BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

THE JOURNEY

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THE JOURNEY 2

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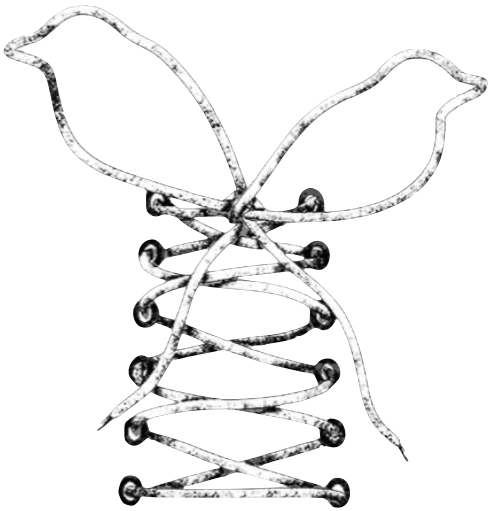

Jesus came and told his disciples,
"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.
Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,
Baptising them in the name of the Father, and the Son
and the Holy Spirit. Teaching these new disciples to obey all the
commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you
always, even to the end of the age." ***Matthew 28:18-20***

These notes have been complied as a teaching aid to lead each and every believer into a deeper knowledge and understanding of their faith.

Through fulfilling the commands of Jesus as stated above we are confident that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work, until it is finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. *Philippians 1:6.*

This is merely the beginning. God's Word is alive and active, take every opportunity to unlock its treasures so that you will be prepared and equipped to do every good work. The Holy Spirit will guide you and your love relationship with Jesus will grow in an amazing way.

There will be challenges but together with Jesus this journey will be incredible. Enjoy it!

HEY DAD
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SECTION 2: COMMITMENT

Commitment is not a popular word today. It seems safer not to make promises we may be unable or unwilling to keep. The cost is too high; our independence and freedom to act might be curtailed. When the commitment is to a person rather than to a cause, we may be afraid of the risks we take. Many have experienced the pain of broken marriages. It seems safer not to enter a binding relationship than to risk disillusionment and suffering.

When we commit ourselves to following Jesus we are entering into a relationship with someone who is utterly reliable and trustworthy. He will never go back on His promises or His commitment to us. What is more, when the way seems too hard and we feel like giving up, Jesus is not just a helpless onlooker. He is there for us, ready to absorb our anxiety and give us help and strength that we need to complete the journey we have begun.

Mary Batchelor: Journey of the Spirit.

2.01
WATER BAPTISM

Jesus commanded all those who believed in Him to be baptised in water. *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:18, 19.* See also *Acts 2: 38-41.*

To be "baptised" means to be 'totally immersed'. When a person repents from his sin and believes Jesus died for him, before many witnesses, he (or she) is to be taken to water, put right under it and brought up again. Why would Jesus command that His believers do such a strange thing?

UNDERSTANDING WATER BAPTISM

Understanding what water baptism is all about is the key to a victorious and liberated Christian life. The act of going under the water and rising up from it again is a physical picture demonstrating what has happened spiritually to the Christian believer.

Baptism is not:	**Baptism is:**
A magic ceremony	A public declaration
A quick fix	A lifelong commitment
The end	The beginning
Initiation into GCF	Into the Body of Christ

FOUR STAGES OF CHRIST'S WORK PICTURED

1. **He died...I died in Him.** *"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin". Romans 6:6,7.*
2. **He was buried...I am buried with Him.** *"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death." Romans 6: 3,4.*
3. **He was raised...I have new life in Him.** *"...in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection." Romans 6:4,5.*
4. **He ascended...I ascend in Him.** *"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:6.* See also *Colossians 3:1.*

WATER BAPTISM REPRESENTS...

1. **Your funeral service.** A burial service is not to kill a man off. It is only performed when the man is dead already. And so, because you have "died" in Christ, you bury your old life in water baptism.
2. **Your resurrection to new life.** You rise out of the water demonstrating and declaring you are a new creation in Christ! *"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once and 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: 8-11.*

THE TWO KINGDOMS

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves". Colossians 1:13
Every man and woman born into the world is born into kingdom of darkness', born slaves of the dictator Satan. There is no way out of this kingdom except by DEATH, and there is no way into the Kingdom

of God except by BIRTH. And so Jesus became both our death and new birth – this we declare in water baptism!

In water baptism we declare to all our friends and acquaintances that we are no longer part of the Kingdom of Darkness. We are a New Creation in Christ, belonging to the Kingdom of God!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, and the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17.
See also *Ephesians 2:10.*

CONDITIONS FOR BAPTISM.

- They must be disciples. *Matthew 28:19.*
- They must believe. *Acts 8:12.*
- They must hear the word and act on it. *Acts 16: 30-34.*
- They must repent. *Acts 2:38.*

We find no scriptural basis for infant baptism.

BAPTISM FOLLOWS CONVERSION

- On the day of Pentecost. *Acts 2:41.*
- In Samaria. *Acts 8 12*.
- In Paul's case. *Acts 9:18*.
- In the case of Cornelius. *Acts 10:44-48*.

METHOD OF BAPTISM.

- By total immersion. *Matthew 3:16; John 3:22-23; Acts 8:36-38*
- In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19; Acts 19:1-6.*

CONCLUSION

We keep this command because we love Him. *John 14:15.* When a person genuinely repents, the Holy Spirit automatically makes them a member of the body of Christ. The blood of Jesus cleanses them from all sin. That person then demonstrates this fact to all, even to the powers of darkness, by being baptised in water. This symbolises the fact that the old life has been crucified and is now buried. That person rises from the water symbolising a resurrected life which they will live unto God.

DISCOVER MORE

1. What kingdom are we born into, and what is the way out?
2. In your own words, briefly state the four stages of Christ's work pictured in baptism.
3. Think about your own experience at baptism, what elements of the 'old man' were buried with Christ and are you happy that they are no longer part of your life?
4. Is there anything preventing you from being baptised?

I REALISE THAT MY OLD LIFE WITH ITS SIN AND JUDGEMENT HAS BEEN PUT TO DEATH IN JESUS' DEATH, AND BECAUSE OF JESUS' RESURRECTION I HAVE A WHOLE NEW LIFE TO LIVE. I COMMIT TO BE BAPTISED IN WATER AND SHARE THIS TRUTH WITH OTHERS.

THOUGHTS

2.02
THE HOLY SPIRIT - WHO IS HE?

When Jesus rose from the dead, before He ascended into heaven, He gave believers a very special and wonderful promise - He said He would send us another Counsellor who would be with us forever. (John 14:16-18; 16:5-7). Jesus has not left us alone in the world; He has given us the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: WHO IS HE?

He is a person; He filled all the believers on the Day of Pentecost. *Acts 2*.

HE HAS A DIVINE PERSONALITY

- He is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son.
- The Holy Spirit was first given to all believers at Pentecost.
- He lives in His temple - us.
- He will remain on earth until God's work here is done.
- He is the Father's gift to the Church.
- He is the Father's Chief Administrator here on earth.

The Holy Spirit exhibits the three elements of God's personality:

He reveals the MIND of God as He fulfils the WILL of God for mankind, and expresses the EMOTIONS of God in His loving and holy relationship to mankind.

