be you doing it through Him. And that will work. If God tells you how you need to be, then don't compromise with sin and bad attitudes, and settle into a seem right way doing nothing about it, start being the way He is instructing you to be, and He will make the way. He will enable you to be the person that He chooses you to be.

This book is done in two parts. The first part is **How To Be What We Need To Be When We Can't Be It**. The second part is **How To Do What We Need to Do When We Can't Do It**. Both of them are important. You may not be a pastor, or minister, or evangelist, or teacher, but you are called to be a light to make a difference in this world. So read on. Take this to heart and it will not only change you, but it will change those around you, and it could change a big piece of the world around you and even beyond that.

Part 1

How To Be What We Need to Be When We Can't Be It

Chapter 2.

What God Says About How We Need To Be

If we want to find out how we should act, how we should feel about certain things, how we should think, how we should be, the place to find out all that is God's Word. It is our map, our guide, our life. If we don't read it, we can't follow it. In God's Word we read that God is a righteous God. When I looked up the definition of the word righteous it means, "characterized by being upright and moral". God is righteous. He is right. He is upright. We don't always see it that way because we don't even understand a small fraction of what God is, and what He is like.

The only way we can understand Him is through faith. I have walked with God most of my life and I understand Him because of what I have seen. It was harder when I first started living for Him because I only knew a very small amount of what He is like. I think that one way to understand all this is the same way as a relationship with anyone. I think of some of my best friends that I have known for nearly 40 years. When I first met them, they were strangers to me. I only knew what others told me about them. As time went on, I grew to know them more and more. I grew closer to them. I trusted them, because I knew what they had done in certain circumstances, and I knew they could be trusted. God is the same way. As we grow in our relationship with Him, we get to know Him even more. When we start out serving Him, it involves a lot of faith. Just like when we first meet someone.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "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." Sometimes it is hard to have that faith. When I think of that I think about a time that a man brought his son to Jesus to pray for Him. He told Jesus in Mark 9:24, "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe;

help thou mine unbelief.” He wanted to believe so much that he was crying “Lord help my unbelief.” I have had many times when it was hard to believe, but I asked God to help my unbelief. During those times, I read the Bible, and prayed. I let God’s Spirit move in my life. God did encourage my faith. He will do this for you as well. God is righteous. He can prove that to you. Seek His face and He will reveal Himself to you. He will show you what He is really like. Just like in many of the promises that God gives us in His Word, there are things that we have to do to unlock them. For example, the Bible tells us that God’s Word will encourage our faith. It won’t if all we do is look at our Bible and think, “I really ought to read that.” Another promise is that the Spirit of God will build our faith. If we don’t ever pray and yield to His Spirit, then He can’t do that work in us. The Bible tells us that going to church and fellowshiping with other, and hearing their testimony of how God has helped them will build our faith. But if we never go to church, then our faith won’t be built up. We read in the Bible that if we pray, and we see God answer our prayers, then that will encourage our faith. But if we never pray, then that won’t happen. Do you get the idea? We have to want this enough to do whatever it takes to have a greater faith. The benefits are immeasurable.

We first have to come to the place where we know that we have to have God’s guidance. We have to come to the place where we let Him have His say so in what we should and shouldn’t do. We have to be able to yield to Him and ask Him to show us the things that are right and wrong. We have to trust Him that He will lead us in the right direction. Then when He speaks to our heart, we listen. The people who are telling God what is right and wrong will never find that narrow path. Matthew 7:13-14 talks about that narrow way and the broad path. “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” There is a right path to get on and it is a narrow path. If you don’t submit and yield to God you will never find it. If you don’t identify

God's righteousness, you will never find it. Also, as time goes on our faith in God, and in who He is will grow as we get to know Him better. As we get closer to Him, the devil won't be able to tell us a lie about who He is and what He is like.

The first place to start to find out about what God is like, and about God's righteousness is His Word. Psalms 98:9 tells us, "And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness." He is an upright God. His Word will lead us in uprightness. When He comes in our heart, we can take on His righteousness. Not self-righteousness, because we can't ever be upright in ourselves. Only through Him. We'll talk about that more coming up.

We know that we need to be righteous. We know that we can't do it, so what gives? Paul had the same problem. We read about it in Romans 7:14-25, "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

How did he overcome this problem? We find the answer in Romans 8. It would really help you if you read the whole chapter. Get out your Bible and read Romans 8. I am

only going to write here the key verses. Please, seriously, it will help you a lot if before you read this part of my book, you get out God's book and read about this first.

Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit". This whole chapter in chapter 8 talks about spirit versus flesh. We need to remember that when we are saved, we ask Jesus to come into our hearts. When we do that, He does come. Through the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God, He comes in to live in us. That is how we can do the things that we can't do by ourselves. That is how we can be what we need to be. We do it through the Spirit of God in us. We do that when we walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

If that is so, if everyone has this in them, then how come there are so many Christians who are not victorious? How come there are so many people who do whatever and they aren't even concerned about whether they do right or not? They have become masters at finding excuses to do what they want to do, even using God's Word as an excuse. It is because if they did at one time get saved for real and if they asked Jesus to come into their heart, then they have choked out God's Spirit. They are not submitting and yielding their flesh (the human part of them) to God's Spirit. To put it simpler, they are so full of themselves that they have no room or concern for the Holy Spirit in them.

I am reminded of a story that someone told about a preacher that was preaching about the flesh and the Spirit of God in us. He told his congregation about a man that had 2 puppies. He fed one of them and he didn't feed the other nearly as much. He asked his congregation which one of the puppies that they thought would grow up to be the strongest. They all answered that the one who had been fed the most would be the strongest. Then he related that to who would be stronger in us, the Spirit of God, or

our flesh-our humanness. The answer is as simple as the answer to the puppy questions. It will be the one we feed the most.

How can we feed or strengthen the Spirit man-the Spirit of God in us? He isn't a flesh person like us so we can't feed him a plate of beans and cornbread. How can we make that part of us stronger inside of us? When the God part in us is strongest, then we will be strong in the Lord. Romans 8:5-8 talks about this, "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." That is the key to finding out how to walk in the Spirit. It goes on to say how important that this is. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

We see a lot of things in this section of scripture that are important. It talks about the things of the flesh as opposed to the things of the Spirit, and how the things of the Spirit need to be what we concentrate on. When I think of this I think about some people that I know. They are busy about the things of this world so much so that they have no time for God. They never pray. They never spend time fellowshiping with God. They never read their Bible. They never fellowship with other children of God. They fill their life with the drama of the people around them. They are constantly on Facebook or on their phone. They have a diet of music that isn't Gospel music. They fill their time with junk to the place that they have no time for God. Are they strong and victorious Christians? Not likely.

You see they have filled up on junk food, and they are "feeding the wrong pup". The flesh part wins. If they don't get this turned around, then they will find eternal death one day because they will grow so weak that it will be easy for them to turn back to the things they left before they were saved. When we fill our lives with these things, then

we have no peace. We have no strength to stand against what is wrong. We are definitely not being a light to those around us. People can't see God in us, just the mess of the world. Those that we love, those that we want to see go to heaven are instead turned away from serving God because of the mess they see in our lives.

If we aren't careful we can become enemies of God without realizing it. How? Verse 7 says that the carnal mind is enmity or an enemy against God. We can see that today everywhere we look. It is becoming popular and smart to do everything the opposite of what God's Word tells us to do. It is becoming wrong in the eyes of a lot of people to think the way the Bible tells us to think. It is dangerous today to just think with our natural mind instead of letting God lead us in our thinking. It is so easy to get deceived. Never in my life have I ever seen such a deceptive time. If we walk in the flesh and not in the Spirit, we will definitely be drawn astray, and our life and our eternal soul will be destroyed. Whether or not we walk in the flesh or in the Spirit will determine where we spend eternity. We have to have the mind of Christ to be able to see the things of God, and to be able to avoid being caught up in the things of the enemy.

There are many enemies of God out there drawing people away from the truth of the Word of God, and drawing them away from walking and talking with God in a real and right relationship with Him. These people are perverting the truth of the Word of God. They want to sin, so they are twisting things to give them an excuse to continue in their filth. This is definitely nothing new, but it is getting worse. How do I know? John 3: 19-21 tells us this. " And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God".

When people choose darkness over light, whether they want to admit it or not, their life will be filled with darkness. If they hate light and choose darkness because they choose their mess of sin instead of God's deliverance and freedom, and light and life in Him, then they will never find that light and life. If we are living that way, and we are telling others that is how they should live, then we are definitely endangering our eternal souls. God tells us in His Word that it would be better for us to have a millstone tied around our neck and be thrown into the pond than it would be to face judgment for leading young people astray from the truth. Luke 17:1-2 tells us about this, "Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."

In Acts 13:10, Paul spoke to someone who was doing that very thing. He told him, "And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" When we fail to walk in righteousness, when we just don't really care deep inside of our hearts whether we do right or not, when we want to do our own thing no matter what price we have to pay then we become an enemy of righteousness, an enemy of God. That is a dangerous place to walk in. When we tell others to do the same, that is even more dangerous.

Matthew 23:28 tells us about some people who think that they are fooling people. "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Nobody is fooled. God isn't fooled. He sees us and knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts. God tells us in Jeremiah 16:17, "For mine eyes *are* upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes."

If any of this is happening in your life, how can you turn this around? Matthew 5:6 tells us, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." We have to want to be upright. We have to want to be righteous. When we do, we have to seek this as an important thing we know we must have. It is just like everything that God can give us, we have to really, really, really want it with all our heart before we will receive it. When we seek God for this and we do the things that will unlock it in our lives, we will be filled with God, who will fill us up with His righteousness. It won't be our righteousness, but we will be filled up with Him, and He is righteous, so we will be filled up with His Righteousness.

When I say His righteousness, I don't mean self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is a stink to God. Paul talks about this in Philippians 3:9-12. There were a lot of people in that day (and a lot of people today) that were working out their righteousness by keeping a lot of rules and regulations and most of those rules and regulations had nothing to do with what God set up. They were trying to work out their own righteousness. That didn't work. This scripture gives us a key to unlock righteousness in us. "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

Paul gave the key here on how to find our righteousness in God. We find it through the faith of Christ. His faith. Through the power of His resurrection and His sufferings. We find forgiveness because Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected. Because

He died we can be forgiven. That is why we never need to take the attitude that we can do whatever we want to because God loves us and will forgive us. Because He loved us enough to send His own son to die because of our sin so that we could be forgiven, that is why we need to love Him enough in return to long to do what He wants us to do. Because He did all this to make a way so that we can walk in His righteousness, then we need to do that. We don't have to be losers. We don't have to keep our sin and our mess in our lives. He made a way to climb out of this. So we need to. It goes on to say that we want the resurrection of the dead meaning that we want to be able to live eternally with God.

Our goal is to spend eternity in the presence of God. The alternative is to spend eternity in hell. If you choose to mock God by choosing your sin over God, then you will not be happy in heaven. Neither will the rest of the people around you. If you carry your mess with you to heaven then it will be just like the mess we have on earth. Who wants that for eternity?

Joshua 24:15 says, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Choose this day and every day who you want to serve. When you choose, then remember that God has made a way for you. John 1:9-12 tells us a little about that. "*That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name" We will talk more about this power to keep us coming up.

Chapter 3

The Tools God Gives Us and The Miracles He Performs In Us

We talked about how God enables us and empowers us to be able to do what He calls us to do, and to be able to be who He calls us to be. God has made a way. That way starts with a thing called conviction. That is the key to unlock us from the mess that is in us. Conviction is when God lets us know that we are doing something wrong. God won't let us stay in a mess. He will do everything He can to turn us around from that sin. The Holy Ghost will convict us of our sin. We read about this in John 16:7-9, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." We don't have any idea what is right and wrong. We like to think we do, and we like to think that it can be the way we want it to be. We already talked about how that isn't so.

I remember someone who was newly saved. He was so afraid of doing something wrong. He had heard so many people tell him things that were wrong all his life. Problem was, everyone was telling him something different. He almost had a major anxiety attack, because he wanted to do what was right, but didn't know what that was. He was afraid that he would do wrong not knowing it. I explained about conviction to him. I explained that the Holy Ghost, which is God's Spirit, would show us that we were doing wrong by convicting us. We don't have to be afraid about being caught up in sin and not knowing it. The Holy Ghost will definitely let us know.

Part of the ministry of the Holy Ghost is to let us know what is wrong by convicting us of our sin. When I do wrong, or have a bad attitude, I get an almost smothering feeling,

like something sitting on my chest and I know that it is God convicting me. I thank God for this. He will let us know. A lot of people act like it is a bad thing for God to convict people of their sin. If we don't repent of our sin, if we don't get forgiveness of our sin, if the blood of Jesus doesn't cover our sin, then we can't go to heaven. It isn't like there is an angel with a giant eraser up there erasing our name out of the book of life every time we sin, and we don't repent. But if we continue in our sin without repentance, then we will not be forgiven. Our heart will be hardened to the place that we will no longer feel bad, and regret our sin.

Romans 2:1-7 tells us, "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 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; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."

We read in this scripture the dangers of judging others. I hear that all the time. Christians shouldn't judge others. That is an excuse that people use to be able to get by with what they want to do. But by taking that attitude they forget that there is a righteous God who will judge them. In this scripture, we see the things that continuing

in sin will earn us: indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish. We also see the things that working good will earn us: glory, honour, and peace. That is definitely the line I want to be in. So I praise God when He convicts me of my sin. I can have confidence that as long as I choose righteousness over sin, He will keep me from going down that broad way that leads to destruction. I have walked on that path. I know about the wages of sin. I am like the person that Paul talks about in Romans 6:16-23, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

I know all about the wages of sin. I destroyed my life, my mind, my heart, my health, my emotional and spiritual being, I wrecked it all by going down the wrong road. That is why I don't take any chances. I don't head down that road at all. I even hate to see anyone start down that road. I spend my life doing all I can to prevent that. That is one reason why I write books. The Bible tells us that there is pleasure in sin for a season. But the gift of God is eternal life in Him. I choose that instead of just getting my way for little while.

Also, the Word of God shows us our sin. 2 Timothy 3:16 gives us a key about how all this works. "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The Bible that is given by the inspiration of God tells us what is right and wrong. It will reprove us, correct us, show us our error.

