



# BUILT ON THE ROCK

A SOLID FOUNDATION OF  
THE CHRISTIAN FAITH  
AND TOOLS FOR  
STRENGTHENING YOUR  
WALK WITH JESUS.

# Built on the Rock

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24*

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\*All Scripture is taken from the New International Version, unless otherwise noted

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## **What to Expect to Learn from Each Chapter Study**

### **Jesus:**

- \* An outline of the life of Jesus
- \* References for some of Jesus' other names
- \* A history of God's original plan for mankind and His redemptive plan
- \* Explanation of prophecy given regarding the coming Messiah
- \* Definition of repentance
- \* Steps to becoming a follower of Christ

### **Baptism:**

- \* Why believers should be water baptized
- \* The symbolism of water baptism
- \* How baptism communicates your inward commitment in an outward demonstration
- \* Why baptism should be a voluntary decision of personal conviction

### **The Bible:**

- \* Breakdown of the Bible: Old Testament, New Testament, Books, Chapters & Verses
- \* The difference between the Bible and other books
- \* The tools available in studying the Bible: Reading Plans, Concordances, and Commentaries

**Holy Spirit:**

- \*Definition of the Godhead and the Trinity
- \*The Functions of Holy Spirit
- \*History of Pentecost
- \*How Holy Spirit is available to believers through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- \*Characteristics of those who stay continually filled with the Holy Spirit

**Prayer:**

- \*Jesus' prayer model
- \*How to strengthen your prayer life
- \*Ways that God speaks

**My Walk:**

- \*Definitions of justification, sanctification and consecration
- \*What is the Kingdom of Heaven
- \*Your position as a carrier of the Kingdom, while living on Earth

**My Part:**

- \*That you are an important part of the Body of Christ
- \*That you are called to steward what God has entrusted you to manage
- \*To use a Spiritual Gifts Test to help identify your gifts
- \*God's perspective on finances and giving

**Spiritual Warfare:**

- \*The reality of the battle in the spiritual realm
- \*Signs of spiritual attack
- \*Steps to overcome spiritual attack

**Love:**

- \*What Jesus considers a demonstration of love
- \*The greatest commandments, according to Jesus
- \*What it looks like to love God
- \*What it looks like to love others
- \*How to do a love check
- \*How to pass love tests

# Chapter 1

## Jesus

### **It's all about Him.**

Jesus Christ is the central figure in the Christian faith. The Bible tells us that in the beginning He was with the Father and that everything was made through Him! Thousands of years after the foundation of the world, Jesus left His place in Heaven to live a sinless life on earth and to die an excruciating death, taking a punishment that we deserved because of our sin. Through this amazing act of love, He defeated death and made a way for us to approach the Father (John 1:1-14).

### **Fully God, Fully Man**

Jesus came to earth as the Son of God and lived as fully God, with all His attributes (Matthew 3:17, Titus 2:13, John 20:28, 1:18). At the same time that He was God, He also was fully man. Like every human, Jesus had a body, mind, will and emotions.

### **His Names**

Jesus has so many beautiful names! Some of them include: The Advocate (1 John 2:1), The Alpha and Omega, The Almighty (Revelation 1:8), The Bread of Life (John 6:35), The Cornerstone (Psalm 118:22), The Deliverer (Romans 11:26), The Desire of the Nations (Haggai 2:7), The Good Shepherd (John 10:11), Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22), Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14), Jehovah (Isaiah 26:4), King of Kings (1 Timothy 6:15), Lamb of God (John 1:29), Light of the World (John 8:12), Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5), Lord of Glory (1 Corinthians 2:8), Lord of our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6), Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), Messiah (Daniel 9:25), Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6), Morning Star (Revelation 22:16), Only Begotten Son (John 1:18), Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), Redeemer (Job 19:25), Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25), Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4), Rose of Sharon (Song of Songs 2:1), Savior (Luke 2:11), Son of David (Matthew 1:1), Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2), Truth (John 1:14), and Word of God (Revelation 19:13).

### **He is the one true living God and the only way to salvation.**

The Bible is clear that Jesus is the only way to salvation. All the other gods of the world are dead, but Jesus is ALIVE! (John 14:6, Jeremiah 10:10, Acts 4:12).



## **Why did Jesus have to come to earth and die?**

### **The Original Design**

God has always longed for relationship with His Creation. In the beginning, He created the Garden of Eden, a beautiful place where He put man and woman. There, they cared for the Garden and fellowshiped with God. Their responsibilities were not difficult. They enjoyed living in the garden and looking after what God had asked them to take care of. He allowed them to enjoy the fruit of all the trees except for one tree--The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they ate of it, He said that they would surely die. From the beginning of time, God designed the world to function in the context of free will. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to eat of the Forbidden Fruit and as a result, they lost their life in the garden. Mankind became subject to the curse of death and toil.

Because God is sinless, Adam and Eve could no longer walk with God the way that they had. Sin separated man from God and God established Laws that His people could follow, so that they could be in right standing with Him. The Old Testament of the Bible describes the history of life for God's people under this law. Through priests, sacrifices and rituals, there was a way for them to be cleansed from their sins, but this still did not provide the access to the relationship that God longed to have with His people (Galatians 3:19-25).

### **God's Plan**

The people of Israel, God's chosen people, tried to follow God's law, but they continually gave into sin. God began to speak to His prophets about the next phase of His plan. Before Jesus was ever born, God spoke through humans to announce the future coming Savior of the world. Scholars agree that Jesus' life fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophetic references to the Messiah!

### **Scripture Propheying the Coming Messiah:**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

*He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered*

*him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Isaiah 53:2-9*

*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9*

*In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. Daniel 2:44*

## **Jesus' Life**

### **Birth**

One day an angel visited a young, virgin Jewish girl named Mary. He announced to her that she would carry Jesus, the Messiah. An angel also visited her fiancé, Joseph, and assured him that she had been overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and that the baby she carried was the Son of God. Together, they went to Bethlehem to register during a census. While in Bethlehem, Mary went into labor, but all of the inns were full. They found a stable, where Mary gave birth to baby Jesus (Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7).

### **Baptism**

Though without sin, Jesus set an example for us by being baptized in water. After He comes out of the water, there is a beautiful picture of the unity between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. A dove descends upon Jesus, representing the Holy Spirit, and the voice of the Father from Heaven speaks, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:13-17).



## **Temptation**

The Bible says that after Jesus' baptism, He went into the wilderness, where he fasted for 40 days. At the end of His fast, the devil attempted to cause Jesus to sin. But every time, Jesus responded to the devil with the Word of God and did not give in. (Matthew 4:1-11). Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way [Jesus], just as we are--yet he did not sin." Jesus understands everything we go through in life! Not only does He understand, but the Bible also says that He is praying for us and that He always provides a way out for us when we are tempted. The next time you are tempted, remember that Jesus understands, that He is praying for you and if you look to Him, He will provide a way for you to overcome (Hebrews 7:25, 1 Corinthians 10:13).