As a result of the fall of Adam, the personality of man was doomed to destruction, the spirit of man died to God. The MIND of man became hostile to God, his WILL became self-centred and his EMOTIONS filled with negative forces

God in His mercy offered the sacrifice of Jesus so that our spirits can be born again. When the Holy Spirit comes to live in us He begins to transform our personality, we become Christ-like, He changes us from the inside out.

HE HAS EMOTIONAL RESPONSES

Because He is a person, the Holy Spirit reveals His emotions to us and through us. He shows us that God is love. *1 John 4:8.*
He reveals the loving emotions of God. *John 3:16*. He prompts us to respond in worship and compassion.
Ephesians 5:18-21; Galatians 5:22-23

Our negative actions affect the emotions of the Holy Spirit. He wants to draw us into a relationship with Himself to transform us into the image of Christ. Our relationship with Him is determined by the choices we make, our relationship with God is affected by the things we do, in the same way as our relationship with people is affected.

Here are a few emotional responses in the Holy Spirit:

- **Grieved**: He is grieved by sin. *Ephesians 4: 30.*
- **Offended**: By unforgiving, selfish responses to Himself or to others. He is gentle by nature, so He can be offended by our unloving response to Him. *Luke 3:22*. Offence is the bait of Satan; we offend the Holy Spirit when we offend others.
- **Quenched**: through disobedience to His commands or through insensitivity to His moving. *1 Thessalonians 5:19*.

We can delight the Holy Spirit by:

- **Obedience**: Walking in obedience to the Word, yielding to Him *Psalm 119:105*.
- **Believing**: Choosing to believe the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth allows us to experience His divine power to free us from sin. *2 Thessalonians 2:13*.
- **Honouring**: By our bodies being kept as a pure temple for the Holy Spirits presence. *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*.

THE CHARACTER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are fourteen emblems or word pictures in the Bible that reveal the beautiful nature of the Holy Spirit and His work here on earth.

- **The Dove**: The dove speaks of gentleness, the Spirit of God descended on Jesus at His baptism in the form of a dove. The Dove brought Noah back an olive branch that speaks of peace. The gentle dove like nature of the Holy Spirit invites and gently persuades us to believe in the truth. He never bullies us to repent or obey. *Matthew 3:16; Matthew 11:28-29.*
- **The Seal of Promise**: A seal confirms or gives guarantee and assurance - a bit like a Government stamp indicating which country you belong to. The seal of the Holy Spirit confirms that we are the property of the infinite God. God has stamped us as His possession. The seal also represents the security we have in the knowledge that our future in guaranteed.
  2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14.
- **The Act of Anointing**: This speaks of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. This anointing guides us, teaches us and enables us to see the truth. Anointing also speaks of being set aside for a specific task. *2 Corinthians 1:22; 1 John 2:27, Hebrews 1:9, John 3:34; 1 Peter 2:5.*
- **Oil**: Apart from the sun, oil was the chief source of light for the people of Biblical times. It symbolises the power of the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truth to us. *Matthew 25: 1-13; John 8:12; Matt 5:14.*
- **Fire**: Throughout scripture fire typifies the presence of God. The work of the Holy Spirit is redemptive - fire - provides warmth and light and it cleanses and purifies whatever it touches. *Exodus 13:21; Matthew 3:2 & 11-12; Hebrews 12:29; Genesis 15:17; 1 Kings 18:17-40; 1 Corinthians 3:13.*
- **Rain**: Scripture refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit as the early and latter rains. Rain gives life, the Holy Spirit gives life and growth. Rain speaks of the abundance of the Holy Spirit supply. *Hosea 6:3; James 5:7; Psalm 72:6-7.*
- **Breath (air)**: This speaks of the exclusiveness of the Holy Spirit as the life giving agent of God to mankind through the new birth experience. The breath of the Holy Spirit gives a man his eternal destiny in God. *Job 32:8*

- **Wind**: In both the Old and the New Testaments, wind speaks of the moving of the Holy Spirit. *Ezekiel 37:9; John 3:8; Acts 2:2*. The Holy Spirit descended on the day of Pentecost with the sound from heaven as a mighty rushing wind.
- **Water**: When water (rain, dew, and river) symbolises the Holy Spirit, the picture is always one of abundance. *Exodus 17:6* - water from the rock (Jesus). The miracle of getting water out of a rock beautifully typifies for us the power of the Holy Spirit flowing out of Christ who is our rock. *Psalm 87:7* - water springs - the power of the Holy Spirit as the source of life. God is the only source of life - all my springs are in Thee! *John 7: 38-39* - river of living water - the Holy Spirit has an unlimited supply!

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S FRAME OF MIND

- **Convicting**: Not to be confused with condemnation. Although conviction may be painful, it is constructive and full of hope, it identifies specific sins. *John 16:8.*
- **Counselling**: This is the revelation of the Holy Spirit as our Divine Teacher, our Advocate. He walks alongside us to help us "this is the way, walk ye in it". *John 14:26.*
- **Compassionate**: This is the force of the Holy Spirit that enables us to be tenderhearted and experience the pain of love and true compassion for the lost. *Romans 8:26-27; Philippians 2:1-4.*
- **Cleansing**: This is where the Holy Spirit comes in with His broom and soap to clean up the house so that it is suitable for God to live in. *1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:12; Titus 3:4-6.*
- **Commanding**: The mood of authority, supernatural power used to accomplish the will of God at any given moment. *Acts 8:29, 13:2.*
- **Conquering**: This mood is the joyful, victorious response to the ultimate triumph over evil. Jesus hung on the Cross for this cause. *Romans 8:1-14.*
- **Communion**: The Greek word, 'Koinonia', means fellowship, participation, sharing and intimate association with God and with one another given to us by the Holy Spirit. *John 4:24; Ephesians 4:2-6 and 2 Corinthians 13:14.*

DISCOVER MORE

1. Read *Acts 2:1-13* and write a brief summary of these verses in your own words.
2. State and explain three emotional responses of the Holy Spirit.
3. State and describe four emblems or word pictures that reveal the beautiful nature of the Holy Spirit.
4. Describe a situation in your own life where the Holy Spirit's convicting mood came upon you.
5. We have all been in the Valley of Bacca - the place of tears. Can you summarise such a situation in your own life where the Holy Spirit turned your tears and difficulties into blessings?

THOUGHTS

2.03
THE HOLY SPIRIT - WHAT DOES HE DO?

THE SEVEN OFFICES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has seven divine assignments to set up the Kingdom in us as individuals, and in the corporate body. God designated these offices. The first four offices reveal the work of the Holy Spirit in changing us as individuals into the image and likeness of Christ, and the other three offices reveal the divine power given to us as He governs our lives and fully develops the character of Christ in His Church.

The purpose of these offices is to bring all believers to maturity and true holiness. If the Gifts of the Spirit don't operate in us, we have no right to expect them to operate in the Church - we are the Church!

Office 1: The Spirit of Life

The Holy Spirit handles the 'life' department. He gives us the things of Jesus that pertain to life. *John 16:14; Colossians 1:27; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:6; John 3*. The Holy Spirit makes us alive to God by creating the life of Jesus in us. All the divine qualities of Jesus' life - His peace, His joy, His righteousness reside in the Holy Spirit.