God won't just let us go on our merry way to hell without showing us our sin that we are caught in. But He doesn't just show us our sin, and beat us over the head with it, condemning us until we don't care about trying. No. He loved us enough to send His son to die for us so that we could be forgiven. John 3:16-17 says, "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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." I know we have used this scripture before, but it is such a great one that I think that I've included it in this book 2+ times.

God doesn't want to condemn the world and send us to hell, but He sent His own son to die for us to be forgiven. That doesn't mean that He winks at our sin and pats us on the back and tells us its OK, but it means that He has made a way for us to overcome it. He forgives us, but praise God He doesn't just leave us there in our mess. He loves us too much to do that. He convicts us, forgives us, then He gives us the power to change. The next step in this process after conviction is repentance.

What does the word repentance mean? It means sincere regret or remorse. Not too many years ago it became unpopular to make people feel bad because of their sin. Now look at how things are today. I never thought I would ever see things as bad as they are, and sad to say I believe that they will only get worse. We took the altar out of the church. We stopped God's Spirit from convicting the people, because they were uncomfortable. Now we no longer know wrong from right. I praise God that He

convicts me and that it makes me feel uncomfortable enough to repent, to feel terribly sorry for the wrong that I've done. Jesus died on the cross to forgive us of our sins, and we should never take that lightly. But that isn't the end of that.

When I was a kid, I would do something wrong and try to get by with it. That would strain the relationship that I had with my parents to say the least. I would start feeling bad about what I had done. Then I would confess it, and I would repent. I would be so sorry that I would make up my mind that I wouldn't do it again. Why should we do God in less of a way than we did our parents? He loves us. Even more than our earthly parents. He wants the best for us. When He convicts us, we need to be sincerely sorry for what we have done. But we don't have to keep feeling sorry. We don't have to beat ourselves up for every mistake. Praise God the next step after our feeling sorry for our sin and our asking God to forgive us is receiving God's wonderful forgiveness.

I can remember when I was trying to hide something from my parents how bad it made me feel. It actually was worth it to get it all out in the open, to repent and tell them how sorry I was that I did it, to ask for their forgiveness, and to be forgiven. Forgiveness is a wonderful thing. Especially God's forgiveness. How do we know that God will forgive us? Micah 7:19 says, "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Hebrews 10:16-17 says, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them, and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

What is the difference in conviction and condemnation? Conviction is what God does to cause us to turn from our sin. Then when we repent and we ask His forgiveness and He forgives us, He will not drive that sin in our face over and over. That is condemnation. That is what the devil does to destroy us and to cause us to be

defeated. He does this to beat us down. Romans 8:2 tells us, “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” There is no condemnation. We don’t have to feel condemned after we repent, and ask for forgiveness, and receive God’s forgiveness. But we find a key in this scripture about how all this works.

For this all to work we have be sure not to walk in the flesh but walk in the Spirit. That brings us back to Paul’s teaching that we covered in the first chapter. Let’s talk a little more about how God helps to find victory over our sin. He doesn’t just forgive us and say, “Oh, that is OK. I know you will sin, so you are just stuck with the mess that brings to your life. I don’t expect you to do any better. You will eventually just destroy your life with sin, but that is nothing to me. I forgive you.” What kind of God would do that? God set all these tools in motion to bring us out of sin. He also enables us to have an overcoming, victorious life.

God’s goal is to do a work in us to be able to present us as His bride. Ephesians 5:25-26 says, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.” It isn’t God’s will that you go to hell in your sins. It is God’s will that He do a work in you to perfect you and to one day present you without spot and wrinkle. He can do that if you will yield and obey. He can do that if you choose this. He can do that if you take in His Word, and obey it, and if you yield to His Spirit that will do that work in you. He can do that if you walk in the Spirit. We will talk more about that in a chapter coming up. Next we will talk about the dangers of ignoring God’s conviction.

Chapter 4

The Danger of Ignoring Conviction

I have touched on this subject several times in this book, but I feel that it is such an important topic that we need to spend a whole chapter on it. One of the reasons that I think it is important is because it is human nature to want our own way. We want to stuff our fingers in our ears when someone is trying to tell us that we shouldn't do something that we want to. Another reason why I believe that it is important to spend more time talking about this is because of how the world is today. There is a huge cry going out that it is wrong for anyone or anything (even God) to make anyone feel bad about the lifestyle, or the actions that someone has chosen to do.

The world is saying that you have a right to be and do anything you want to without anyone making you feel condemned about it. (One extreme example of this is the Toaster People. There is a group of people who choose to identify themselves as being toasters. No kidding. They say they have this right and no one should say anything about it.) This thing is really getting out of hand. Problem is, it is overtaking the church. We are afraid to preach and teach the rightly divided Word of God, but we are watering it down and not telling the truth. Because we aren't preaching the truth, people are falling into this doctrine. I guess you could call it an end-time doctrine.

The problem started when we took the altars out of the churches because people didn't want to be made to feel "uncomfortable". When we did that we closed the door on the Holy Ghost. It is His job to make us "uncomfortable". Conviction isn't comfortable. It is uncomfortable enough to get our attention so that we stop that sin and seek God to deliver us. Because we shut the door on God's Spirit, all we have now in most churches is a mess. Church has either become a social gathering or a freak show. Because of that, even sinners recognize that there is nothing there that

they need in their lives. How can we change it? We need to let God know that we do want His Spirit, that we need His conviction in our lives. We need to be willing to get off of our spoiled rotten high horse and get on our knees and repent. If we don't, then we will wake up one day in hell for eternity. That isn't my word. That is God's Word.

One of the worst things that we can do when we feel convicted is to stuff it down in. So many Christians feel conviction, but they don't know what to do with it. They feel condemnation, and they stuff that sin back down inside of them. They try to deal with it and get victory over it, but they don't confess it, get forgiveness, and go on to find deliverance and victory. They just chunk it down in. That doesn't work. It will for a short time, but in the long term that is just dangerous. It will give the devil a hook in our jaw, and he will one day reel us in. The purpose of conviction is to start us out on the road that leads to victory, not defeat.

So what do we do when we feel convicted? We have talked about that earlier. We repent. We are sorry in the depths of our souls. We purpose in our heart not to do this again, and we ask God for forgiveness. Then we receive His forgiveness. But we don't stop there. We ask God to show us how to win victory over this. We walk in the Spirit so that we can overcome our flesh. We look up scriptures about how to overcome this thing. We ask God to deliver us. We allow His Spirit to do His work in us. Then we wind up being strong in that area where once we found defeat.

I want to talk a little here about the difference between conviction and condemnation. I talked about it earlier, but here is a good place to review. Conviction comes from God and condemnation from the devil. Conviction is God's Spirit making us aware of our sin, and turning us away from it. We go on to receive forgiveness and forgive ourselves. Then the enemy comes along and beats us up over what God has forgiven us. We know that God casts our sin away and remembers it no more. So after we are forgiven, if someone is beating us up about it, it is either the devil or ourselves. Put

the devil in his place. If it is you beating yourself up, then ask God to help you to stop. Sometimes, if we aren't careful, we will just take the devil's stick and beat ourselves up for every little wrong that we do, even some that God isn't convicting us of, because it isn't even real. Be careful that you don't do that. If you catch yourself doing that, then talk to God about it. Run to Him, not away from Him. Ask Him to show you that great love that He has for you. He doesn't expect us to be perfect, because of all people He knows that we can't be. He loves us as we are, then helps us to shine even brighter.

When I first got saved, God delivered me out of a life full of sin. There wasn't much that I hadn't done. The devil constantly reminded me of the things that I had done. He stole my victory away by doing that. That was condemnation. I remember the day I overcame this. Jesus was talking to me about all of this. He held out His hands and showed me the scars in His hands. It was almost like I saw them in the natural, but I saw them in the Spirit. He told me something that I will never forget. He said, "I did this for you."

I knew that Jesus died for the world, and that He died so I could be saved, but I hadn't got the idea down in my soul that He had done that to forgive me of my sins, to just wipe them away in His love so that He wouldn't remember them, and so that I wouldn't have to. That was the end of the devil bringing all that up to me.

The icing on the cake came when I learned that God would use everything for good, even the sin that I had been forgiven of. Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose." All things.

How did that happen for me? I have spent more than 30 years counseling young people. The Lord has used me to help change lives. How was I able to do this? Because I had a compassion for what they were going through, because I had gone

through it myself. I had an understanding of what they were going through because I had gone through it. They could identify that I knew what they had gone through. I was able to help them in a way that I wouldn't have been able to do if I hadn't gone through it myself. Am I saying that it was God's will for me to go through what I did. No. He loves me much more than that. I am saying that He can use everything for good.

Now I am not using this as an excuse for people to sin. We shouldn't go out and sin so that God can use it. NO. What I am saying is that God can even use what you have gone through in sin and turn it out for good. So that stops the devil's condemnation as well.

I want to close this chapter *The Danger of Ignoring Conviction* with a section of scripture. It is a long section, but I believe that it is important enough to put the whole chapter. It is a section of scripture that warns us against ignoring God's conviction. It tells about what happens when we do that. It is also a picture of the world today. This is Romans chapter 1 verses 16 through 32.

"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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are God clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God they glorified him not as God neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish

heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Go back and reread this section of scripture. It is full of things that you need to take into your heart. When you reread it, keep in mind that this was written over a thousand years ago, but isn't it a picture of our world today? How does this thing happen. It happens when we as a people, we as a society, we as a church decide that we didn't want God's conviction any more.

In this chapter I talked several times about deliverance. We'll talk more about this in the chapter coming up.

Chapter 5

Deliverance

When I looked up the word deliverance, this is the definition. “The action of being rescued or set free.” We can be set free from our sin. We don’t have to accept it, deal with it, ignore it, pack it down. That is all dangerous. We need to let God deliver us. Most of the church world talks about deliverance in regard to salvation. God sets us free when He saves us. That is so true, but deliverance doesn’t stop there. We will talk more about that. Here are some scriptures that talk about how we can be delivered, set free.

The first scripture is one that David wrote about in Psalms 18:50, “Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.” David knew a lot about deliverance. Let me give you a little history about David. David lusted after a woman named Bathsheba. He “laid with her” as the Bible says it, and she got pregnant. At that time, women who were caught in adultery were stoned to death. That sure kept that problem down. To keep from doing that he did a series of things, but the last one was that he had her husband sent to the battle front where he was killed. He could do that because he was king at that time. Wow. That is a lot of stuff.

The Bible though says this in Acts:13:22, “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will.” How could this be so? How could a man like that be a man after God’s own heart. God established him to be king, and later recognized him many times in the scripture. We know that he was a man after God’s heart. How could that be?

When we read the book of Psalms which is a book that he wrote, we see many hints of how that could be so. The main thing is that he confessed, he repented, he asked God to deliver him. We don't see that he did anything like that again. He raised up to serve God and follow Him, to worship and praise Him, and to live for Him in a mighty way. God delivered Him. God set Him free. Remember this verse. Psalms 18:50, "Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore."

David didn't stay in his sin. He didn't make excuses for it. We see that he didn't do these things in Psalms 51:1-13. This is his prayer of repentance. We can learn much from this. This prayer was the beginning of his finding deliverance in God.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit. *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You."

We see from this section of scripture that David didn't ignore conviction. He repented in a pure and right way. He didn't stay in that sin and settle in that compromised state. He got rid of it. He asked God to cast it from Him and to make him clean. He went on to seek and to find deliverance from this sin. He was set free from it. He didn't do it anymore. We don't read in the Bible that he ever returned to that sin.

God can set us free. Someone else who found deliverance is Paul. In Romans 6:13-23 we read, "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. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace. God forbid. Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Paul knew about deliverance. He found it when he yielded to righteousness. Luke 4:18 is Jesus speaking about deliverance. "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” Jesus made a way to bring deliverance to the captives. When we are bound in sin we are captives. We are whether we want to admit it or not. Jesus can deliver you. Jesus can set you free. Don’t settle for halfway. Ask Him to deliver you. Ask Him to set you free from the things that bind you to sin. God can do that work in you that you can’t do in yourselves. He will do that for you.

There are different ways that God will deliver you. He will use His Word, and His Spirit. Also, he will dig out of you the roots of those things that cause you to sin. He did this for me. When I first got saved, I had a terrible time with rebellion. I was caught in a rebellious spirit that the devil had me bound in. Someone would tell me to do something and I would do the opposite and not even know why. I had been really hurt in my life, and that had created this root, this thing in my life that kept me bound up in that sin. It caused all kinds of problems in my life.

God delivered me from this bondage that I was in. He healed me of my hurt. He showed me His love for me, and showed me that I could trust that love. He showed me this in His Word, and through the things that He did for me. He won my heart back from the hurt that I had been bound in, and I was able to submit to Him. From there I could submit to others that I needed to submit to. He did a work in me that set me free, that delivered me from rebellion. I praise God that He did that. He can do that for you, too. Coming up, more about how we can become winners, and leave losing behind.

Chapter 6

More About How We Can Become Winners

I think a key verse to explain how we can become overcomers and victorious in our life, how we can win the victory over sin is found in Galatians 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." How do we walk in the Spirit? We know that we are crucified with Christ. We are dead. Christ is in us, and He is our hope of glory. We need to let Him rise up and live in us, and through us through His Spirit. This happens when we let Him do His thing, and we stop doing our own thing. That can only happen when we yield our self will, when we yield ourselves to Him, and let Him rise up in us. Then we live by the faith of the Son of God who loves us enough that He gave Himself for us.

I used to read about the fruits of the Spirit that we are supposed to have, and they would just make me feel defeated. I would read them, and think about how I wasn't that way, then I would just go away from that feeling all miserable. I missed one little word. The fruits of the Spirit are found in Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

I thought this verse was talking about all the things I had to have in my attitudes, and there were so many times that I didn't have them that I would just get defeated when I read this scripture. Then I noticed this little word "of". Again, we see this little word, and it changes the whole impact of this verse. Whose fruit is this? Is it our fruit, or is it the fruit **of** the Spirit? Is it ours, or is it His fruit? You see, we can't have these things on our own in our stupid flesh that is just filthy rags compared to God's righteousness. These things are part of His nature, His Spirit. When we yield to Him, we take on His

nature. We give Him control. Like the little song says, “Jesus on the inside working on the outside, bringing forth a change in our life.” When we yield our stinking attitudes, and our stinking thinking to Him, His Spirit can rise up in us, and can shine.