## **Release into Ministry**

After His temptation, Jesus began His ministry. He called His disciples to follow Him and demonstrated His compassion, His power and authority to mankind. He taught the multitudes, healed the sick, drove out demons, multiplied food, and raised the dead. He performed many miracles in three short years. These are recorded in the four Gospels, which are the first four New Testament books: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. John writes, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." (John 21:25).

## **Death**

Jesus was mocked, beaten, and tormented. Most of His very own people did not recognize the Messiah. They expected Him to come as a king in splendor, but Jesus came as a humble servant. They thought He was blasphemous because He claimed to be the Son of God. John 1:11 says, "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." They could not see the truth. 1 Corinthians 2:8 says, "None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." Some people may say that Jesus was killed, but the truth is, His death was His plan to bring things back in order. His life was not taken, rather He freely gave it! He longed to walk with mankind again, the way He had originally created the world. By giving His life, He made a way for us to be restored to relationship with God and to live forever in Heaven with Him.

## **Resurrection**

By His death on the cross, Jesus defeated sin and death. Three days later, He rose again. Jesus is not dead, He is alive! His resurrection demonstrated to us that death has been defeated, that Christ is with us, and that His power is greater than any force of evil in the world. The Bible tells us that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in those who believe! (Ephesians 1:18-21).

## **Commission**

After Jesus' resurrection, He spent 40 days on the earth. Before He ascended back to Heaven, He gave instruction to His followers to make disciples of the nations, baptizing them, and teaching them everything that He had commanded. He promised that He would always be with them and that they should wait for empowerment that would come to them by the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit would remind them of all the things that Jesus taught and would clothe them with power, so they could walk like Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:4-8, John 14:26).

## **Ascension and Return**

After commissioning the disciples, Jesus ascended back to Heaven. Acts 1:11 says, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." The Bible says that no one knows the day or hour, but Jesus will someday return and will bind Satan and reign on the earth for one thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, He will defeat Satan and throw him into the Lake of Fire, along with those whose names are not written in the Book of Life. Those who were followers of Jesus will live with Him forever in Heaven (Revelation 20:1-15, Matthew 24:36).

## **How can I give my life to Jesus?**

### **Realize that you are a sinner.**

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

### **Recognize that the penalty of your sins is death.**

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

**Believe that God loved you so much that He gave His Only Son to die in your place.**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8*

**Believe in Him and Confess that He is your Lord.**

*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12.*

*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13.*

*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

**Repent.**

Think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct.

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Acts 3:19*

**Become a Disciple and Follower of Jesus.**

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? Matthew 16:24-26*

## **Activate!**

Have you repented from sin and fully given your life to Jesus? If so, how has your life changed since you turned your life over to Him?

In what areas is God challenging you to be more like Jesus?

How would you tell someone who doesn't know Jesus what He has done for you? In one page or less, write what you would share. Practice it so you could tell someone in three to five minutes. You should try to include:

- \*What your life was like before you met Jesus.
- \*How you came to know Him.
- \*What you said and did to turn your life over to Him.
- \*How your life has changed since your decision.

Who is God putting on your heart to pray for to receive salvation?

Who can you share your testimony with this week?

Read Luke 22:7-20. Take some time to have communion on your own this week. A cracker or small piece of bread and grape juice can be used to help you remember what Jesus did for you. Thank Him for His sacrifice and ask Him to show you how you can become more like Him. Invite Him to examine your heart and to show you any areas that you need to ask for forgiveness and make changes. Enjoy fellowship with your beautiful Savior!

## Chapter 2

### Baptism

#### Why should I be water baptized?

##### **Jesus commanded it!**

If you have made a decision to follow Jesus, then the next step is to be water baptized. Jesus set an example for us by being baptized Himself (Matthew 3:13-17). He instructed His disciples to make disciples, and part of that process was to baptize them!

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20*

##### **It testifies to what God has done in your life.**

The physical act of baptism will not save you. If you have not repented of your sins and turned from your old life and surrendered your life to Jesus, then baptism serves no purpose. Water baptism is an outward sign of the change that has happened inside of you. You are saying to the world, "I now belong to Jesus! I am no longer my own master, He is my Lord."

##### **It illustrates the "burial" of your old man, and "resurrection" of your new person in Christ!**

When you came into Christ, your old way of living died with Him. Just as Jesus died and was buried, when you go into the waters of baptism, it is symbolic of the old man being buried.

*For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Romans 6:6*

In the same way, just as Jesus rose from the dead in resurrection power, you have also been raised with Him in new life. When you come up from the waters, it represents the resurrection power of God, which empowers you to live a life of righteousness.

*Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:8, 10-11*

### **What if I was baptized as an infant?**

Since baptism follows repentance, water baptism needs to be an intentional decision. Sometimes parents baptize their baby or they may dedicate the child to the Lord, but when a person reaches the age where they can make their own decision, they should choose for themselves if they will follow Jesus. And if they do, water baptism should follow!

### **More Verses about baptism:**

Matthew 3:7-8, 13-17, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:37-38, Acts 8:12-13, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 9:17-19, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 16:32-34, Acts 18:8, Acts 19:1-7, Romans 6, 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, Colossians 2:11-12, 1 John 1:9, 1 John 2:1-2

### **Activate!**

If you have never been water baptized, speak to a pastor who can help get your baptism arranged. If you have any other questions about your decision or the process, be sure to ask them!



## Chapter 3

### The Bible

The Bible is divided into two major sections: **The Old Testament** and **The New Testament**. Altogether, there are 66 books, written by 40 different authors over a span of roughly 1600 years! As of September 2016, the Bible has been translated into 636 languages.

#### About the Old Testament

Almost the whole Old Testament was written in Hebrew, with the exception of a few chapters, which were written in Aramaic. By 250 A.D. there was nearly universal acceptance of the books of the Old Testament. The Old Testament contains 39 books. They are divided into the following categories:

**Law/Pentateuch:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

**History books:** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

**Wisdom/Poetry books:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

**Major Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel

**Minor Prophets:** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

#### About the New Testament

The New Testament was written in Greek. There are 27 New Testament books, divided into three categories:

**Historical Books:** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts

**Pauline Epistles (letters written by Paul):** Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon

**General Epistles:** Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation

#### Canonization

In the 4th century A.D., a council of men began to meet to examine various writings to see if they fit the requirements necessary to be accepted as part of the New Testament. Each book had to meet these standards:

\*The book was written by a prophet or apostle of God.

