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Module 2

Stage 4 - Lifting believing hearts towards His heavenly Kingdom

Preamble

These studies are presented in a progressive study order and are suitable for bible study in the church, bible school, believing group and home-centred outreach. The modules may also be grouped and used for topical studies and seminars. We are trusting God to inspire His people everywhere to use these modular studies for themselves and to help others to use them in seeking and finding Jesus Christ as Lord of their own lives.

Opening the heart - widely

Stage 4 - Lifting believing hearts towards His heavenly Kingdom

1. Go all the way with Jesus - your keeper Psalm 121:5

The true keeper of your soul is yourself. This should be the case but is not so. The reasons are given in Scripture. All have sinned. In many things, we offend all. God was originally the Keeper of the human being and in an overall, sovereign and universal sense still is. Due to the interference of the devil, we somehow, whether we like it or not, still land up in the clutches of this archfiend of our souls, the enemy. God therefore has chosen two others to help with our keeping - the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

It is not you alone but Jesus alone

If we could save ourselves, we would, for no one likes to be destroyed. Saving ourselves is not as simple as it first appears to be. It depends on how we look at being saved - from what, why, how, when, where? The salvation mentioned here has to do with being saved from sin, death, the grave, destruction and an eternity in hell. Who is equal to this type of salvation? You cannot do it, no matter how hard you try. Only Jesus can do it for you.

If you can win then why don't you?

To win a contest, you need to be more powerful than your opponent, more skilful than he, having greater and lasting endurance. In this contest, there are too many things stacked against us. We are fighting against invisible forces in this battle, and we can only see the results of his battle, but cannot see the enemy, himself. Who can wage such a battle?

Closed values and opened concerns

The issues between heaven and hell are of such great import that they have to be understood, if not fully, at least sufficiently, to realise the magnitude of the battle. What we do not know does not hurt us, but once we know, then we have a responsibility to work with that knowledge. God's values are closed to us and only by reading the Scriptures, or through hearing His gospel message, can we realise what the magnitude of the battle is that stands against us. God is fighting on the one hand, the devil is fighting on the other and mankind stands in the middle, turning this way and that, looking for solutions. God's values remain closed to those who reject them but will become a cause for open concern when Jesus comes back to judge the earth.

The walk with Jesus is a wonderful experience

Jesus has a way that He would like us to go, walking with Him on the way to life eternal. He offers His heavenly help at all stages of our journey. He is with us all the way. He guides us in the matters of eternal choices and even blesses us with His presence now.

He keeps you - as you keep Him

There is a strange paradox in this statement. How can we keep Jesus if He is keeping us? Well, once we have chosen Him and His way, He is with us, helping us, taking care of us always and all ways, even forever. We can let go of Him, but He will not let go of us unless we decide otherwise. We can turn away from Him and leave Him forever if we wish to do that. He will try to persuade us otherwise and will keep trying to bring us back until we make the fateful decision to leave him forever.

His victory is powerful - take it

The victory of Jesus over death, the grave and hell are complete. There is nothing left to be desired. His victory can be yours if you will only let your defeat be given to Him for His exchange.

Your defeat is final - let it go

Only the person who has tried to work with human nature can realise how difficult it can be to effect changes. The complications of human nature that wants to do what it cannot and does not want to do what it can, plus the working of doing what it does not want to do, and not doing what it would like to do, make the battle impossible. Paul discovered the wretched state of just such a miserable man. He, however, gave up on it and put the matter firmly in the Lord's hands.

Working with the impossible

The impossible would not be impossible if it were not impossible. The human heart can't save itself and its wretched state is declared in Scripture. This being the case, how can we go to work with the human heart if it were not for God's way of dealing with the impossible?

Let the impossible become possible

God has a way that makes this impossible task possible, and with the help of Jesus, all things become possible to those who believe in Him. There is no need to try and accomplish this awesome task of rescuing ourselves, apart from the work and power of Jesus Christ as Lord.

It is Jesus and His way of a miracle

Jesus is not ashamed to declare that He alone can save. The apostles also have the same claim concerning Jesus. His Father also gives witness to this very thing that only Jesus can save, deliver and bring us into the wonderful liberty of the faithful children of God.

Open up a file of prayer now - God will transfer it to the completed file

As we begin to realise the possibilities of the awesome work that God has done, is doing and will yet still do for us through Jesus, we can begin to release the work to him for His completion. This does not mean that we have nothing to do, but by believing we enter into that wonderful help relationship that will stop short at nothing but the finished work and its marvellous perfection.

It takes a bit of persuasion but it is being done for us

The Holy Spirit does the work of persuading us along the way. He has a way of leading, guiding, helping, comforting and confirming the way, in which we, as believers, are to go. His keeping is perfect and He will keep you to the end, for Jesus' sake.

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2. The exchange that is necessary for us all Matthew 16:25-26

The devil robbed Adam and Eve from God in the Garden of Eden. He robbed Cain of the ability to please God. He robbed Abel of his life. He has been robbing people ever since.

The creation belonged to God, who put it under the subjection of man. Satan came and took creation away from the man and has ever since tried to take it away from God. The exchange that took place was that mankind traded what God had given them for what the devil had in mind. Ever since man has been exchanging good for bad and bad for worse. It is satan's fault, but man is just as much to blame. The exchange that the devil brought in needs a second exchange that will correct matters. The exchange of God that brings man to the place of return and restored fellowship, is the exchange that is spoken of in the New Testament. Only God could do it for us.

There are no exemptions

Everyone has fallen - for there is no one good enough to please God. We cannot please God in our original, unchanged state, simply because of the God-punishment that has been placed on mankind.

The fallen have brought forth fallen children and the banished have brought forth banished children. The natural state of man inclines us all too selfish, sinful and decadent ways, especially when the wrong people influence us. No one can do good and keep on doing good in their power, strength and ability. Sooner or later we all sin and fall short of what God requires of us. We are sold under sin and sin is our slave master.

You too can have it now

God, giving Jesus to die for our sins, accomplishes the exchange that God has brought about. The world attempts to turn to God, but we all eventually find out how difficult this is to accomplish. Will power is not good enough when it stands alone, without outside divine assistance. The will to do good is present within us, but the means to do it is not always present. We all have good intentions, but in many things, we offend all. There is, however, a much better way, and this is what God has done to bring mankind back to Himself, through the person of Jesus Christ.

This exchange is for all to receive

The devil has taken us away from God and now God has to take us away from the devil. God the Father Himself, through Jesus, has affected the exchange. Satan caused man to stumble into sin, rebelling against God's commandment and thereby mankind receives personal punishment due to that sin. The punishment has been passed on to all men, women and children everywhere.

The working of that exchange is God's doing

There are three ways of getting something back that has been stolen. The thief gives it back, God takes it back, or God buys it back. Let us discuss God's method.

The devil will never give back what he has taken. He will never release you from his grasp. He will never allow you to go back to God, ever.

God will never go back on what He has eternally banished or given over to eternal punishment. That is His way and is how it should be. His commandment that was meant for life became a commandment for death, as soon as it was disobeyed. Why should God change His mind over what He has declared to be the consequence of sin?

God can only buy back what was stolen, and then only if He wants to do it. The price of

the buy-back must satisfy the devil, who is going to lose anyone who is bought back. The price must be sufficient for the devil to desire the exchange. The Son of God in exchange for the whole world. Yes, that is sufficient, if only the devil were not such a liar, thief and murderer. If only he could be trusted to keep his side of the bargain. Of course, he cannot be trusted, for he is a deceiver. Even if a price could be found, the enemy of our souls will not give up what he has gained by conquest.

So, what now? God has worked out a master strategy that will meet all the requirements!

Your part in the exchange

There remains a constant problem. Do you or anyone else want to be set free from the grip of the devil, to be delivered out of his hand, to be bought back? Or do you prefer to remain in whatever position you now find yourself in? It would not be right to pay a price for your deliverance if you do not desire to be free of the punishment and its eternal effect. Consider the following possibilities. What about:

- Rebellion against God's existing commandments.
- Resisting changes that will bring you back to God.
- Restoring the life that was lost with brand-new life.
- The results of the devil's deception have to be reversed and overcome.
- Giving God once more the true fellowship and communion that He requires from you.
- Opening up a new eternal relationship with God and closing the old eternal relationship with the devil.
- Rescuing you from any former torments.
- Changing your eternal destination, with the guarantee that you will arrive there this time.
- Changing all the wrong desires towards longed for and renewed fellowship with God and vice versa.
- Giving God the chance to change the unchangeable, restore the unrestorable and conquer the unconquerable.
- Obtaining new promises from God.
- Reversing the established order from wayward freshness to intimate spirituality.
- Destroying the effects of the devil's deception.
- The punishments of God have to be overcome.
- God's rewards for obedience in the new God-order that has been established.

The working of this exchange is called redemption

This exchange is done through redemption. Redemption is the act of buying back, at a heavenly price, that which was eternally lost. Jesus came to buy-back for God what the devil succeeded in taking away from God. Someone sinless and undefiled, separate from sinners could only do this act of redemption. The only one found worthy, equal to the task and fully suited to fill all the requirements was the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan was the one who brought us into continual slavery, but Jesus is the One who eternally rescues us, by becoming our new Master.

We have been continually doomed to a life spent with the devil as our master, but we can now be blessed to have an eternal life spent with God throughout eternity.

We have continually been banished from God's presence, but we can now be eternally restored to God's favour enjoying His continual presence forevermore.

We have been eternally doomed to die under the punishment of God, having the sentence

of death working within ourselves, but we can now live eternally to God, having the blessing of a redeemed life on earth, enjoying God's full blessing.

Working on God's side

There are four sides we as human beings can take and continually work on. We can work for:

- our side - (Selfishness. This means that whatever we do, say or think, always revolves around us)
- satan's side - (Satanic. This side always revolves around satan)
- the side of others - (Unselfishness. This side revolves around others)
- the side of God - (Godliness. This side revolves around Father God and His Son, others and ourselves).

Only number four has all the elements that are fully pleasing to God and His Son,

God's working on your side

What we need is for God to begin working on our side.

- We are astray from Him - let Him find us.
- We are lost to eternity - let Him open up the way.
- We miss fellowship, let Him restore our fellowship.

Here is the good news, He has done it for you and He has done it for everyone. We need to rise to the occasion, accepting the invitation of Jesus, "Come to Me."

The perfection of God in "it" all

If one looks around at creation, we see marvellous evidence around us, overwhelming evidence of a wonderful orderly and magnificent creation, with everything doing what it has to do, being what it has to be, and living in the way it has to. The leaf on the tree, the baby in the womb, the wind in the trees, etc. Yet from time to time that perfection is disturbed by happenings in nature, the normal cycles are disturbed and imperfection results. If God is to be trusted to handle each day in His wonderful way of nature, how is it possible that we do not expect the same in the spiritual realm? We have to breathe continuously, and yet we do it almost unconsciously, every minute of the day. We have to have a heartbeat, yet we do not do this ourselves, but leave it up to the working of that particular organ, the heart, blood and system of blood vessels etc., that are designed to keep life going.

The 'it' of God in all perfection

In God's working, existing and subsisting in the spiritual realm, the unseen realm known as the Heavens of His Heaven, there is continual activity going on which governs mankind and the universe around him. God is in control of 'it'. He is from the beginning to the end, never changing. If we can let Him rule over us in the way He has chosen, He will continually take care of us in a manner that is absolutely beyond our expectation.

What can we add?

If God is God as He claims to be, then all we need to add to His already existing work is our love, respect and co-operation. Obedience is the keyword here. If disobedience brought the trouble of God down upon Adam and Eve, how can we expect to get away with disobedience now?

What can we take away?

We can take away truth from His Word or we can endorse His Word through our

obedience. There is a penalty for trying to alter the Word of God. There is a punishment in trying to alter His times and seasons. There is foolishness in trying to take God on and expect Him to change His mind, His way of doing things. We can, however, add our co-operation by doing what is required of us, obeying His commandments.

It is yours for the asking

If God requires from us obedience to His commandments and submission to His way, why should we not come into that obedience and submission and receive the blessings that are promised?

Do it now

Open up the heart to receive this extended invitation to come. You will not be sorry; neither will you regret such a decision, simply by speaking to Jesus:

“Lord Jesus I come to you, just as I am, to receive Your best You have for me now. Please take control and bring that which You have for me into my life (also the lives of my family, friends and acquaintances) and pour out Your redemptive blessings. I (we) thank you for what You have done, are doing and still going to do for us and on our behalf. Amen.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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3. Introducing the Jesus who may be known - all our longing John 4:29

Jesus, I come to you as I am.

Described here is a happening of a lined cloud in a bank of clouds, moving slowly from right to left, in front of the moon, as seen by myself. The cloud, slowly moving towards the full moon, was surrounded by a silvery-gold lining.

Intense desire

I was sitting on the lounge chair one evening. My wife Mary had gone to bed. The children were sleeping. I decided to put on a record and listen to some Christian music. There was a particular record that I enjoyed listening to which I decided to place on the turntable. I switched off the light and sat listening quietly in the darkness. The music was playing softly and the solo artist started singing, "I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses."

A tremendous longing came over me and I started missing Jesus. I felt that I loved Him very deeply, but that He was staying away too long. I knew that He had promised to return, but that His return was being delayed and I was beginning to grow tired of all the problems and disappointments that I had received up to the present stage of my life as a believer. I sat for some time listening to the song and then grew listless with heartfelt longing.

It was a lovely cool evening. I found myself listening and slowly walking towards the back door to experience the cool breeze. The door was open and there was a screen door keeping out the insects. I opened the screen door and stood looking up at the full moon that was shining. In my heart I asked Jesus, why are You taking so long to return? I need You to come back now.

As I was looking at the moon, I noticed a cloud bank, moving closer towards the moon, started forming itself into the face of Jesus. It was large and very clean, beautiful and vivid, with His whole face outlined by a silvery-gold light edged around the cloud. Jesus was facing towards my left, looking up towards the moon. His face was on the right side of the moon. I gasped as I noticed the radiant face of Jesus. He looked so wonderfully beautiful and He appeared to be so serene and lovely.

I looked on for quite a while with worship in my heart for Him. As I gazed at the sight, I found a great peace flooding my soul and that the deep-seated longing was slowly disappearing. I realised that Jesus had come to visit in this special way to settle my anxious waiting and longing for His return. Gradually the cloud started drifting on and began changing its shape until the whole cloud had just become a normal cloud with a silver lining. I went inside and sat down, marvelling at how beautiful it all was, with great rejoicing in my heart.

From that day, I have a certainty that Jesus will come back again and I am therefore quite willing to wait for His return on the clouds of heaven to fetch all of His own.

- Jesus said that He will come again. *John 14:1-3*
- Angels said that He will come again. *Acts 1:9-11*
- His apostles said that He will come again. *2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 and Hebrews 10:35-39*
- His Father said that He will come again. *Acts 4:19-21*
- His prophets said that He will come again. *Jude 1:14-16*
- His people say He will come again. *Revelation 22:20*
- The Spirit of God says He will come again. *Revelation 22:17*

- Do you say that Jesus will come again? *2 Peter 3:1-4*

Every vision should have a correct interpretation to be effective in conveying spiritual truth and to increase your faith effectively.

The clouds are only an aid for what God wishes to reveal and, although a miraculous happening, has no other significance.

Interpretation

The silvery-gold lining that lit up the face of Jesus showed and emphasised that Jesus has a glory that is emanating from the glory of God, His Father. This glory of God, represented by the lining of the cloud, is being reflected around the face of Jesus as if emanating from His face.

Hebrews 1:2-3 "... His Son being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, ..."

The fact of longing for Him brings Him closer to us, personally.

Psalm 40:1 "I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined to me, and heard my cry."