Now I know that some of you may be saying to yourself, “God wants us to use our mind, and the abilities that He gave us, because that is why He gave them to us.” Is that right? Is it all about our flesh and what we can do in the natural? How many times have you seen that this wasn’t true? When it comes right down to it, your best is filthy rags in God’s eyes. Who says so? God does. If you don’t believe me, look it up in the Bible. Cross reference filthy rags.

I don’t care how great you think that you are. I don’t care how talented you think that you are, or how smart, or how spiritual in yourself, or how whatever you think you are, without yielding to God’s Spirit, and letting Him live through you, you are filthy rags. Give up, give in, and let His Spirit rule in your life. Until you do, you are nothing. You will not be able to live for Him, or serve Him until you give up and let Him have control. You can try your hardest, but you don’t have what it takes. When you give up, yield to God, and let Him have control of your flesh, then you can be victorious, and serve Him to the best of HIS ability. And believe me, His ability will be the best.

I mentioned before all the things that I am able to do for the Lord. Here is my secret. I am blessed to have an impossible job that is full of things that I cannot do. It is full of decisions that I have to make and those decisions can change people’s lives either for the better or for the worse. It is full of challenges like counseling young people who are suicidal, and knowing that if I say the wrong thing, they could die. It is so physically demanding and emotionally demanding that I can’t do my job. Every five minutes, somebody needs something. I am constantly called on to do things that I have no idea how to do. I have so many different “hats” that I wear that I can’t remember which one I have on at the time, so many different offices that I hold that I am not sure which one

I am in at the given moment. You may read over this and say, “I thought she said she was blessed to have this job?” That is exactly what I said.

I am blessed to have it, because it has taught me how to yield and let God use me. It has taught me how to yield and walk in the Spirit. It has taught me how to trust that I have the mind of Christ, and how to stop my mind, and put on His. It has taught me how to be used supernaturally by Him, because I can't in the natural do what I am required to do. It has taught me to walk in the Spirit. It has taught me this because I know that I had better start my day yielding to Him, relying on His mind and not my own, relying on His strength because mine isn't sufficient, and listening to Him leading me, trusting in His guidance.

I know that I had better start my day by getting on my knees, maybe not always physically, but definitely in my heart yielding to Him, or I won't make it through my day without making a big mess of things. I have to start out trusting His guidance, and listening for that still small voice. I have to start out yielding to Him so that those fruits of His Spirit are a bigger part of me than my stinking flesh. If I don't, I know I will cause some kind of havoc in somebody's life before the day's end. All that is what it means to walk in the Spirit. Am I perfect in doing this? No, I am still flesh. But through desperation I am learning how to do this more and more. What about those times when I am sick, or just so stressed that flesh pops up, or other times that I don't yield to God's Spirit? Well, I pay for it, and sometimes others pay for it. I learn from it, repent and confess, and God helps me overcome. After all, it's Him, not me.

When you come to the end of all you can do, then is when you find out what God can do through you. That is where I live. That is where walking in the Spirit starts. First, you have to realize the need. We talked about that earlier. We read about how walking in the flesh is death, and walking in the Spirit is life. We read about how to even be considered as a son of God, we have to yield and walk in the Spirit, and obey Him. If we aren't yielding our flesh to His Spirit, we don't even know what we are

supposed to do, and we definitely don't have what it takes to do it. How can we serve God if we don't walk in the Spirit?

I want to take a minute to talk to pastors, teachers, workers, evangelists, everyone who ministers in some way. How can you really be effective if you are walking in the flesh? All you will be is an entertainer, or a motivational speaker, all you will have is a congregation that is fed with junk food, unless you are filled up with the Spirit of God, and yielding to Him, letting Him flow through you and use you. You won't be effective. You won't change lives. You can't. Only God can do that. He won't be able to unless you yield to Him.

But wait a minute? Are ministers, evangelists, and workers, the only people who need to walk in the Spirit? Aren't we all called to minister wherever the Lord puts us? Aren't we all entitled to a life full of victory? We can't have a victorious and abundant life if we aren't walking in the Spirit. God will have blessings ahead of us, and we will walk all around them, and never get to them if we aren't walking in the Spirit. God will have an abundant joy for us, but we will be too wrapped up in fear, and torment in our mind, and never feel the joy and peace that we can have in and through Him when we walk in the Spirit. We will constantly be struggling to help others, and always failing to do what is really needed because we aren't yielding to Him, and walking in the Spirit when we reach out to others.

So, I guess the key word here is yield. That unlocks walking in the Spirit. I had someone tell me that he just didn't understand what it meant when people said that he needed to yield. I told him that he needed to ask God to show him what that meant, and how to do it. He went through a time not long after that where he went through hell on earth. Everything that could fly loose flew loose. When he was laying flat on his back under the pile, he knew exactly what it meant to yield. We can be so full of ourselves that we can't even see what it means to yield, and we can't see the reason why we should ever want to. We can't see why we should give up control of our lives.

We have to be in control. We have to have it our way. Human nature says that to yield is a bad thing. As long as we are that way, we will never find the victory that Paul found when he said in Romans 8:37, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

We talked about earlier how we can feed the God side of us to make it stronger in our lives than the flesh? We can do this by reading the Bible, praying and spending time fellowshiping with the Lord, praising Him, listening to Gospel music, being with God's people who are like minded, putting a priority on obeying God even when your flesh doesn't feel like it. All these things will help you to yield your flesh to God, and allow the Spirit of God to become stronger than your flesh.

I can just hear a lot of you saying, "I don't have time for all those things." Isn't it sad that the things that are the best for us, the things that will ensure our eternal salvation, are the things that we don't have time for? Think about it. Isn't that right? Maybe we don't have time because we aren't doing what we are supposed to be doing. Maybe it is because we aren't putting a focus on what we need to focus on. Let me tell you a secret for having enough time to do the things that you need to do. Put a priority on serving the Lord. Make a commitment to Him. Yes, you have other things to do, but if you make Him number one, and walk in the Spirit instead of the flesh, you will have the time to get the things done that you need to do, and you will leave alone those things that the devil is putting in your lives that will choke the life out of you.

I am reminded of the parable that Jesus told about the seed of the Word of God. You will find it in Matthew 13. We read in verse 22, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." There is so much junk that can steal your time, and eventually steal your soul. If you don't have time for God, then you will find yourself spending eternity in hell where you have plenty of time to regret that you didn't make time for the things that are important.

I went through a season when I thought that I didn't have time to do the things that I needed to do for the Lord. The Lord led me to do one simple thing that started a change in my life. He led me to start my day by listening to Gospel music. Sounds like a simple little thing. I used to start my day by watching the Today Show, and that got to be nothing but junk. But it was a habit. It was hard to break that habit, but I did. This one simple thing, starting out my day by listening to Gospel music, starts my day by putting a priority on God. I start my day obeying Him, and yielding my flesh to Him. Because I am listening to music filled with praise, I often find myself praising Him, getting in the Spirit of God, and the Holy Ghost blesses me. That is a good way to start the day. That one simple thing changes my focus of my day, and changes how my day goes.

Now because I am listening to Gospel music, I get caught up in praying and praising the Lord. Now when I first started getting caught up in the Holy Ghost, praising God and letting the Holy Ghost pray through me, I was hesitant, because I would look at the clock and see that I didn't have much time to get ready. I would halfway do it, because I didn't want to be late for work. Then I discovered something. If you put God first, you will always have time. I'll get caught up in the Spirit, and pray and praise the Lord, and then when God is done, I will look at the clock. Only a few minutes will have passed, when it seemed like a lot longer. If you put a priority on doing the things God tells you to do, you will always have time.

One of the ways to put your flesh under subjection is to fast. That means that you don't eat anything for a day, or three days, or however long that God leads you to do so. Or you can fast something that you are craving. When I was going through that yeast thing, I fasted sugar, because I knew that if I didn't, it would feed that yeast, and that could physically destroy me. My body went crazy at first, because it wanted that sugar, but I didn't give in, and that became easier. I did this with God's help. My flesh learned that God was in control of me, and it wasn't. When you fast, you teach your

body that you are not in control, that God is in control, not your flesh. That makes it easier to submit to God, and do what is right when it is important.

Put your flesh under subjection. Make God a priority in your life. Make serving Him and obeying Him a main objective. It will totally and completely change your life, change your world and it will change you.

Chapter 7

An Example of Walking in the Spirit

I am going to put here a chapter from my book *Walking in the Spirit*. I think that this will be a help to you. It is an illustration of what it means to walk in the Spirit. Sometimes a “picture” is worth a thousand words. This may help explain what it means to walk in the Spirit.

The other day, I was thinking about this book, about what I should write, and how I should explain what it meant to walk in the Spirit. I came home from work. It had been a long day with the devil up in my face every minute. One of those days you struggle to get things done. All I could think of was that I wanted to fix a bite to eat and put my feet up. After all, the last time I'd had time to eat was about 8:30 that morning and it was about that time in the evening now. I didn't feel good besides all that. I was trying to catch some kind of something. I just wanted to put my feet up and drown myself in the old “boob tube”. God started dealing with me, speaking to me in my heart about something I needed to do instead. Oh, believe me, I wanted to stuff my fingers in my spiritual ears (that's flesh). But I have learned to respect God's leading because of the blessing that it brings, and because I love Him more than I love my own flesh, I listened to Him. (That's walking in the Spirit.)

God told me instead of turning on the TV tonight that I needed to turn on the CD player with some good Gospel music. I obeyed Him. I thought to myself, what is so important about listening to music (that's walking in the flesh), but obeyed the Spirit (that's walking in the Spirit). Pretty soon I was caught up in the music and praising the Lord for how good He is. I soon forgot about the battles of the day and about how my body felt (that's walking in the Spirit). Victory started flowing into my heart, body, and mind. The chills and aches of the fever that had been pestering me all day soon left. (By the way, I woke up the next morning feeling much better.) I got my blessing from the hand of God.

Then He directed me into doing something that would bless and touch the hearts of others. That's God's way. When we center our thoughts on our own selves, and we receive a blessing, and that's the end of it, sometimes we only get half a victory. When we turn around and bless others as well, our victory is complete. I got my mind off my problems of the day and onto Him. I got outside of myself and into Jesus and the Holy Ghost, and then into ministering to others. That's walking in the Spirit. That's when this chapter of this book was written, and that's when God gave me the glimpse of what He wanted me to say throughout the book.

I had my own idea of how it should be and I was stuck there. I had started the book nearly a month before this happened, but I was totally stuck. I had laid it to the side. But on this night, I put myself in neutral because I felt so tired I had nothing of myself left. I let the Holy Ghost write through me. That's walking in the Spirit. Now I know without a shadow of a doubt that someone will read this chapter, and this book, and they will get an understanding of what it means to walk in the Spirit. I don't say this to brag about my own great power of persuasion, but I say it because I let Jesus do the writing, and He does a great job. I believe that someone who has struggled for years to understand this vital key to living a victorious life in God will have the life changed. Maybe that someone is you. You who picked this book up and read it and took it to your heart. And that too is walking in the Spirit.

Now let's replay my evening. What if I had let my flesh take over? What if I had turned on the old TV, hit the couch, put my feet up, and forgot all about everything because, "God, I just don't feel well"? What about the victory I gained? What about the healing touch that came? What about this chapter, and the book that came from it? What about you who read this and receive something from it? What if you hadn't obeyed God and read it? What would we all have gotten without obeying God and walking in the Spirit? We would have gotten a big nothing. We would have gone on in our struggle, continued in our battle, and if our life never changed from this rut, and we never learned to walk in the Spirit, we will eventually be totally defeated, and the end

would be that we lose our eternal souls. So tell me, is it important to walk in the Spirit?

I heard someone tell about a lady that had been caught in one of the Twin Towers Buildings during the 9/11 tragedy. She had gotten up that morning and had spent time praying. So she started her day walking in the Spirit instead of the flesh. She was what we call “prayed up”. When the plane struck the building, she grabbed her things and started running. The other people on her floor asked where she was going. She told them, “God told me to run and to run in this direction.” They answered, “If He told you to do that, then we are behind you.” Many, many people were saved that day because they followed a Spirit filled, Spirit led woman.

What about those around you? Is the example of your life leading them to safety? Do you daily have victory, in spite of your battles? Do people see in your life a direction that they long to take? You can be that kind of person, you know. God’s Spirit is powerful enough to provide you with all you need. He has the peace, strength, love, joy, hope, victory, faith, and long-suffering, all you need. I guess that this is also an illustration of what happens if we don’t walk in the Spirit. This true story is an example of the destruction that following flesh can bring. We all know that not everyone was saved. Why? Even if they were Christians, were they prayed up and in the Spirit? Were they listening to His voice that day, or the voices of others? Were they hindered by bondages in their life so that they weren’t in an obedient relationship with Him on that day?

The Bible tells us that these are the things that walking in the flesh will bring into our life:

1. Strife (“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions....” I Corinthians 3:3).
2. Not understanding or receiving the things of God (“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God” for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” I Corinthians 2:14.)

3. *Spiritual death (For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.” Romans 7:5)*
4. *Much more.*

To sum it all up, check out this section of scripture in Romans 8:5-17. Here are some of the highlights. (We talked about this earlier but it bears repeating.) 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. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Therefore brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 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. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” I guess this is enough to make us all want to walk in the Spirit.

You may have many days when you come home from having a battle. You may have many times when God asks you to do way beyond what you feel like you are physically or mentally capable of doing. You’ll be called on to minister to folks around you, when you don’t have any idea of what to say. You’ll have traps of defeat and sickness that the enemy will lay to defeat you and to steal your joy, or even your eternal soul. You’ll have times when the devil will sit on your shoulder and tell you that you aren’t worthy. He will tell you that you can’t walk in the Spirit. That is only for spiritual giants, not for squirts like you. You’ll have days when the devil will try even to steal your salvation by making you feel, or think, that you aren’t saved. That’s when you can shake yourself, get your eyes off the devil, and off of yourself, and look at Jesus and God’s Word. Stay close enough to Him so that you can see Him, and so that you can hear His voice.