- \*The book told the truth about God, with no contradiction.
- \*The book demonstrated inspiration by the Holy Spirit and a divine capacity to transform lives.
- \*The book was accepted as God's Word by the people who first received it.

This process included three different councils (in 363 A.D., the Council of Laodicea, in 393 A.D., The Council of Hippo and in 397 A.D. the Council of Carthage) which ultimately all agreed on the same 27 books as authoritative, based on the criteria above.

**It's not just any book. And they aren't just words on a page!**

**It is the infallible, eternal, inspired Word of God.**

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that all Scripture is God-breathed. In other words, Holy Spirit moved upon men to record what was on His heart. God did not control their hand to write words, but He spoke to their spirits what He desired to be written.

**It is the standard and guide for life in Christ.**

Our beliefs and practices in the Christian faith should be consistent with the Word of God. It is a guide for walking in the fullness of all of God's promises. God will never ask you to do something against His Word. Everything should be judged according to what is in the Bible.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22*

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105*

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8*

*How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. Psalm 119:9*

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24*

### **There is power in its words.**

Jesus responded to the tactics of Satan with the Word of God. He knew the Truth and that it was a powerful weapon against his schemes (see Matthew 4:1-11). When you know the Word of God, you can stand upon it and have confidence in His Truth, which brings peace that passes understanding!

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

### **How do I start?**

#### **Consider a reading plan.**

Attempting to read the whole Bible can be an overwhelming thought, but it doesn't have to be! There are great reading plans, which can help you choose a reasonable pace and approach. You could choose a plan that gets you through the whole Bible in one year, or you could pick one that covers the New Testament in one year. Whatever you decide, keep in mind, **quality** and **consistency** are better than quantity. If you race through Scripture, you can really miss out on an opportunity to let Holy Spirit speak to you. Setting aside time to meditate on the Word will powerfully transform your life and you will find yourself with a lifelong friend which you will come to deeply cherish.

*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8*

If you do not wish to begin a reading plan, a good place to begin is the book of John. Also, in addition to whatever you are reading daily, reading one chapter from the book of Psalms and one chapter from the book of Proverbs each day, will really enrich your devotional time.

#### **Before you read, pray.**

The Bible is not meant to be read like just any book. Since it is *living and active* (Hebrews 4:12), it is meant to affect you as you read it. Ask God to speak to you through His word and to show you how it applies to your life.

**Look for context.** When reading a portion of Scripture, try to understand the context. Who was the passage originally directed toward? What was the previous chapter about? What were the circumstances surrounding the message? Understanding Scripture in context can really help to make sure you are properly interpreting what is being said. A commentary can be a helpful tool in studying Scripture. Some Bibles have their own commentaries at the bottom of the page. You can purchase a good commentary or you can access various commentaries online, such as [biblehub.com/commentaries](http://biblehub.com/commentaries). If you want to dig even deeper, you can use a concordance to look up the meaning of a word in its original language.

**Don't be afraid to highlight in your Bible and to take notes!**

You may enjoy returning to passages you have already read and reading over the verses that particularly spoke to you. Highlighting these verses can be really helpful in the process. Be a student of the Word! Take notes and ask questions. The more you dig in, the more you grow!

**Memorize Scripture.**

Knowing the Word of God by heart is powerful. Memorizing Scripture is an invaluable tool that will strengthen your walk. As you keep His Word tucked in your heart, you have a powerful weapon on hand at all times, which will help you to stay on the right path, to anchor into God's promises and to combat anything the enemy would try to bring your way.

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11*

**Activate!**

What would be a good time each day that you can spend reading your Bible and praying? What plan will you use? Remember to keep quality priority!

Write out a verse that has been meaningful to you. Put it somewhere that you will see it often, such as on your fridge or bathroom mirror. Memorize it!

Make a list of questions you have as you read. Find a trustworthy person who has walked faithfully with the Lord who you can run things by. Good students ask questions. Don't be afraid. This is how we grow.

## Chapter 4

# Holy Spirit

Our first class focused on Jesus, the central figure of the Christian faith. Even before Jesus came to earth, He had always existed; the Bible reveals that He was in the beginning, "with God." In Genesis 1:26 God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness." (Genesis 1:26). All throughout Scripture we see the concept of the Godhead, one God, with three distinct personalities. Two of the most common Hebrew words for God in the Old Testament are **Elohim**, which expresses God's creative nature and **Adonai**, which expresses His authority. Both of these are plural forms of the singular nouns, **Eloah** and **Adon**. As you dig into Scripture, you will find that God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit, each have distinct personalities and functions, but they all are essentially one. In Christian terms, you will often hear this referred to as the Trinity, or the three in one.

In this lesson, we are going to focus on Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, you will find that the Spirit would come upon men and women at distinct times to impart anointing, direction or empowerment by God. These were exceptional and purposeful encounters. However, once Jesus came, He made a way for all to have access to the precious Spirit of God, Holy Spirit.

One day Jesus told His disciples that He would be leaving soon. They were sad, but He told them that it would be to their advantage that He leave, for He would send Holy Spirit, the Helper. (John 16:1-15). Helper is one of the many names of Holy Spirit. Jesus knew what a gift He was sending to mankind. Read on to learn the many functions of Holy Spirit!

### Functions of Holy Spirit – (found in the New Testament)

**He leads and directs** – Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1; Luke 2:27; Romans 8:14; Acts 8:29

**Speaks (into and through)** – Matthew 10:20; Acts 1:16; Acts 2:4; Acts 13:2; Acts 28:25; Hebrews 3:7

**Casts out demons** – Matthew 12:28

**Releases power** – Luke 4:14

**Anoints** – Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38

**Comes upon, falls on** – Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 2:25; Luke 3:22; Luke 4:18; John 1:32,33; Acts 10:44; Acts 11:15