A Church is alive to God when the Spirit of Life breathes revelation to people's hearts from the written Word, as it is taught by anointed men and women. The Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life hovers over the earth bringing order out of chaos, light out of darkness. That's what happens inside of us when we give our lives to Christ. He breathes the life of God into us, impregnating us with the Living Word. He anoints us with divine ability. He baptises us into the body of Christ and produces the fruit of Christ in us. The Holy Spirit seals us, or marks us as His property, and He bears witness with our spirit that we are God's child.

Office 2: The Spirit of Truth

The Holy Spirit illuminates the truth to us. He matures our capacity to receive divine truth and He teaches us to combat the enemies of truth which are doubt and unbelief. *John 14:6; John 16:12-15; Hebrews 4:12*. He gives us revelation and makes it a reality that changes our lives. Revelation sets you free, makes you free and keeps you free. We don't need to challenge truth; we need to change to fit in with the truth. We cannot know God without knowing the Spirit of Truth. As we walk with the Spirit of Truth communing with Him and yielding to Him, divine truth is ever expanding in us, bringing us to a mature relationship with God. As we grow, we develop the capacity to receive more of His divine truths. The Spirit of Truth makes us people who are truthful - we live the truth, we speak the truth. He also brings things to our remembrance, He convicts, He shows us things to come and He renews the spirit of our minds.

Office 3: The Spirit of Adoption

In this capacity the Holy Spirit enables us to come to mature son ship, we receive Him and He equips us to grow up. Living within us, He has the power to transform us into mature sons and daughters. He came to give us the fullness of the Godhead.

When we are born into the family of God, we are given a new blood line. It's no longer correct for us to say things that the world says, for example "once an alcoholic always an alcoholic". Jesus shed His blood to buy us back.

The Spirit of Adoption births us into the family of God, trains us as sons of God. *Romans 8:14.* He works through the ministries of the Church to perfect us, and He bring us to full maturity, reflecting God's spirit, heart, vision and purpose. *Ephesians 4:11-13.*

Office 4: The Spirit of Holiness

What is holiness? Holiness is not man made, its God made. When God makes us holy, we are pure, clean and without guile. To be a person without guile means to have a heart that is free from bitterness, vindictiveness and retaliation. Jesus said *"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God"*.

As the Spirit of Holiness, the Holy Spirit imparts the righteousness of Jesus to us through the blood of Jesus. *Ephesians 2:8*. He imparts the righteousness of God into our hearts by judging our lives, and giving us grace to walk in His holiness. *Isaiah 10:16-18*. In this office the Holy Spirit sweeps and cleanses our temples - the refiner's fire - He won't take anything away unless you want to give it up. He washes us with the Word and the Blood, He sanctifies, convicts and corrects. In this office the Holy Spirit brings us into fellowship with God by cleaning us up - be ye holy even as He is holy. True holiness is manifested by Christ-like character, not by external life styles.

Office 5: The Spirit of Grace

In this role the Holy Spirit lifts up a standard against the enemy, and provides help in our time of trouble. He gives us liberty, He is our Advocate, our Comforter, our Paraclete (He goes with us). He causes us to rest - the presence of God brings peace.

Grace in the broadest sense is that quality of God's love that works in every area of our lives where we are deficient and have a need.

God through the Holy Spirit orders our stops and starts - we have all experienced a check in our Spirits when something is not quite right. In this role the Holy Spirit also drives us as He did Jesus in the wilderness *Mark 12:12*, He compels us, our flesh doesn't want, but the compelling of the Holy Spirit is stronger. As we submit to the Spirit of Grace, we are brought into the presence of God - the canopy of grace *Ezekiel 43:2-5* and He carries us out as 'more than conquerors' *Ezekiel 37:1.* The Holy Spirit is our divine enabler, He gives us the ability to do all the Scriptures require of us, to obey God fully.

Office 6: The Spirit of supplication

We don't use the word "supplication" much these days. The meaning of the word embraces the entire realm of prayer. Here the Holy Spirit governs the communication department between believers and God. He establishes us in a prayer relationship with God; He develops our relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit and enables us to pray from the Father's heart. *Zechariah 12:10*.

There are times when we pray alone, quietly waiting in the presence of God. But that's not the only time we pray. Prayer is talking to God, even when we don't talk aloud. We need to learn to cultivate a spirit of prayer. Learning to yield to the Spirit of Supplication will bring us into a vial relationship with the Holy Spirit.

In this role the Holy Spirit is bringing the Church back to prayer. In this role, He also baptises us in the Holy Spirit - giving us a heavenly prayer language.

Office 7: The Spirit of Glory

As the Spirit of Glory, the Holy Spirit brings the glory of God into us, He changes us from glory to glory, He fulfils the Father's purpose in us. *Romans 8:26-29*. He gives us a new life in exchange for the old - make the Cross your swap shop!

The New Testament Greek word for glory is "doxa", which carries many different- meanings including:

- Majesty and splendour,
- Ascribing honour and credit to the reputation of God,
- The manifest presence of God,
- The Spirit of Glory resting upon us in trials, and testing.

The Holy Spirit always brings glory to God, revealing His majesty and splendour in and through us as he ascribes Him honour. We experience the presence of God through the Holy Spirit and it is He that empowers, encourages and strengthens us as we face the various tests and trails of life.

SUMMARY

The Holy Spirit, as He appropriates the life of Christ our Lord for, to, in and through us, is the One who is all sufficient in strength. He is the One who gives us life in God and brings us into worship. He reveals truth to us and He adopts us into the family of God, bringing us to mature son ship, prepared for ruler ship, throne ship and joint heir ship.

He enables us to exchange our sinful nature for the holiness of God through His provision of grace. He makes our prayers effective; He causes us to be victorious in suffering.

As we become personally acquainted with the Holy Spirit the third person of the Godhead, as we yield our lives to Him and learn to walk with Him so He will change us into the image of Christ.

DISCOVER MORE

1. Which four offices of the Holy Spirit reveal His work in changing us as individuals?
2. Summarise in your own words the office of the Spirit of Grace.
3. What does the word “Paraclete” mean?
4. Describe the office of the Spirit of Adoption.
5. The Holy Spirit changes us from glory to glory, what things in your life do you need to exchange at the Cross?

THOUGHTS

2.04
THE HOLY SPIRIT - THE POWER

In 2.01 we talked about water baptism. In this study we will go on to think about the Baptism of The Holy Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the divine endowment with power. *Acts 1:5. "John baptised with water, but in just a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."*

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Being baptised into the Holy Spirit is a distinct experience from being baptised into the Body of Christ i.e of being united with Christ. Jesus as the Baptiser fills us to overflowing with the Third Person of the Godhead.

The divine baptism in the Holy Spirit occurred on the day of Pentecost. *Acts 2:4* says that 120 people including Jesus' mother and His brothers were in that room when the Holy Spirit came down. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was evidenced as the people spoke in languages that the others understood - God got the message out in one day!