Let the Holy Ghost daily move in your heart and mind, not just in church on Sunday. Put a priority on moving when He says move. That is walking in the Spirit. Talk to your flesh. Let it know that it will not rule, and the junk that the devil pours into your flesh will not overcome your spirit. Say, “Flesh, I have Jesus inside of me, and

He is in control today, and everyday. Get down. I have a better way of life than the one you give me and through the Spirit of God within me, I will overcome you.” That is walking in the Spirit. I Corinthians 3:16 says, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” Let God’s Spirit rise up and be victorious in you.

When I first started out writing this book, the first time when I was trying on my own, I had an idea about giving people a guideline to go by on how to walk in the Spirit. You know- like a list of steps to follow. God rebuked me for my ignorance. He told me that it was His business to direct His people, that He would lead them. I was just to point them in His direction. He would do the rest. To walk in the Spirit, you have to have a real and right relationship with God. You have to make yourself available, and He will do the rest. Get settled in your mind that this is what you want, and head in that direction. He will meet you more than halfway. You also have to settle it that God will do this for you. That it does not matter whether or not you feel like you deserve it. This thing is not based on you in the first place, but it is based on Him. All of these are things that open up any of the promises of God.

*This walking in the Spirit is a personal thing between you and God. It can’t be between you and someone else, and God. A lot of people try to do it that way, and they miserably fail, usually winding up making it hard on the people they are trying to follow. I’ve talked to so many people that tried on their own to be what they thought was spiritual. Many times their life was based on an idea they had gotten from other people who they thought were living spiritual lives. They did their best in the flesh to live up to the spiritual expectations of people around them. They weren’t able to do so. The devil easily defeated them, before they got started. What was the problem? It was all about themselves and other people. Where was God? Where was His Spirit? You cannot perform a ritual on the outside and be something for someone on the outside, and that be real at all. This thing has to come from the heart. It has to come from a real, everyday relationship with Jesus. He has to be **number 1** for real in your heart, or it won’t work. He has to be your love, your guide, your hope, your*

peace and joy, and your focus. Then you won't be doing it for others, you'll be doing it for Him. It will be real then. You can't walk in the Spirit unless you want to do so enough to commit yourself to Jesus. If you don't know Him personally, you won't really want to walk in the Spirit in your heart. Then is when we do it for everyone else. But when you get close enough to the foot of the cross to catch a glimpse of how wonderful His love is, it will be easy to turn loose of old number 1 and grab hold of Someone who will turn your life around. That is where walking in the Spirit starts. Are you ready? Run toward His love. He'll definitely catch you.

Closing

Before I close this section I want to remind you that you aren't done with the book yet. Continue on to the section that is titled How To Do What You Need To Do When You Can't Do It. It will empower you. I want to close this section of the book with a song. It is titled *The Plain Path*:

Chorus

Don't stack it up or pack it up high
Take the load off and reach for the sky
God will give you a life full and free
Seek to be all that you can be in Him
Be in His will walk in his way
In the plain path

Verse 1

There is a world outside of Him
That doesn't know end from end
They want to do things their own way
No matter what price they have to pay (spoiled brats they are)
See what a mess all that makes
Look at the drama and all the heartaches
It's so very plain to see
They need to do it God's Way
In the plain path

Verse 2

They work so hard to make it seem
That God's Word is wrong it's just a dream

They don't realize that when they fight
They only prove God's way is right
His Word written thousands of years ago
Told that in the end time it would be so

Seek for the road that's been proven to last
Seek for the one leading to heaven not hell
See for the right road and get up and tell
It's the plain path
The road that leads to forever
In the God who will keep you forever
In the plain path

God will lead and guide you in that plain path. His Spirit will keep you on the right road. Yield to Him. He will keep you forever.

Part 2

How To Do What We Need to Do When We Can't Do It

Or

***What To Do
When You Can't Do
What God Is Asking You To Do***

Chapter 1

Introduction

I don't know about you, but there have been very few times when God asked me to do something that I could easily do. At least that is how it seemed in my eyes. It started with Salvation. If you knew what God delivered me from in my past before I accepted salvation, you would understand why I felt that way. From then on, just about every time that He gave me something to do it was definitely a challenge. I am glad, because now I know what He can do. I definitely know what I can do. I know the mistakes I made, and the times that I wished I could just crawl in a hole. I also know the times when the enemy came against us trying to stop everything that we were doing. I also know the times when I learned that the enemy had nothing to stop us with. I also learned that neither did my mistakes.

God once told me, He can use a mistake better than He can use nothing. He can do nothing with nothing. But He can correct our mistakes and turn them out for good if our heart is sincere in the effort. If we will just try, He can use us. You see, through all this I learned that it didn't matter what I thought I could do, or it didn't matter what the devil did to fight, it didn't matter whether in the natural I even knew how to do what was before me to do, I could do it through Him. I learned what it means to be able to move out of the flesh into the Spirit, and to move from the natural to the supernatural. That is what we are going to talk about in this second part of this book. How do you do what the Lord calls you to do when you can't do it? Keep reading.

Chapter 2

Sanctification-The First Step

Sanctification is something that isn't being taught in churches any more. We aren't even being taught in most churches that it is wrong to continue freely in sin. When I looked up the definition of sanctification, it means to set apart as holy-to make free from sin-to make productive of spiritual blessings. It is something that God can do in you. This is the first step in being able to do something for the Lord.

Before I go on I want to clear up something. Is this section of this book just for pastors, missionaries, teachers, and all that? Or is it also for everyone of us because God has called us all to obey Him, and to be a light to all those around us? I think you already know the answer to that. I just wanted to remind you of this.

The first time we see the word sanctification used in the Bible, or at least that I could find, was in Leviticus 20:26, "And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD *am* holy, and have severed you from *other* people, that ye should be mine." In II Corinthians 6:16 and 17 God puts it this way, "For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you." God tells us to come apart from the rest of the world. Now I don't mean that we need to get a self-righteous attitude that we are better than sinners. I know better than to take that attitude because I know that without God I am a sinner that is no better than anyone else. I know what God did in my life, so I can't judge others. But I have found a better way. I have found something to occupy my time other than what other people focus on. Also, there are a lot of things I won't do, and places I won't go, and people I don't hang around with and I won't act like they do. I won't even think like they think. I am

not in the same place where they are in their life. I have come apart from that because God set me free from it. He lives in me and I don't go places where I can't take Him. I don't do things that I can't do and have Him do them with me. He lives in me giving me what I need to be able to say NO. That is a powerful little word that will change many Christians' lives, especially young Christians. I have come apart from those who are not in Go.

When you are first saved, it is a little harder to come apart or separate yourselves. Mainly because you have an old crowd. They were maybe your friends, and people you were close to. You don't want to lose their friendship. If you aren't careful the devil will use them to pull you back into your old life that the Lord delivered you out of. You can't hang with them, and be separate.

I was like that when the Lord first saved me. He gave me a dream that I will never forget. In my dream I was swimming with my old friends at a dock. We were all drowning. God pulled me out onto the dock and saved me. They were still drowning. I tried to pull them out. Because I was still wet, I slipped and they pulled me in. Instead of my saving them, we all drowned. Because I was pulled in there was no hope for them. Especially since they weren't reaching for God's help at all.

There is a lot of truth in that. You may be able to help them, but not until you have "dried off" and you are totally free from the bondages of your past. If you try to pull them out too soon, you will all be lost. Also, if they aren't reaching out to God, then do you really think that you can help them, when God can't? Maybe as they see you grow in God, and they watch Him work in your life, they will want what you have. But they will need to see it at a distance. You can't be in that world and have that happen. Let God sanctify you, clean you up, and let Him deliver you and set you free from those things that bind you. Then you will be able to do for the Lord what you can't do.

He will use you to reach out to them, and to many others, if you do it His way, and don't jump in too soon. Just as in everything that you do for God, let Him lead you.

There is another reason why we need to be sanctified. II Timothy 2:20-21 tells us about this, "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use and prepared unto every good work."

Sanctification is the number one first step to being able to do those things that God asks us to do that we can't do. God sets us aside for His work. We set ourselves aside to do those things that He leads us to do. Now if you are thinking that you don't have to worry about any of this because you aren't a pastor, or a preacher, or anything like that, then guess again. God calls everyone of us to set ourselves aside to obey Him and to follow Him. We are called to be a witness. We are called to be a servant. We are called to feed His sheep. No matter that we don't have the tag of preacher in front of our name. We are all called to yield to Him and to obey Him. One of the problems with the church world today is that most people sit on the pew and wait for the pastor and lay leaders, and teachers to do everything. Do you know that it isn't the shepherd who begets sheep, it is the sheep who have young sheep. Sheep, go get sheep. The sheep are supposed to be the ones who bring in sheep. The most successful churches are those where the entire congregation is involved somehow in its work.

Can you clean yourself up? Can you sanctify yourself? We can't even really understand what sanctification even means. How can we do it? It is something that God does in us. It is not a one time thing but it is a way of life. It is an every day thing. Joshua 3:5 tells us why we need to do this. "And Joshua said unto the people,

Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” If you want God to use you and to do wonders through you, then you need to be sanctified.

There are several things that God uses to sanctify us. John 17:17 tells us about one way, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” The Word of God can sanctify us. We have read scriptures before this about how God’s Word shows us our sin. God’s Word demonstrates to us what we need to do, and what we don’t need to do. That isn’t all it does. God’s Word is anointed. What this means is that God’s Spirit is on His Word. God’s anointing, His Spirit rests on His Word. When something speaks God’s Word, or testifies about it, if it is the true Word of God, then God will anoint it to make a difference in the lives of all who hear. That is why God’s Word can sanctify. Especially when it is combined with God’s Spirit, with His anointing.

Hebrews 13:12 tells about another way we are sanctified, “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.” We are sanctified through the blood of Jesus that He shed for our forgiveness. I Peter 1:2 tells us, “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.” We are sanctified by God’s Spirit and by the blood of Jesus to be able to obey God. That is the beginning of how we can do what God tells us to do when we can’t do it. We allow Him to set us aside for His work.

There’s more. If you remember how I told you in the first part that I was blessed to be given a job that is impossible to do, because I have learned that it doesn’t matter what you can do, and what you can’t do. God will enable you to do those things that He calls you to do. We just have to be careful not to look at our flesh, at our mistakes, at our failures. Instead of that we have to trust God to use us. When He leads us to do things, He will enable us to do them. Remember what I said about the time God told me to help start a Christian school. I told God that I can’t. He answered, “I created the

heavens and the earth. How dare you tell Me that you can't do what I have called you to do." It is God that will do the work through you. One of the most important tools that you need to be able to do this is being able to hear God's voice.

Chapter 3

Listen and Obey

We can hear the voice of God. God does speak to His people. If you don't believe that is so, then read the Bible and notice how many times God spoke and told the people what to write. I researched this one time. I looked up how many times the words "the Word of the Lord came to them, or "they heard God's voice". I only counted times that these phrases were used in connection with people who wrote part of the scripture. I counted to 100, and then stopped. There were more. We can hear the voice of God.

This is something that isn't just for the Holy people who wrote the scripture. For one thing, they were the same as you and I, just plain people who were sanctified and set aside for that work. Paul wrote most of the New Testament. He didn't set aside himself as holy. Instead he said, when I am weak I am strongest. He didn't brag on himself, but on the one who used him and enabled him. Remember the scripture that we had earlier in the book in Galatians 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." He knew how to do things for the Lord that he couldn't do. We know He listened to God. How many times have the things that he wrote influenced your life and they were written nearly 2,000 years ago.

The key to being able to do things you can't do is that you are able to listen to God. You need to be able to hear His voice and obey Him. I am amazed at the number of people who say that they have never heard God's voice speak to them. I know that when I was a disobedient child of God, He didn't speak to me. Only when I submitted and yielded to Him was I able to hear Him. Another way to say this is when I wasn't

listening and obeying, why should He talk to me? I wasn't going to hear it. I had my spiritual fingers in my ears. I was too caught up in hearing what I wanted to hear.

One thing that we need to do to be able to hear His voice and obey is that we need to yield. I can remember that I was so bull headed when I was growing up. It was very hard for me to yield. God's love broke that out of me. God's Word, His Spirit, His anointing delivered me from that. If you have problems yielding and submitting, then ask God to do the same for you. He can do that.

When I was a young Christian, it was hard for me to hear the Lord's voice. We have our own thoughts in our mind. We also have the voices of others. We have the devil who likes to whisper junk in our head as well. He wants to get us misdirected. The Lord showed me something that helped me. I was upstairs in my house I grew up in. Someone came in downstairs. I didn't recognize that voice, because it wasn't familiar to me. After I learned the voice, it was still hard to recognize sometimes until I heard it so often that it was easy to recognize. When you are learning to recognize God's voice, sometimes it is hard. But just keep listening. It will get easier the more you listen, and the more you hear Him.

I can say without a doubt that if I hadn't learned to hear the voice of God and yield to his guidance that I would be dead. I can remember one such time. I was getting ready to go to church. I had washed my car, and I had laid my floor mats on the grass in my yard to dry. I was getting ready to get in my car and the Lord spoke to me and told me to get my floor mats in. I thought this away. I thought, why would God tell me to get my floor mats in. I thought it away. That is sometimes what happens if we aren't careful. Our flesh, our own fleshly mind, will think away what God tells us. We will think, why would God tell us this. Or we think we must have misunderstood what He said. Or we think that God can't be talking to us. He doesn't talk to us. Whatever may happen, we have to be careful not to let our own mind interfere. Then when we

narrow it down to knowing that it is God, we need to obey. If we aren't in the habit of doing what we are told, if we are rebellious, if we are a little lazy and don't want to do anything, if we are doubtful of our own abilities, then all those things will cause us to not obey what we hear.

Well, back to the story of my floor mats. I got in my car and started to shut the door, but this feeling wouldn't leave me alone that I needed to get those floor mats in. It was very insistent, and I knew that God meant business, and that I seriously needed to stop and get my floor mats in. This is one time that floor mats saved my life. True story.

I got out of the car and was standing there with my floor mats in my hands. There was a loud crash that was so loud it shook the ground. I lived on a little street that didn't even have a line in the middle. There was a curve right above my house where the street narrowed down so that only one vehicle at a time could go around the curve. The vehicle coming the other way had to wait until the one was through the curve, then the other could go. A vehicle had come flying down the hill and had missed that curve. It had crashed into a tree in my neighbors yard with such force that the motor was sitting on the person in the vehicle. If I hadn't stopped it would have hit me head on. I was glad that I obeyed God.