**Baptized/Filled with** – Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:15; Luke 1: 41, 67; Luke 3:16; Luke 4:1; John 1:33; Acts 4:8, 31; Acts 6:3, 5; Acts 10:47; Acts 2:4; Acts 1:4, 5; Acts 7:55; Acts 11:24; Acts 13:9, 52; 1 Corinthians 12:13  
**Gives new birth** – John 3:5, 8  
**Leads into worship** – John 4:23  
**Flows like a river from the spirit man** – John 7:38, 39  
**Ministers Truth** – John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13  
**Dwells in** – John 14:17; Romans 8:9,11; 1 Corinthians 3:16  
**Gives Comfort, health, and strength**– John 15:26; Acts 9:31  
**He proceeds from the Father** – John 15:26  
**Shows us things to come** – John 16:13  
**Gives the gift of tongues** – Acts 2:4  
**Releases prophecy, dreams, vision** – Acts 2:17,18; Acts 11:28  
**Transports** – Acts 8:39  
**Brings direction, guidance** – Mark 12:36; Mark 13:11; Acts 10:19; Acts 11:12; Acts 21:11; 1 Timothy 4:1  
**Holiness** – Romans 1:4  
**Spirit of Life, gives Life** – Romans 8:2  
**Invites us to walk with Him** – Romans 8:4, 5  
**Groans, prays, intercedes** – Romans 8:26, 27  
**Sword (the rhema)** – Ephesians 6:17  
**Produces fruit** – Galatians 5:22, 23; Eph 5:9  
**Helps us in weakness** – Romans 8:26  
**Bears witness** – Acts 5:32; Acts 15:28; Acts 20:23; Romans 8:15,16; Hebrews 10:15; 1 John 4:13; 1 John 5:6-8  
**Spirit of adoption** – Romans 8:15  
**Gives power to mortify the deeds of flesh** – Romans 8:13  
**Ministers power** – signs, wonders, preaching – Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:4  
**Ministers love** – Romans 15:30  
**Searches deep things of God** – 1 Corinthians 2:10  
**Quickens the mortal body** – Romans 8:13  
**Brings revelation** – 1 Corinthians 2:10 –12; Ephesians 1:17 - 19; Ephesians 3:5; Luke 2:25  
**Reveals to us what has been given by God** – 1 Corinthians 2:12  
**Washes, sanctifies, purifies, justifies** – Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:2, 22  
**Has gifts** – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Hebrews 2:4  
**Seals us** – 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30  
**Liberty** – 2 Corinthians 3:17  
**Changes us into the image of Christ** – 2 Corinthians 3:17  
**Promise of the blessing of Abraham** – Galatians 3:14  
**Releases a cry to the Father** – Galatians 4:6  
**Gives access unto the Father** – Ephesians 2:18  
**Builds us together for a habitation for God** – Ephesians 2:22  
**Strengthens us with might** – Ephesians 3:16



**Unity** – Ephesians 4:3, 4  
**Supplies** – Philippians 1:19  
**Fellowship** – Philippians 2:1; 2 Corinthians 13:14  
**Grace** – Hebrews 10:29  
**Glory** – 1 Peter 4:14  
**Speaks to the churches** – Revelation 2:11,17, 29; 3:6,13, 22  
**Calls for the Bridegroom** – Revelation 22:17  
**Conception of anointings and God's purposes** – Matthew 1:18,20; Luke 1:35  
**Teaches** – Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 John 2:27  
**Gives commandments** – Acts 1:2  
**Power to be a witness (martyr)** – Acts 1:8  
**Boldness** – Acts 4:31  
**Gives sight** – Acts 9:17  
**Commissions** – Acts 13:4  
**Restrains** – Acts 16:6  
**Appoints ministries/gives authority** – Acts 20:28  
**Releases love** – Romans 5:5  
**Righteousness, peace and joy** – Romans 14:17; Romans 15:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:6  
**Confession of Christ's Lordship** – 1 Corinthians 12:3  
**Brings the Gospel** – 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 6  
**Keeping power** – 2 Timothy 1:14  
**Brings renewal** – Titus 3:5  
**Moves on believers** – 2 Peter 1:21  
**Convicts the world** – John 16:8  
 (Functions by Patricia King, Glory School Manual)

When you receive Jesus into your life, your spirit man comes alive and you are made new. This begins your relationship with the Godhead. Having a relationship involves fellowship with Holy Spirit. Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit. John 20:22 says, "He breathed on them, and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' " Yet Jesus told them about a separate encounter that they would have with Holy Spirit. This was 40 days after His resurrection and right before He ascended back to heaven:

*On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5*

So 120 of His followers began meeting, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. It was also the time of the Feast of Weeks, an annual celebration in Jerusalem that Jewish men were required to attend. The Bible says that devout international Jews attended from every nation under earth! Then we read that after ten days of meeting,

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4*

As you can imagine, all these men from other nations were in awe, because they heard each other speaking praises of God in their own tongues! Many people were perplexed, and some thought they were drunk! (Acts 2:5-13). But then Peter stood up and explained what was spoken by the prophet Joel in the Old Testament:

*"In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.  
I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.  
The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.  
And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Acts 2:17-21

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and **to all who are afar off**, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39). That day alone, 3,000 people repented and were baptized. The Bible says that the people continued having favor and the LORD added daily those who were being saved. This encounter with Holy Spirit catapulted the apostles into taking the Gospel to all nations and empowered them to do the work of the Lord.

Just like the disciples received Holy Spirit, yet experienced a distinct and separate baptism, we also receive Holy Spirit at salvation, yet are invited to experience another encounter with Holy Spirit. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit will empower you to live a radical and powerful life for the Kingdom!

When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, the gift of tongues is available to you. This is a prayer language that God will give you if you ask Him. This is not a language that you will understand, but allows you to pray when you don't know what to pray. Through it, Holy Spirit will make intercession for you. (Romans 8:26).

If you have already been baptized in the Holy Spirit, remember that encountering Holy Spirit is not just a one-time event! To live the Spirit-empowered life, we need to daily depend on the continual infilling of Holy Spirit, which is what Paul instructed the early believers to do:

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*  
Ephesians 5:18

The Greek word and tense used in this passage, actually means *keep on being filled, constantly and continually!*

### **Characteristics of those who stay continually filled with the Holy Spirit:**

- \*They are dependent on Holy Spirit's person and power.
- \*They have zeal for the lost.
- \*They have an awareness that they are a habitation of God
- \*They experience a strengthened inner man, knowing that the power of God is at work in and through them and that all things are possible!

Remember, Holy Spirit is not a mystical entity or force from which you receive power. He **is GOD Himself!** By Holy Spirit, God inhabits you and clothes you with Himself (1 Corinthians 6:19, Luke 24:49). Believe that He will help you just like He did the early church and that the demonstration of the power of God in signs, miracles and salvation is available today. Ask Holy Spirit to continually fill you and to equip you so that you can fulfill your destiny!

## **Activate!**

Read through some of the passages listed in the 70 Functions of the Holy Spirit. Which aspects of Holy Spirit have you already encountered? Which ones do you want to experience?

On a scale of 1-10, how aware are you of that you are a temple of the Holy Spirit? Ask God to increase your awareness and hunger for His tangible Presence, which is Holy Spirit!

Have you prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Have you received a prayer language? What questions do you have about it? Don't be afraid to ask them!