Two other types of heavenly language (tongue) are mentioned:

- A private communication with God. *1 Corinthians 14:2,4.*
- To deliver a message from God to a congregation. This tongue must also be interpreted to give the understanding of what God is saying. *1 Corinthians 14:26-28.*

On other occasions we read that hands were laid on Paul that he might be filled with the Holy Spirit. *Acts 9:17.* We know he spoke in tongues. *1 Corinthians 14:18*. Paul writes *"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all."* In *Acts 10:46* Peter heard the Gentiles speaking in tongues.

We can speak in tongues to God. *1 Corinthians 14:2.*
Jesus said we would speak in other tongues. *Mark 16:15-17.*

Resident in the Holy Spirit is the sevenfold power which reveals the omnipotence of God. He distributes that divine power to us as we live for Christ.

1. Divine power that can create something out of nothing. Read the creation story. He made us into new creatures in Christ, and ignites faith in our hearts and brings our thoughts and desires into the presence of God.
2. The power and ability to decide and perform an action without hindrance, the decisive authority of God. God gives us authority as well as divine ability to do what He calls us to do.
3. It's the almighty force of divine power that has the ability to penetrate opposition; it gets through where we cannot go! It can be likened to a military force. It is manifested in the preached Word *Acts 19:20*, divine strength to conquer supernatural enemies *1 John 2:14* and the power to stand firm and reach our goals. *Luke 21:36*.
4. The power to give; to give up your life for Him. To give and share with others. God loved us so much He gave His Son; the disciples loved Jesus so much they gave up everything to follow Him. *John 6:68; John 17:7.*
5. There's the transcending power of God that lifts humanity out of it's impossible plight and transforms impossible situations. It's the 'pulley power' of the Holy Spirit that lifts a burden that is otherwise impossible to carry. This power was apparent in the transfiguration of Jesus *2 Peter 1:16-18*, this is the power we call on when casting out stubborn evil spirits. *Luke 9:43*. His power can transcend all human tragedy and lift us to a place of victorious Christian living.
6. A divine energising force that works effectively and powerfully, the joy of the Lord is our strength (energy). We were not sent to do it in our own strength. This force reveals the power of the scriptures. *James 1:21; Hebrews 4:12*. It gives us the power to repent and to testify. *Philemon 6; Philippians 2:13; Acts 2:40.*
7. Finally there is the 'kratos' power resident in the Holy Spirit that reveals the superior power of God to whom the final victory belongs. It provides the supernatural strength to triumph over evil. *Colossians 1:11*. It's the power that moves mountains and parts the waters. We are endued with that same power.

THE KEY TO DISPLAYING THE POWER OF GOD IN THE EARTH IS TOTAL SUBMISSION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

DISCOVER MORE

1. Describe in your own words the events that took place on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in *Acts 2*.
2. What is the sevenfold power resident in the Holy Spirit that reveals the omnipotence of God?
3. Describe the 'kratos' power resident in the Holy Sprit.

I CHOOSE TODAY TO RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PROMPTING AND DIRECTING. I DETERMINE TO LEARN TO LISTEN FOR THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY HEART. I CHOOSE TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT. I NOW OPEN MY SPIRIT TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THOUGHTS

2.05
TEMPTATION

The When Satan was cast out of heaven for rebellion, he set about trying to unlawfully take God's Throne; he wanted to achieve this by destroying man who was created in the image and likeness of God.

SATAN ATTACKS

Satan attacks the individual Christian mostly through temptation. And he focuses this assault in two spheres:

The Desires Of The World

He will seek to tempt a believer to become absorbed into the world's system:

- To make the material blessings that the world offers a central desire;
- To make the honour and recognition of this world an important goal; and
- To make the comfort of being one with those of this world our basis for Security. *"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you." 1 John 2:15.*
  See also *James 4:1; 1 Timothy 6:6-11.*

The Desires Of The Flesh

Through Christ's work on the cross, the true Christian is delivered from the results of sin. *Romans 6:6-14*. But he still lives in a physical body that is subject to natural appetites and desires. Satan will use these to try and get a Christian to place greater importance upon them than upon the promptings of the Holy Spirit within him. *Romans 8:5-9*. See also *James 1:14; Ephesians 2:3.*

SATAN'S ORIGINAL VICTORY

It was in the areas of the world and the flesh that Satan won his original victory in the temptation of the first man and woman, and these are still his tactics today. "For all that is in the world, the LUST OF THE FLESH (craving for sensual gratification), and the LUST OF THE EYES (greedy longings of the mind) and the 'PRIDE OF LIFE' (assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things) – "*These do not come from the Father but are from the world (itself)." 1 John 2:16 Amp.*

Compare Eve's Temptation with this verse:

Genesis 3:6	***1 John 2:16***
Good FOR FOOD	"Lust of the flesh"
Pleasing TO THE EYE	"Lust of the eyes"
Desirable for GAINING WISDOM	"Pride of life"

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, all mankind has been governed by their flesh (the three things outlined above). The flesh is also corrupted by a sinful nature. *Galatians 5:19-21.*

VICTORY WON BY CHRIST

Through His life

Jesus was tempted in everything, exactly as we are, *"yet was without sin." Hebrews 4:15*. Compare Jesus' Temptation with this verse:

Luke 4:1-13	***1 John 2:16***
Stones to bread	"Lust of the flesh"
Kingdoms of the earth	"Lust of the eyes"
Pinnacle of the temple	"Pride of life"

Through His Death And Resurrection

Faith that appropriates (claims, receives) Christ's work releases the Christian from the power and dominion that sin had over him. *Romans 8:9*. He is now free to choose to walk in obedience to God. *Romans 6:8-14.*

"For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man... in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature (flesh) but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:3-4.

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONTINUAL VICTORY

Based on the foundation of this great victory won for us by Christ, the Christian can now defeat any attack from the enemy.

Here are seven keys to continual victory:

1. Know The Victory Is Already Won

Because of his defeat at the Cross, the devil's only strength now is found in a Christian's ignorance. *Hosea 4:6*. But when a Christian knows the complete work of the Cross and Resurrection in his life, the devil is stripped of any weapon against him.

2. Walk In Step With The Spirit

A new power is placed within the Christian – the Holy Spirit Himself. We are to walk in obedience to His inner promptings day by day. *Galatians 5:22-25*.

3. Recognise Temptation For What It Is

Temptation is NOT sin. YIELDING to temptation is. *James 1:5* and *Genesis 4:6-7*.

4. Understand There Is A Way Of Escape Provided

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" 1 Corinthians 10:13. James 4:7 details the way of escape: *"Submit to God, resist the devil and he shall flee"*.

5. Keep The Right Focus In Life

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things." Colossians 3:1-2. See also *Philippians 4:8; 1 Timothy 6:11-12; 2 Peter 3:11-13*.

6. Keep Away From Obvious Areas Of Temptation

"I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar." Psalm 101:3. See also *1 Timothy 6:9-11*.

7. Be Aware Of Satan's Schemes

It is important for us to know the tactics that the enemy uses against us so that we are not outwitted by him. *1 Corinthians 2:11*.

- He is a liar. *John 8:44*.
- He is a slanderer and accuser. *Revelation 12:10*.
- He is a deceiver. *Revelation 12:9*.
- He is a tempter. *Matthew 4:1-11*.
- He is an oppressor. *Acts 10:38*.
- He is a hinderer. *1 Thessalonians 2:18*.
- He is a roaring lion. *1 Peter 5:8*.
- He can transform himself into an angel of light. *1 Corinthians 11:14*.