We can't even see what we need to do to stay alive unless we are listening and obeying God. We definitely can't see what we need to do in serving God if we don't listen and obey. One of the times that I remember obedience changing my life was when I first met Bishop Goad. I was a little unconventional when I first came to the Lord. There was a little group of us that would go to church in our jeans. This was before that was cool. We went to a tent crusade. The preacher ran us out of the tent because of how we were dressed. That preacher definitely didn't hear God's voice.

It was just a few days later that we noticed another tent set on that same lot. It looked exactly like the one the other preacher had but we knew it wasn't because it was set in a different way on the lot. We went. That was Bishop Goad's tent. He remembers to this day how I was dressed when I showed up. I had on a railroaders cap, jeans, and I was barefooted. He wasn't in the flesh that night, but he was in the Spirit. He saw past the outside of me, to what was inside of me. He got me to come up on the platform to sing. To make a long story short, I have been a part of his ministry for nearly 40 years. Later he told me that the Lord had directed him in how to set his tent. He started to set it the same way that the other man had set his. But the Lord directed him to set it differently. If he hadn't obeyed God, I might never have set foot under his tent. It probably seemed a small thing at the time, but I am so glad that he obeyed God. That simple thing changed my life.

There are so many times that the Lord has directed me to give a word to someone, and that person's life was changed. There have been times when God would tell me to do something simple that changed the direction of my life or others. There have been times when I knew that if I didn't listen and speak what He told me to speak that someone would die. There have been several times when some of my students would bring in a friend who was going to commit suicide. I knew when I talked with them that I needed to say just the right thing or they would die. Problem was, I had never met them. But it didn't matter. God knew them. I said what He told me to say and everything worked out alright. It is so important to listen and obey God.

There have been times when it seemed like the devil was going to destroy the ministry through finances, or other things. The only way that we were able to keep going was by Bishop Goad listening to the Lord, and doing what He told him to do. There have been many times in my own personal life that we would have been destroyed financially if God hadn't led me in what steps to take to avoid disaster. There have been times when the enemy set against us by bringing situations against us to ruin our

name and reputation, and your testimony is important. It is something that the enemy wants to destroy. Be careful that you don't do things to destroy that. The way that we avoided disaster was to hear the voice of the Lord and obey Him.

One thing that we need to avoid is this. Sometimes if the enemy can't get you to stop, he will try to push you overboard. He will push you to run ahead of God. This is as disastrous as not obeying. Just be aware. Make sure that you are hearing the voice of the Lord, and doing as he leads and that you don't run ahead of God. That can end out wrong as well.

If you notice in most of those paragraphs, I told that we heard God's voice and we obeyed Him, and that is how the situations were fixed. It does us no good to hear God's voice, but ignore Him and do nothing. That isn't how it works. We have to hear, and obey Him. We have to be careful to obey. John 10:3 says, "To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out." Jesus said this. His sheep hear His voice. He will lead us out. He will lead us to serve Him, but He will also lead us to keep us and shield us from harm. There are so many people who are engulfed in fear and anxiety, and all that stuff. There is no need to fear. I wrote a song, *Don't Be Afraid Just Obey*. That will preach. Don't be afraid. Just obey Him and let Him lead you. He will lead you by waters still in pastures green. He will lead you into safety and away from harm. He will keep you. Listen and obey. Remember that these two go hand in hand.

The Lord gave me a song that tells why we don't have to be afraid. If we listen to God and obey Him, then we don't have to be afraid, no matter what the enemy tries to bring. Here are the words to the song. Take it to heart. It will help you fight fear. You don't have to be afraid no matter what the enemy is bringing against you, or no matter what you are encountering.

The name of the song is *Don't Be Afraid Just Obey*.

Verse 1

When you face the enemy face to face
Don't be afraid just obey
When it feels like evil's all over the place
Don't be afraid just obey
When you're faced with a choice but all you can see
Is way to lose, not find victory
When you think you've come to the end
Don't be afraid just obey

Chorus

Don't be afraid just obey the Lord
Take him at His Word
Make that choice
Don't be afraid just hear His voice
Make that choice
Don't be afraid just obey

Verse 2

When the way seems hard you cannot see
Don't be afraid just obey
God knows the way to victory
Don't be afraid just obey
When the enemy is pressing in
When life seems closing to an end
When God speaks know that you will win
Don't be afraid just obey

Chapter 4

Recognizing the Enemy and Knowing How To Overcome him

One of the first things that a good soldier has to learn is how to identify the enemy. That is really important in battles when the enemy is taught to fit in and look like you. One example is the terrorists. They come in to our country and learn how to fit in. They no longer look like the enemy, but they look like a friend. They can destroy us until we recognize that they are an enemy, and then we can fight against them.

We have an enemy that is a master at disguising himself. He attacks on all fronts, even sometimes using family and friends. His goal? His number one goal is to separate you from God to be able to destroy your soul. His number two goal is to stop you from being able to be a soldier for Him. He has all kinds of tactics that he uses to meet these goals. He has an army at his disposal, and sad to say many of them are people who don't realize what they are doing. He even uses your family and friends. He even tries to use you against you. He has been doing his dirt for thousands of years. This enemy is the devil.

Before you get freaked out, let me explain something. You also have an ally. God is on your side. And He has been fighting against the devil for as long as the devil has been fighting people, actually He has been fighting him longer than that. God is on your side. God is on your side. God is on your side. Tell me-whose side is God on? Whose side is God on? Whose side is God on? Why? Because you are His child. That is the reason for this battle that is against you. The devil hates God and anyone who loves Him.

Just in case you get a thought in your mind that you would like to avoid having an enemy like that so you aren't going to commit to God to avoid that. Well, I hate to say it, but if you don't choose committing to God, then the devil will own you outright. And if you think he is hard on his enemies, you should see what he does to his friends, and on top of it, you will have God's judgment. So it is best to stay on the winning side. Why would you want to do anything else anyway?

This chapter will talk about some of the tactics the devil uses, and how to overcome them. Number one- we have to realize what the winning side looks like. That way when the devil tries something you will recognize it as something, you don't have to put up with. God promises many things in the Bible. These things are yours. One is to have an abundant life. In John 10:10 Jesus tells us, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." I have an enemy that is really against everything that I do. He tries to stop me in every way that he can. But I can whole-heartedly tell you that my worst day with God on my side is a thousand times better than what my best day without Him was.

Another thing that God promises is that we will be blessed. There are all kinds of blessings. A lot of preachers concentrate on financial blessings. They do that, sad to say, to get people to give to them. But there are way more blessings that just finances. When I think of this, I think of Elvis Presley. He overdosed and died. He was not a happy person. He had all the things that we look at as being successful and wealthy. Did it help him? I am after the things that will last forever. Some of the those things are love, joy, peace, hope, and more. I am after the things that give me mental and emotional soundness especially in this world where it seems so popular to get attention by not having these (isn't that strange). You can find all these things in God. The enemy will try to take them all away, but He has to get through God to do that. And you are God's child. Psalms 108:13 says, "Through God we shall do valiantly: for he *it is that* shall tread down our enemies."

In any battle, it is important for the troops to stay close to the commander and the troops. I could say without a doubt that the worst moment a soldier can go through is getting lost or separated from their commanding officer and from the troops. That is one of the tactics that the enemy will do. He will try to separate you from God and from His people. How does he do this. One tactic that the devil uses to separate us from God is condemnation. We have talked about that earlier. One of the things I mentioned is that when I feel condemned, I run to God not away from him. That works. God knows us. He doesn't expect perfection from us. He expects us to have a perfect heart meaning that we are whole-heartedly seeking to follow Him with a heart that is given over to Him. When we fail Him, or we are caught up in sin, or we are drawn aside by our own life, then is when we need to run to Him.

He can help us to get it all straightened up and lift us up over it all. He can change us so that we can overcome it and avoid it the next time. If we run away from Him, none of that will happen. Besides that, when the enemy is condemning us, it may be that all we need to do is breathe a prayer and hear God say, "That isn't me. You are in me."

Another way the enemy fights us is by keeping us from committing things to the Lord. Jesus is Lord of all. He is the Lord of our life. If there is an area of our life where Jesus isn't Lord, then that is the area that the devil will pick at. Another way to say it, if there is something that you haven't given to God, then that will be like a hook in you jaw that the devil can just reel you in with. For example, maybe it is addiction. One of the worst addictions that anyone can have is cigarettes. I have watched the devil use cigarettes to totally control people and defeat them to the place that they can't do anything for God. For one thing, it ruins their testimony. How can you witness to someone telling them how God can change their life when you have a cigarette hanging out of your mouth. Anything that you have in your life like that can only separate you from God. It is an area that the devil can condemn you over. It is an area that he can stick a hook in and reel you in. If you have anything in your life that

he can use that way, he will be sure to. Get rid of those things. Get rid of those things. Get rid of those things. If you think that it can't take you to hell, guess again. Why take a chance?

How do you know that it is something that the devil can use to eventually steal your soul? Simple. If it is, then it is something that God is convicting you concerning. That brings in another point. If God is convicting you and you continually shut up His voice, that is a dangerous position to be in. Listen. You may be saying, "But I have tried to stop this thing, and I can't do it." My first question is, "How bad do you really want to quit? Do you really want to give it up???" If you don't really let go of it, how can God take it. God is able to deliver you. Go back and read the part about deliverance. God doesn't want us to be bound up in a mess. If we are, then we will never find that abundant life that He wants to give us. Don't play games with God. Be honest with yourself and with Him. That is the only way to get free.

One of the things that I do when the enemy is trying to condemn me is to go back through the process of knowing that I have repented of that, that I have been forgiven, and then I commit that to God all over again. Then I remember one of my favorite verses in II Timothy 1:12, "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." If you really, really, really let go of it and commit it to God, He is able to keep it until that day when you see Him face to face. God can keep you, if you will just let it go and let Him.

Another thing that the enemy uses is discouragement. He will turn our own bodies against us sometimes to do that. He will use a lot of stuff to come against us. Then he will whisper in our ears and say, "It isn't working for you." Yes it is. When that happens, I go to God's Word. I bury my head in it for a while, and when I do I come out tromping on the devil's head instead of letting him tromp on mine. God's Word will

help you to identify the devil, stand against his tactics, and then turn around and fight him. We will talk more about that coming up.

When the devil tries to discourage us, it is good to remember this scripture in I Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” Also, remember that if you are spreading God’s Word remember that it won’t return forth void. Remember that it will accomplish things in the lives of the people who hear it. You have God’s Word for that. Isaiah 55:11 promises that, “ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.”

Another thing that the enemy uses, especially in today’s world, is to cause us to fill our lives up with junk to the point that we have no time to pray, no time to read the Bible, no time to go to church. We have talked about that earlier. To put it simply he starves us to death so that we have no strength to stand against him. If that is happening to you, then go to God and get His help to be able to straighten it out. First you have to want to be set free from that rat race that you are in. If you don’t, it can destroy not only your soul but the lives of those around you who love you.

Another thing that the enemy uses is your flesh. If we don’t ever get out of the flesh to walk in the spirit then we won’t see what the devil is doing. We can’t look at the things, the situations, the people around us in face value. The devil may have someone there in your life that really looks good, but they are just a trap to destroy you. If you aren’t seeing things in the spirit, you can be destroyed. If you have a decision to make that will influence your life, be sure to see it in the Spirit instead of your flesh. If you aren’t in touch with God daily that is very hard to do.

I remember someone who had been a Christian for years. She had cancer. She knew that if she took the treatments that they were trying to get her to take that it could take her life. She also knew that if she didn't, she could die. She was in great distress knowing that if she made the wrong decision that she could die. She knew that she had to talk to God about it. Problem was that even though she had been a Christian for years she did not know how to let God lead her to the right decision. Before you face something like that, make sure that you can hear the voice of God. Make sure that you are led by the Spirit of God. Make sure that your decisions are based in the Word of God that you take in daily. Walk in the Spirit not your flesh. Go back and read that chapter.

These are some of the traps the enemy uses to destroy us. I am going to put here a chapter from my book *Your Authority as a Child of God*. It will help you to fight against the enemy.

Chapter 5

In the Name of Jesus

This chapter is from my book *Your Authority as a Child of God*.

Jesus is Lord of all. He also has absolute rule over the powers of hell. Satan is in submission to Him. He is allowed a certain degree of power to test and try the saints, but He will at the time of the Lord's choosing be bound up and cast into the bottomless pit. He controls not only the seen but also the unseen. We know that we are in spiritual warfare. We have the power to overcome. Where do we find that power? In the name of Jesus. What does that mean? We have to know our place in God. We have to come into favor with the Lord of all, so that we can go out to fight this battle that we fight daily with His power, with His authority, with His riches in glory, in His name, in the name of Jesus. When we say, "In the name of Jesus, satan get out of my way, you are bound", we are telling satan he is bound from being able to work in a given situation. We are using the authority that God has given us, and he has to submit to that authority.

There are conditions to having this work in your life. You have to accept God's Word and believe it when it tells us we have that authority. James 4:7 tells us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." For the authority of God to work in your life you have to submit to Him. We have no power or name of our own. The seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19 spoke against satan in their name. The devils answered, Jesus we know, but we don't know your name. They proceeded to wreak havoc against them. You don't have any authority, but when you submit yourself to God and go in the name of Jesus, you will have the victory. This battle we fight is His fight. Go in His name with all the power and authority He has. You will not only be able to march in battle in victory, but you will overcome.

We have to learn that we can't fight this fight on our own, and indeed the battle isn't even ours. As the Spirit of the Lord told Judah in II Chronicles 20:15, "...Be not afraid or dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." When you study out the Old Testament to see whose name the battles were fought in you can determine from that information whether or not each battle would be won or lost. For example, think of Jehosaphat who went "in the name of the Lord". How about Gideon whose army cried out the "sword of the Lord and of Gideon". When they fought in the name of the Lord, in faith and in the authority of God, they won. Over and over and over again.

We have to make sure that we are not fighting this thing in the flesh. We have to make sure that we are not fighting in our own strength, but in the strength of God. We have to make sure that we are in the Spirit and not in the flesh to be able to fight a spiritual battle. We need to take the authority that is given to us by God's Word. We need to take authority, not because we are who we are, but because He is Who He is and we are His children. We need to understand what authority we have in the name of Jesus and go in His name. We will overcome satan. In the name of Jesus, we can't lose.