## Chapter 5

### Prayer

Think of the one person that you are closest to. You have gotten to know that person by spending a significant amount of time with them. You have shared your deepest thoughts and feelings with each other and a bond and trust between you has grown deeper and deeper over time. Your relationship with God is similar. You have entered into a personal and intimate relationship with your Creator. He already knows you; after all, He was the one that created you! But He made you with the purpose of knowing Him. He wants to take you by the hand and show you how trustworthy and faithful He is. He wants to remove your fears and invite you into the most amazing relationship you could ever imagine, far exceeding any earthly one you have had. He wants you to confidently approach Him, knowing that there is nothing too big or too little for Him. He will work all things out for your good, because you love Him and are called to do great things for His Kingdom.

God can hear you whether your eyes are opened or closed, whether you pray silently or aloud. He hears you whether your prayers are eloquent or simple. You don't have to repeat specific words for God to hear you. Sometimes our posture can help us focus and may be a matter of preference, but God does not require religious formalities. You have access to the Father, because of Jesus. He has made a way for you to come to God and to enjoy sweet relationship with Him! **Come boldly!**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Though we don't have to pray specific words to get God's attention, Jesus taught us some important components of prayer. The Lord's Prayer is found in Matthew 6.

#### **Our Father in Heaven (v. 9)**

We approach God as our Father. He is a good father! You may not have had a good earthly father, but God is a perfect Father. He loves you and wants you to come to Him with faith like a child (Matthew 18:3).

#### **Hallowed be your name (v. 9)**

To hallow means to honor as holy. We should come before God, recognizing how great He is! He is holy and we take a posture of reverence and honor when we pray.

#### **Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven (v. 10)**

There are many things that God desires to see manifest in the earth. Because of our fallen nature and sin, we live in a very broken world. But Jesus paid the price for the world to be restored. He has given His followers authority to come into agreement with the will of God and to pray that it would be established in the earth. In all things, we should pray that the will of God would take place. In certain situations where God's will is unclear, it is always best to pray more generally, "God, I don't know what you want to happen, but I pray that you would cause all things to align with your best plans!"

### **Give us today our daily Bread (v. 11)**

God cares about your needs. Ask Him to provide for the things you need physically and emotionally. He already knows what you need (Matthew 6:8) but when you come to Him, it allows you to place your trust and faith in Him and to position yourself to receive like a child.

### **Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors (v. 12)**

Forgiveness is absolutely necessary in the Christian life. It is important to daily search our hearts and ask God to forgive anything we have done that was not pleasing to Him. (Psalm 139:23-24). He is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9). Jesus is clear that we must also forgive so that we can receive forgiveness. Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping the other person dies from it! Ask Jesus to reveal to you anyone that you need to forgive or make amends with. Forgiveness may involve speaking with the person, but sometimes that is not appropriate or even possible. Forgiveness begins as a supernatural act of faith that you do with the help of Jesus through prayer. It is a choice to release their offense and give it to God, no longer holding it against the person who has wronged you. Remember how much Jesus has forgiven you. We did not deserve His grace, but He freely gave it. The devil may try to convince you to hold on to the offense because you feel the person does not deserve forgiveness. Ask Jesus for His heart, so that you can see the person through His eyes. He will give you the strength if you will hand it over to Him!

### **Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one (v. 13)**

We live in a dark world, where the devil seeks someone He may devour (1 Peter 5:8). He is a thief who wants to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). The Bible tells us to be alert and to pray continually. Ask God to protect you from evil and to give you strength to walk in His ways. Ask Him to release His angels to help you.



## **How to Strengthen your Prayer Life**

### **Pray the Word and Decree**

We have already talked about the power of the Word of God in this course. When you take Scripture and pray it, it will strengthen your faith and release the Kingdom into the atmosphere. Because the Word is our standard and we know that it is sure and true, you can pray it confidently. When you decree His promises over your life, you cause circumstances to come into alignment with His will. Here is an example:

*I declare that I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).  
I decree that His plans and purposes will prevail in my life and that no weapon formed against me will prosper (Isaiah 54:17).*

### **Pray in the Spirit.**

Sometimes we don't know what we should pray, but Holy Spirit is available to help us. He is our helper and makes intercession for us (Romans 8:26). Praying in the Spirit (or praying in tongues) will allow the perfect will of God to be prayed.

### **Pray from the heart.**

When you just need to unload, run to God. He knows your fears and He knows your pain. He knows the tears you shed and the Bible says He collects them in a bottle! (Psalm 56:8) He's the friend that is always available. He never sleeps! (Psalm 121:4). Cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

### **Pray with Fasting.**

Sometimes God prompts us to dedicate a period of time to prayer along with fasting. Fasting is usually abstaining from food for a defined period of time. Other fasts may include entertainment or other "legitimate" pleasures, for a period of consecration to God. Fasting helps us suppress our flesh and enter more easily into the spirit. When we are more aware of what is going on in the spirit, we can engage more effectively in prayer. Fasting should not be a religious act to gain God's approval of your life. He already is pleased with you, simply because you belong to Him! If you enter into a time of fasting, your approach should be to consecrate yourself to prayer and asking God to align you with His viewpoint, and to ask for breakthrough in an area of your life or a particular situation.

### **Pray with Faith and Expectation.**

The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6) and that if you have faith you can move mountains! (Matthew 17:20). Ask Him to increase your faith to believe and see like He does. Remember that God always hears your prayers and when we pray the **will of the Lord** without giving up, we will have what we ask for. (1 John 5:14-15). The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective! (James 5:16). God does not always answer us the way that we expect, or in the timing that we would hope, but He does answer our prayers and works all things for our good (Romans 8:28).

### **An Important Part of Prayer is LISTENING!**

God longs to speak to you. Your relationship should not be one-sided. Ask Him to speak to you and to teach you how to hear His voice. Be sure to journal the things that you hear. They are so powerful to return to. Learning to know God's voice is in a way like learning a new language. Just like a baby goes through a process of understanding the language he is exposed to, you will go through a process of learning to interpret things God shows you. Holy Spirit will guide you through every step, so know that you have an excellent Teacher. Now commit yourself to being a great student that pursues growth!

### **Ways God Speaks:**

#### **Through His Word**

Sometimes God will quicken a verse in Scripture and your spirit will leap in response. You will have an understanding that He is giving you a message through it.

#### **Still Small Voice/"Knowing"/Impressions**

At times, God will gently deposit something into your spirit. This is not something that your mind comes up with, but the Spirit of God will communicate to your spirit and you will have a peace and confidence in your heart about what He has spoken.