This sudden unexpected appearance to me shows that Jesus desires to make Himself known to us in our desires, longings and thoughts. Paul had a sudden experience of Jesus.

Acts 22:6-7 "... suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. ... heard a voice ..."

A prayerful and longing heart helped to open up this mystery of Jesus to me, showing me that He cares.

Psalm 107:9 "For He satisfies the longing soul, ..."

The beauty of what we see in the risen Jesus is a wonderful reality, as it is part of His beauty and wonderful being that comes from God.

Psalm 27:4 "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek to behold the beauty of the Lord, ..."

Seeing Jesus removes our longing and gives us the patience we need to wait for Him to meet with us in our need.

Hebrews 11:27 "... for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible."

The longing of everyone - to see Jesus

No one would like to think of Jesus as something belonging to the imagination. Just think how would it be if our concept of what Jesus is like is left to the imagination? This is not what He intends for us. Many people get to know Him by His workings, others by personal reception of His promises, and some get to know Him because He chooses to present Himself alive to them in various ways.

Compare:

John 20:26-29 "And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, 'Peace to you!' Then He said to Thomas. 'Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.' And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'"

Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

with these other Scriptures:

John 17:1-3 “Jesus spoke these words, lifted His eyes to heaven, and said: ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You Have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.’”

John 17:9-10 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.”

John 17:15 “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

John 17:21 “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in me and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

and

John 17:24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

Drawing near in full assurance

Giving a guarantee, that you can see Jesus, is not my domain. I cannot give full assurance to you that this will take place for this is God’s domain, for who can tell Him what to do? Nevertheless, we have the invitation to draw near to Jesus, with our hearts fully assured in faith through the Holy Spirit, in time of need. *Hebrews 10:19-25*

We can ask Him to present as in *Acts 1:3 “... Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs ...”*

Love is the way to go in this regard, for it is love that *1 Corinthians 13:7 “... believes all things, hopes all things, ...”*

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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4. The revived hope Romans 5:5

A backslider is a person who accepts Jesus Christ and then does not continue to walk with Him but turns back along the way they have come. Backsliding is not a very happy situation in a believer's life because of the press of conscience and the condemnation of the inward witness of God's Spirit. The way through to heaven for a believer does not need to lead through hell first. By thinking that we should first go the way of hell to get to heaven is confused thinking. Yet somehow the backslider is confronted with this type of thinking. The way forward is not the way backwards. By turning around, in the spirit, the backslider is altering the direction of his/her hopes, expectations and blessings. Losing hope is the surest way for the backslider to give up the faith and desire to return to the place of self again, as opposed to the way of Jesus. There is good news for the backslider. You can have another chance. Allow your hope to be revived.

The right hope

There is a wonderful way that God has given to us as believers, even if we have been backsliding or are backslidden. This way is encompassed with and through the Holy Spirit's own potential to bring a backslider back to the Saviour. The hope of all can be revived and renewed daily. What is the main difference between the revived hope and the renewed hope? Renewed hope is the way for a believer to be encouraged. Return to the Overseer and Bishop of your souls.

The Holy Spirit's hope

If believers can fluctuate between hope and despair on occasions, yet can carry on, even so, can backsliders return? The call to the backslider to come to Jesus is just as relevant as the call to the believer to come to Jesus. He is the Saviour of all those who believe in Him. A returning backslider has as much compassion and sympathy as the remaining believer. The backslider has to overcome their condemnation first, which can be done through turning, repentance and confession. The Holy Spirit has been sent to help the believer and the backslider who returns from his/her backslidings, for His hope that He holds out to God's family is eternal.

The working of the promises concerning the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has a function and helping specially assigned to Him. There are numerous promises made concerning the Holy Spirit's work. Here are just a few:

- He is always with believers.
- He is in us and works through us.
- He comforts.
- He teaches.
- He guides.
- He opens.
- He instructs.
- He gives generously.
- He introduces us to Jesus and His ways.
- He counsels us.
- He works with us.
- He works for us.
- He tells us of Christ's secrets.
- He glorifies Christ.

- He opens up the Word of God for us.
- He helps us in praying.
- He warns us of future problems.

Receive Him for yourself and you will have the blessings that are promised.

The salvation, which is desired to be looked into

Many people consider salvation a myth and cannot receive it for themselves. Some would even love to look into the matters that salvation blessing appears to be offering, without themselves partaking of salvation.

This is a basic impossibility for no matter how hard you try to discover the blessings of salvation you can only experience the full taste of the fruit by partaking of the fruit. Until you have tasted you can only look and desire. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Everyone desires to get the blessings of salvation, but only those who want it badly enough will receive those blessings. The outsider cannot come in until he/she becomes an insider. This difference is made up once the line between repentance and refusing to repent is crossed. It is like looking at a house from outside, looking in at the windows, but being unable to enjoy the comfort and blessings of the home, whilst standing outside.

The only remedy

Salvation is an experience and not just a state of mind. I can think that I am saved, but it does not mean that I am. Once I believe that I am saved, wonderful working starts coming into being and God becomes active within the human heart. By accepting Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, whether for the first time or by returning from being a backslider, you start to experience the joy of believing and receiving salvation from the Lord himself. Knowing and believing is not the same as not knowing and believing. You will know that you are saved when you are saved. You will know that you are back with the Lord when you have returned to Him. He will place His witness in your heart and you will realise fully where you stand in this matter. You do not have to be told by anyone, for you will know it within and by yourself.

The greatest hope

The greatest hope that we as people, whether unbelievers or believers, can experience is to have a full assurance of salvation, even forever, called eternal salvation. This comes about by the consecration of your life to the Lord and His service but in full surrender. Leaving behind the doubts and indifference of the unbelieving, the double-minded and the double hearted, will put you onto that way that Jesus has ordained for the believer's life. The great pity is that often believers carry on along a middle way, neither belonging fully to Jesus nor fully to the world. The lukewarm, are neither hot nor cold. Stand with Jesus fully and He will stand with you fully, for He is standing with you fully in any case, provided you have not caused Him to stand against you.

The working of the word of faith

The word of faith is the word that has been preached to us and which we receive and believe. It has the power to change us and effects great wonders in our lives. This working is the working of Jesus through the Holy Spirit that subdues all things to God and in particular the true believers.

The faith of the working world

When you apply faith to the words of God, your faith causes the word of God to become actively working for you. The working world is a reality in the lives of the believers who

have learned to exercise their faith in its working through God Himself, utilizing His Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ as your Lord. The prayers that are released up, in faith to the Father, will be answered because of the intercession of Jesus. The faith of the working world is that faith which the word of God requires to make any promise effective and become alive for you. This faith can grow, like a mustard seed, and can become a big tree bearing many mustard seeds.

The realisation within

The prayer that goes up to God, loaded with the faith-based on the claiming of any promise of God, contained in the Scriptures, will bring results. The practice of praying with expectation, with the hope of an answer that is being released to God's provisional working, will give the realisation of its being fulfilled. The realisation of God hearing, acting and being pleased with your faithful prayer is a profound awareness. You know what you know and you know it will be answered. The full assurance of faith is confirmed by the inner assurance of the Spirit's witness.

The overflowing joy without

This type of knowledge will have an overflowing spring of joy within the heart, bringing peace to the mind and rest to the troubled soul. The assurance of being heard opens up the well of inner contentedness and assurance that is of such value to the believer and God. God is assured of your trust by the activation of your faith and the joy that is forthcoming from a believing heart and it overflows to those around you. The doubter cannot have this same joy that is reserved for the believer only.

Careful matters versus losing oneself

Before asking anything in prayer, stop a moment and see what is in your spirit. If there are assurance and peace then what you are going to ask is good, but if otherwise, first deal with the hindrances. One cannot be too careful in this matter of praying. Many prayers that seem to be answered, are linked up to wrong requests. Requests that are answered are linked up to the right heart and mind attitudes together with the right prayer. Some people pray and lose themselves along the way, simply because they expect God to answer, even if the request is harmful to others. When the expected results do not appear, a praying person can turn to fault-finding with God. The correct spirit goes with the correct prayer and the keeping of oneself goes together with the keeping of others. Forgiveness opens up the way for your forgiveness and is a basic requisite for prayers to reach God unhindered.

It will be worth it all - Jesus will see to it

Our unhindered prayers are open to the Lord and will receive answers. He gives us the assurance that He hears us and knows our weaknesses. Even the backslider and the believer can be heard if we are willing to turn away from the wrong that so easily besets us and is willing to turn to God for their removal. The blessings come and make room for more blessings. If we are not watchful, just as easily, curses can come from us and cause more curses. The blessings of the blessings have been assured by the words of Jesus and the curses of the curses have been assured by the devil. God stands between and asks us to bless and curse not so that we can be blessed and not cursed. Jesus is our example and as we follow His example, He will take care of our prayers in a most remarkable manner.

Amen, glory and blessings

These ascriptions belong to God. Jesus Himself ascribes them to God, and God is worthy of them. God, in turn, ascribes them to Jesus. Glory and blessings can therefore be ours as we continue to walk with Jesus. He is the Amen to our prayers, longings and desires. Let the

backslider come back, the sinner comes in, the believer comes forward, and the saint looks up.

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5. The teaching of submission - authority always vindicated Luke 7:7-9

Many people do not understand the New Testament teaching concerning authority or for that matter the benefits to be found in the principle of submission.

Submission

Submission is a surrender of the will of one to the will of another. This does not mean that we are to submit to everyone we meet, whether we like it or not. The submission we are talking about is one of great significance in the New Testament, the teachings of Jesus and His apostles.

Authority

Authority is spoken of throughout the New Testament and has many facets to it. We are only going to open the matter deep enough to help us to understand basic principles and to suggest some of the various forms of authority that are mentioned. The subject can be researched in-depth with the use of a concordance, by simply looking up the word “authority”.

Obedience required

All forms of authority require some form of submission. Submission depends on the set requirements of obeying the authority. If the government of a country requires certain laws to be obeyed or kept, then that law is the requirement of that governing authority.

Laws, rules - requirements and obligations

Each authority requires obedience, and those under any given authority are obliged to obey. Disobedience can bring punishment of sorts. This applies to all authorities, even though punishment is not always carried out straightaway.

Three orders of authority

The three orders of authority are as follows:

The authority of man

All over the earth, some men are in authority. They are to be respected for they wield great power. It does not matter whether they are in charge of governments, businesses, institutions, their authority must be taken into account.

The authority of God

The authority of God is no less authority, even though all people on the earth do not know of it. This too has a powerful mandate that cannot be ignored.

The authority of God through man

God can give authority to a person, and that person then represents God. This is a known fact. This authority can be directed through either a church, a government, a business, an institution or an official holding a responsible position.

Disobeying an authority

Every authority has penalties for disobedience, non-conforming or rebellion. The form that this takes is usually laid down by rules, laws, requirements or obligations and the penalty for going against these are prescribed or become effective through some or other form of judgment or decision by the authority itself.

Benefits for conforming

Every authority has benefits that accrue through conforming to the prescribed requirements. So, it is with God. His benefits are wonderful and are called blessings or blessedness.

The choice is always yours

The choice between obedience and disobedience is always presented to those who are aware of the consequences of either conforming or not. So, it is with God. We have a choice to decide for obedience or disobedience once we are presented with the choices.

Choose the better one - reason dictates it

The gospel presents two different choices for rejection. It seems foolish to make a wrong choice with adverse consequences, yet many people choose this rather than accept the alternative. Your choice has eternal consequences for you. This is what Jesus recommends - choose a new life, abundant life, and eternal life.

Authority cannot be denied

Whatever our choice, the consequences always remain, whether for good or ill. The position of the authority, due to its authoritative stand, will eventually decide the outcome. The higher the authority the harder it is to escape the consequences of the wrong choices. God, presenting Himself as the highest Authority, will have the final say. There is a day prepared for that.

Consider your choices carefully. They are of eternal consequence.

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6. Seeing Jesus - Spiritual value for the soul Hebrews 12:14

Needless to say, there are many people on the earth today who have seen Jesus and who have testified about it, either orally or in writing. There will be, I am certain, still numerous to come. You are invited to believe with me in trusting God to do the same for you.

True seeing increases the spiritual value to the souls of men and women

All-seeing starts with an inward recognition of that which is seen outwardly employing the eyes, and in like manner, spiritually speaking, spiritual eyes have to see the invisible, or in other words, they have to be spiritually discerned *Ephesians 1:18*. We often see natural things that are recognised as such, but that is not inwardly accepted for their spiritual value. We all, who know of these things, accept seeing Jesus by faith in the inward understanding, but only a certain few will extend their faith to receive Jesus by way of actual spiritual vision or revelation, (compare *Joel 2:28-29* with *Acts 2:40-41*.) This is now in the realm of the possible as we progress through these visions that I have been privileged to experience, in ways other than the usual or accepted norms. Seeing Jesus is one of these things that can become real to you, but it requires a quickening of the Holy Spirit.

Perceiving Him

Four steps need to become part of your spiritual understanding. It was Jesus who said,

John 6:40 "... that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life, and I will raise him at the last day."

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

A believing person can perceive Jesus in numerous ways, such as feeling His presence, His warmth or His love, being enveloped in such a wonderful feeling that we do not doubt His presence, having burning hearts and then suddenly recognising that it is Jesus.

John 21:4, 7 "... Jesus stood on the shore, yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus ... that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'it is the Lord!'"

Study *Luke 24:15-32* carefully to see how Jesus can visit and yet not be known until He is perceived as being Jesus or He opens up their eyes to recognise Him.

See Him revealed in a waking vision.

2 Corinthians 12:1 "...I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord"

See Him revealed in a sleeping dream.

1 Kings 3:5 "At Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask! What I shall give you?'"

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions"

See Him revealed in a trance-like state

Have a meeting with Him in person by means of falling into a trance-like state.

Genesis 15:12 "Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him."

Genesis 15:7 “Then He (the Lord) said to him (Abram) ‘I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it’”.

See Him in open visions

See Him appear in person with one's eyes open, seeing Jesus in our surroundings, called an open vision, utilizing the Holy Spirit coming upon one.

Acts 7:55 “But he (Stephen), being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’”

See also, *Luke 9:32, Numbers 24:2-4, 15-16, Daniel 3:25, Luke 24:38-39.*

Only the seeing can lead the blind

Each manifestation presents a wonderful close-up introduction to Jesus, as presenting Himself and ‘seeing Him who is invisible.’ By accepting the invisible in faith, as presented by the promises of the Word of God, the invisible can come closer to reality. Do not expect to come to this realisation quickly, although with God this too is possible. Jesus spoke about those who can see leading those who cannot see. *Matthew 15:14* also makes mention of the blind that are unable to lead the blind.