In spiritual warfare, we often fight the unseen. If we don't identify that the enemy is coming against us when he starts, then things often boil up to be a greater problem. God will reveal things to us and through the Holy Ghost we can discern what is going on. But it does God absolutely no good at all if we turn around and fail to do anything about it. I know many, many people who when God reveals something to them, they refuse to bind the devil. Then they act surprised when something terrible happens because of their disobedience and their walking in the flesh. If you don't listen to God and heed His instructions for your life, then you will throw yourself right into the path of the enemy, and not only will you but also your family and those dear to you may pay the consequence. We have to literally take our loved ones sometimes right out of the

hands of the enemy himself. But if we stand true and obedient to God, we will recover them all.

Hebrews 5:14 tells us, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." When we are able to discern spirits at work, then we can bind them. There have been times around the ministry when hindering spirits have been at work. I remember one particular time when the ministry needed a financial miracle. Everything started to break. Every piece of equipment that could malfunction, malfunctioned. Then the vehicles of the people in our church congregation started breaking down. The devil meant to stop us by bringing hindering spirits against mechanical things to rob us of the money that the ministry needed. It did this by hindering the ministry finances as well as by hindering the congregation's finances of those who would step up and obey God by giving. We discerned that this was what was happening. As a body we came together to bind these spirits. We in unity took authority over them. Our financial need was met in spite of those hindrances. If we had not discerned that the devil was at work, and if we had not taken authority, then who knows what might have happened.

When hindering spirits are at work, we need to build our faith and keep our trust in the Lord that we will overcome. Not only will we overcome, but also we need to stand and declare that God will work all these things out for our good. Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Like David, we need to go out and recover all. We need to declare God's promise that we will be blessed back with all that the enemy has stolen. Even blessed back to a hundred fold. I Samuel 30:17 tells us, "And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day.... Verse 18-19 tells us, "And David recovered all....And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great...nor anything that they had taken to them; David

recovered all.” We need to be strengthened. We need to encourage ourselves in the Lord. We need to go out and recover all. Amen, amen and amen. Then where will those hindering spirits be? Under our heel where they belong.

There have been times when I have prayed and bound the enemy and that was all it took. Instant prayer and instant answers. I broke through immediately to God’s victory. There have been times when I had to bind together and pray in unity with my brothers and sisters in the Lord to be able to bind the enemy. There have been times when the entire church as a body of believers came together in a service to bind satan and he was bound. But there have been times when this binding and interceding had to go on for a season. I have interceded sometimes for months and even years before a bondage was broken. But when it was broken it was gloriously broken. For example, sometimes you have to intercede for someone to be saved for years before satan is bound and that person can come to the Lord. Sometimes persistent and continual intercession is the way to deliverance. If we aren’t careful, we will give up if we don’t see God move right away. During these times of intercession, the devil will come and tell us that we are not strong enough or holy enough in the Lord to break this bondage. We need to remind him who we are in God and keep right on binding.

The Bible teaches that there are some times when a bondage of the devil won’t be broken without prayer and fasting. Jesus said in Matthew 17:21, “Howbeit this kind (of spirit) goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” In this instance Jesus told his disciples that they needed to fast to bind this devil. Fasting is mentioned often in the Bible: Ezra 8:21, Esther 4:16, Joel 1:14, Matthew 6:16. There are several types of fasting mentioned in the scriptures. One is like the fast that Jesus did in the desert when He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing for 40 days. Another type of fast is referred to as being Daniel’s fast. In Daniel 1:11-12 Daniel ate grains and fruits and vegetables and nothing else for a time period. Another type of fast is one in which you fast a certain shorter length of time, maybe for three days. Another fast that I have been on

was one in which I fasted a certain food or drink, or something else that my body craved, for a certain length of time. There have been times when I gave up a certain food or drink for good and didn't eat or drink that thing ever again. When you fast be sure to do so as God leads. Fasting is important for a couple of reasons. It keeps our flesh under subjection. It says to your flesh that it will not rule. You put your flesh's desires down and let the Spirit of God control your life. It also binds the enemy in a powerful way when we fast and pray against that bondage.

There is another type of fast, and I believe that it is the most important. We need to lead a fasted life. That means that we don't let the flesh control our emotions, our thoughts, or our actions. This means that every day we keep our body under subjection lest it rule us. I Corinthians 9:26-27 tells us, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." We can do this by controlling ourselves as well as our appetites. When I see people who are ruled by their appetites, I see people who are often ruled by their emotions and their natural thinking as well. The flesh will destroy you if you allow it to. If you play games with it, it surely will. We can overcome this by taking authority over our flesh, spending time fasting, praying, and reading God's Word. Daily we need to take authority over our flesh. When we do this, we can then take authority over satan.

We have been given authority over satan. We have rights as children of God. We are winners, victorious in the name of Jesus. Stand up and be counted. It is time that you rise in the authority that God has given you and shake your world. It is time that the devil runs when he sees you coming. Not only will your life be changed, but so will the lives of those you love. Take the authority that God has for you. Go forth in His name. You will be guaranteed to win.

*This is only a brief discussion of taking our authority over the enemy. For more information see my book *Your Authority as a Child of God*. It is available on www.amazon.com or online at www.freechristianonlinebooks.com.*

We don't have to let the enemy stop us. When we take authority over him, that is one big way that we can do those things that we can't do in the natural.

Chapter 6

You Are Loved Greatly Because of That You Can Love With a Great Love

One of the number one things that will enable us to do what we do for the Lord is our love for the Savior who loves us and gave Himself for us. I can say that the main driving forces in my life through the years have been God's love, my love for Him, and the love that He has given me for His children. God's love will keep you and enable you to work for Him beyond what you can do or even care to do in the natural. I am including here a chapter of my book *Your Are Beloved and Longed For*.

*Ephesians 3:16-20 tells us, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; 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; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.**" I have bolded part of this passage for emphasis because it is the part I want to concentrate on.*

Picture this for a moment. There is a very wealthy man who has a son and an adopted son. The adopted son left home at an early age and separated himself away from his father. The man dies. He leaves his unimaginable riches to his son. His son gives all of it to the adopted son. The adopted son receives notice of the passing of his father and is notified that the son has passed the inheritance to him. He can't believe that this has happened. He can only think of all the time that he failed his father and his adopted brother. He can only think of the time that he was separated from them both.

He is sure that the notice of his inheritance couldn't be real. He never claimed it and lived as a beggar the remainder of his life.

We have an inheritance, children of God. Our older brother inherited a multitude of promises and blessings. We are His adopted brothers. Our elder brother died to be able to give us His inheritance. (Romans 8:17: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ..."), (Titus 3:7: "That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs, according to the hope of eternal life."), (Galatians 4:7: "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.") When He died He named us sole heirs, beloved sons of the Father. The Bible is full of the promises we inherit as children of God, but just like the adopted son in the story we refuse to read and believe the will (God's Word) and accept what Jesus died to give us. We never comprehend what the love of Christ is for us, or what riches He has laid in store for us. We never know the power that can work in our lives. We never allow the fullness of God to be formed in us.

Romans 11:28 tells us that we are beloved for the Father's sake. God doesn't call us and choose to show His love on us for our sake. He doesn't call us because we are perfect, talented, smart, religious, but He calls us beloved for His sake, because He chooses to love us. He wants to love us. He seeks the world over searching for those that He can pour His Spirit on. He searches for those hungry for His love and seeking His face. II Chronicles 16:9 tells us, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him..." He wants to love you. He wants to show Himself strong in your behalf. You are beloved.

You belong. You are a part of the greatest thing anyone on earth can belong to, the love of God and His family. When we know we are a part, it can change our whole nature. We all need to belong. How often have you felt that you didn't belong anywhere, that you were a misfit? How often have you thought you didn't want to belong, because you were afraid to? Or you just weren't good enough? Well beloved, you belong to something and someone you can trust. Romans 9:25 tells us, "...I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved." We were once not a people. We once didn't belong to anybody. Now, praise God, we not only belong, but we are beloved.

We live in a world that is full of hurt. Satan specializes in burying scars in our hearts and minds that keep us from being able to love and receive love. Just like Lazarus who was still wrapped in His grave clothes when he came out of the tomb, we are made alive, born new in Christ. But the bondage of a life of sin, the world, and the pain it caused still holds us wrapped up away from the freedom we can find in the love of God. Just like He spoke to Lazarus, Jesus is saying to us, "Come forth". "Come forth out of sin, its bondage that separates you from the love of God. Come forth out of the scars from yesterday. Come forth out of fear and failing to trust that I will be there for you. Come forth out of doubting that I love you. Come forth out of the grave clothes of yesterday. Come forth out of the bondage of feeling that you aren't good enough for my love. Come forth out of the bondage of fearing that I don't accept you as you are. Come forth out of the bondage of thinking that I can't use you for my work. Come forth. Come forth."

The truth of God's Word tells us that He has made us accepted in the beloved. Ephesians 1:6 says, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved." We have not made our own selves to be accepted. He has and will make us accepted by the work that He has done and will do in us. It is done by His grace. We need to submit to His grace and love, be filled by His Spirit, obey His

Word and let Him be formed in us. We need to be drowned in His Spirit, baptized in it and filled to overflowing.

It is hard for us to submit to His will and His Word so that He can work in our lives. It is hard for us to submit to His Spirit that wants to work in us. But when we come to the realization of the greatness of God's love toward us, that very knowledge will break our self wills so that God can work His perfect will in and through us. The truth of the Word of God says that you have been made accepted in the beloved. The truth of the Word of God says that you are beloved for the Father's sake. The truth of the Word of God says when you have confessed your sin, repented and turned away from it, when you are determined to follow God's Word because you love him with all your heart, then you are beloved of God. Accept God's truth about who you are. Let this truth sink into your mind and spirit and transform how you think of yourself. Let it sink into your heart and transform how you love others around you. Until you love yourself you will never be able to really love those around you. Let this truth set you free. God's Word has the power to set you free. John 8:32 says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." You are beloved. Know it in your heart. It will change your whole life.

Jesus has, and will, make us accepted in Himself. How did He do that and how will He continue? First, He died to give us forgiveness of our sins. He then sent His Word and His Holy Ghost to perfect us and sanctify us daily, to make us pure and whole in Him. Ephesians 1:9-10 tells us, "Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He hath purposed in Himself: that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in Him." He will gather us to Himself. He will perfect His work in us. We must want Him to, with a whole heart and submit ourselves to His working in us. As Christians we get into a rut of trying to be perfect, trying to walk the Christian walk by ourselves because we think that is expected. We can't do it by ourselves. The only way that we can walk in a way that

pleases God is to submit every part of our minds, our wills, our heart, everything we have been, are, and will be, whether it's good or bad, and let Him have His will in our lives.

What is His will? That He might gather all things in Christ. That He might gather you to Himself and fill you with all His fullness. That is what He has purposed for you.

If you can get hold of God's wonderful love for you, and hold of a relationship with Him it will change your life. It will be the driving force to help you to do what you need to do, even when you can't. Also, the love of God will always lead you to finding a deeper love for those around you. When you love others more, then you will be encouraged to serve God. The love of God is a driving force to help you to reach out to others. When you love others with His love, you will be given a reason to obey God. Also, God's love for others will enable you to be able to do so.

I want to close this chapter with one of my favorite scripture passages found in Ephesians 3:17-22 tells us, "So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

Chapter 7

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the Anointing of God

The main gift that God gives us that can enable us to be able to do what we can't do for the Lord is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and that goes hand in hand with the anointing of God. We have talked about both, but here we will do a whole chapter about these amazing gifts God has for us to enable us to do the supernatural. They also enable us to be able to live a life that is free.

We first read about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost in Acts chapter 2. If you will get out your Bible and read this section of scripture it will really help you.

We are going to read about a truly amazing happening. It is known as the day of Pentecost. This day happened after Jesus was crucified on the cross, and after He came back to life and lived on earth for 40 days before He went back to heaven. The day of Pentecost happened after all that. If you will get out your Bible, you can read about this in Acts chapter 2. This chapter is a very powerful account of something that happened. All of the Bible happened for real. Jesus' followers were gathered together.

On the day of Pentecost, suddenly they heard a sound from heaven like a mighty, rushing wind. That sound filled all the house where they were. Then the Bible tells that something miraculous happened. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost. We read about it in Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." That means that the Holy Ghost filled them and began to speak through them. He was in them, and He spoke words that came out their mouth. And wow something happened that was

different. There were a bunch of people there who were from all kinds of different countries. Many of these people spoke whatever language that they spoke in their own country. Everybody in that huge crowd heard what was said, and understood it like it was in their own language.

Peter was there on the day of Pentecost, and he was filled or baptized with the Holy Ghost. When the Bible talks about being filled with the Holy Ghost, and being baptized with the Holy Ghost it means the same thing. How do I know that Peter received the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Because he preached a really powerful sermon that day. Also, later on he talked about receiving this gift. Read about this. Read his sermon. You can find it in Acts 2:14-36. How do I know his sermon was really powerful. Because verse 37 says that his sermon pricked at people's hearts. To put it our way, we would say that his sermon really got to them.

They asked Peter "what shall we do". When the Holy Ghost is filling preachers, or anyone who witnesses for the Lord, then something will happen. It will affect those people being witnessed to. They will begin to want something different. They will be drawn to serve the Lord. They will be drawn to want to be saved if they haven't been. If they have been saved, then they will be drawn closer to God, or they will be strengthened. Or they will receive peace. Their minds and hearts will be made new. When the Holy Ghost is on the scene, people and circumstances will be changed.

What was changed that day? Verse 38 to 41 tells us what happened next. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received

his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

What a revival!!!!!! Peter told them to be sorry for all their sins, and to be baptized, and he told them that they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. They did, God did His part, the Holy Ghost did His part, and 3,000 people were saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Then Peter said something that is the best news you have ever heard. Acts 2:39 says, “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Why is this good news for you? Peter said that this same thing that happened there that day is there for many generations down through time until now. It was for as many as God would call all the way through time, including you. If you have been saved, then God has called you. His Spirit has drawn you. So this promise of the filling of the Holy Ghost and the power that it brought to them there on that day is also available to you. I would say that is good news for us all no doubt about it.