#### **Audible and Inner audible voice**

Rarely do people hear the audible voice of God, but if He speaks this way, you won't miss it! If God speaks audibly, you will hear it with your physical ears. If you hear the inner audible voice, you will "hear" specific words as if they were spoken, but they are heard with your spiritual ears, not your physical ears.

#### **Dreams**

God uses night dreams to speak a message. Dreams are usually not to be interpreted literally. People, actions and objects in dreams are usually symbolic for something else. If you have spiritual dreams, be sure to write them down and ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you what they mean. God is trying to teach you your own personal language with Him, but it can take time to learn it! Be patient and prayerful and you will grow in understanding.

### **Visions**

Visions are like a dream, but you are awake. If you have a vision, it could be with your eyes open or closed.

### **Others**

God sometimes uses the people around us to speak to us. If God is using a person to speak something to you, your spirit will feel a witness to what they are saying. You will experience a strong sense that God is delivering that message straight to your heart.

### **Nature, objects, anything**

God can speak through anything! If you turn your attention toward Him, and ask Holy Spirit to speak to you, He will use many things to communicate a message to you. Come to Him with expectation and you will be dazzled by how near He truly is.

### **Activate!**

In what ways do you desire to grow in prayer? Do you view prayer as a one-way conversation or as a dialogue?

Have you heard God speak to you? List the ways He has spoken to you.

What is the last thing God asked you to do? Did you do it?

Start a prayer journal. If praying still is a foreign concept to you, try writing your prayers to God. (Yes, that works too - He can read!) Every day, ask Him to speak to you and write down what you feel He is speaking. Remember, He can speak in many various ways.

## Chapter 6

### My Walk

#### Devotion

In this course, you have learned about the Godhead, the Word of God and Prayer. You have been given a foundation to build a relationship from. Have you ever met someone who seems really close to God and perhaps you feel envious of their ability to pray or hear God? Remember, they didn't just get that relationship overnight! To truly know a person well is a process that takes time, dedication and consistency. Your relationship with Jesus can be the greatest, richest, most beautiful relationship you could ever have. He is waiting to reveal Himself to you. But growing in Christ is not something that happens instantaneously. The best thing you can do is set consistent daily dates with Jesus and they should include prayer, reading the Word, and listening for His voice.

#### Following and Obeying Him

*Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.* John 14:23

We have learned that Jesus offers us a free gift of salvation that cannot be earned (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:1). When you receive this free gift, you are **justified**, or made righteous before God, solely because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, by your faith in Him alone. Though we are instantaneously justified before God, when we enter a relationship with Jesus, He calls us to do some house cleaning. When we give our lives to Him, we give up our old ways of life and exchange them for a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is a process called **sanctification**, where a person sets themselves apart for God's work and to be conformed to the image of Christ. While justification is a solely a work of God, sanctification is a work of God through the Holy Spirit, in partnership with the Believer.

God is not harsh. He does not condemn us for the mistakes we make. But He loves us too much to let us stay comfortable in the things that are destructive to our soul. As you pursue Jesus, it is so important to obey His voice. We should never take grace for granted.

*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.* Romans 6:1-4

His grace is available when we fall, but we should never take advantage of it. Living for God means being intentional in consecration, or setting yourself apart for Him.

*You have been bought with a price, honor God with your bodies.*  
1 Corinthians 6:20

### **What about Temptation?**

Jesus knows your temptations and He will always provide a way out when you seek Him (1 Corinthians 10:13). The devil hates that you have become a follower of Christ because you are now a threat to his kingdom. Do not be naive to his ways. Be alert. He wants to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus has provided everything so that you might have abundant life and He will give you everything you need for a life of godliness (1 Peter 5:8, John 10:10, 2 Peter 1:3). You do not need to fear. But you need to have a game plan!

Hopefully, as you have entered new life in Jesus, you have done some examination of your life. There may be people in your life or places that you have frequented that you no longer can continue to allow to be part of your life. Ask yourself, am I influencing these people for Jesus, or is this environment bringing me down? Do I leave uplifted or discouraged? When walking with Jesus, you want to be sure that you are making decisions that are not hindering your walk with Him. You are made to go from glory to glory in Jesus! (2 Corinthians 3:18). But you need to be aware that the path you are called to is narrow (Matthew 7:14). The choices you are called to make are not the easy ones, but they are the ones that will lead you to the abundant life that Jesus provided for you. **You can do all things through Christ who gives you strength!** (Philippians 4:13).

Make a decision that you will no longer live for yourself, but that you will follow Jesus all the days of your life and not look back! (Galatians 2:19-20, Luke 9:62). One of the best ways to stay on the right path is to stay connected with people who are like-minded. Finding a life-giving church and staying in fellowship with other believers offers vital encouragement and accountability that we all need. Sometimes

you need to find a trustworthy brother or sister and just confess your sins and struggles (James 5:16). Be humble. Ask for accountability. Ask for prayer. Remember, if you sin, His grace will cover you, but quickly repent and ask God to forgive you (1 John 2:1, Isaiah 1:18-20). Stay sensitive to Holy Spirit and ask Him to search your heart frequently. Staying obedient, humble and teachable will allow you to experience the wonder of His Kingdom.

### **What is "The Kingdom?"**

A Kingdom is a place that a king has jurisdiction over. Jesus's kingdom is not a fully physical kingdom yet. But we can live and operate in His kingdom when we live out of the principles that Jesus taught. It is like living in two places at once.

The Christian life is meant to be an overlap of Heaven and Earth. You are invited to carry the Kingdom and to see Heaven manifest on earth by living two places at once!

Jesus said that the Kingdom is within you! (Luke 17:21).

Choosing to live according to the Kingdom looks opposite of the worldly way of life. Everything is upside down. Jesus taught if you want to be greatest in the kingdom, you should be the servant of all. He said that the first will be last and that the last will be first, and if you want to keep your soul, you need to lose it.

Those who are the greatest in the kingdom are not rockstars of Christianity. They are those who have learned to love and serve like Jesus. Jesus is concerned with love, compassion, servanthood and His Gospel being spread.

*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:34-40*

This is the Kingdom that you are invited to participate in. It requires complete death to self, taking up your cross and following Him (Luke 9:23). But it has the richest rewards!



*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17*

What do you get when you live in the Kingdom? You receive joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. When you live out of the Kingdom, you realize your privilege as a son and daughter of God.

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:6*

When you follow Jesus, you are seated in Heavenly places with Him! This is how you operate in two places at once. You have authority to do what Jesus did and even greater.

*Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12*

## **Activate!**

In what areas of your life do you feel Holy Spirit's nudge to make changes? Are you submitting to the process of sanctification? Are there any places that you are taking grace for granted and need to bring under Jesus' Lordship?