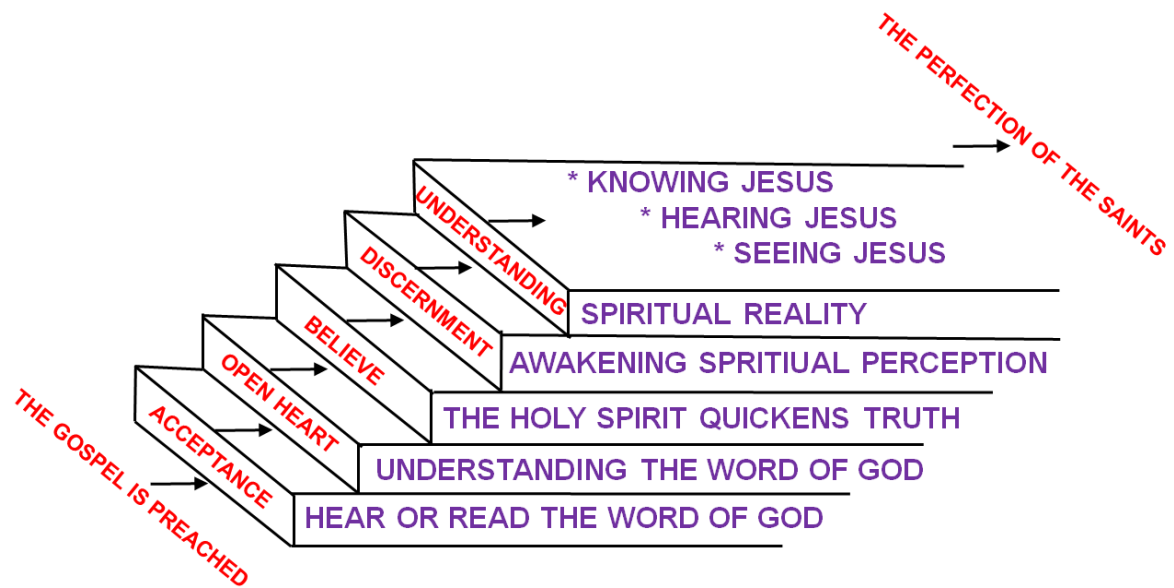
It is a simple truth that because I can see, it becomes feasible for me to help those who cannot see to see, just as God helped me to see. I pray and believe for you to understand this clearly and that Jesus will open up your heart and your eyes to see Him in any one or more of these four ways. May God grant you your request as He did mine.

Opening up spiritual values

The senses that we have in the natural, have to be opened up to the far greater spiritual realities to bring about spiritual perceptions, *1 Corinthians 15:45-47*. Believing does this. Whichever way we understand this, and for whatever reason, the eternal truth remains that without a changed life, i.e., by turning away from satanic living to the necessary Jesus living, no amount of trying to see Jesus will be of any benefit, for these two powerful forces contradict, oppose, inhibit and cancel out each other. What good is there in seeing Jesus only to realise that satan has you in his grip? However, once you see that satan has you in his grip, you will be blessed to hear from or see Jesus.

The Lord will reveal the truth of these things to you and, remember, He will always protect those who seek Him by receiving His eternal truths. His grace will always be sufficient for you. He will not fail those who trust fully in Him.

1 Peter 2:6-7 “It is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.’ and ‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offence.’”



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7. Labouring for the Son of God through the anointing Acts 20:35

Each person who loves the Lord will discover the difference between labouring for themselves and labouring for the Lord. Labouring for oneself brings its rewards that are centred on our desires, needs and longings. Being centred on the Lord and labouring for Him has a completely different motivation, and outworking for such motivation is not self-centred but Christ-centred. The anointing can be used for oneself, and a believer has the right to have his/her problems solved. This is not wrong, but when it is continually used for yourself to the neglect of other people who need help, the use of the anointing will be shown up as self-centred and not Christ-centred.

Jesus has an anointing

The truth of the matter is that Jesus had an anointing, has an anointing and will always have an anointing. He is called 'the Anointed One – Christ' for that is what Christ means in the Greek language of the New Testament. Jesus is anointed and therefore can anoint any person through that anointing that flows out from Himself. The anointing of Jesus is powerful and can accomplish anything. Our anointing can only accomplish that which Jesus allows us to accomplish, even though this in itself might be a mighty work, or result in mighty works. His anointing or ours? His anointing has unlimited working and is therefore the superior way. As we progress through these modules you will uncover or rather discover for yourself what the main difference is.

The closed-door and the open door

The anointing opens up the door to the impossible. Closed doors are not pleasant, especially if we would like to enter and cannot. The working of the door, whether opened or closed, and the entry into that doorway is a relevant issue in this matter of the anointing, of believing and of continuing to hope. There are doors of opportunity that sometimes open for us unexpectedly, and because we did not anticipate such a happening, we delayed to enter and found later on, much to our chagrin, that we seemed to have missed a golden opportunity. The anointing will help you through each door that He opens up for you, and of course, will shut each door that He does not want you to go into. He can be trusted to do just this.

Walking in through faith

The opportunity to work, witness and help others open up before us continually. However, we cannot go into every door that seems to be opening up to us, simply because we are still human and have not the full energy required to do just that. There may be two jobs opened up before us, and the one can be better than the other - but which one? Which one will eventually prove the most beneficial to us? We have all made a mistake sometime or other, where we chose between two choices, and the choice we have made is the one that, unfortunately, we have had to live with, much to our sorrow. The converse is equally true. The right decision brought us onto the pathway of abiding blessings. The Holy Spirit is our present help to eliminate the guesswork. His choice, however, does not always lead to the pathway of roses but will prove to eventually have been the right way for us to go.

He had it from the beginning and beyond

The anointing was a part of God's plan for the life of Jesus and it was prophesied over Him and of Him long before He appeared on the scene as a baby born at Bethlehem, Judea. His Father would be God and He would be the only begotten of the Father. It follows therefore that God would give Him power, God's power, through the Holy Spirit. The power that He had is always ascribed to God the Father, and He makes no claims of having this power apart from God's support and authorisation. He still has it and immeasurably so, able

to accomplish any miracle in heaven and on earth, except that which God keeps peculiarly within His reserve.

Only for Him and His people will it be opened

The anointing opens God's will before us and even more so to the believer. The believer has a special place in God's scheme of things. He is, so to speak, regarded as the apple of His eye. The very first recipient of God's awesome power is Jesus and then the children of God are included for Son's sake.

Jesus, as the forerunner, opened up the anointing for us

The anointing is displayed over and over again in the Old Testament; from the time that God first started dealing with mankind. Adam was the first, who was given authority by God to fill a special place and accomplish a special work. After Adam came many other believers, including those that were under the law of Moses, who is mentioned as having a specific work to do for God, who therefore were given the anointing to complete their tasks. Even the common people, who believed in God, were inspired to do many wonderful works. The 11th chapter of Hebrews gives a summary of some of these people. A study of the Old Testament will uncover many more. In every case, the anointing served God's purposes. The two greatest examples of this anointing capacity are shown through Moses, the forerunner of the Law, and the Lord Jesus Christ, the forerunner of grace.

He gave us the faith to believe in His Father

Jesus always pointed to His Father. He never took any credit for Himself, except that which His Father Himself gave to Him. He always endeavoured to centre our faith and trust in God. His injunction was always, have faith in God, believe in God, trust in God.

He shared God's Fatherhood with us

Jesus never taught us that God was only His Father, but always included the believers with Himself. My Father. Your Father. Our Father. He commanded us to submit to His Father and Himself, Jesus, for the Father's sake. He gave us promise upon a promise that what He has will also be given to us if we can only believe. His promises of receiving what we ask have no limits as to claims that we can make. Nevertheless, all asking is accompanied by faith. He tells us of His Father's love for all His creatures.

Working with the works of God

The working of God towards us is not dependent upon us receiving them. Most people take God's daily working for granted. Those, however, who are thankful to God and whose minds, hearts and eyes are open to see the works of God, will see yet greater things in the future. How we appreciate and do with whatever we receive from the hand of God, will determine how we enjoy, appreciate and use them for the benefit of both others and ourselves. To those who have more, will be given and to those who have not, even that which they seem to have will be taken away.

Working the works of God

Working with the works of God and working the works of God are two separate things. The first we receive as a matter of course, whether or not we have prayed or believed. The second comes as we follow the recipe for its success.

Healing the lepers of their leprosy and the sinners of their sin

In olden times leprosy was considered an unclean disease. Even in modern times the superstition and dread of leprosy provoke fear and horror within us. The Bible portrays a

parallel that shows the similarities between leprosy and sin. The one disease clings to the body of man destroying body tissues and bones, the other clings to the soul, destroying the inner life and spiritual life. Jesus came to heal body, soul and spirit. Whilst the lepers were healed and cleansed in Jesus' day, finally needing the pronouncement of the priest, sinners can only be pronounced as having been saved, healed, cleansed and delivered by Jesus.

He takes us by the hand and leads us to the Father, His people and His Kingdom

Jesus will lead us and guide us, through the Holy Spirit. The anointing of the Holy Spirit will help us in all that we need to know, be and do for God. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is therefore the constant help towards victory and in becoming an overcomer with Jesus. The Holy Spirit will introduce us to the Father through the Son, the Saviour through conviction, His deliverance through repentance. He will also keep us, as God's children, and guide us to God's Heavenly Kingdom, keeping us secure until Jesus comes back to take us away with Him.



Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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8. Giving your all to receive God's call 2 Peter 1:5

The way to find the fullest blessing of God in your life is simply through the act of surrender. Surrendering or yielding to God bears a fruitfulness that nothing else can produce. It is a simple fact that if you give God only half of what you have in terms of surrender, that the other half that you withhold will hinder you're receiving all that God has for you. Many believers do not fully understand this and wonder why it is that they are unable to progress properly in the believing life.

To use a simple analogy: if you put a small portion of your salary into the bank, money that is yours, you can expect a certain amount of interest on that money. If on the other hand, you put in all your salary, you can expect a higher rate of interest on this greater amount. Should you be able to put your full salary into the bank each month, the increasing amount will give you greater interest and eventually your deposits will reach such a stage that you can receive a larger rate of interest. The longer-term investment will produce various benefits to you as the amount grows. You could even affect a higher rate of interest on the long-term investment and so on. Similarly, the total commitment you give to God will produce greater benefits to yourself, than if you only gave a half-hearted commitment.

Letting go of what you do not need

If you hold onto what you have and do not invest your money to obtain interest, your money will not grow. It is only by letting go of what you do not need and putting it aside as an investment that you can expect a higher yield on your money. Similarly, the more you invest in God, the greater will be your spiritual yield in return from Him.

Taking that which God offers to us

How can we expect to receive that which God offers us if we do not take what He offers us, but insist on holding onto what we have, instead? God has given to us everything that He can and how can we say that we cannot give Him anything in return? It makes sense to realise that God gives and gives, but by just taking what He gives and by not giving anything back, we tend to become selfish people.

The two callings

There are two callings for those who are following Jesus. The one calling involves being a believer in Jesus, for Jesus and with Jesus. This first calling is the lot of every believer. It involves personal choices and it involves following Jesus as the priority in life.

The other one is being either a single believer or a married believer. This also involves choices, but there is a difference between those believers who remain single and those believers who get married.

The single believer's calling

The person who has this type of call will always feel happy to be single. They will never feel threatened in the presence of married believers. They prefer to be independent and can stand alone. They have a preference to work for God on an independent basis and will fit in anywhere. They are destined to work for God. They are happy people and God is their only choice.

The married believer's calling

These believers find their happiness in God and each other. They have either become married after receiving Jesus into their lives and hearts or have been married before receiving their new-found trust in Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives. The two people have chosen to

become one with their partner, in each other's love, serving the Lord in marriage, whilst the other persons have found the Lord in their marriage after coming to repentance.

The services and/or ministries of single believers and married believers differ

The single person has more time and opportunity to serve the Lord, having much more freedom to move around than the married couple. They tend to be more dedicated and have a free lifestyle, coming and going as they are led. The married man's/woman's service or ministry tends to take the marriage and provision needed within that marriage seriously and therefore they spend most of their time keeping a home, raising children together, as their first and foremost priority under Jesus. They have to consider each other's needs and are generally considered to be a team more than as individuals. There are, of course, some who are called or maybe leading sacrificial lives towards each other in their service to their Lord. This takes a special dedication on the part of both partners. The thing to remember here is that the married usually commit to each other first of all and then to others.

The married couples are happy to be married and prefer the married state to any other state. They work together, believe together and serve together. There may be dominance in the ministry of one of the couples, but the other will then be subservient. Either way, there will be harmonious believing, trusting and working together for the common good.

The seed principle

Apricot seed has within itself the potential of producing many seeds. It also has a further potential of becoming a tree that can bear apricots. If the seed says to itself, I refuse to die, but I will just remain a seed, it cannot expect to ever turn into an apricot tree or bear apricots. In the same way, there is a spiritual principle that gives sound results if the seed dies.

The exchange

Each person has an inherent right to deny the change in his or her lives. No one can force us to change if we do not want to change. Even if someone tries to force us, he can only get it right by using a strong force, bigger than the force that we have to resist. A baby that has a toy can be coaxed to surrender that toy to a grown-up by giving in exchange another article. Try to take the toy away and a struggle commences because there is a clash of wills. The stronger one will prevail and the baby will of course start to cry. The whole of life is like this. The very same applies in the spiritual realm. We will not surrender what we have to anyone unless we have an equal exchange or an advantaged exchange. The bigger the advantage, the easier it will be to make such an exchange. Now God has offered to exchange three important things for three wonderful things.

The first exchange – the life Jesus

The life of Jesus exchanged for the sins of the whole world.

The world has fallen into sin and degrading error, our natural inheritance from the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This had made us all sinners, estranged from God. We all need to come back to God, our Heavenly Father, to receive the new birth experience. This is stated very simply in the New Testament. The exchange is effected through Jesus Christ giving His own life for the sins of the world. Take it for what it is - God's way of bringing reconciliation to Himself, for you.

The second exchange – the death of Jesus exchanged

The death of Jesus exchanged for eternal life.

When Jesus died, He gave us the chance to come back to God to receive eternal life. Each

person who is willing to heed the message of this reconciliation will experience the working of the Holy Spirit. The death of God's Son guarantees this for us. The life of Jesus was given for us so that we could die to the old life and experience the new birth, with its new life given by Jesus to those who accept God's exchange.

The third exchange – giving God what He wants

Giving God what He wants, brings to us all we need.

The sacrifice of God's own Son on our behalf opened up the way for God to unconditionally and fully bless us once we have accepted His way of effecting this exchange. He can give us freely whatever we need, provided we can ask, believe and receive it in faith. Even this act of believing is part of the blessing of accepting God's way of doing things. The Holy Spirit will help us to obtain all that God intends for us, provided we are willing to receive it. What you ask for is what you can get. Not expect receiving what you ask for will hinder the growth of your faith. Trusting grows from experiencing for yourself, day by day, the glory of receiving answers to your prayers. Each answered prayer opens up the way for a greater blessing to follow all the prayers of faith and the wonderful answers that continually abound for the believer.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained

There is a principle involved that works through in all these things. God intends for us to surrender to Him so that He can bless us fully. If we do not surrender to the will of God, we will never discover the blessings that He intends. The new believer does not know what God has in store for him/her until he/she experiences that store of blessing. The blessings of some believers who are in the public eye can give us a glimmer of what God can do through a person who is fully surrendered. Many believers experience wonderful blessings as they venture deeper into the God-experience of salvation and the new birth. These believers will testify of the goodness of God in their lives, and how that their lives changed as they ventured out trusting fully in the Lord's grace for themselves. If you do not venture into this area of surrendering in faith, you will not gain anything from these modules. The important thing to remember is that you do not do it alone, but God Himself will be helping you all the way. Venture in faith to gain, but then doubt must be left behind or better still given to Jesus for removal.

Working with God to please God

God has an order that He presents to us. It is His will over our will. The surrender of our will brings us into the new order of God's own will for our lives. This surrender is pleasing to Him. It is not easy to go this way, but the Holy Spirit will help you. There are God's angels that help as well.

These are the ministering spirits that minister to the heirs of salvation.

Heirs of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

When Jesus died, He left behind for us a heritage of His life, His way and His truth to walk in. He is with us always. He will never leave us or forsake us. God is our Helper. Jesus is our Helper. The Holy Spirit is our Helper. This is one of the greatest benefits, amongst many others yet to be discovered, as we endeavour to go forward with the blessings of knowing God, through Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit attending to their requirements for us.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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9. I am with you - fear not Luke 12:32

The assurance that God is with the believer is one of the great themes of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. If we lose hope in His presence the enemies of our soul can get to us in one way or another. This is what they are waiting for and they will take every opportunity that presents itself to them, to enlarge the gap. Jesus, on the other hand, is endeavouring to close up the gap between God and us. Every strategy of the enemy of our souls meets with the counter strategies of Jesus to gain back the ground that has been taken.