When I grew up, I went to a church that taught us that when we are saved the Spirit of God comes into our life, and that is all there was to it. They did not teach about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. There are many churches that see it this way. But when I was first saved, I knew that there was something more than what I had. I met some people who had this experience called the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I knew that the way I was taught wasn't how it was.

Sometimes you have to unlearn things you thought to be true especially when you find out what God's Word has to say about it. God can show you if what you have learned isn't right. He can lead you in the right direction. Most of all, you can find it out when you read and study the Bible. You see, when you read and study the book of Acts, these people who were there that day were already saved before they received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Many of them were Jesus' disciples. We know that they

were saved. If it was just talking about what happened when you get saved, then what does speaking in other tongues have to do with that. We don't speak in other tongues automatically when we get saved. When you read and study this out, it is plain to see from these scriptures that we are going to talk about are talking about something more than getting God's Spirit when we are saved. I know that when we are saved the Spirit of God comes in us, but we can be filled up to the brim, we can be filled with the Spirit, we can be baptized with Him which means completely immersed in Him.

I didn't really understand any of this until I went to a Pentecostal church. Pentecostal churches are those that believe in the Baptism of the Spirit also called the filling of the Spirit. I am not talking about the denominations that have the word Pentecostal in them. Sad to say, many of those don't let the Holy Ghost do His work. There are other churches that may not have the name Pentecostal, but they believe this way as well. If you will look back at those verses I quoted, you will see that they talk about this very thing.

When I received the Baptism of the Spirit, or the filling of the Spirit, I began to speak in other tongues and I have ever since. It also can't mean that this thing happened then when the church was just starting out, but it isn't for us. If that were so, then why did Peter preach that this was also for the generations to come. We just have to understand that this is a gift that God gave the church, the church then and the church now. It is a gift that you too can have. We will talk more about all this coming up. This is just an introduction.

This gift is a key to being able to do what you need to do and a key to being able to be all you need to be. I can't write all about this here in this book. For more about it, please read my book *The Story of Acts and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost*. My books are available to download free on my website freechristianonlinebooks.com. You can also order both hard copy books, and e-books on amazon.com. The Baptism of the

Holy Ghost is a gift that God has for you, for all of His children. It will empower you to be and do in a way that is miraculous. When the early church received it, it led to revivals where thousands were saved. We need all the gifts of God. It is just like receiving other gifts in the natural. We have to want them. Then we have to receive them. It is that simple. Seek God for this empowering gift. There are other gifts God has for us. These all empower us to obey God, and do things that we can't do on our own. We'll talk about those coming up.

Chapter 8

The Gifts of God

One of the keys to being able to do the things that God has set before you to do is to know about and possess a gift of God, or several of them. These are gifts that the Lord gives to His people. Now these aren't just gifts that pastors have, but gifts that God gives to all his sheep so that they can beget sheep. Remember, we talked about how it isn't the pastor's job to do all that is done in the church. It is all of our duties as the body of Christ.

We are all members of the same body, and as such we all have duties, and it takes all of the parts to make up a healthy and whole body. I have been in some sick bodies of Christ. Bodies where only just a few people carried the load. They were too worn out to function and the others were too spoiled to do anything. They just were along for the ride, not to contribute to the body as a whole. That will not work. We are all to covet spiritual gifts to be able to reach out. These gifts are to operate in the church and they are also there to be able to reach beyond the church.

It is very important to reach out beyond the 4 walls of the church. For one thing, most of the church will have family and friends that don't know the Lord. God tells us to go out. The church isn't just for the people inside its walls, but it is also for those outside who don't know the Lord. Luke 14:23 says, "And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled." How can we be the light of the world the city on a hill shining out in the darkness if all we are concerned about are the people inside our walls? God gives us gifts to reach out as well as to take care of those inside our walls.

In I Corinthians 12 we read about the spiritual gifts that God gives His body to enable them to do what they can't do in the natural. I have written this whole chapter here. It is both a picture of spiritual gifts and a glimpse of what a church is supposed to be. "Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where *were* the body? But now *are they* many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the

hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness. For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. *Are* all apostles? *Are* all prophets? *Are* all teachers? *Are* all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

This scripture talks about these gifts and how important it is that we have them working in our lives. How do we receive these gifts. Paul gives a clue when he says, “I will shew you a more excellent way.” If you are seeking those gifts so that you can be important, so that you can get attention from God or from others, or because you want to be center of things, then you will never get the gifts. If you are seeking these gifts to lift yourself up, you will never get them. What is the motive that God honors? Plainly and simply, it is love. Not just our simple human love that is not very deep at best, but God’s love.

We read about all this in I Corinthians 13, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have

not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.”

Our love for God, His love for us, His love for others, and our love for others is the key to being able to open up and receive spiritual gifts from God. If we are seeking these for any other reason than love pure and simple, we won't ever receive them. We have to be careful though, because there are such things as counterfeit gifts. I know people who have a charisma to draw others. They use that same charisma to cause people to give them money.

It isn't hard to see who the author of those counterfeit gifts is. They have sold their soul to the devil for the sake of what the Bible calls “filthy lucre”. I Peter 5:2-4 says, “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

Throughout the scripture we see the love of the good Shepherd for His flock. We need to be very careful of how we treat God's sheep. He loves them very, very much. We need to pray to seek to have His love for them. Then we will definitely be able to do what we can't do alone. God will anoint our labor for Him. There is another thing that will enable us to both be the way we should be, and do the things we need to do for Him. Coming up we will talk about the promise to come.

Chapter 9

Eternity

I am reminded of a story about a missionary who had spent years overseas risking his life to obey the Lord. He caught a ship home. When they were pulling into the dock, he heard the sounds of a great celebration honoring someone. He was excited and thought that maybe they were recognizing him and welcoming him home. He was crushed when he learned that they were recognizing someone who had done some worldly thing that the people considered important, though it really wasn't. He spent some time feeling down because of what had happened. Until the Lord spoke to him. He simple told him 4 words that took all the pain away, "You Aren't Home Yet".

We have a momentous occasion and a life ahead of us that words can't describe. When I get weary of well doing, (2 Thessalonians 3:13 says, "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing) then I remember that I am not home yet. I have something to look forward to. Matthew 14:43 gives a glimpse of that, "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." We may not get a lot of recognition here on earth, but we will one day. We need to remember that if we are doing what we do for recognition, then the motive of our heart isn't right. But when we get weary, or we get drawn aside, or we get tempted, or we waver in our convictions, we need to remember that there is an eternity ahead of us, and we are striving to spend it with God.

I can remember a man who died and went to heaven, but they were able to bring him back to life. His wife kept pestering him to tell her about the things that he saw there. After days of this, finally in frustration he told her, "I can't tell about it. I have tried to but there are no words that I have that can describe it." There aren't many passages

of scriptures that describe heaven or that describe hell. I think that is because they both can't be described with human words.

Here are some things that Bible tells us about heaven.

Revelations 21:4 tell us, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

In 2 Chronicles 18:18 we read, "Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and *on* his left."

1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Revelation 21:1- 8 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will

be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelations 22:1-5 says, "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. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

We definitely have something to look forward to, a reason to do what we do for the Lord. Paul put it this way in 2 Corinthians 4:1-18, "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord

Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.”

One day we will be welcomed home to hear the words said in Matthew 25:23, “His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

This is the words to a song that sums this all up. It is titled:

I'll Sit Down and Rest a While When I Get Home:

Chorus

Sometimes I want to sit down and rest a little while Lord and lay down this burden,

But I've got a little ways left to travel.

So I'll just sit down and rest a little while Lord when I see your throne.

I'll sit down and rest a while when we get home.

Verse 1

Some times I'd like to lay it down for just a moment of time,
But this burden just won't leave my heart alone.
His face I see before me, no greater love I've known.
I'll sit down and rest a while when I get home.

Verse 2

So many hands are reaching out, so many minds filled with fear
And there are so few who even take the time to say a prayer
But there's an old rugged cross I can't get off my mind
And a voice that still echos down through time.

Chorus

Sometimes I want to sit down and rest a little while Lord and lay down this burden,
But I've got a little ways left to travel.
So I'll just sit down and rest a little while Lord when I see your throne.
I'll sit down and rest a while when we get home.

Chapter 10

Closing

The scripture that sums all this up in this second part is I Corinthians 6:9-11, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God”. That pretty much sums up this section.

I love that words “such were some of you”. My favorite part is were, we were. We aren't now because of the change that God has made in our lives. We have been made into vessels used for His purpose, honorable vessels for His glory. We have been justified in the name of Jesus and in the Spirit of our God. We have been washed up just as if we had never sinned. I have written a book *Such Were Some of You*. It is a blessing. My books are available on amazon.com and on my website at www.freechristianonlinebooks.com.

Here is a key reason to keep ourselves separate from the world, and why we need to let God do His work in us. It is also a reason to jump out of compromise, and to let God push us out of a state of nothingness where we have settled for a lot less than what God has for us. It is found in Revelations 20 11-15, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it,

and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." I want to do every thing I can to avoid spending an eternity in hell. I have seen too much of the goodness of God not to want to spend eternity in the best that He has for us.

In closing I leave you with 1 Thessalonians 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."

Addition

This may seem strange to put a closing then add this statement, but here goes. This is not the end of this book, just the end of this section. I am adding another book here which is a part of this one. The Word of God both enables us to be what we need to be and to do what we need to do. It is our power house, one of the sources of our power. When we wrap our mind around the promises of the Word of God, we are able to stand, able to be who we need to be in God and we are able to do what we need to do for Him. Often people fall because they don't know the promises that are in God's Word that are there for them. When the devil comes along and tries to trap them or lead them astray, they aren't able to stop him because they don't know what things God has given them. Young Christians who haven't learned God's Word are especially vulnerable to this.

Because the promises in God's Word will help you to become who you need to be in God, and help you to do what you need to do for Him, I have included at the end of this book one of my books titled, *Promises From God's Word*. It is simply a book filled with scriptures that are promises for every need we have.

Promises from God's Word

*Scriptures to Guide
and Encourage You*

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Page 6 of Promises**How to Unlock God's Promises**

When you read God's promises in His Word, it is important to remember that most of God's promises are unlocked by obedience. I was talking with someone who told me that she had prayed, and prayed for God to help her, but He had not answered her. Because of that, she did not believe that He was real. She was not saved. She was not walking in obedience to God, letting His Spirit lead her. Her life style was a mess, and most of the problems she had was because of that. She was saying that she did not believe God was real because He did not help her. My point is this. Many times we do not receive the promises of God because we are not obedient to God. If we have not been saved, and we are not His child, or if we are His child, but we are not obedient, we tie God's hands from being able to work in our behalf.

Many of His promises state things that we must do to unlock them to work in our lives. Here are two such promises. Psalm 119:165 promises that great peace will come to those which love God's laws. On the other hand, if we do not love God's laws (we can infer from this that if we don't obey them then we don't love them), then we will not have peace. Another promises with a condition of obedience is Isaiah 26:3 which promises us that God will keep us in His peace when our mind is stayed on Him. In other words, if we fail to keep our mind stayed on Him, and we concentrate instead on all the negative things around us, and on our worries, then we won't have peace.

I am not saying that you have to be perfect for God's promises to work in your life. I am saying that we need to be obedient, yield to Him, love Him with all our heart, and walk with Him. When we do, we will be in the right place at the right time to receive from Him.

It is my prayer that you find the blessings of God's wonderful promises for you...
Sandy Haga

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**When we are in need of abundance, for our physical or for our spiritual needs.,
God promises abundance, more than enough for both:**

In John 10:10 Jesus promises that He comes to give us an abundant life full of good things.

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.

In 2 Corinthians 9:8, we are promised that God will give us grace to be able to be sufficient in all things needed to do good works for Him.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work

Ephesians 3:20 promises us that God is able to do way more than what we ask or even think according to His power that works in us.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Philippians 4:19 promises that He will supply all our needs according to His riches not just on earth, but His riches in glory. These are given to us through Jesus.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

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When you need answers:

Psalms 91:15 promises that when we call on God, He will answer:

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Isaiah 58:9 promises us that if we will take the yokes off us (take off the things that bind us keeping us away from God), then he will answer when we cry:

Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity.

Isaiah 65:24 promises that before we call He will answer:

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Luke: 11:9-10 promises that when we seek the Lord and His Spirit we will find them:

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

John 15:7 promises us that when our life is in God, if He is the center of our life and His Word abides in us, He will answer us and what we ask will be done.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

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When we need spiritual armor to guard us against the enemy, the devil:

Romans 13:12 promises that when the devil is making things dark, we can have armor of light that protects us:

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Ephesians 6:11-17 promises us that we have the whole armor of God:

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, where with ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

When you need comfort:

Isaiah 66:13 promises that God will comfort you:

As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you...

Luke 7:13 promises that Jesus has compassion (tender care) for those who are in need of comfort:

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

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John 14:1 promises God will not leave us without comfort:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me

2 Corinthians 1:3 promises that God is a God of comfort who will comfort us so that we can comfort others:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

When you are feeling confused:

1 Corinthians 14:33 tells us that God is not the author of confusion. We know by this that Satan is trying to defeat us, and we can bind the enemy when we feel His confusion:

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us that if we trust in the Lord with all our heart, and let Him direct our paths, we won't be confused:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Isaiah 30:21 tells us to obey God and we won't be confused:

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

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Philippians 4:6-9 tells us a way to avoid the confusion that comes from being so stressed out that you are in a state of confusion:

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

When you are feeling condemned:

Romans 8:1 promises us that if we walk after the Spirit and we are in Jesus, then we will not have condemnation:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

II Corinthians 5:17 promises that old things are passed away:

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

John 3:17-18 promises us that God sent His son to forgive, not to condemn us:

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that

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believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Isaiah 55:7 promises that if we forsake our wickedness, and our unrighteousness, God will abundantly pardon us:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

When you are convicted, when God is letting you know that you have done wrong:

Psalm 40:12-13 says how David felt when he was convicted, and what he asked of God:

For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me. Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me.

Psalms 51:1-3 and 7-14 tells what we should do when we are convicted:

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine

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iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

When we need confidence:

Philippians 4:13 promises us that through Christ we can do everything:

I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.

Hebrews 10:35 tells us not to throw away our confidence:

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

1 John 5:14 promises we can have confidence in our prayers:

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.