As Christians we are called to live in VICTORY.

- Through Christ, this victory is ours: Over the world. *1 John 5:4*.
- Over the flesh. *Galatians 5:16*.
- Over the enemy. *Ephesians 6:11-13*.

DISCOVER MORE

1. Summarise in your own words the term "The Desires of the World"
2. Summarise in your own words the term "The Desires of the Flesh".
3. Compare the temptations you face as an individual with *1 John 2:16*. Record them.
4. Read and meditate on *Luke 4:1-13*.
5. Prayerfully consider your approach to *"resisting the devil so that he flees"* in regard to the temptations you highlighted in question 3.

I THANK GOD FOR HIS PROMISE TO DELIVER ME DURING TIME OF TEMPTATION. I COMMIT MYSELF TO RESPOND TO HIS HELP, WHICH IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE SO THAT I CAN LIVE IN VICTORY. I WILL SHARE THIS TRUTH WITH OTHERS ALSO.

THOUGHTS

2.06
FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship could be described as a partnership in the support of the Gospel and the work of the Church - that love which fills (or should fill) the hearts of believers for one another and for God.

THE PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship together is very important, for it is in our unity together that:

The Believer Is Encouraged And Grows In Christ

"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong – that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:11-12.

The World Comes To Know That Jesus Was Sent Of God

"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:22,23.

CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

1. **A Basic Commitment To One Another**
   "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above your- selves." Romans 12:10.
   Without a basic trust there can be no fellowship. The depth of fellowship will vary according to the depth of commitment.
2. **Our Commitment Must Be Based On 'Agape'**
   'Agape' is a one-way love, which loves' in spite of,' not 'because of.' Such a commitment therefore will not be affected by the other person's inconsistent behaviour. *"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34.*

3. **True Fellowship Is Christ Centred**
   Our fellowship with one another is founded in our common commitment to Christ. *"...And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." 1 John1:3.*
   See also *Philippians 2:1-2.*

4. **Walking In the Light**
   Our fellowship embraces the need to be open, honest and truthful with one another. This at times may mean:

   - Confessing our own sins to others, or lovingly covering another's sin.
     "If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin." 1 John 1:6,7. See also Matthew 18:15.
   - The removal of any masks or false coverings.
     So much of the world's fellowship is hypocritical – acting out a role, and is not genuine.
     "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the hearts." 1 Peter 1:22.

5. **A Genuine Interest In The Other's Well Being**
   There should be no hidden motives of self-gain. Our desire should be to give, not to get. *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3,4.*

6. **A Willingness To Lay Down One's Life**
   "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-13.
   Life involves more than physical life. It also includes our material possessions, our personal interests and preferences, etc. *James 2:15-16.* This also means a willingness to openly share of one's self. We can only know people to the extent they are prepared to reveal themselves.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHURCH MEANS...

1. **Sharing All Things**
   There were three stages of development in their fellowship in *Acts 4:32* – firstly, they were of one heart (spirit), then they were of one soul (mind), and then followed the physical expression of having all things in common.
   "All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need." Acts 2:44- 45.
2. **Laying Down Their Lives**
   "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them." Romans 16:3-4.
3. **Devoted To Serving The Brethren**
   "You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints." 1 Corinthians 16:15.
4. **Being A Channel Of Supply To Others In Need**
   "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality." 2 Corinthians 8:14. See also *1 Corinthians 16:17.*
5. **Sharing In Suffering**
   "Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles." Philippians 4:14.
6. **Sacrificial Giving**
   "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." 2 Corinthians: 8:2-3.
7. **Practicing Hospitality**
   "Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you." 3 John 5.
   See also *Hebrews 13:2.*
8. **Building Up and Encouraging One Another**
   "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8.
   See *2 Timothy 3:10-14.*

RESULTS OF FELLOWSHIP

The results of fellowship in the early Church were:

- A fear of God. *Acts 2:43*.
- Joy. *Acts 2:46*.
- Favour with all people. *Acts 2:47*.
- Addition of new believers. *Acts 2:47*.
- All needs supplied. *Philippians 4:19*.
- Emergence of leadership. *1 Corinthians 16:15-16*.

DISCOVER MORE

1. Write your own definition of “Fellowship”.
2. Compare your involvement in the fellowship of the Church with the basic conditions of fellowship.
3. What will you do to rectify those areas where you fall short?
4. Write a short paragraph describing a recent instance when you showed a genuine interest in the well-being of a fellow Christian.
5. Describe how you build up and encourage others.

TODAY I COMMIT MYSELF TO BEING A PART OF A GROUP OF BELIEVERS TO WHOM I WILL GIVE MY LOYALTY, MY LOVE AND MY SERVICE.

THOUGHTS

2.07
GIVING

Every believer is steward of everything he possesses.

A steward is one who manages, administers and takes care of that which belongs to someone else. *1 Peter 4:10*. Since God is the One Who gives every material blessing, we acknowledge His ownership. *1 Chronicles 29:14*. Tithing and giving offerings does not buy God's blessing, but it does release His blessing upon our lives.

TITHING BEFORE THE LAW

Tithing (returning 1/10th of ones income to God) was the normal practice of giving in the Old Testament. It was prescribed in the Mosaic Law *Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:26*, but it started long before God presented His commandments at Sinai.

We find tithing practiced as early as Abraham's day. *Genesis 14:17-20.* See also *Hebrews 7:1-2.*

Abraham's grandson Jacob also offered tithes to the Lord. *Genesis 28:20-22.*

Long before tithing was a legal mandate, then, it was an act of devotion and worship from a heart that loved God.

TITHING UNDER THE LAW

Though the Hebrews were obligated by the Law to tithe, God never intended tithing to become a mere act of duty performed apart from the heart. A tithe collected in the Israelite community for example, actually went to support fellow Israelites. *Numbers 18:24.*

The Levites have no inheritance of land among the Israelites. Their job was to care for the tabernacle; they didn't raise crops or livestock. So their sustenance had to come from the other Israelites.

Hence the tithe. The Hebrews, then, not only showed their obedience to God by tithing, they provided for the Levites.

The Levites, in turn were required to give one tenth from their tithe to support the high priest *(vs. 26-29)* In addition every third year the tithe of the previous year was to be gathered and shared with the Levites and the destitute during a special festival. *Deut. 14:28-29*.

By giving back a portion of the crops and livestock with which God had blessed them the Israelites honoured God as the provider of all their needs – and they took care of the needs of the community. Tithing was a law, but was a law with a heart and a purpose, at least until it was distorted by later Israelites.

Tithing, however, wasn't the only provision for giving under the Mosaic Law. The Israelites were also encouraged to give for special occasions, such as the building of the tabernacle and freewill offerings – as their hearts moved them. *Exodus . 25:1-9; 35:4-19; 36: 4-7; Deuteronomy 16:10; 2 Chronicles 35:7-9*.

GOD TOOK TITHING SERIOUSLY

Tithing was so important to God that He equated failure to do it with robbery. *Malachi 3:8*.