Let go and give all your fears to Jesus

There is help being given by the good angels that war in the invisible world of the Spirit, fighting for us and with us to preserve us from the enemy's attacks. When we resist the change that Jesus wants to bring into our lives, the enemy has the advantage to move in. The longer we resist, the more dangerous it becomes. This is the area where we are to work with God. Letting go of all your fears towards God will make it easier for God to work on your behalf. Giving all your fears to Jesus, whether they are fears of what the devil can do to you or what God may intend for your future, you place yourself in a very strong position for obtaining victory in the battle. The pull of the devil's power on the one hand and the pull of God's power on the other, with us, standing between insisting on our own will, is where the main trouble is. Full surrender solves this battle. Surrender to God will always be the solution to this eternal problem of fear and the sooner we do it the quicker this battle will be solved.

Love brings healing, but fear kills

God's love is drawing power. The devil on the other hand has an enticement to gratify the body and the heart with earthly pleasures. The will of the person involved in this struggle has everything to do with the outcome. Love is of God. The devil and man are the ones that hate. Hate versus love is the age-long struggle, and it is love that wins. We, however, have the personal choice to love or to hate. Human beings are prone to take revenge and hate their enemies. Jesus on the other hand tells us to love our enemies and to do good to them. When we love we have healed within us, but the torments of hatred make us ill. Fear and the torments of fear, bring us into the presence of the enemy or in other words, allows our enemy, the devil, to breach our defences. It follows that with that breach all sorts of evils can arise.

Never be afraid of being lonely

Most people do not like being alone. This is one of the universal matters of being a person. We often take the lonely road, simply because we have not overcome our fear of people. We have a lack of trust and many times we even despise people. This brings loneliness to us which is never really pleasant. The recluse prefers to be alone, but this is because they have some sort of rejection within themselves. Take away the rejection and the whole scenario will change. The fear of being lonely will bring loneliness to you, for your rejections will become reflections that stare back at you. There is one wonderful remedy for loneliness. Having Jesus as your friend will take the loneliness out of your life forever.

Open up to your Godly potential

All human beings have the godly potential within them to become godly. This potential has to be discovered. The Gospel has been designed by God to open this potential to us all. The reason Jesus sent His apostles out in the first century was simply to reach the world and open up this godly potential within all. The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost to help each person who is willing to receive Him. This was promised by Jesus before going into heaven to sit at the right hand of God to intercede for us. His continuing intercession works the wonders that we as believers receive into our lives. Jesus also governs those people who do

not yet know about Him. Through the Gospel message, He is guiding us all to a position of either accepting Him or rejecting Him. The choice is and will always remain with us. There are no such things as robots in this matter.

It is not you, but God

The greatest secret we can learn about God is that although He wants to come into us, He is already at work within us. The natural order, as we know it, was brought about through the creative act of God in the beginning. Satan interfered with the early creation of God by tempting Eve and Adam to disobey God, bringing sure and swift punishment upon them and all of mankind. As soon as we surrender our hearts and lives to God, through the Lord Jesus, through His Holy Spirit at work within us, we come into a relationship with the Godhead, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Leave it all to Him, but do your share

We can never outdo God in so far as bringing our share is concerned. No matter how hard we work and no matter what we are doing, we still need God to add His share. God will bless our efforts as we put into those efforts what He expects of us. Whether we preach, teach, pray or exhort, with the ability that God supplies. His dimension is added as we do our share. The Scripture calls the believer as being a co-worker together with God.

Let it be God's solution and not man's disaster

The mixture of God and man working together might sound strange at first, but it is the only way to understand matters of the Spirit. The alternatives are to either do everything ourselves, in which instance we do not need God's portion to be added, or to let God do everything and then He does not need our help. We are invited to be helpers together with Him in the work of saving souls. The mixture of God working in men and women, and men and women working in God, is the most wonderful reason for success in preaching the Gospel to those who are lost. Man is prevented from doing God's thing alone, which will always end in some sort of disaster. With God at work in man, the solution will be God's solution. The process of this working is affected through inspiration. God inspires a man to do whatever is necessary and at the same time provides the necessary power from His side to accomplish any given task.

The defeat of failure

Knowing God for one's self brings intimate confidence that nothing else can provide. This relationship is the one reason why we can be assured of success. If God is for us who can be against us? Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. There are more for us than against us, for not only do we have the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but we also have the angels, directed by God to help us as well. Knowing this and being assured of this eternal blessedness gives us the necessary confidence to believe that we will surely prevail. The defeat of failure will be guaranteed in the long run as we learn to walk with our Lord and His Holy Spirit towards His Kingdom.

The way of victory

There are three wonderful themes in the matter of spiritual victory:

- Jesus has overcome the world and is always with us to help.
- We are assured of His victory becoming our victory just as He has promised.
- We can help others to attain that same victory that we have received from Him.

Healing for the sick

As Jesus healed the sick when He was on earth, He has sent His disciples out to do the same. His promise to the believers that obey His commandment to go out is, that they shall lay their hands on the sick and they will recover. James, the apostle, says the same thing of the elders of the church - the sick will be saved. Healing is a reality today for those who believe, just as much as when Jesus spoke these words, two thousand years ago.

The victory of conquering

The victory that we all are looking for is to be in that conquering position that Paul speaks about - we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us and gave Himself for us. The problem that is encountered in praying for the sick is simply one of truly understanding the promise and obeying the command to go. The laying on of hands and the prayer of faith have a common origin, namely in the promise of Jesus to His disciples. Jesus said very plainly, all things are possible to him that believes and if you believe, nothing shall be impossible to you. We need to come back to the simple trust of standing on the promises of God once more, as they did in the early century.

Sounds easy - believe it

This sounds too good to be true, but it works. Many miracles have taken place as the believer has learned to trust Jesus and His promise, allowing the Holy Spirit to affect the outcome. As we take the words of Jesus seriously and act in childlike trust, through faith, we begin to see outstanding results. Our trouble is simply one of that others do not believe it, so who am I to believe it? Blessed is the believer that can rise to the challenge of being a true believer in what has been written. My prayers have been answered in wonderfully miraculous ways at times, as I have trusted Jesus to do His greater share, whilst I do the lesser share of just believing and therefore praying for the sick.

Lost opportunities or unlimited possibilities

Whatever we can believe, God can accomplish. Nevertheless, we have to go forward and practise the working of our faith in whichever direction we are inspired to go, whether it is preacher, teacher, healer, prophet, exhorter, evangelist, shepherd, missionary, zealot, administrator, apostolic or just a helper. The lost opportunities that abound in the average believer's life can be changed to unlimited possibilities if we, as believers, are prepared to change our unbelief into faith. God is willing to do this, but we have to ask Him to do it for us.

Giving God the chance to solve the insoluble

Give God a chance to help you on the way. I was asked to pray for people and felt inadequate. As soon as we realise that it is God who does the work and not we, that we must pray and believe in God to answer, everything changes for us. There will be many people that will be saved, healed and delivered because of our believing ministry.

Living in the rest of thankfulness

The secret of holding this working, whatever we are called to do, is simply to enter the rest of being thankful and arise to our calling of being co-workers together with God through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. The Holy Spirit is watching over you and is standing ready to help you.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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10.In love with Jesus John 15:10

No one else is good enough for me - Jesus and I.

The very best is good enough for me - His gifts are perfect.

The only way to go with Jesus is forwards - We go to the Father.

The working between Him and I are confidential until released - We are friends.

The wonders of His love are forever exciting to me - His love sustains me constantly.

We have a personal relationship that is always getting better - We never get tired of each other.

The way upwards is not the way downwards when I am with Jesus and the way back is never the way forwards when I follow Jesus - He helps me to always walk with Him and where He leads, I follow.

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11. God says 'go' Mark 16:15

Where to? Wherever God sends.

Who to? The nations of the world.

When? When you hear the call to go.

Why? To bring them to repentance.

What for? To change their lives for God.

How? By obeying and trusting God.

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12. Seek it - you find it Matthew 7:7

There is a special calling from God that each person has. This is what we need to seek. The calling is first experienced as you feel the call or pull of God upon your life. It can come across to each person in a different way but is just as strong for one person as another. The calling can come in various ways and here a few are mentioned:

- When you hear the word of God preached or taught you to feel a definite interest or quickening towards what is being spoken.
- You sense a special attraction to be with people who are saved.
- Miraculous things happen to you or take place around you that rivet your attention and curiosity.
- You hear or sense inwardly that someone is trying to talk to you and you cannot understand who it is.
- You experience excitement when you come into a believing group of people who are singing or worshipping.
- You ask yourself continually, what is prompting me to a certain course of correct behaviour or action, even against what you do not want to do.
- You find yourself always looking for spiritual answers.
- You ponder over the mystery of life and realise that there is someone out there somewhere that is attracting you.
- When you talk to yourself and you become aware of a very profound silence within yourself as if someone wants to answer you or is listening to you.
- You do not know why you get excited when people speak about God or Godly things.
- There is a quickening of interest when people speak to you about their changed lives and what Jesus means to them.
- You continually find that you are prompted to go a certain way or do a certain thing that seems to be totally out of keeping with your inner self and nature.

There are many more ways that your call can come, but let this suffice for now. There can of course be a combination of more than one of the above. Sometimes they take place simultaneously or after each other as if something more than mere coincidence is taking place. This can be startling in its effect and arouses strong curiosity. Sometimes this happens to someone and it is shrugged off as strange, but with no meaning. Not so.

Seek to discover

If any of these are happening to you and you are uneasy or curious about them, it is time for you to start seeking the true answer. Simply ask:

“Jesus, if this is You trying to get my attention, here I am. Please reveal Yourself to me in the way that You chose to do. I am listening now and I am paying attention. Please help me to hear or understand what you are trying to accomplish. In Jesus name. Amen.”

This prayer will get results, sometimes even very startling results. Just relax, be patient and wait. ‘It’ will come to you.

Out of God’s hand

No person, no matter how gifted, can know what is going to happen all the time. You may have an ability to feel, sense, discern and even see or hear events that are going to happen, but these are usually sporadic until you start to seek the answers. God wants to reveal Himself, His power, His love and His life to you. God is a generous giver and He is always

ready to come closer, if only we will let Him do so. He is calling you, but do you respond readily or are you very cautious and fearful? Do not be anxious. God's love is wonderful and once you experience it for yourself, you will always desire more and more.

Giving God a chance to prove Himself

You can go on your whole life without responding or you can respond and let Him reveal to you what His intentions are. Once you are willing to listen, learn, see or experience, He will open up such a wonderful relationship that you will be astounded in the extreme. Give Him a chance to prove that He is calling you and that He is your God.

Let go and give it up for an answer

Usually, our response is very slow and we get more and more puzzled as these experiences take place. Many, turn for help to someone who only adds to the puzzling by saying that you seem to have a strong imagination. Think about it, if it starts happening spontaneously to you, why should it not go on towards full purpose? The trouble is that we all tend to take over the experience and start to examine it from every possible aspect and then somehow lose it and eventually dismiss it as being, perhaps, a figment of the imagination. Rather, give God a chance by turning up and inviting Him to continue with His special principles to introduce Himself and His calling upon your life.

Christ's principle of receiving

Responsive faith is what is needed. This means that we begin to believe it is God and His love that is at work and not the devil or some outside influence that is foreign or troublesome. Discerning the nature of the calling is important. If it leads to goodness it is God. If it leads to evil it is the enemy of our souls. Does it make you happy or very sad? Does it please you or annoy you? God has a gentle way of nudging us towards what He wants us to do. He can lay a gentle unseen hand on our very comforting shoulder, for instance. This evokes a profound sense of well-being as if you are being looked after by someone precious, bringing a warm glow to the heart.

Be responsive with love and you will be surprised how rapidly this process of being introduced to your God and your calling will progress.

Be obedient with reverence and you will quickly begin to understand what further response is necessary on your part.

Jesus Christ wants to open up a relationship with you and longs for your loving responsiveness to His love towards you.

Open up a file in heaven - for giving back

Many a person, who started responding to this type of love, gets tired of it after a while and just gives up and becomes rebelliously indifferent. This is very tragic, for they then have to go through a very long cycle of trouble, which will eventually bring them into a position of responding again. You can open up a heavenly file by simply being responsive to this calling upon your life. The quicker you yield to it, the sooner it opens up for you. The file of heavenly incidents and/or visitations will grow and you will get to know what is being required of you. This is the most glorious time of discovery and is worthwhile and rewarding to everyone who responds and starts to obey these wonderful promptings.

Give what it takes and receive what it gives

God requires you. He has to help you along the way to meet that requirement. Once He has started it and you become aware of it, no matter at what age, this calling process begins, it

progresses rapidly as you are prepared to do what is being required, i.e.:

- If it is loving that is being required of you - love.
- If it is obedience - obey.
- If it is an unusual response that is being required of you - respond.

This is how we start to receive what God is wanting to give to us, a life long association with Him.

Working with faith in an acceptable way

God's requirements for each one may not be the same, but here is a list of what He may be expecting from you:

- To return His love that He is showing to you by loving Him in return.
- To ask - Lord, what would you have me do?
- To listen raptly to what He may want to say to you.
- To say - Lord, here I am. Help me to hear and understand what you are saying.
- To enjoy His loving attention.

God loves a faithful response, one that seems to say: Heavenly Father, I trust you.

Shallow faith? Shallow answers!

Our faith has to grow together with our trust in God. As we respond in faith, opening up our believing hearts, we will discover a warmth coming over us, or springing up within us. This is God's way of showing that even though you are not fully ready to respond as He would have it, He is ready. His encouragement will open up the most wonderful feelings of warmth and caring, more than you have possibly ever experienced before. If your faith response is shallow you may only get shallow answers, waiting for a fuller response at some later time. We slow this process down. Ask God to open up your faith response and you will begin to receive a greater answer.

Running on a roundabout and falling off

We, as young children, loved playing on a merry-go-round, a play wheel that goes round and round. We were sometimes so dizzy that we fell off the turning wheel. The witches' hat is even worse, for it not only turns around and round but moves up and down and inwards and outwards as it turns with us on it. This can be our experience with God too. We can end up going around in circles when we ask others about our God-initiating experiences. Be careful who you talk to about your experiences. You may love that person dearly, but it is not necessary that this person, who also loves you, can understand what is happening to you. Sometimes their love and lack of understanding can be a hindrance because they are afraid of losing their love to God. Often superstition comes to the fore and they may warn you to be careful. Rather be careful yourself to examine and see if this whole process is good for you and will not cause you to actively harm any other person. God only gives good gifts to His children. Let God take you off this type of merry-go-round experience, exhilarating but troubling, and face-to-face let Him deal with you and lack on your part, in getting to know Him better. Many people who have responded at first, get impatient along the way and expect God to answer all their questions immediately. He is a wise teacher, in fact, the very wisest, and we need to trust Him to complete the exchanges that are necessary to get to know Him better. He is the introducer of Himself and therefore, we need to respond in faith, becoming obedient to what we know and then as we do this, wait for the next response from Him.

Shallow reasoning - deeper prayers

If we try to reason everything out with our natural mind it will take a long time to understand. The response that God is seeking is not a rational mind as such, but a responsive heart. The warmth of His love is sufficient to bring a warm love response from yourself.

Replace your shallow reasoning with deeper prayer. Start praying and ask for His help and guidance. The Holy Spirit will take up the prayer and grant you just what you ask. As you pray and your prayer begins to be fulfilled you will be surprised how your natural thinking is overcome with deeper spiritual reasoning, basically foreign to us as human beings, but certainly not foreign to the working of the Holy Spirit within. He knows us perfectly and He knows God perfectly. This combination is unbeatable. No human reasoning can be a substitute for this God-ordained and God-given help.