2 Corinthians 7:16 promises we can have confidence through Christ:

I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

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When we need counseling:

Psalm 16:7 promises that God will counsel us:

I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

Psalm 73:24 promises that God's counsel will lead us to heaven:

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Isaiah 28:29 promises that God is an excellent counselor:

This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

When we need courage:

Deuteronomy 31:6 promises us that God will go with us and give us courage:

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Ezra 10:4 tells us to be of good courage and do whatever it is that God tells us to do:

Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.

Psalm 27:14 promises courage:

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

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Psalm 31:24 promises courage, hope, and strength:

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

When you feel like darkness is all around you:

Matthew 6:23 tells us that darkness can come around us because we are letting so many things into our life that we crowd out God:

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

John 3:19 tells us that sometimes darkness is around us because we choose to have sin, and the world's darkness instead of God's light:

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Psalm 82:5 tells us that sometimes darkness is around us because we are ignorant of God's light and how to walk in it:

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Matthew 5:14 promises that not only can we

have light but we can also be a light to the world:

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

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John 12:35 tells us that we can have light when we walk with Jesus:

Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Ephesians 5:14 promises that Christ will give you light:

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

When we face death:

Psalms 23:4 promises us we don't have to be afraid:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 116:15 promises us that the details of our death are precious to the Lord:

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Proverbs 14:32 promises us hope in our death:

The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Romans 14:8 promises us that we need to remember that we are the Lord's:

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Philippians 1:20-21 says that death is gain:

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According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Hebrews 11:13-16 promises us that we will receive God's promises when we die:

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

When you need deliverance, need to be set free from things that would destroy you:

Psalms 91:3 promises deliverance from things that try to destroy you:

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

2 Timothy 4:18 promises deliverance when people try to do evil things against you:

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 46:4 promises He will deliver:

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And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Hebrews 2:15 *And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

2 Corinthians 1:10

Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.

When you are depressed:

Psalm 30:5 promises that we don't have to continue in mourning but God promises joy: For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Isaiah 61:3 promises that God will give us joy for mourning:

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 promises comfort so that we comfort others:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

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Philippians 4:7-8 promises that we can have joy if we concentrate on certain things:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Psalms 147:3 promises healing for our hearts:

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Luke 18:1 promises that prayer helps us not to lose heart:

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Nehemiah 8:10 promises the joy of the Lord will be our strength:

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Isaiah 51:11 promises that sorrow will flee away:

Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

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When you feel discouraged:

Isaiah 41:13 promises that God will encourage us:

For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Matthew 14:27 tells us to be of good cheer:

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Acts 27:22

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer....

When you are dissatisfied:

Philippians 4:12-13 promises us that we can be satisfied no matter what state we are in:

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Jeremiah 31:14 promises we can be satisfied:

And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.

Psalms 107:9 promises us that God will fill our hungry souls when we are hungry for goodness:

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

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When we are doubting God:

2 Peter 3:9 promises that God is not slack concerning His promises for us:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Romans 10:17 promises that hearing God's Word will grow our faith:

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Peter 4:12-13 promises that even our fiery trials will turn out for joy:

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Jude 20 tells us to pray in the Holy Ghost (pray in tongues when we have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost), to strengthen our faith:

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

When we are feeling empty:

John 15:11 promises we can be full of joy:

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

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Ephesians 4:18 promises we can be full of the Spirit:

... but be filled with the Spirit;

Colossian 1:9 promises we can be full of wisdom, and understanding:

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

John 1:16 promises we can receive His fulness:

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Ephesians 1:22-23 promises we as His body can be full of all the fullness in Him:

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 4:13 promises we can have the fulness of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

When we need encouragement:

Isaiah 41:13 promises God's help:

For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Matthew 14:27 promises with Jesus we can be encouraged:

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But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Isaiah 43:1-3 promises encourage us:

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour...

When you need endurance:

Job 17:9 promises endurance to the righteous:

The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

John 15:9 promises we can continue in His love:

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

Galatians 6:9 promises that if we continue on, we will reap:

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Hebrews 12:1-2 promises Jesus will be our author and finisher of our faith:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher

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of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I Peter 1:13 promises hope for the end:

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Revelations 3:11 promises a crown for those which hold fast:

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

When we have enemies:

Psalms 18:48 promises us God will lift us up above our enemies:

He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

Isaiah 62:8 promises our enemies will not take our blessings:

The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured: But they that have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the LORD; and they that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness.

Luke 1:71 promises that we will be saved from our enemies:

That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.

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When you are fearful, or afraid:

2 Timothy 1:7 promises that we can have power, love, and a sound mind instead of fear:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Romans 8:15 promises us that we can have the love of our heavenly Father that will keep us away from fear:

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.

1 John 4:18 promises us that God's love will keep away fear:

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Psalms 91:10-11 promises us His angels will keep us:

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Proverbs 3:25-26 promises us the Lord can be our confidence:

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Psalms 56:11 promises that when we put our trust in God we don't have to be afraid of men:

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

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Psalm 23:4-5 promises us that when we face death or our enemies, we don't have to be afraid:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

When we are in financial trouble:

3 John 2 promises God wishes us to prosper:

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Psalm 37:25 promises God won't forsake us:

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalm 34:10 promises that if we seek the Lord we won't want for any good thing:

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Deuteronomy 28:2 promises that if we listen and obey God's voice, we will be blessed:

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Luke 6:38 promises that when we give, we will receive abundantly more than what we give:

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Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Malachi 3:10 promises that if we pay tithes, God will bless what we give:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Joshua 1:8 promises that the way to be

successful and prosperous is to keep God's Word:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

When we need forgiveness:

Psalms 103:3 promises forgiveness:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

Acts 5:31 promises repentance and forgiveness:

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 1:7 promises forgiveness according to riches of God's grace:

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In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to

forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When we need to forgive:

Matthew 6:14

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mark 11:25

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When you need friends, what to look for when you choose them and why they are important to have:

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

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Proverbs 18:24

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:10

Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

When we are grieving, when someone has died:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 promises our loved ones who die in Christ will rise again:

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Matthew 5:4 promises comfort when we mourn:

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Isaiah 61:1-3 promises joy for mourning:

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to

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proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 promises that death has lost its sting:
O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

When we need to grow spiritually:

2 Peter 3:18 promises we can grow in knowledge:
But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.

1 Peter 2:2 promises we can grow in God's Word:
As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

1 Timothy 4:15 promises that if we meditate on God's Word, we will progress:
Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Ephesians 3:14-19 promises ways that we can grow:
For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the

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riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 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; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

Colossians 1:9-11 promises more ways that we can grow:

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 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.

When we need guidance:

Psalm 5:8 promises He will make His way straight before us:

Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

Psalm 25:9 promises He will guide us in His way:

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Psalm 73:24 promises He will guide us to glory:

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Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Isaiah 30:21 promises He will speak and guide us:

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Isaiah 42:16 promises He will guide us and not forsake us:

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Luke 1:79 promises He will guide us into the ways of peace:

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

John 16:13 promises He will guide us into truth:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

When we need healing:

Isaiah 53:5 promises healing:

But He (Jesus) 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.

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Proverbs 4:22 promises God's Word brings healing:

For They (God's Words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Jeremiah 30:17 promises that He will restore our health:

For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord....

Jeremiah 17:14 promises God is a healer:

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Exodus 15:26 promises God is a healer:

...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandment, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Psalms 41:4 promises He will heal our soul:

I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

When we feel hopeless:

Romans 15:4 promises us the Word of God can bring us hope:

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Proverbs 14:32 promises that we can even have hope in our death:

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The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Psalms 31:24 promises when we hope in the Lord He will strengthen us:

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Psalms 33:18 promises we can have hope in His mercy:

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.

When we need instruction (teaching):

John 16:13 promises He will guide us into truth:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Psalms 71:17 promises God will teach young people who will also pass it on:

O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

2 Chronicles 36:16 tells dangers that can come when we mock (disrespect) instruction:

But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

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Proverbs 1:7 tells us that fools despise instruction, they don't listen and do what is taught:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

When we need joy:

John 15:11 promises us that Jesus wants our joy to be full:

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Nehemiah 8:10 promises the joy of the Lord will be our strength:

... for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Psalms 16:11 promises that in God's presence there is joy:

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 30:5 promises weeping will be for a night, but joy will come:

... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Psalms 126:5-6 promises that when we sow in tears, we will reap in joy:

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

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Isaiah 12:3 promises that salvation will bring us joy:

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 35:10 promises us everlasting joy:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

When you feel deserted, when loved ones desert you:

Psalms 27:10 promises He will be with you when others forsake you:

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

Isaiah 62:4 promises you won't stay forsaken if you stay in Him:

Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken....

Isaiah 41:17 promises He won't forsake us even though others do:

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Isaiah 49:15-16 promises God will not forsake you, you can know this because the nail prints in His hands are for you:

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

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Samuel 12:22 promises not to forsake you:

For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

When we have marriage problems:

Ephesians 4:31-32 says to put away anger, be kind and forgiving:

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 Peter 3:1-7 gives good advice to follow:

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 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. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

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When we need a miracle:

Ephesians 3:20 promises us that God is able to do way more than what we ask or even think according to His power that works in us.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

When we need peace:

Psalms 119:165 promises that great peace will come to those who love God's laws:

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Isaiah 26:3 promises us that God will keep us in His peace when our mind is stayed on Him:

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Romans 8:6 promises that if we are spiritually minded we will have peace:

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 14:17 promises that the Holy Ghost will bring us peace:

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

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Galatians 5:22 promises us that part of the nature of the Spirit of God is peace, when He dwells in our hearts and lives in us, and we submit to Him, we will have His peace:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith;

John 14:27 promises that the world and becoming all tangled up in what the world is tangled up in cannot give us peace, but Jesus can:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

When you are persecuted for Christ:

Acts 5:41 promises that we can rejoice when we are persecuted:

And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Romans 8:16-17 promises us as children of God that when we suffer with Him, we will be glorified with Him:

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.

Hebrews 11:25 promises it is better to suffer with God than to go back to sin:

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

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1 Peter 2:20 tells us that if we go through things because of our faults, shouldn't we take persecution with even more patience:

For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

1 Peter 5:10 promises God will use our suffering to make us better in Him:

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

When we need protection:

2 Chronicles 16:9 promises that the Lord is watching over us, protecting us:

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him....

Psalms 34:7 promises that the angels will protect those that fear (respect) the Lord, and it promises that when we trust Him we will be blessed:

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Psalms 91:4-6 promises He will shield us under His wings:

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

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Zechariah 2:5 promises God will be around you:

For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

When we need a purpose:

Acts 26:16 promises we have a purpose to be a witness:

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Psalms 143:10 promises doing God's will leads us to be upright:

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Matthew 12:50 promises that when we do the will of God, we are Jesus' brothers and sisters in Him:

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Ephesians 6:6-7 says to do the will of the Lord with all our heart:

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.

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When we are tempted:

1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that God is faithful to make a way so that you can escape temptation if you will take that way that He makes:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Hebrews 2:18 promises Jesus knows about temptation, and will help you:

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

2 Peter 2:9 promises God knows how to deliver the godly from temptation:

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Revelations 3:10-12 promises that there is a great reward for those that overcome:

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

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When we need to be restored, made new in Christ:

Psalms 51:12 promises God will uphold us:

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Hosea 14:4 promises God will restore the backsliders:

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Joel 2:25 promises to restore what you have lost

Spiritually and physically:

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten...

When we need salvation:

Romans 10:9-10 tells us how to be saved:

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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

When we need sanctification, when we need to have God clean us up on the inside:

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John 17:17 promises that when we keep God's Word it can cleanse us:

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

1 Corinthians 1:30 promises sanctification (cleaning us) through Jesus:

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 promises we can be vessels of honor if we allow God to sanctify us, clean us up continually:

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

1 Peter 1:2 promises the Spirit of God will sanctify us unto obedience:

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

When we are seeking God:

Deuteronomy 4:29 promises that when we seek

God with our whole heart, we will find Him:

But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Isaiah 55:6 promises that if we seek Him, we

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will find Him when we are ready to change:

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Luke 11:10 promises that when we seek Him, we will find Him:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Acts 17:27 promises He is not far from us:

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.

When we need strength:

2 Corinthians 12:9 promises us that when we are weak, God's strength will be sufficient:

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Isaiah 40:29-1 promises that we can rise up like eagles:

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But

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they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 41:10 promises God will strengthen us:

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Ephesians 3:16 promises God's Spirit will strengthen us in our inner man:

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

When we have troubles:

Nahum 1:7 promises He will help us in our trouble:

The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 promises our trouble won't destroy us:

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

John 14:1 promises when we believe in God and Jesus, our hearts don't have to be troubled:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Psalms 138:7 promises when we walk in trouble He will save us:

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Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Romans 8:28 promises all things will work out for our good, even the really bad things that happen:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Peter 5:7 promises we can cast our cares on Him:

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

When we need to understand God's ways:

Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us His ways are not our ways:

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Jeremiah 33:3 promises that He will show us His ways:

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Psalms 18:30 promises God's ways are perfect, and we can trust Him, even though we may not understand all His ways:

As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

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When we need wisdom:

Isaiah 11:2 promises that when we need wisdom, He will supply:

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD

1 Corinthians 1:24 promises us wisdom of God:

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Proverbs 8:11 promises us that God's wisdom is precious:

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

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What does the Bible say:

About God:

James 1:17

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

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 16:15

And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Isaiah 41:17

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

Deuteronomy 32:4

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

I John 1:5

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.

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Psalm 62:6-7

He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Romans 15:13

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

About The Bible:

Psalm 119:89

My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

Matthew 5:18

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

I Peter 1:25

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Deuteronomy 8:3

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Jeremiah 15:16

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Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

II Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

II Peter 1:21

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

I John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

About Jesus:

1 John 4:9-10

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In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins

Ephesians 3:17-19

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; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

1 John 1:0

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Philippians 2:9

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Romans 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.

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John 8:32-26

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 15:4-5&9

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 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. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

About Salvation:

John 3:16-17

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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tells us how to be saved:

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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created

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in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2 Corinthians 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.

2 Timothy 1:9

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Titus 3:5-6

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Luke 6:46

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Romans 6:14-16

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But

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God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Romans 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.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Mark 12:30

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.