A SIMILAR PLAN: THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH

Though Christ renounced the pharisaic method of tithing which had become a heartless, legalistic obligation *Matthew 23:23-24*, He never rescinded tithing as a legitimate method of consistent giving *Matthew 5:17*. In fact, money was crucial for the survival and functioning of the early church. The New Testament clearly supports the planned, systematic giving.

GOD'S PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

In *1 Corinthians 10:11*, we are told to learn from Israel's example. We are to apply the principles given them by God. At the same time we are to avoid the mistakes Israel (and the leaders) made in the wilderness. In the area of giving, we find some excellent guidelines that can help us in our giving:

- God expects us to bring a percentage. *Malachi 3:10*.
- We are to give systematically and regularly*(2 Chronicles 31:11-12*.

In *1 Corinthians 16:1-4* we see that Paul isn't prescribing a percentage of gross income, but he is supporting the deliberate, consistent setting aside of funds for the work of the ministry – in this case, helping the church at Jerusalem. Also, Paul's admonition to pay worthy elders *"double honour"* suggests a regular collection of funds to pay wages for their leaders who work in the church *1 Timothy 5:17-18*. Tithing is like any other good habit – we do it because we think it is important and the best way to do it consistently is to work it into our family budget as well as make it a regular act of worship.

We are to give the first and best to the Lord. *Proverbs 3:9-10*.

SPONTANEOUS OFFERINGS

In today's church, whatever we put in the offering plate need not stifle us from responding to special needs as they come up.

DISCOVER MORE

1. If we tithe and give offerings faithfully what does God do for us?
2. Read *Malachi 3: 8-10* and write a brief summary of those verses in your own words.
3. *Proverbs 3:9-10* says we must give the first and the best to the Lord, what does this mean to you?
4. What should the tithes and offerings be used for according to the Word of God?
5. How will you adjust your family budget to ensure that tithes and offerings are included?

TODAY I COMMIT MYSELF TO BEGIN A LIFE OF GIVING BY STARTING TO TITHE (GIVE A TENTH OF MY INCOME TO THE LORD'S WORK). I WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE AND TEACH OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

THOUGHTS

2.08
WORSHIP

Praise is an expression of admiration and appreciation. Worship is an expression of love and adoration. Worship has to do with our love of the Lord. It can be expressed only with the giving of our whole heart and life to Him. *Mark 12:33.*

I WAS PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

You (GOD) created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created. Revelation 4:11 (NLT).

The Lord takes pleasure in his people; He honours the humble with victory. Psalm 149:4 (TEV).

The Lord is pleased only with those who worship him and trust his love. Psalm 147:11 (CEV).

BRINGING PLEASURE TO GOD IS CALLED WORSHIP

Worship him continually Psalm 105:4 (TEV).
Worship is a lifestyle (Worship is far more than music).

SIX ELEMENTS OF LIFESTYLE WORSHIP

We worship God whenever we...

1. **Love Him supremely.**
   I don't want your sacrifices – I want your love; I don't want offerings – I want you to know me. Hosea 6:6 (LB).
   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. Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV).
2. **Trust Him completely.**
   But He takes pleasure in those who honour Him, in those who trust in His constant love. Psalm 147:11 (TEV).
   Without faith, it is impossible to please God...*Hebrews 11: 6 (NIV).*

3. **Obey Him wholeheartedly.**
   Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey. Psalm 119:33 (LB).

4. **Surrender to Him absolutely.**
   Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes. Romans 6:13 (TEV).
   Surrender is the heart of worship
   Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and plea- sure to him. This is true worship that you should offer. Romans 12:1 (TEV).
   The sacrifices of God are broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart 'O God, you will not despise. Psalm 51:17 (NIV).

5. **Praise and thank Him continually.**
   I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30-31 (NIV).

6. **Use our abilities faithfully.**
   The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. He delights in every detail of their lives Psalm 33:15 (MSG).

FOUR SPIRITUAL ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

1. **God is pleased when our worship is accurate.**
   Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. John 4:23 (NIV).

2. **God is pleased when our worship is authentic.**
   The Lord looks at the heart. *1 Samuel 16:7; Matthew 15:8-9; Deut. 6:5*

3. **God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful.**
   But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:40 (NIV).

4. **God is pleased when our worship is practical.**
   Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship Romans 12:1 (NIV).

PHYSICAL EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

1. **With the Mouth**
   a. Singing: *Psalm 9:11.*
   b. Praising: *Psalm 103:1.*
   c. Shouting: *Psalm 47:1.*
2. **With the Hands**
   a. Lifting: *Psalm 63:4.*
   b. Clapping: *Psalm 47:1.*
   c. Musical Instruments: *Psalm 150.*
3. **With the Body**
   a. Standing: *Psalm 134:1.*
   b. Kneeling/bowing: *Psalm 95:6.*
   c. Dancing, leaping for joy: *Psalm 30:11.*

Who among the gods is like you O Lord? Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awe- some in glory, working wonders?... Sing to the Lord for He is highly exalted. Exodus 15:11, 21.

Among the gods there is none like you O Lord... For you are great and do marvellous deeds; You alone are God... I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. Psalm 86:8, 10, 12.

DISCOVER MORE

1. Read the following scriptures and state who is to praise God. *Psalm 22:26; Psalm 150:6.*
2. Name four elements of a lifestyle of worship.
3. Name two elements of worship that pleases God, and explain them.
4. Why do we worship the Lord?
5. Compare the list of expressions of praise and worship in Scripture with the way you express your worship. What do you need to change in order to draw closer to God in worship?

THE GREATEST THING I WILL EVER DO IN THIS LIFE OR IN ETERNITY IS TO WORSHIP GOD. I DETERMINE TODAY TO BE A TRUE WORSHIPPER AND TO MAKE THIS MY SUPREME GOAL IN LIFE. I WILL TEACH SOMEONE ELSE THIS VITAL WAY OF LIFE ALSO.

THOUGHTS

2.09
PRAYER

Luther remarks in his homely way: “As a shoemaker makes a shoe, and a tailor makes a coat, so ought a Christian to pray. Prayer is the daily business of a Christian.” The time we spend with the Lord in prayer can release the most dynamic, history-changing power this world has ever known. *Psalm 91:15-16*. Our prayer as a Body together can only be as strong as our personal time with the Lord.