Pray. Believe. Trust. Obey. Receive more and more of God and from God.

Working with answers

Sometimes people are so afraid when this type of happening takes place within themselves or even around themselves, that they close up to any sort of further experience of this nature. This happens, especially if we are given the wrong advice by some prejudiced or embittered person. Trust God to deal with you and help you to understand your calling. He will safely lead you and He will use wonderful methods to teach you His mysteries. Start to read the New Testament or as you are being led. It may not be easy to understand what you read, but it will improve as you pray regularly from your heart. What God is trying to tell you is very often found directly in the Word of God and has happened to some other person and recorded in the Bible. God will develop your calling for you and you will begin to understand more completely with better insight as it unfolds before you. God can also use others who are true believers to come and help you or speak to you about what you are wanting to know.

“Lord, teach me. I am willing to be taught. I ask this in Jesus’s name and for His sake. Amen.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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13. God is your Helper Psalm 54:4

The most important thing about true Christianity, where the believers are following Jesus, is the present helps given to those who wish to know and who need to know.

If we are only to receive help in the next life, this life would be a miserable existence.

1 Corinthians 15:19 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."

God is spoken of throughout the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments, as being our ever-present Helper. The Lord's prayer proves this to us. Wherever this prayer is prayed God draws our attention to His ever-present bits of help.

Matthew 6:13 "... Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. ..."

Our bits of help and helpers are revealed to us by God Himself:

- God as Father, through His loving grace, mercy, and goodness in His faithfulness.
- Jesus as Saviour and Healer, through His commandments.
- The Holy Spirit as a guide to all truth.
- The angels of heaven.
- The saints are living and dead.
- The pastoral couples.
- The Scriptures of truth.
- The family of both husbands and wives.
- Our God-given friends.
- The sinners of the world.
- The husbands to their wives and the wives to their husbands.
- The Spirit of God through the Spirit of Jesus.

If you have not done so before today, let God reveal how these can help you in your daily living and experiences in an evil and murderous world.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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Stage 5 - Understanding unity in Jesus Christ's heavenly church

Preamble

These studies are presented in a progressive study order and are suitable for bible study in the church, bible school, believing group and home-centred outreach. The modules may also be grouped and used for topical studies and seminars. We are trusting God to inspire His people everywhere to use these modular studies for themselves and to help others to use them in seeking and finding Jesus Christ as Lord of their own lives.

Faith for revival unity

Stage 5 - Understanding unity in Jesus Christ's heavenly church

1. Introducing Jesus who protects His baby church Isaiah 8:18

Jesus protecting His baby church

This was seen by myself, in front of me, as a pictorial portrayal manifested on a large rock face against the mountainside of a mountain facing a lovely bay at Hout Bay harbour.

Protection

I was sitting quietly in my car, with my wife next to me. We were enjoying the peacefulness of the beach with the waves continually lapping gently on the shore. It was a lovely afternoon with the sun shining strongly onto the mountain opposite where we were sitting. I was watching the play of light and shadows on the mountain when suddenly my eyes became riveted to a portrayal of Jesus on the rock face.

This is what I saw: a baby in a wicker cradle with Jesus standing to the left of the cradle, facing right. His hand was on the cradle as if protecting it and the baby. I had the impression that Jesus was gently rocking the cradle. The baby appeared to be lying on its back in the cradle and the baby's head was lying nearest to Jesus. There was the face of a handsome, but unrecognisable young man who seemed to be standing at the bottom end of the cradle, facing the baby and Jesus. There appeared to be a hammer hanging down in front of Jesus, but a little higher than His face. The hammer appeared to be the size of a 15lb flat hand-held hammer, the type that has a short handle that is used for chiselling to break rocks. There appeared to be a large face, that of a giant, that was silhouetted in black, showing a side view. The giant appeared to be on a level higher than the baby and was placed between Jesus and the other man. The giant was looking towards the right as if looking into the distance. I looked at this for a long time and could clearly distinguish this portrayal, quickened by God's Holy Spirit, against the rocks. The progression of the sun and the shadows that were being cast over the crevices and rocks did nothing to change these impressions that I was looking at and even seemed to improve these images, assisting my impressions.

Interpretation

Here are some things that need reflection:

- Jesus loves His church. The apostles spoke of this love theme of Jesus for His Church.

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her”

- The Holy Spirit is still speaking of that love that Jesus has for His church.

Ephesians 5:26-27 “that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

- To become a believer, it is necessary to be born again.

John 3:3-7 “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘you must be born again.’”

- The Word of God is the seed that brings the new birth into being.

1 Peter 1:23 “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,”

- The prophets foretold the birth of a new generation of believers to make up His Church.

Acts 2:38-39 “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptised 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 your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”

1 Timothy 3:15 “but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

The interpretation of this revelation on the mountain shows this careful protection of Jesus in symbol form. (The mountain is only an aid for what God wished to convey and has no relevant meaning to the interpretation.)

- Jesus is said to love His church.

Ephesians 5:25 “... just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself ...”

- His church is made up of newly born believers.

Acts 2:47 “praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

- The baby represents the newly born believer that has to be fed from God’s Word.

1 Peter 2:2 “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”

- The wicker cradle that protects the baby is shown as God’s inter-weaving protection around the baby.

Matthew 18:6 “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

- The giant in black, shown in the background, is a symbolic presentation of the world that does not believe in Jesus.

John 17:9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours."

- An unbeliever is looking forward to a good new future but is not prepared to leave off any sinfulness or accept Jesus as a personal Saviour.

Revelation 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

- The young man that was in the foreground, looking at Jesus and the newborn baby, is the here and now generation that is expecting great things from the Lord for His new-borns. It could also represent a pastor, a part-time or full-time worker, a missionary or even a more mature believer, who may be labouring to bring in new believers.

1 John 5:4-5 "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

- The hammer is a symbol of the Word of God that can break the hard rock (i.e., unbelief, doubt and disbelief of a person).

Jeremiah 23:29 "'Is not My word like a fire?'" says the LORD, 'And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?'"

- The portrayal of Jesus as a protector is a true one, for He is caring for, with strong care and gentleness, all of His new-borns.

Matthew 21:16 "and said to Him, 'Do You hear what these are saying?' And Jesus said to them, 'Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"

The interpretation is directed to help the ones who want to become new believers or those who wish to be brought into the church, as a new believer, in Jesus.

1 John 2:13 "I write to you, fathers because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children because you have known the Father."

This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in the eyes of all those who are rejoicing in heaven.

Luke 15:7 "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

It can be yours if you can accept it for yourself. Jesus can do it for you, therefore ask Him and let Him do it for you now and into the future, remembering that He does it for Himself and His purpose in the earth.

John 3:3 "... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The new birth experience can be yours

You can also become one of His new-borns, by coming to Him as you are and ask Him to give you this new birth.

John 3:5 “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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2. Labouring in the anointing of God Father Isaiah 54:13

God is the One out of whom all things have come. He was before the beginning. He was the beginning of all things and He exists throughout eternity. Before all time and until the end of time He is and will be, God. The anointing comes down from the Father. The anointing came upon Jesus, was also given to the apostles and disciples of Jesus' day, and in these times can be given to us, whoever are willing to receive it.

Jesus knew His Father's will

Jesus claimed to know His Father's will. He always did what pleased his Father. He listened to His Father carefully and translated everything into His actions, through the Holy Spirit that was given to Him. The anointing that He had was powerful and gave Him the necessary ability to do whatever He had to do. The anointing also taught Him all that He needed to know.

He always did His Father's will

He claimed to be consistent in doing whatever His Father required of Him. He yielded His will to His Father's will. The Father on the other hand was always pleased to hear Jesus and to help Him in everything He did.

He never gave the devil a chance

The devil had to leave Jesus because Jesus refused to give in to his demands. Jesus was openly opposed to the devil and told us to watch out for him and his evil schemes. The devil had no part in Jesus.

He spoke openly to those who would hear

Jesus spoke openly to the people, even though they did not always receive His teachings. He had many enemies, but He continued to speak as He was instructed to speak by His Father.

He used parables to those who were stubbornly indifferent

The parables were used in public teachings. They contained many wonderful truths but had to be interpreted to a person's particular situation. Many of those who heard His parables, mocked and blasphemed. Nevertheless, He continued to give them out wherever He went. The humble loved His stories and seemed to grasp their meanings without any difficulty. It was haughty who seemed to stumble over His words and teachings, and especially the parables.

He opened up the mysteries to His disciples

When alone with His disciples and close associates, He took time and trouble to explain wonderfully what His stories were saying, always drawing, around Himself, the lessons towards the Kingdom of His Father or the work of Jesus. They sometimes struggled to understand His teachings at the time but seemed to get a clearer picture of everything after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead, even appearing to them before going up into heaven.

They took those mysteries further

His disciples and especially His apostles were the appointed ones to take the teachings of Jesus further, after His ascension into heaven. They started at Jerusalem, went into Judea, then onto Samaria and eventually into different parts of the earth.

The great commission

The commandment was given to His apostles, to go into all the earth to preach the Gospel to everyone. The persecution that followed that preaching is history, and they were driven to various places, preaching as they went.

The anointing that follows faith

They were not left powerless, to preach without a dimension of power, but their preaching was accompanied by wonderful signs and wonders. These were accomplished through the anointing that was upon them. This same anointing can be ours today, but there are certain things that we have to understand first. The teachings of Jesus have to be adhered to and the secrets learned. Many people over the centuries since have discovered the necessary things to allow God to also work through them.

The obedience of the nations

The purpose of the anointing is simply to bring people of the nations into obedience and to continue the work by handing the commission over to others who also need to hear these wonderful truths.

The work of selection

The Gospel, which is nothing other than the glad news, is the means of selecting people, to stand with Jesus in those and these times. Obedience brings us into the fold of His discipleship. As disciples, we learn to listen and obey.

The finished work

The work, which Jesus had to do whilst on earth, was finished when He died upon the cross, after which God gave Him a new work of intercession, mediation and rulership. The present waiting in heaven has a purpose, and once that is accomplished, Jesus will return to the earth as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The resurrection hope

The believer has a wonderful hope that is presented in the Gospel, namely that Jesus has risen from the dead. There is a sound reason for this. Resurrection from the dead is wonderfully suited to open up the way for a new life. There are wonderful teachings about the resurrection, which explain what it is all about.

The anointing opens up these teachings for the believers

The Father wishes all people to know about this glad message of the hope of salvation, deliverance, liberty and finally, resurrection. Teachers who are anointed are used by God to teach. Anointed preachers are used to preach. Anointed prophets are used to prophesy. Anointed exhorters are used to exhort. Anointed evangelists are used by God to proclaim the glad tidings. Anointed pastors are used to look after the believers. There are many other types of anointed people, such as missionaries, counsellors, trainers, etc. These all receive their anointing from God Himself, who freely gives them their abilities to help in the work.

The anointing is for you

You may have this anointing if you come to Jesus, who is the Baptiser in the Holy Spirit. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and you will then be trained in the anointing by the anointing. Those who are not yet baptised in the Holy Spirit, also have a word anointing which operates, through the Spirit of God, using the anointed Word of God. Either way, whether the anointing comes through the spoken word or directly by the influence and operation of the Holy Spirit, it is still the one and same anointing of the one and same God, who is also the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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3. Expect the best from your God who cares for you 1 Peter 5:7

There are many ideas in life that we as believers can have. It is not only the natural people that have ideals, but the believer often has high ideals as well. This is in agreement with the Word of God. If God is in control it seems the most perfect thing to do is to expect the best that He has to offer us for our own lives. We are told that He cares for us and that we should cast all our cares upon Him. He has promised to be with us always and will carry us through every situation in which we can find ourselves.

The Giver of every good and perfect gift

God is spoken of as being the Giver of good and perfect things. He opens up His hand and we are revived. The gifts of God come from a Giver that has plenty for all and enough to go around.

Toiling does not always mean believing, but believing always means toiling

We are unable to work for our salvation, neither can we give sacrifices that will please God and be sufficient to save us. Once we are saved, however, and once we receive Christ as our personal Saviour, we are then placed in a position to labour and toil in the work of the Master. Saving souls is not an easy task. Witnessing for the Master is also quite difficult. Correcting those who oppose themselves against Godliness is one of the most gruelling of all tasks that a believer can be called upon to do. Giving can also sometimes mean hardship for us.

Giving cheerfully of what you have

God loves a cheerful giver. He realises that giving is for our good. A tight-fisted person does not easily give and Jesus expects us at times to give in a way that hurts. This helps us to realise that He gave until it hurt Him. Giving also is a measure that will receive another measure from God. Giving helps those who are not in a position to help themselves. Teaching is a form of giving, as the teacher gives of his time, his talents and his knowledge. There are many other ways of giving. The giving that is being dealt with here, however, is money or support.

The giving of tithes and offerings

The whole of life revolves around giving, taking and exchanging, although not necessarily in that order. God also expects us to give our monetary tithe and offerings, as the barest minimum. Many believers give donations, bigger or smaller than their tithes and compulsory offerings. All these monetary gifts are accepted by God and can be useful to His work. However, it is the tithe and offerings that are linked to a wonderful blessing declared by God Himself.

Receiving from God's storehouse

God has a storehouse throughout the world and from this storehouse can come to a blessing that is bigger than you or I can imagine. Obtaining a blessing through giving is one of the teachings of Jesus and was wonderfully demonstrated in His ministry. Jesus never lacked and told us the secret for obtaining.

Excess and abundance

Excess and shortage work hand in hand. Abundance and insufficiency are also linked together. These are contradictions that have to be experienced to be realised. As soon as you have abundance and you begin to give out, your store diminishes. Sometimes after giving it is possible to experience a lack for a time, which sooner or later will be met.

Your money or yourself

Giving your money is not the same as giving of yourself. Giving yourself is a much more expensive giving. Money can be replaced, but time cannot. By giving of yourself, your lifetime gets used up. Time can be used to make money, but money cannot buy back time. Time is a commodity that cannot be replaced. You are also slowly dying and over a long time, you and your life are being expended. You cannot be replaced. This relationship between time, labour and income are not as appreciated as it should be. Time is more important than money and labour is more important than money, but time is more important than labour. Money can diminish, but if the ability to work is hindered through incapacitation, money cannot always be earned to make up for the lost time. God's order of priority is first yourself and then of your time and money.

Lifting the lid off poverty

Poverty is a very difficult thing to overcome. Yet many a poor person can survive in circumstances that the rich person would perish in. God's way is a way of equality. The rich should help the poor. This is not often done in practice. Amongst the believers, it often happens that believers help each other. The fairness of giving is simple. If it can help the person to help himself it will be best to give, but if the person is dishonest, wasting money on unnecessary things, then it best not to give. Good stewardship is required of those who give. However, be this as it may, the Lord has a way of blessing the givers. The first duty in our giving is to our home and family, then to the place of worship (a tithe or offering), then to the brethren and finally to the poor.

Jonathan's honey

Sometimes God gives us a special treat that is more than money can buy. These are recorded in the Word of God.

Pouring oil and receiving more

This incident is typical of the increase that God wants to give us in our giving. There may not always be direct miracles attached, but the money that is given away to bring relief is always an act of God working in the giver's heart.