Is there someone trustworthy that you can be accountable to through the things you are trying to overcome? It is best to find an accountability partner that is the same gender and who will not enable you in your weaknesses, but will encourage you and pray for you, to help you stay on the narrow path.

Ask God to show you greater revelation of how you carry the Kingdom of Heaven within you. How does He want you to affect earth with your Heavenly position?

## Chapter 7

### My Part

Every person is important in the Kingdom. The Bible refers to the people of God as the Church. You may think of the church as a building, but in the Bible it means God's people. We are often also referred to as His Body.

*And he [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. Colossians 1:18*

Just like a natural body has different parts, the Body of Christ is made up of many parts. Each part of the body is needed in order that it may function properly and be complete. You represent an important part of the Body and are so valuable!

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!...If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 1 Corinthians 12:12,14-21, 26*

You may not know right away which way you are called to function in the Body, but God will show you. He has special assignments and plans for your life. Your new life in Christ will bring the greatest joy and fulfillment, as you discover how to walk with Holy Spirit and what He created you for. Destiny is not just an arrival at a destination, but the unfolding of a journey of seeking after Him with all your heart and walking with Him each day, as He leads you.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and*

*pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11-14*

## **Stewardship**

Psalm 24:1 tells us that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. As Christians, we should view everything we have as belonging to the Lord. We no longer should view ourselves as owners over the matters of our lives, but managers. As God entrusts you with gifts, abilities, and resources, always remember that anything you have is ultimately because He has given it to you, and it is your opportunity to glorify Him with these things by stewarding well. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) illustrates God's expectation of our stewardship. Whatever He has entrusted you with, He desires that you be faithful to manage it well and to yield a return on what He has given you.

What gifts has God given you that could be a blessing to Him? Are you an encourager? Do you love to serve? Are you moved with compassion for the hurting? Do you like to work with your hands? Are you a prayer warrior? A teacher? Do you long to see the lost come to Jesus?

A Spiritual Gifts Test can help you discover some of the strengths God has given you. If you do take a test, never limit yourself to how God can use you. The test should just be a tool to discover some of your potential giftings that you can ask the Lord to confirm and speak into. God can use you in ways you never imagined. If you view the world as a place where you are bringing Heaven to earth and you ask Jesus to let you see things as He does, you will find continuous opportunity to bring Him Glory through your time, talents and resources.

## **Time**

We all know the saying "time is money." In a fast-paced society, time is of high value to most. We can honor God by assessing our schedule and praying through each commitment, giving Holy Spirit the liberty to help us rearrange our priorities. Making time daily to pray and read the Bible is a great way to honor God with your time. Follow Holy Spirit's leading as He shows you ways to serve and use your gifts for His glory. He may ask you to lay some things down so that how you spend your time truly makes an eternal impact.

## **Finances and Tithing**

Giving is a powerful practice that helps us see finances through a Kingdom lens. In the Old Testament, God required His people to bring one tenth (a tithe) of their

wealth to Him. He promised that this would keep them in a cycle of blessing. Read God's promise to Israel:

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:10-12*

Giving God the first of our finances helps us keep the perspective that He is our Provider and that all blessing flows from Him. It says we trust in Him and delight in giving back what already belongs to Him. The New Testament emphasizes the concept of giving cheerfully and extravagantly. As people under the new covenant the question should not be how much am I **required** to give, but how much **can** I give?

In the story of the widow's mite, Jesus was impressed that the woman gave all that she had.

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44*

The early church also gave extravagantly. They literally shared everything they had and did not withhold. Imagine what the church would look like if we all lived so generously.

*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Acts 4:32-35*

The Apostle Paul reminds us that this lifestyle helps us keep our eyes on what is eternal. This life is temporal, but it is in our eternal life that we store up true treasure.

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:18-19*

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

Now that's an amazing promise. You certainly cannot outgive God! Maybe you are in a situation where you don't feel you are able to give much. Ask Him to show you what is bread and what is seed. You don't want to eat your seed and you don't want to sow your bread. He will give you wisdom to discern between the two. If you don't feel you can give, ask Him to give you seed, as He is the one who supplies seed to the sower and He can surely provide it for you!

### **Activate!**

What are some of the gifts and abilities God has given to you that could be used for His Kingdom? In what ways is He speaking to you about serving?

What has God given you to steward in this season?

Do you honor God with your finances? Is He speaking to you about cheerfully sowing financially into His Kingdom?

## Chapter 8

# Spiritual Warfare

Did you know that the devil hates you and doesn't want you to make progress on your spiritual journey? He employs his demons to try to discourage you and get you off course. He doesn't want you to fulfill the destiny that God has for you because he knows the authority you have been called to walk in and it is a threat to his kingdom. This may sound kind of heavy, but it is a reality you can't afford to ignore!

**There is a battle going on in the spiritual realm.**

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18*

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12*

*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8*

You don't need to live in fear or obsession about what the devil is up to, but it is important to be alert. If you are aware of the symptoms of spiritual attack, you will be able to resist the devil and overthrow his plans more quickly!

### **Signs of Spiritual Attack:**

#### **Decreased Appetite for spiritual things**

There are times in our walk when we are hungry for the things of God and we have an excitement to pray and worship. It is the longing of your heart to spend time with Jesus in His presence. When under spiritual attack, you may feel spiritually apathetic and less excitement for spiritual things that typically bring you joy. Your prayer life may become weak and you may find it more difficult to spend time communicating with God.

#### **Attack on Emotion**

This is negative attack on your soul. It may lead to feelings of being overwhelmed, hopeless, depressed or confused.

### **Physical Fatigue**

Your spirit, soul and body are in a delicate balance with one another. If one gets bombarded by the enemy, the others can be affected. For example, if your mind and emotions (soul) are being attacked by the enemy's lies, this could lead to the wearing down of your physical strength.

### **Decreased Resources**

When this happens, the enemy tries to get your focus off of God and onto money. Instead of placing your trust in God, he tries to get you worrying about provision and making decisions based on what is logical, rather than how Holy Spirit may be leading.

### **Temptation to revert to old habits**

When you feel spiritually weak, it is easier to let your guard down or compromise. You may be tempted to return to old mindsets or behaviors while under spiritual attack.

### **Desire to Withdraw**

When the enemy brings an attack, you may feel less desire to be around your godly friends or church community. The devil knows that there is strength in walking in community, so he will try to pull you away from sources of encouragement and truth.

### **Help! I am under attack!**

If these symptoms sound familiar, take heart. God has designed a way for you to overcome.

### **How to Overcome:**

#### **Know that you have what it takes to win.**

You must believe that if you do not give up, you will be victorious with Christ's help. Do not take a passive mindset. Be proactive in seeking God through the trial.