THE SECRET PLACE

Matthew 6:6. We have been invited into intimate prayer by none other than the Lord Himself. This kind of secret prayer presupposes and ensures:

- The Right Motives. *Matthew 6:5.*
- A Right Relationship with God as Father. *Luke 11:11-13.*
- A Real Trust in the Lord. *Psalm 55: 16-17.*
- A dispensing of False Fronts. *Mark 7: 6-7.*

As we express our feelings and burdens in conversation with God, it can be in the form of adoration *Psalm 34: 1-4*, confession *1 John 1:9*, requests *Matthew 7:7*, or thanksgiving *Ephesians 5: 4-20.*

FIVE COMMANDS RELATED TO PRAYER

- Watch and pray always. *Luke 21:36 Mark 13:35-37.*
- Pray lest you fall into temptation. *Matthew 26:41.*
- Pray for Workers. *Luke 10:2.*
- Pray for those in Authority. *1 Timothy 2:1-2.*
- Pray for your enemies. *Luke 6:28.*

WHEN TO PRAY

The Bible gives many examples of people who prayed. *1 Chronicles 4:10*. Many of the heroes of faith can be observed to have had regular times of the day set aside specifically for prayer, often three set periods a day - at morning, noon and evening. *Psalm 55:16-17, Daniel 6:10.* The best example of a daily pattern of regular, whole-hearted prayer - prayer that avoided meaningless religious ritual - can be found in the Lord Jesus Himself:

- Early in the morning. *Mark 1:35.*
- All night. *Luke 6:12.*
- Before each meal. *Mark 6:41.*

WHAT TO PRAY

- For ourselves. 1 Chronicles 4:10.
- For one another. James 5:16.
- For the ministries in the Body of Christ. *2 Thessalonians 3:1.*
- For the sick and distraught. *James 5: 14-16.*
- For those ensnared by sin. *1 John 5:16.*

HELP IN PRAYER

Romans 8:26. Part of the Holy Spirit's purpose is to teach us *Luke 12:12*, guide us in prayer *Romans 8:27*, and to help us in our faith. *Ephesians 3: 16-17* The Holy Spirit will sometimes anoint a believer's prayer in a special way, and this is called "praying in the Holy Spirit." *Jude 20, Ephesians 6:18.* To help us in prayer, the Holy Spirit has also provided a special gift to the believer: The Gift of Tongues - speaking in another language to the Lord in prayer.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11. Proverbs 15:8, 29 "...he delights in the prayers of the upright....he delights in the prayers of the upright."

YOKEFELLOW

Two joining together in prayer provides some very real advantages: *"I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven." Matthew 18:19 KJV.*

THE CHURCH PRAYING

If there is tremendous power when two people pray, what about the whole assembly of God's people? *Acts 4:24*.

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER: A•C•T•S•

- **A** - Acknowledge who God is and His sovereignty
- **C** - Confess all known and unknown sin
- **T** - Give thanks
- **S** - Supplication: Lift up your requests before God

THE LORDS PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

- Praise and commitment to honour and hallow God's name.
- Refer to God's reign – reign in our hearts.
- God's perfect purpose will be accomplished in this world and the next.
- We are acknowledging that God is our sustainer and provider of our needs.
- We must trust God daily to provide what He knows we need.
- God does not lead us into temptation but sometimes He allows us to be tested by them.
- Jesus gives us a stern warning about forgiveness. If we refuse to forgive others God will refuse to forgive us!

CONCLUSION

Today God is calling His people to prayer! The Church's mission is to change individual lives, families, communities, cities and nations through prayer!

DISCOVER MORE

1. How would you rate your prayer life?
2. How would you rate your understanding of what prayer is?
3. How is your relationship with and your perception of God the Father?
4. List six reasons why we should pray.
5. Describe a recent incident in your life where the situation was changed supernaturally through prayer.

THROUGH THIS STUDY I REALISE THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES OF PRAYER - NOT ONLY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, BUT ALSO THE SUPERNATURAL RESULTS THAT FOLLOW. I COMMIT MYSELF TO MAKE PRAYER ALWAYS A PRIORITY IN MY LIFE.

THOUGHTS

2.10
KINGDOM LIVING 1

Transformation into the likeness of Christ is both our responsibility and the Spirit's ministry. It is not automatic, but involves moral endeavour on our part. We are not only to passively "let go and let God", but we are to "put on" and "put off" certain things, and this involves an activity of the renewed will.

CHANGE OF AUTHORITY

We have been delivered from Satan's dominion (rulership or headship). We are now under a whole new authority – that of the Lord Jesus. As a believer begins growing in their new life in the Lord, they soon discover that the only way we enjoy living in God's Kingdom is in right RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. *Ephesians 1:17; Philippians 3:10*. At the very beginning of our new life with God this relationship takes two distinct forms:

1. **Saviour**: This is the very first relationship we can ever have with Jesus. We cannot know God as Father or Friend until we first have had a revelation of Jesus as Saviour – the One Who died for us and rescued us from Satan's kingdom. Jesus has saved us from:
   - God's Judgement. *1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Romans 5:9*.
   - Satan's Power. *Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8*.
   - Our Own Selves. *Philippians 3:19; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Titus 3:3-6; 1 Peter 1:18*.
     "Although he was a son... he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." Hebrews 5:8-9.
     See also *Hebrews 2:10; 2 Timothy 1:10*.

2. **Lord**: Knowing Jesus as Saviour brings us into God's Kingdom, but that is not where our relationship with Him ends. Once we are inside His Kingdom, that relationship takes on dramatic new changes. Now we know Him not merely as Saviour. But as Lord – OUR Lord! He is KING in His Kingdom.
   "So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:3. See also *Colossians 2:6, John 13:13; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Corinthians 4:5.*
   When we enter the Kingdom of Light, we can enjoy what we were created for – a loving relationship with the Lord. Because of this, when Jesus becomes Lord of our life, we find that His dominion in our lives brings us out of the chaos of sin into divine order and peace. *Colossians 2:9-10: 1 Corinthians 8:6.*

THE MODEL CITIZEN

"Let your attitude toward life be that of Christ Jesus himself..." Philippians 2:5. Jesus, though King of the Kingdom became a servant. He is the example of what the true citizen of His Kingdom is like.

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." John 13:13-15.
See also *John 13:5-17; Matthew 20:26-28; Luke 22:27.*

SUBJECTS OF THE KING

As members of Christ's Kingdom, we enter into a Master-servant relationship with Him. *Matthew 6:24*. Jesus came to do His Father's will. *Hebrews 10:5-9*. In His day-to-day life, He displayed what the lifestyle of the Kingdom is all about: living to please God. *Ephesians 5:8-10*. We are to have this servant heart, just as He had a servant's heart. Many Christians do not like the concept of being a servant because it seems to make one person inferior to another. But in the Bible, we find four interesting paradoxes;

1. **In Slavery, There is Freedom**
   "But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life." Romans 6:22. Read also *verses 16-23; 12:1; 1 Corinthians 7:22; 2 Cor. 3:17; Ephesians 6:6-7; 1 Peter 2:16.*

2. **In Being A Servant, There Is Greatness**
   "The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Matthew 23:11-12. See *20:26-27; Mark 9:35; 10:43; John 12:26.*

3. **In Humility, There Is Exaltation**
   "So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 18:4. See also *Luke 18:14; Proverbs 29:23; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5: 5-6; Matthew 19:30.*

4. **In Submission, There is Authority**
   The Roman Centurion (a military leader of over 100 soldiers) who came to Jesus understood this principle *"...I am not even worthy to come and meet you. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it."*
   Luke 7: 7-8. Because the Centurion was under authority, he was able to exercise authority, and he readily submitted to Jesus' authority. Read also *verses 1-10; James 4:7.*

The lifestyle of the Kingdom of God is an attitude of SUBMISSION and OBEDIENCE TO GOD. See *Matthew 12:50; Ephesians 6:6; Hebrews 13:21; 1 John 2:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:1.*

We submit ourselves to God's will – NOT reluctantly – because of fear or duty – but rather