Loving is sharing and sharing is caring

No one can give without caring. Caring is the greater part of giving. It is no use for a mother to give her son money enough to buy a drink if she is going without. This is the wrong type of giving. Supporting spongers is not a duty for believers. Everyone should work for themselves. However, there are times when this is not possible and if it is in our power to help, then we need to do so. The Lord promises a full measure pressed down and running over to those who are true givers, giving generously from the heart. Some people are called specifically to a life of giving, and others are called to share. The Lord must show us the difference to become and remain a blessing for Him and others.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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4. The theme of His church Acts 2:14

As we go through these studies and testimonies that are presented in this programme, you will begin to realise that the church is greater than what you believe, think or can imagine. It is universal and is made up of individuals that come together in homes and offices, church buildings or stadiums, in smaller or larger groups everywhere. The idea of an individual church apart from all other churches is not stated in Scripture because the whole church theme is presented as one church, His church, the church of Jesus, God's church. There is no such thing as a new church to eclipse all other churches, neither is there a church that has everything. The churches made up of ...

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"

... has far more relevance than thousands being amongst people who follow a charismatic leader, no matter how gifted, rather than

Hebrews 12:2 "looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith..."

Limiting your experience

The whole of mankind tends to limit their experience to themselves, thinking that everything seems to revolve around what they believe, their own experience and that which they have learned to trust in.

This is certainly not the theme of Jesus, for His theme is larger than life, greater than death and is all-encompassing and all-embracing. Jesus declares Himself to be Lord of all, the Lord of life and death, even declaring to have eternal power over hell, the grave and death, *Revelation 1:17-18*.

Jesus Himself declared that His Father fills heaven and earth so that even that which is in the sea cannot hide from Him. Even that which is found under the earth, or within the earth can hide from Him. Compare *Revelation 1:1* with *Revelation 20:13*.

His church, therefore, is not made up of people apart from people and His church includes peoples out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people that receive Him, *Revelation 7:9-12*.

Revival does not confine Jesus

Some would confine Him to their denominations. Others would take Him out of denominations. Those who truly understand and who know, place Him where He belongs, without limitation, within the people, whether they be individuals or married couples, whether they be called assemblies, churches, denominations, groups, cell groups or meetings, or are found scattered in small or even isolated communities. God is not confined to any of these things but manifests Himself, wherever and to whomever, He will, in any way that He chooses. This is the real spirit of revival. Compare carefully *Acts 2:16-18* with *Acts 2:39*. Take careful note of the mention of continuity of this action plan of God, even including those of our present generations, as well as all those of future generations.

Our will or God's will?

The mention of the last days is very significant and includes these times before the return of Jesus to the earth and the final manifestation of God to the world in His fiery judgments that will eventually lead to the final judgment of all who are to be judged according to their work - for the ungodly.

Jude 1:14-15 "... Behold, the Lord comes ... to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have

committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

And for the faithful.

Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give every one according to his work.”

It is necessary to understand that He places us now, at this time, wherever He wills, in whatever form His church is being manifested, and more so if we ask Him to do this for us. If the church belongs to Him, as He says it does, then it stands to reason that our individual, careful placement in that church, whether it be singly, joined in marriage or as a group separate from others, is His total care and concern.

Where do we fit in?

In this programme, there will be no emphasis to place anyone, anywhere, except into His church, of which He is the established Head, into the enlarging body of believers and into the perfect life manifestation of that body. Consider these thoughts that are presented in

Ephesians 5:29-30, 32 “... just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and His bones. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Let Jesus place you

Jesus, as the Head of His church, can and will place you into that part of His church, which will be specially made manifest to you in your calling, whether that be in a home, a group, a church gathering or even in a world-wide outreach programme. Ask Him to do it and leave it to Him - He will personally direct you into the perfect place of worship, service or outreach for you and your family, both collectively and individually, which is His perfect will for you. This is due to His great love for you and He gave freely of Himself for us all for this very cause.

If you try to own the church for yourself you will surely fail, but if Jesus owns the church for Himself, and places you in it, you will surely succeed.

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5. The spirit of life Job 33:4

The spirit of life is a gift from God. No person knows how this takes place. What makes the body breathe? Become alive? How is it that death seems to rob one of life? Where does that life go? What happens after death? These are only some of the many questions that mankind has been asking throughout the centuries. The Scriptures give a simple answer without going into details to explain the actual working of this mystery.

We belong to God

Each person would like to have a claim for himself/herself that, as an individual, we are our own and do not have to answer to anyone else. This would be wonderful if it were only true. The truth lies in a different direction. The Scriptures claim that we should all belong to God, but that satan has staked his claim over us all. God is not leaving things as they are and has, throughout the centuries, worked out a very different plan for every life.

God's way of judgment

God has a plan. He has the way for its fulfilment. He has all the answers that we still have to discover for ourselves. The way He wants us to go will lead directly along the pathway of His ordaining. He will guide us in the way we ought to go, bringing us safely home to our desired destination, which was, in fact, His plan all along. His plan will bring us the blessings we so long for in our daily lives. Now, this seems so easy to talk about, but hard to bring to fulfilment. It is. God has to judge our way for us in such a way that we are brought into the correct relationship and the correct understanding of His divine will. Judgment seems grievous at the moment, but will ultimately work out what is best for us. Submitting fully to God's way and guidance lessens this type of judgment.

God's way of love

God is love. He loves first and then we love. His love poured out over us will open up our love to Him and others. Without the love of God being poured out over us, we tend to miss the point of being submissive to Him. Love is the great motivating factor in all our dealings with the Father, but He makes the first move towards us and then continues as we yield to His wiser way and beckoning love. Follow after the Master Designer of the earth, look forward to His coming Kingdom and enjoy His compassion over us as His children and you will discover the best for yourself and your family.

Each person must also love themselves and each other

The problem with loving other people and not loving yourself brings a split personality. Love must reach out in a three-way direction to become effective in its working. Love for the Father, love for your neighbour and love for yourself. We can cope with loving God, but loving our neighbour is a problem, especially if they are difficult people. Those nearest to you can also be very difficult and present daily problems to you and your attempts at loving them. Nevertheless, this love must happen. To love God is a vertical love; to love your neighbour as yourself is horizontal love. God's love meets in the middle, between love for the neighbour that is close to you, and yourself. Hate brings more hate and love begets more love. The better of the two is to love.

Love must come out of each heart

The Lord's Prayer asks God to forgive us even as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. In the measure, we hand out forgiveness we can expect it to be measured back to us. Of course, it does not always work out straightaway like that because there is a process of trial that has to be passed, to prove that love is love and not hate. Each person has to give this

kind of love, and it certainly takes time and circumstances to help it to develop as it should. If everything is going smoothly, with no problems, then loving is easy, but otherwise, it is very difficult.

Love is to come out of the heart, with feeling, and not out of the mind. Words are easy to say if we believe them with our mind, but words can be very difficult to say if our heart is breaking and our hope is not very strong. Heart love is the only way.

The opening up of a progressive love through faith

Progressive love will grow and be enlarged through our faith. If we have strong faith that things will come right when they seem to be hopelessly wrong, then we are encouraged to go on believing in the full solution. Let faith diminish and it will become harder to go on. This applies to everything in life, whether it is a business, a home, a relationship or a difficult situation. Keeping faith allows our love to expand and develop wonderfully.

The opening up of a progressive faith through hope

Let hope die and faith dies with it. Keep hope alive and faith continues to flourish. Allowing your hope to expand fully in God will activate your faith and vice versa. The faith life that is driven by a firm hope continues to grow and grow every day. Sometimes, of course, our hope becomes dull. This is part of life. By renewing our hope in God and allowing God to revive our hope, increase our hope, quicken our hope, we will always have hope in our hearts and this will of course affect the virility of our faith. Your lack of faith can also dull your hope, so it is equally important to keep your faith sharpened. This is done through prayer, trusting and believing, asking for continued increased faith.

The opening up of a progressive hope through love

The cycle is not complete until your love, hope and faith are in a proper relationship and correctly balanced. If you have love, then it is easy to hope. If you have faith then it is easy to love and if you have hope then it is easy to have love. The expression of these three around Jesus becomes a way of life to those who understand their true importance and who are trusting God to bring it, the inter-related workings, to pass.

The heart of Christ is love and not judgment

One of the greatest truths that we can ever learn about God is that Jesus came to the earth not to condemn the world, but to save the world. We bring condemnation upon ourselves when we start saying that God is out to destroy us and not out to save us. The worst situation in life, for both doubters and believers, is to have the feeling that God is against us. On the other hand, if we know that God is for us, and we are for God, it gives us an inner sense of security that nothing else can surpass.

The prisoner of love

Each person can either be a prisoner within love or a prisoner within hate. A prison cell can have two different types of meaning to us. It can keep us out of something, or it can keep us in from something.

A person who has a fear of danger to his life does not mind being enclosed in a secret place with little freedom of movement and, conversely, if a person is not in fear of his life, he would prefer not to be in a confined space but would like greater freedom of movement. This applies equally to the matter of love and hate. Hate confines us into a small space, closed in by the annoyances, resentments and ill feelings that are constantly experienced when we hate. The good feelings we have of everything and everyone requires and demands a larger space in which to experience our freedom. It is just as true that if you love God and keep His

commandments, you will constantly find larger parameters in the ways of expressing that love. This all applies to love in the vertical and love in the horizontal.

Love for the prisoner

The apostle Paul expresses this very aptly when he calls himself a prisoner. He was in jail for preaching and teaching about Jesus. Yet he draws a parallel and decides to keep the greater freedom, that of his Lord. The result of this is that Jesus encourages him in his decision. The analogy of being a prisoner, either of the devil or the Lord, has a wonderful fulfilment in Paul's life. He expresses the same sort of analogy when he compares being here in life or being with Jesus in death. He always makes the stand, "to die with Jesus is to live" and "to live in sin is to die" and "to die to sin is to live with Jesus." Whose prisoner would you prefer to be? Choose God and there will always be love for the prisoner.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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6. The gift mix Matthew 7:11

People have different types of gifts. This is known as a gift mix. Although some people may have a stronger working of one or two particular gifts, they can have increasing touches of any of the others from time to time, especially if they are growing spiritually with the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

All people have various gifts, and they can be both natural gifts and spiritual gifts. By natural gifts, we mean that they are endowed with certain abilities from birth that through experience, training and use are being developed more and more strongly with use.

The term spiritual gifts are usually associated with believing people, those who practice their faith continually, who has also been endowed with spiritual gifts through the Holy Spirit. This is explained elsewhere more fully.

Gift mixes are therefore combinations of gifts that people are endowed with, both natural and spiritual. The use of the senses, capabilities and abilities that we all have as rational human beings or believing spiritual beings, have to have a means of expression to be useful to us and others. This expression is brought about by using our working gifts.

The dormant gifts are those that we may or may not know about and may or may not be using. Even if we do not know about a certain ability or particular gift that we may or may not have, there is no hindrance to understanding working gifts. Some people for instance never knew that they could do artwork or drawing and only in later life, when they have time on their hands, do they discover or uncover these latent and/or hidden talents.

Working gifts

It is important to know that people can have more than one working gift and that many working gifts make up the total ability or capability of that person, provided they are all used together as an expression of one's ability and capability. Gifts may or may not be used to their fullest extent, depending on the inclination of the person concerned.

By working gifts, we mean those that are either active or lying dormant, perhaps yet to be discovered or uncovered, but are residing in and are at work within each person or believer. For instance, a new-born believer has gifts but may not yet understand their workings or may not have yet discovered that these gifts have an active working through application, experience and faith.

Dormant gifts

These are given to each believer at the time of their spiritual rebirth and others are added as they receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. A person can also receive natural and spiritual gifts before natural birth and even after natural and spiritual birth. If these gifts are not yet working, but are waiting for realisation or an inspiration to be unfolded, they are classed as dormant. It is important to realise that both natural and spiritual gifts, once recognised, can be developed by constant usage.

Scriptures concerning spiritual gifts

Some important Scriptures that explain what spiritual gifts are and where they come from should be carefully studied. If you would like to fully understand what we are talking about, look up these New Testament Scriptures.

Concerning every good gift and every perfect gift.

James 1:16-17 “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

Concerning spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:1 “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:”

Concerning diversities of gifts.

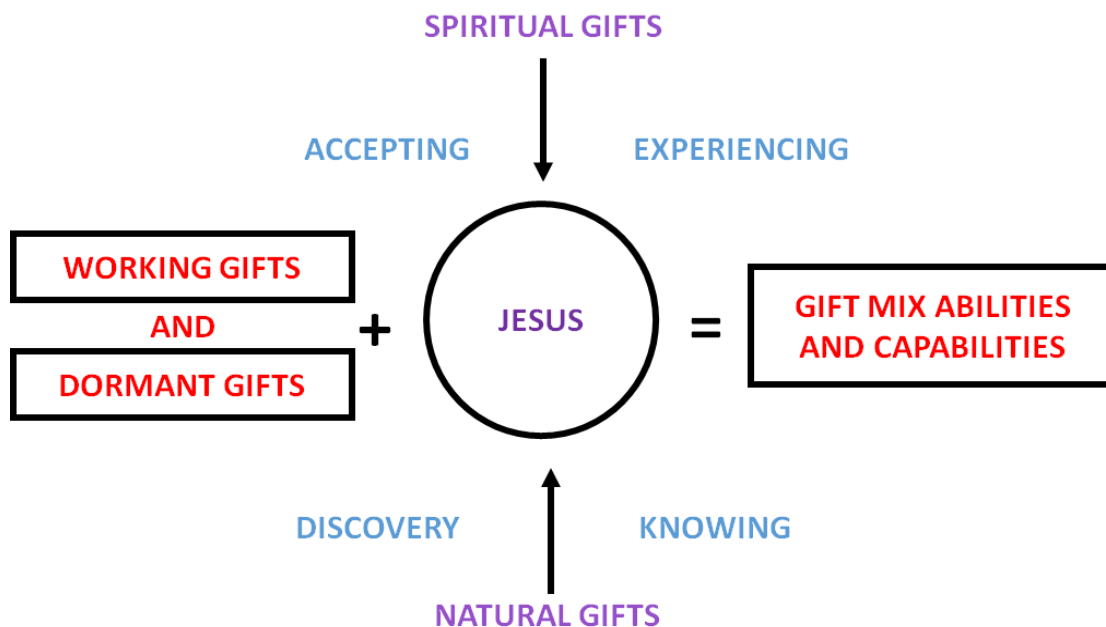
1 Corinthians 12:4-6 “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences in ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”

Adequate gifts?

1 Corinthians 1:4-8 “I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Each person has the right or privilege to ask God for that which he/she lacks.

James 1:5-8 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let, not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”



Concerning the measure of Christ's gift:

Ephesians 4:7-8 “But to each one of us, grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’”

Notice the use of the past tense, *“To each one of us grace was given”* and *“He gave”*.

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7. Revival in individuals Psalm 138:7

The word ‘revival’ concerning “myself”

If I am not a revivalist, how can I encourage others to become a revivalist? Revival in my heart is just as important as a revival in your heart. The one revival that God wants to give us includes you and me. We are the revivalists together or we are non-revivalists, separately. The whole structure of revival depends on the two becoming one, or, in other words, you and I together bring revival or hinder a revival. Starting with myself is the very first step towards revival. How am I doing in preparing myself and progressing towards coming revival(s)?

My heart is God’s revival - my contradiction

To begin opening up your heart towards coming revival needs a change of heart and not a change of mind. The feelings that I feel towards God and the deep inner searching and crying of my heart will determine my place in a coming revival. Does God continually talk to me about the same thing over and over again because I am being disobedient to His voice? Is God talking to me daily about some new area in my life that needs surrender to His sovereign will? Are there promptings of the Holy Spirit within, that comes from the mainspring of my life in Christ and that stir me to renewed zeal and committed action? Are these stirrings according to the revealed words of God? Are these promptings urging me to get rid of selfishness and seek to help others in whatever area I am being led into?