Truth: Jesus had the ultimate victory when He died on the cross and rose again. (*The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work*, 1 John 3:8.) All of the power we need to defeat the enemy is in Jesus and if you walk with Him, you will win every time.

*His divine power has given us **everything** we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3.*

*But thanks be to God, who **always** leads us in triumph in Christ. 2 Corinthians 2:14 NAS*

*I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome **all** the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Luke 10:19*

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

### **Ask for prayer.**

This is not the time to try to be a superhero. It doesn't necessarily mean that you have to inform your whole Facebook community about your issues, but ask a few faithful friends to pray with you through the trial. Try to give them specific prayer targets, i.e., *Please pray for God's provision to come through and that my emotions will be submitted to God's truth.* Give them periodic updates and make sure you share when God has brought you through, thanking them for walking with you!

### **Increase your prayer time.**

It may feel like a struggle, but press through for connection. Pray in the Spirit. Know that God is waiting to help you when you come to Him.

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16*

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:7-8*

### **Fast.**

Going on a fast can help you suppress the flesh and get your spirit properly aligned. Warfare so strongly affects our mind and emotions, that fasting can help us get breakthrough for right perspective on the areas under attack. While fasting, be sure to set aside adequate time for prayer and spending time with God, because it is where the breakthrough happens.

### **Praise and Worship.**

When you genuinely exalt God, it causes the enemy to scatter. He hates it! When we focus our attention on God, it takes our minds off of what the enemy is doing.

**Whatever you focus on, you empower!** When you exalt God and declare His goodness, it allows the atmosphere to be filled with His presence and Glory, instead of the despair and heaviness that you have been struggling through.



### **Stand on the Word of God.**

Pray it and decree it. Write verses of promise where you can see them throughout the day. Meditate on them and speak them over your life.

### **Disempower wrong mindsets.**

Hopelessness, fear, negativity, despair and victim mentalities have to be uprooted. So much of spiritual warfare takes place in the battlefield of the mind. Ask God to help you identify wrong thinking and to help you change the way you are seeing your situation.

### **Obedience**

Often, God will give you breakthrough by giving you direction. He knows what we need in order to shift out of the place we are in. We must be careful to follow the prompting of Holy Spirit. Ask Him to speak to you so that you can follow His trustworthy direction.

### **Put On the Armor of Christ.**

Read through each piece of armor. Think about the names used to describe the armor and what part of the body it is protecting. What could each spiritually signify?

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, and with your **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:10-17*

### **Stand.**

When you have done all these things, you must wait on the Lord and stand strong.

*Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to **stand**. Ephesians 6:13*

**Expect Personal Growth.**

Remember that God turns all things for the good for those who love Him and want to be used by Him. (Romans 8:28). He will turn your trials into something beautiful. In the end, you will be stronger, you will have greater endurance and you will understand your spiritual authority in a greater capacity. Do not despair when the enemy tries to come against you. He knows that you have great things ahead of you and that is a threat to his kingdom. But you will always overcome with Jesus, because He has already secured victory and through the difficulties, you will become more like Jesus.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4*

**Activate!**

Do a study on the spiritual armor listed in Ephesians 6:10-17. What does each piece of armor protect and how do we spiritually apply it to our lives?

Who will you ask to pray with you when you are under spiritual attack?

If you are given everything you need to overcome spiritual battles, can you think of a scenario where you would not be victorious? How does that affect your perspective on spiritual warfare?

## Chapter 9

### Love

The only reason we have any grasp of what love truly is, is because Jesus demonstrated the greatest act of love for us, through His beautiful sacrifice of love on the cross. He did this while picturing you as His friend. He illustrated this love so that we would know how to love one another and fulfill His command!

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:9-17*

#### **Love: Our Highest Calling**

When asked what was the greatest command Jesus replied:

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*  
Matthew 22:37-40

In other words, Jesus said the most important thing is that we love Him and each other. If our highest calling is to love, then we should really learn what love looks like!

#### **Loving God**

What does it look like to love God?

#### **It looks like obedience.**

Jesus put it this way:

*Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. John 14:21*

Obedience is no longer doing things the way you think is best or as the world says is suitable, but instead following all of Jesus' instruction in every area of your life.

### **It looks like consecration.**

When you love the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul, it means you literally direct your passion, your thinking, your desires, and your emotions toward Him. Everything you do in life is decided through the lens of devotion to Him.

### **It looks like blessing.**

God commands our obedience, not because He wants to control our lives, but because He desires and knows how to give us what is best. This happens when we walk in alignment with His will. When we walk in obedience, God calls this our demonstration of love toward Him and He promises resultant blessing!

*But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'* 1 Corinthians 2:9

*The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.* John 14:21

*Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.* Deuteronomy 7:9

### **Loving One Another**

Without love, we are nothing. Sometimes we are dazzled by the spiritual gifts and anointings that God gives people to walk in. We may be tempted to think that one of these forms of ministry is the greatest accomplishment for the Kingdom. But actually, the Bible says that without love, these things are pointless! In God's eyes, the greatest characteristic we could possess is love. Love is the very essence of God. God is love! (1 John 4:8).

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.* 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13*

### **Loving When it is Hard.**

Let's be real. Some people are easy to love. And some people are really difficult to love! Jesus died for us while we were still sinners, before we became His friends, while we were doing the things that broke His heart. We need His heart to love our enemies and the ones who are not as lovable.

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44*

*If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? Matthew 5:46*

### **The Love Check**

A great way to check your level of love in your relationships is to rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 in the Biblical descriptions of what it means to love in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. For example: How well am I loving this person? Well, how patient am I with this person a scale of 1 to 10? How kind am I toward them on that scale? This test can be a good check for ourselves to help us assess if we are truly walking in love!

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

### **Love Tests**

We all experience testings where we are stretched in the area of love. Sometimes relationships can be very difficult and situations we find ourselves in can challenge us. Whatever your circumstances, love always wins! Love won at the cross and love wins every time. If you resolve in your heart that you will pass every love test that comes your way, you will certainly bring Jesus to the world and prove that He is alive in you.

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35*

**Activate!**

In what ways have you experienced the love of God?

Do you love God with ALL of your heart, soul and mind? Are there any areas where you are holding back?

Are you obeying all that God has commanded you to do? Is there any area that Holy Spirit is illuminating that you need to respond to so that you can truly love God through your obedience to Him?

Why do you think love is greater than gifts and anointings?

Who do you find difficult to love? Have you prayed for that person? How can you show love to them?

Use 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and a scale of 1 to 10 to rate how well you are showing love in some of your more challenging relationships.

What is a current love test that you are in? Ask God to show you how love will win and help you pass the test!