- Because of all God has done for us.
  Romans 12:1; Ephesians 4:1; Titus 3: 4-7.
- Because in doing so we find fulfilment. *Psalm 40:8.*
- Because of love. *John 14:15; 1 John 5:3.*

FRUIT OF THE KINGDOM

"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his children, encouraging, comforting and urging you TO LIVE LIVES WORTHY OF GOD, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."
1 Thessalonians 2:11-12. See also *2 Thessalonians 1:5.*

In *Matthew 21:43*, Jesus said that the Kingdom would belong to those who "produce fruit" The fruit of the Kingdom is explained in a number of scriptures:

- Love, joy, peace. *Galatians 5:22-23*.
- Goodness, righteousness, truth. *Ephesians 5:9; James 3:13-17.*
- Righteousness. peace, joy. *Romans 14:17; Hebrews 12:11.*

Since we were created by God, we were also made for His Kingdom and its lifestyle. The fruit of that Kingdom is simply the natural outworking of the miracle of rebirth that the Holy Spirit has performed in us. (Galatians 5:22). Our responsibility as citizens of God's Kingdom is to live like the people we now are! *1 Peter 2:11*.
"We also pray that your outward lives, which men see, may bring credit to your master's name, and that you may bring joy to his heart." Colossians 1:10 (Phillips). See also *2:6; Ephesians 4:1; 6: 8-10*.

CONCLUSION

Give of your best to the Master, Give Him first place in your heart;
Give Him first place in your service, consecrate every part.

DISCOVER MORE

1. What is the only way we can enjoy living in God's Kingdom?
2. Honestly and prayerfully evaluate your relationship with Jesus, how do intend to strengthen that relationship?
3. What three things has Jesus saved us from?
4. Read Philippians 2:5 - how do you rate your attitude in comparison to that of Christ Himself?
5. What attitudes do you need to work on, write down what you intend to do to change out of line attitudes.

I REALISE, AFTER STUDYING ABOUT KINGDOM LIVING, THAT I AM TO SUBMIT MY LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF OTHERS, JUST AS JESUS DID.
I COMMIT MYSELF TO BEING A WILLING, JOYFUL SERVANT OF CHRIST AND OTHERS.

THOUGHTS

2.11
KINGDOM LIVING 2

Since we were created by God, we were also made for His Kingdom and its life- style. Our responsibility as citizens of God's Kingdom is to live like the people we now are. *1 Peter 2:11.*

RULES FOR HOLY LIVING

In *Colossians 3* Paul explains true Christian behaviour - putting on the new self by accepting Christ and regarding the earthly nature as dead. We change our moral and ethical behaviour by letting Christ live within us, so that He can shape us into what we should be.

He tells us to set our minds on things above this means striving to put heaven's priorities into daily practice and it means concentrating on things eternal rather than the temporary pleasures of this earth. In *verse 3* Paul tells us that our lives are hidden with Christ in God - our lives are concealed in Christ, hidden and safe this gives us hope for now and for the future. All the things the Lord asks us to do are possible through His power resident in us.

WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT DO

Colossians 3:5-9 gives a comprehensive list of those things we as children of God are expected to "put to death" in our lives' - in other words we should consider ourselves dead and unresponsive to all those things Paul mentions in this portion of Scripture.

Just like the diseased branches of a tree, these practices must be cut off before they destroy us. It means making a conscious daily decision to remove anything that supports or feeds these desires and instead rely on the Holy Spirit's power.

- “Fornication”, premarital or extramarital sex refers to physical and spiritual fornication, idolatry and worldliness.
- “Uncleanness” includes thoughts, words, looks, gestures.
- “Filthy language” includes foul language and verbal abuse of any description.
- “Do not lie to one another.” Lying disrupts unity by destroying trust. It tears down relationships and may lead to serious conflict in a Church. So, don’t exaggerate situations, pass on rumours or gossip or say things to build up your own image. Be committed to telling the truth.

WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD DO

Colossians 3: 10-17. Putting on your new self means that your conduct should match your faith. To be a Christian means more than just making good resolutions and having good intentions, it means taking the right action. Paul lists the specific things we should clothe ourselves with.

Every Christian is in a continuing education program. The more we know of Christ and his work, the more we are being changed to be like Him. Because this process is lifelong, we must never stop learning and obeying. There is no justification for drifting along, but there is an incentive to find the rich treasure of growing in Him. It takes practice, ongoing review, patience and concentration to keep in line with His will.

PAUL’S STRATEGY

In *verses 12-17* Paul offers a strategy to help us live for God day by day:

- Imitate Christ’s compassionate forgiving attitude. *verses 12 & 13*.
- Let love guide your life. *verse 14.*
- Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart. *verse 15*.
- Always be thankful. *verse 15*.
- Keep God’s Word in you at all times. *verse 16.*
- Live as Jesus Christ’s representative. *verse 17.*

In *verse 13* Paul encourages us to forgive whatever grievances we have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. The key

to forgiving others is remembering how much God has forgiven you. Is it difficult for you to forgive someone who has wronged you a little when God has forgiven you so much? Realising God's infinite love and forgiveness can help you love and forgive others. We forgive not because a person necessarily deserves our forgiveness but because our Lord commands it, and because we love Him we obey.

BE TRANSFORMED

Those practices that Paul warns us to put to death in our lives start as thoughts which we allow to settle in our minds and we dwell on them until they eventually translate into an action. *Romans 12:2* urges us not to conform to the pattern of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds:

- Examine the source of your thoughts. *Romans 8:5; Philippians 4:8*.
- Bring every thought into obedience. *2 Corinthians 10:5*.
- Our minds should not be set on the things of the flesh. *Romans 8:7*.
- We are responsible for renewing our minds. *Romans 12:2*.
- Let repentance become a way of life. *Revelation 3:19; Psalm 119:59*.
- Make a decision - my mind belongs to me and I will use it. I will not permit any outside force to employ or control my mind. *1 Corinthians 14:20*.
- Exercise your mind by taking the initiative - take the initiative do not depend on any one else to start things. *1 Peter 1:13; James 4:17*.
- Exercise the mind by thinking - begin thinking, reasoning, remembering and understanding. Exercise your mind by memorising scripture verses. *Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:16*.

CONCLUSION

Think about what you are thinking about! Remember, whatever the mind sets itself on is what a person walks after. The renewing comes as you allow God's truth to permeate every part of your thinking. When we are focused on whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable that which is excellent or praiseworthy *Philippians 4:8*, we can clothe ourselves as Paul exhorts us to.

DISCOVER MORE

1. What does it mean to “set your mind on things above?”
2. What does it mean to be a Christian?
3. Explain Paul’s strategy for Kingdom Living in your own words.
4. What is the key to forgiving those who have wronged you? Are you holding unforgiveness towards anyone - what would God have you do about it?
5. Examine the source of your thoughts and write out a plan of action to train yourself to think on those things that Paul mentions in Philippians 4:8.

I RECOGNISE THAT LIVING A LIFE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AND I UNDERTAKE FROM THIS POINT ON TO ENDEAVOUR WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO CONSCIOUSLY FOLLOW THE STRATEGY GIVEN US BY THE APOSTLE PAUL.

THOUGHTS

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