The contradiction in my heart tells me two things:

- I do not know how to get rid of these inner promptings
- I do know how to get rid of these inner promptings

Every time we disobey these promptings we become more deeply convicted and every time we obey these stirrings of the inner voice of conscience we come out of conviction into greater peace. It is time to get rid of the contradiction of your heart against the heartbeat of God’s inner teachings. Do what is right and you will be right. Do what is righteous and you will become righteous, even as God’s Spirit is dictating your behaviour towards, first of all, God, then yourself and then your neighbour.

“I am the revival in your heart” - God’s contradiction

There is no revival if God is not in the eye of that revival. If we do not see things the way God sees them, how can we have revival? God is the revival and He is the heart’s revival. No other way to revival can be found, but that which is directed by God Himself. This tremendous contradiction is always there and will not be stilled, unless you murder it through stubbornness, refusing to listen to it. The insistent small voice within will never be stilled until a personal decision has been made to either accept it or reject it. Once this voice has been rejected it becomes hurt and still, even dying in some cases. The acceptance on the other hand increases its watchfulness over your life and helps you to continue in your good decision.

It has no compromise apart from reinforcement by the Word of God, and we do well to realise that reinforcement, whether it is good or bad. It will affect this God-given voice of conscience within us all. Obedience brings life, trust and peace. Disobedience brings death, mistrust and unrest.

Home worship needs space in the revival

If a home is opened up to have home care group meetings, there has to be enough space for those who come to the meetings. There is a need for bigger homes to house bigger meetings. If a house is small and can contain meetings of approximately 7 or 8 people at a

time, excluding children, then the group will have to either find a new venue if it starts to grow or open up a second home care group. The other way to go is to have two separate meetings at different times.

Do you care for revival?

The real truth is that even though everyone wants revival, the price to be paid seems to be too exorbitant and therefore not personally feasible. This is not true, as we are all supposed to be on a type of revival within our faith realm. If we cannot have a major revival, we can nevertheless have a mini-revival within our hearts. Let the fire burn quietly in revival and let the revival fire grow bigger and brighter each day as we walk with Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit.

The opening up of the revival heart

A person who truly believes can open his or her heart fully to revival. The Lord will grant your prayer when you pray for a revival heart. The heart of many believers is investing in their interests, rather than in the interests of the Kingdom of Heaven. The world lies in such trouble and yet we delay to seek for the revival around us that will start the ball rolling towards reaching others. Surely God will answer the prayer requesting a revival heart?

Standing in the revival news of the revivals

Revival news is not always good news. It all depends on the source of the information. There is what is called a primary source and a secondary source. The primary source is when the news comes from the website of the revival centre itself, wherever that is. By checking out your news centre you can separate the primary from secondary sources. It will pay you to do this so that you do not get hoodwinked into sending money to a secondary source.

Revival at its source

There are many reports of revival coming over the Internet, Christian magazines, books etc. By checking the source of the information, you will no doubt find that there is legitimacy in the reports and programmes that are being presented. The watchword is, carefully feel your way. Do we believe them? Do we doubt them? Do we ignore their testimony? Do we believe their testimony? Eye witnesses that you know, who have been there are the most reliable source of information. However, one must be careful to speak to believe people and not critical doubters.

Where do we, as would-be revivalists, or even interested revivalists stand in all this? Are we interested enough to let revival happen to us or are we willing to be duped into believing what we would like to believe, which is nothing but a false impression, that revival only happens to certain privileged people at certain times and is not for the ordinary man or woman?

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8. Knock - it opens to you Matthew 7:7

Jesus said that you must knock and it will open to you. What was He referring to? Was it a door, a window or something else? On many occasions, Jesus stated that He is the door. Whichever door He is speaking about, it has to be opened up when you knock, for He said, "It will be opened." The possibilities are there for it to be opened up to you, but you must first knock. According to this imagery that is being used, the door needs to be opened up by someone either standing on the inside or the outside. The Holy Spirit is the One who will open the door for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The same applies to you, whichever door you choose to knock on, for He, the Holy Spirit, is the Doorkeeper. Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will open up for you the same as He opens up for Jesus, providing that you are following the Shepherd.

The seven doors

The door to the Father's house.

John 14:1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

This door gives us access to God the Father in His own house.

The door to heaven.

Revelation 4:1 "After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things ...'"

This door gives access to heaven and its intimacies.

The door of salvation.

John 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

This door opens up to those who are trusting Jesus to save them from their sin, selfishness and lost condition.

The door to your own heart.

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me."

Jesus makes this claim:

John 10:7 "I am the door of the sheep".

This gives us a wider understanding. It is easy to understand that Jesus is the door for the sheep, but it is not so easy to understand that Jesus is the door of the sheep. This door is the one that gives access to Jesus, to the saints and to sinners that each person is prepared to allow into their own intimate spiritual life. The door of the sheep is the door of the heart that is to be personally opened up by each sheep that belongs to Jesus and this applies both individually and collectively for the one and the many sheep.

The door to the sheepfold.

John 10:1-2 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.”

This door of the sheepfold is the door used by the shepherd. The Good Shepherd leads His sheep in and out through the door of the sheepfold.

The door of faith to effectively witness for the faith that is centred in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Acts 14:27 “Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”

This door opens up an effective witness in a particular area, domain or country.

The door to effective ministry.

The apostle Paul discovered such a door.

1 Corinthians 16:9 “For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

This door opens up an effective ministry towards establishing a group of people to believe and become part of an assembly of believers called a church group. The door to a home care group is just as much a part of the church as the church door that opens up for believers to become a church group.

The open door.

Revelation 3:8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My work, and have not denied My name.”

This door always stands open for the faithfully obedient and cannot be shut by anyone but Jesus Himself.

Jesus is the door in all these instances

The door is always Jesus. He is the One who initiates the spiritual journey, through Himself, the door to the Father and heaven. Just imagine that God allows you to go to Himself without any Jesus in the middle. It will open up arrogance, pride and self-assertion. By allowing us to come to the Father through Jesus, the Father does away with this. Humility is opened up before the Father, because of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished for us all through His obedience and glorious victories. There is another thought that presents itself. A door has to have keys. Who has the keys to these doors? Jesus Himself.

Revelation 1:18 “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and Death.”

Revelation 3:7 “... ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one opens.’”

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me because The Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”

Knock to enter

You cannot open any of these doors without knocking. They are shut to those who are seeking to enter until the attention of the one who is behind the door is obtained. Knocking is a type of believing act that draws attention to the intent of the one who wishes to come in. Doors that are open or unlocked can be entered into without a key, but a locked door needs a key. The owner of the door decides to either open or keep the door shut. Jesus said we must knock and it will be opened up for you. The knock, however, has to be a knock of faith.

The door is there for the opening

The very fact that there is a door to be opened shows that it can be opened. The door is the means of entering in. Jesus has the keys to every door that needs to be opened, except the door to your own heart. Once this door is opened up to Jesus, then all the other doors become available to you. You hold the key to your own heart and life. Jesus wants that door opened, but will never force it open. He seeks your invitation to allow Him to come in and stay forever. Keep the door shut and He will never come in, but open it for Him and He will come and stay permanently.

The door is there for shutting

The very same door that opens can also be shut. The same door that allows the desirables to enter is also meant to keep the undesirables out. The owner of the establishment has the full right of entry and can decide who comes in and who stays out. God is the owner of the heavenly establishment and decides who can stay in and who stays out. This makes perfect sense to us when we are guarding the entry to our home but somehow does not seem to make the same sort of sense to some people when we apply this right to God. They seem to believe that God would never shut anyone out. This is perfectly true and that is why Jesus talks about entering in utilizing knocking, but the knocking to be done in faith.

Jesus tells us:

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened".

Crashing the door

Why try to crash the door if all it takes is to ask. Jesus promises that everyone who asks receives. Many say they have asked and they have not received it. The asking has to be done in faith, based on the certainty of the promise of Jesus. This type of faith is rewarded with answers. The door-crashing method does not work, for if Jesus shuts the door, no one can open it, but if He opens the door, no one can shut it. This is another promise that you can pin your faith onto. The invitation is to all, whoever will.

To open use the door knob

It is possible that the door is already open for you and all you have to do is reach out and turn the knob. Having faith in the promises of Jesus is similar to turning the doorknob. It can be likened to a person who stands at the door and knocks. A voice says to come in, but we do not turn the doorknob and thereby enter in. You can always have confidence in the promises of Jesus, provided that you are also prepared to reciprocally do whatever He asks of you.

Jesus is the door, your faith is the key, your hope is the unlocking procedure and His promise is the invitation to enter.

- God has a door - Jesus is that door.
- We have His promise - upon knocking it will be opened.
- He invites all to ask God - it is God's door and He has the right to open it.

- The door will be unlocked - our faith in His promise guarantees this.
- The door will be opened - His Holy Spirit, the doorkeeper, will see to it.
- Entering in - our willingness to go in.
- Our willingness to stay in with Him.

The Lord's principle - giving

James 1:5-8 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let, not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

2 Peter 1:2-4 "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Matthew 7:9-11, "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

Open a heavenly receiving account

Mark 11:22 "So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.'"

The way to receive from God is to continue in asking, believing that He is answering you. Most people give up after asking for something and never ask again. This is not the way to receive anything from God. As you continue to obey what Jesus has said, your faith will grow. As in all things, practice makes perfect. Jesus has made enough deposits in the bank of God on your behalf and using asking Him for what you need, and you will be able to draw out of His account what you need and when you need it. This is a secret to be learned and the Word of God will teach you how to do it. Read it for the recipe of a successful prayer life.

If you do not want it do not ask for it

Sometimes a person asks for something in prayer and gets it, but is dissatisfied with it afterwards. The dissatisfied person has to have a change of heart otherwise the requests and prayer life will dry up by the very nature of things. You get what you ask for so be careful to ask for what you need and not what you want. A job change that has been prayed for does not necessarily have to be the best option that was available. Your choices have a lot to do with receiving answered prayers. The best basis for praying is to ask what God wishes you to have. This is the most effective way of praying and gets the best results. Not my will but

Yours, O Lord.

Windows are for seeing through

Sometimes we are scared to go into a house, so we look through the windows first. This applies to those who wish to become believers. God has a heavenly house with many rooms in His house. We often have to learn to trust God, as it does not seem to come naturally. By reading the Scriptures and looking into the Godly home, namely heaven, that is portrayed there, we begin to long for the blessings of what we see in the windows of truth. Once we are satisfied that what we see in the windows is really what we want then we can go confidently into the house through the front door.

James 1:25 "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

The following points are pertinent:

- Looking in is not in - you can desire the heavenly things but this does not give them to you.
- Staying out is not in - you cannot desire and possess the blessings by staying outside.
- Staying in is in - you can desire, possess and enjoy the blessings by continuing to stay in.

It is not always how you want it to be

The blessings are as you expect them to be, but the trials that a believer often goes through is not what we expected them to be. The believer discovers many strange things on the way to following Jesus. Nevertheless, despite this, there are so many believers simply because God gives the daily grace to carry on. The blessings that flow from God are fulfilling and make everything worthwhile. Not only does the believer experience daily blessings, but also has eternal assurance as well. Eternal life is given to all of God's children and when they pass over, they will be with God forever.

If you do not want it do not ask for it

Many believers start on the way of serving God with gladness and joy, but who give up on the way. It is far better not to have known the joys of salvation than to have known them and let go of them later on. The way is long and winds uphill, but the blessings that go with that way are profound and wonderful. The promise of Jesus that He will be with you is enough to carry you through until the day that you either pass over to heaven's call through death or the day that Jesus comes back to the earth to fetch you. God's grace is sufficient for you in all things.

Going through the hole in the wall, namely the doorway

There is a wall separating us from God, the wall of sin. This wall is solid and no one can get through to the other side, spiritually speaking, except through the door, namely Jesus, who has been provided by God Himself.

Jesus spoke about climbing up over the wall, entering in through some other way in *John 10:1*. There is the possibility that we can try to even make a hole in the wall. Nothing else helps except entering through the wall of separation using the doorway. The door will either be open to you or shut to you. It depends on whether or not you are prepared to go into that doorway, through the door. The doorway is the invitation extended through the Gospel to all to come in through the door of salvation and be saved.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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9. God says “Live” Luke 4:4

The difference between life and death

We are confronted with life and death daily. In the process of living there comes a day, sooner or later, that we all are confronted with the stark reality of death. The death of a loved one is tragic. We have to wait for that fateful day when we are going to die. There is a vast difference between life and death. The living knows that they will die, but the dead know not anything. It is better to be a living dog than a dead lion. The sad fact is that during life, death is all around us. We read it in the newspapers. We hear of it on the news. The television is full of it. Newspapers abound with daily reports of war, devastation, famine, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, and fires. These catastrophes come as a shock to us. We would rather not hear of them because they could suddenly involve us.

The satanic intrusion

The sad thing about all this is that it has to be. Satan came into the whole process and caused death and havoc that is still part of our lot today. We are told that satan provoked God to rise and cause the death penalty to be passed onto all men and women, through the fall from the grace of our fore-parents, Adam and Eve.

The paradise garden was lost

The paradise that God planted eastwards in Eden was filled with animals, birds and fish of all species. Beautiful flowers, shrubs and luscious fruit trees abounded. Adam and Eve were placed in the garden to tend it and to look after it. God would come down in the cool of the evening each day to visit and talk with them. There was no death and no knowledge of death. No decay, corruption or rottenness at all. Everything was beautiful, lush and green, with all varieties of trees, heavily bowed down with an abundance of fruit. God told them to be careful not to eat of one tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil but did not mention to them about the other tree that was also in the middle of this garden, the tree of life. They could eat of everything else, for nothing was forbidden except that one tree. The great surprise would come later when God would reveal to them the other tree that would give them eternal life in the garden. Sad to say, Satan was there to tempt Eve and as soon as she fell under that temptation, she tempted Adam.

Great was their fall and dire were the consequences. Death had intruded into the overflowing life of the beautiful garden. God commanded that Adam and Eve were to be punished with death, in dying you will die and sent them out of His garden. The intruder - satan had a field day, but he, too, was punished. God had lost His earthly companions; they had lost paradise and satan was now cursed of God.

The opening up of a new order for the world

The possibility of sickness, disease and death now hung over them like a dark cloud wherever they went. Mankind had lost God's paradise and the constant pleasures of all its wonderful benefits. The new sinful order had begun. Banishment, sorrow and the constant threat of death attended the prolific growth of weeds that needed continuous sweat-producing labour to sow, reap and bring in the harvest.

The power of sin to deceive

Before the fall these two innocents did not know what sin was. They did not know what disobedience was. They had no idea of punishment. They did not know that God could be angry. They did not know of the dire consequences that were to follow their disobedience. Now, after being deceived by satanic influences, they knew. It was sad for them that sin

could produce such a difference in their lives. Having fallen, sin continued to be their lot and they now learned what blame was. Denying their guilt had become a way of life for them. Satan had revealed the lie to them. They in their turn began to lie to each other. The power of sin to deceive had been discovered. No longer would innocence, love and happiness be their continual companions, but instead hatred, lies, hypocrisy, deception, recrimination, bitterness, fear, anxiety, and all other types of sin were present, which brought with it, frustration, tension, pressure and stress. Disappointment had become their God appointment. Envy, jealousy, strife and selfishness caused trouble between them and their children. Child bearing was attended with pain, sorrow and hardship. Satan continued to hound them as well, for he had a claim on them now. What a tragedy!

The sin power of the self

Sin had now become a power in their lives. This power brought with it a second problem - selfishness. These two powers had become a force in the earth and would always be there for man to contend with. The great problems of sin and self, and their attending intrigues towards others, caused divisions and even murder. There is no end to the possibilities for sin and selfishness to come in between men and women, boys and girls towards their God. It had become easy to disobey God's commandments because love and hate were now a choice, and it had become easier to choose hate. The possibility of being killed by another brought with it the capacity of self-protection, which goes into every area of their lives. The self and its suspicions of all others had become the motivation for living and God was pushed into the background.

The work of the Spirit of God enters this process

Sin had become a universal law now. The motto was, kill or be killed. The stronger will always win, the more you take the more you get, lie your way out of everything and let the others take the blame, give little and take as much as you can. Satan had succeeded to become the god of mankind, someone you had to listen to, someone to be feared, a power to be avoided and yet commanding tremendous fascination. The Holy Spirit of God had to contend with this dramatic change in human beings. God's Spirit had to strive daily with men and women to gain mastery over them. They would make promises that they could not keep, even to God, and disappointment followed disappointment.

Each command that God now gave became an added burden to them and the possibility of further disobedience was always a cause for fear and frustration. The battle was on for God to try to regain his creation back to Himself to have fellowship with them again, and they with Him. The estrangement grew until mankind was in such a moral state that God would have to decide to either tolerate the sin of the sinners or destroy the sinners. God had no other choice as things were now. Yet being God He still had to regulate their affairs. He had to set up rules, regulations and commandments for them to obey, to keep them from sinning outside of His boundaries. Their sense to know good and evil was now also linked to the power of their choice. Obey God and try to get back The favour that was lost or disobey Him and receive additional punishment. Fear had become the motivation to honour God as love was being tinged with the sense of impending death.

The law of God in this process

When Adam and Eve fell, they no longer had the innate ability to be good. They now need laws and commandments to show them what the difference between the right and wrong way is. God had to bring the law into this fallen state to teach man, who could no longer teach himself, how to please Him. Law and commandments are not for righteous people that know how to be good, but for the sinners and disobedient to help keep them on the straight and

narrow way. But the order of law and commandments brought additional punishment for additional disobedience. The original death, toiling and sorrow ruling, now part of the dying process, plus the new punishment for additional disobedience, was a constant threat and source of irritation to mankind.

The judgment of God

God's judgment followed man's disobedience. Without disobedience, there would be no need for God's judgment. Judgment and punishment became naturally linked to the supernatural laws of God. God had become the very reason and cause of punishment because mankind had become the very reason and cause for sin, rebellion and disobedience. Satan had become the deceiver of mankind and would continue in that role, becoming the archenemy of mankind.

The sentence

The sentences were given by God to maintain His supremacy over mankind. He was their Creator who had now become their Judge, meting out punishment to the offenders of His laws. Sin was superseded by death. Love was superseded by hatred. Fellowship was superseded by banishment. The gift of life was superseded by the sentence of death. Happiness was superseded by sorrow. Glory was superseded by shame.

The sentence passed on to all men

The good can bring forth the good, but how can an unclean thing bring forth a clean thing? We have inherited all that our ancestors have passed onto us, right from the days of Adam and Eve, even until now. These are:

- Sin, sickness, suffering.
- Sorrow, seclusion, separation.
- Selfishness, seduction, strife.
- Shallowness, shame, secrecy.

We all have our fair share of these, and we are all waiting to die for our sin and the sin of our forefathers.

The immutability of the sentence

The sentence for sin is certain death, the punishment for our sin. No one can set aside this tremendous power of God in bringing this about. We are always looking for that special elixir or secret formula that will prolong life, special exercises, diets, medicines, drugs, herbal mixtures, tonics, fortified vitamins and minerals. Nevertheless, God's death sentence gradually overcomes all this through the ageing process.

The righteous

Sinners are sinners until they die. God, however, has not only provided the way for sin to be punished but has also provided rewards for the obedient. The sinners through their continued disobedience, establish their guilt and confirm the punishment. On the other hand, the righteous, those who choose to do good by obeying God's commandments, choosing righteousness, will be rewarded. God's word is full of promises and blessings declared for the righteous, not only in this life but also in the life hereafter.

Only the way of the righteous is right

What makes a sinner sin? It is his capacity for enjoying sin. What makes a righteous person righteous? It is his capacity for enjoying righteousness. There are only two ways. The wrong way and the right way. A mixture of both is still the wrong way.

The righteous have to keep it right

For the righteous to be called righteous they would have to continue in their righteousness. Every transgression of God's law would make them a sinner again. We all know this pattern of being good and bad and then, after being bad, we try to become good again.

Can we get it right?

We all fall short of this ideal. No one is consistently righteous. All are sinners trying to be righteous and not the other way around where all are righteous, but trying not to be sinners. The process of God's law brings two great punishments:

- Temporary punishment for sinning against God
- Eternal punishment for rejection of God

The solution comes

There is a process that intrudes into this horrible dilemma. It is the process of God called forgiveness. Without forgiveness, we would not be able to change. God's forgiveness towards mankind and man's forgiveness towards mankind is the only way for us to get out of this rut of being sinful. However, forgiveness is just not enough. Forgiveness will not take away the sentence of death that has been passed onto mankind for universal disobedience. There has to be some sort of God-given method that will annul the sentence of death or even relieve it and take us past this sentence of death. How can this be done? Who will do it for us?

There is another dilemma

God lives forever. Man dies forever. How can a man be made alive again to live forever? There is only one way - resurrection from the dead. Our sin will keep us forever dead. How can we get past this sentence of death and still allow God His say over our lives? Quite a problem, isn't it? If somehow, we could be brought into a new order of things where we could continually be pleasing to God, escape the universal punishment of death for sin, and then be able to live with God forever in paradise.

Jesus is the only solution

God is the offended party and not men and women. They were the transgressors of His divine law and He was their Punisher. God will not go against His decree. Once the death sentence had been passed onto mankind, there could be no withdrawal, until both the sinner and his sin are removed in death. Death ends the process of sin and punishment.

Now there has to be a special person who can intervene on behalf of men and women everywhere, one who can stand in the presence of God and claim to be sinless, claim to save the lost. One who could overcome sin and the power of sin. One who could claim to have conquered sin and its resultant death. This Person is the one and only Jesus Christ.

There is a special process that God has instituted to help the sinners to overcome their sin and to conquer forever the consequence of their fall and punishment. Sin, disobedience and death can now be countered through righteousness, obedience and eternal life, but in a new order of being, brought about by Jesus Christ. It is called the new birth or regeneration. This is the reason for this series of teachings and bible studies. As you progress through these studies you will uncover the mystery of God's ways to provide deliverance from:

- Sin
- God separation
- Divine retribution

- Death
- The grave
- Hell
- Suffering
- Sorrow
- Sickness
- Selfishness
- Seduction
- Satan

The effort at trying to understand what this is all about and receiving it from Jesus will be well worth it, not only for you but for your whole family, your friends and many others that you meet.

God bless and help you all in your seeking to understand.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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10.Revival in groups that do not affiliate Hosea 14:7

Themselves with ‘denominations’

The revival is the Holy Spirit’s revival and not the group’s.

If the group has a revival then you can be part of it, but if you have a revival it does not mean to say that your group will be part of it. This is one of the reasons that people leave a group to form their churches and also why people leave churches. So, the real way to understand revival is that it is not a personal thing, but a group thing. The other thing to realise is that if a group has a revival then the persons in their revival will have to remain part of the group otherwise a split will ensue which makes the revival not one group but two groups. The Holy Spirit revival does not want this, so the best way to avoid it is to have a Holy Spirit revival.

Letting God go beyond your group

Does this mean to say that God cannot go beyond your group? No. It does, however, mean to say that God can go beyond your group if your group lets God do it. Whichever way we see this you need to realise that there is a need for other people in small groups to mix with other groups to let revival expand. Does this mean then that revival will put groups together? This is not necessarily so. Think about it this way. If the group does not want other groups to join in the revival then the group revival will stay small until the revival of the group expands it. The best way is to let God go beyond your group and let God expand your revival for you.

Opening up your ranks to fill benches or save souls?

The revival that we are talking about is not a seat-filling revival, but a soul-winning revival. Let God open up your ranks and fill the seats so that your revival will save souls that need to be won for Jesus. The winning of these souls will add a dimension to your group’s revival that will lose sight of seats and get people of sight. Let God fill up the gap in your group and let the people come into your church revival or shall we say let God bring them into your revival.

The front door is open for all - you can shut it

Which way do your souls come into your group, through the front door or the back door of your church group? If it is through the back door then they know about the backdoor and can also use it to leave the group. If they know about the front door then they do not know about the back door that is in the group. Close the back door and let the front door stand wide open for all to come in.

The way forward is to become one with God’s people everywhere

Some churches are solid in their stand for Jesus and some churches stand solid for their Jesus. Which one is your group looking after? The one lot is so solid in their stand for Jesus that not even Jesus can bring new souls into the group. The other group is so solid in their stand for Jesus that Jesus can bring anyone into the group. The third way is to let the group decide who is who and the church to decide who is not. The best way is to let the Holy Spirit bring in whomever He wishes to.

We are so different. What can we do about revival?

The difference about us is that we are exclusively standing for Jesus. The difference between other groups is therefore that Jesus is not standing for them. If this is the mentality of the majority of your group then you need to change the majority of your group for Jesus. Have a revival in your group for this will change it for you.

No one lives to himself

We all want to live and no one wants to die unless we are suicidal. The truth lies before us all that the church was not called to be suicidal, but was called to save souls. Is your church doing that? Or is it a suicidal church that only wants to die? The best way is to let the new-born souls come in so that they will give the group a new life.

No one dies to himself

The church has one death wish and that is to be like Jesus who was crucified. Let the church realise that the crucifixion of Jesus was for all people and the church has no say over who should be crucified with Jesus and who not. The message of the crucifixion is not one of dying, but one of living. The reason why we have to die is that we want to live for ourselves and not for Jesus. The best thing is to change the motto from, 'by living for Jesus we let the old group live the old life to read, 'by dying for Jesus we bring the new life of Jesus into our new group.'

So, what is the purpose of opening up revival?

These statements seem to be getting into the wrong places and causing an upset of the people who are our core. Then let the core get upset so that the new generation of faithful believers can help the stalwarts not to be so stalwart anymore. The best thing is to let the new blood that comes into the church through a revival, replace the old blood (if nothing else seems to help.)

If you hinder revival, will you revive?

Revival brings new life into the church and the group should bring new life into revival. When the church has a staid attitude that disallows revival then revival has a staid attitude that allows break-up of the church to come about. The best thing is to let revival come and let it come in its fullness.

Is a hundred years standing in your way?

What is your tradition if it cannot bring about 'the revival' that started its progress to become the group it is today? Let the revival begin and let the beginning revival change your church. The best thing to do is let revival come in like a flood and help your group to continue, if need be, for the next hundred years.

What about God's thousand years?

There is a saying that 'a thousand years can be like a day and there can be a day that is like a thousand years.' If your group has come along this far 'for one thousand years,' is it not time to take it into the next thousand years through revival? The best thing is to let your revival herald in the coming of King Jesus on the clouds of heaven.

Moving the family towards a revival?

The family is precious and so are the lost souls who are seeking revival. Which would you rather have - lost souls in your church or your family seeking revival? The best thing is to let souls come into the revival and help your family to stay a family. The best thing is to help your family to not let your family hinder a revival.

The family moving on towards revival

If you have taken the trouble to read this far, and we hope you will, then you will understand that revival is a God-given new change that Jesus brings and no one can stop it once the Holy Spirit starts it. The best thing to do is to let God do it His way and let the whole family, both natural and spiritual move on towards revival.

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11.Revival lines Psalm 16:6

Each person who has a ministry, sets in motion through that very ministry, a revival that extends out from himself/herself towards others. Abraham had four main lines. His ministry, given to him by God Himself, extends to the:

- natural house of Isaac - Jewish people
- spiritual house of Israel - converted gentile believers
- natural house of Esau - Arab people
- spiritual house of Esau - converted Muslims.

These all have one thing in common, they are linked, either directly or indirectly, to father Abraham. It is quite safe to say therefore that Abraham's lines have been extended from himself, through these people to many other lands, people and faiths. The apostle's Paul, Peter, James and many others, all have extended lines that may be traced back to their original ministry. Jesus Himself has the most extended lines, numerous in fact, throughout the last two centuries. The number of faiths that claim Jesus to be their head is enormous, if we take the Charismatic lines, the Pentecostal lines, the Messianic lines, the Evangelical lines, etc. When these are taken to include every nation on earth where these are to be found, all claiming to be founded on Jesus Christ as Head of the church, we are astounded by their multiplicity.

There are various revival lines

Revivals can begin in various ways, through:

- Books, pamphlets, documents
- Individuals
- Family members
- Churches
- The Holy Spirit, spontaneously breaking out, as it was on the day of Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit broke through and a wonderful manifestation of His working resulted.

Whatever the source, the revival etches out a line or lines that extend far and wide, sometimes even throughout the whole earth, going from person to person.

Revival has a source

The very essence and source of all revival are God Himself. Despite this, however, a revival has a source and eye through which revival waters are being poured out. It is very much like a spring in the valley or the mountain. The eye opens up and the waters come out, a trickle at first, but as they go further and further and more eyes open up and flow into the main stream, they can become mighty rushing rivers, eventually forming into lakes. The source is God, but the eye is the person or thing through which the revival was brought about in the first place. This is figurative speaking of course, but just as true as a river that has a source high up in the mountains. The water is of God, but the channelling has to come through some means or other.

The two channels of revival

The revival has wonderful working as it travels forward from person to person. The three models of revival are explained in this way:

Revival under the banner of the original revival group

As an example, consider the fire revival.

The original fire starts with a torch bearer, who is called a revivalist. His fire is burning fiercely and he passes this fire on to others, setting their torches alight from the flaming torch that he /herself carries. Each torch that is set alight joins together with the first torch and they become many torches, all grouping together around the first torch. This group of torches can then set alight any other torch in any other direction, but usually, these torches all come together into the one place where the original torch is, or if this is not possible, they submit under the banner of the first revival group.

The original fire that has started is extended by the original torch bearer to other places, whilst the first group carries on with their work of extending the fire locally. The torch bearer from this group goes out to help others who are seeking this fire, wherever the Spirit leads or the invitation comes, to help them light up their fires. If those torches that are being lit rally around the first group, then this is still part of the first group's fire, extending further to other places.

Revival continuing under a separate banner

When the original torch bearer goes to a place and helps to set the torches alight or helps to add to the torch flames that are there already to rally around another leader, this becomes part of a second torch extension revival. This means that the fire is not rallying around the first torch bearer, but is a new group rallying around their torch bearer. The first torch bearer is in the role of being a helper towards revival and is called a revivalist helper.

Revivalist? Revivalist helper?

The true revivalist is also a revivalist helper. He is not satisfied or complete if he only has his revival going. He has a strong fire burning within that desires the revival that is burning in his heart to be extended everywhere. Nevertheless, every revivalist needs others to keep the fires going. You can become a helper to a revivalist and learn all the different aspects that are experienced in a revival, but you can never become a true helper if the revival has not, first of all, touched your own heart. Open up your heart in either of these two directions and you will be surprised how God will direct your footsteps in the spreading of true revival fire. God knows you may even become a revivalist yourself with God extending your revival fire outwards in your revival lines.

God will glorify Himself and you will receive the blessing of being a revivalist or revivalist helper in extending His Kingdom.

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12.Revival through literature Jeremiah 32:2

Books, magazines, articles and pamphlets are a means to spread the gospel. They contain themes. They are the story- or anecdotal-conscious. They centre on a person or people. They open to us the world of that central person towards enlightenment, information and benefit of the reader. They can be historical, biographical, auto-biographical, knowledgeable, entertaining, geographical, revelational, instructive, politically inclined or socially motivating, opening up knowledge, understanding, wisdom and enlightenment. They can be truthful or against the truth, even taking a halfway stand between the two. They can be harmful or they can be helpful, depending on the author's viewpoint. Whatever books they may be, they serve to entertain the world.

Books are universal

Each author has the hope that his book will help those who are seeking to learn about that which he has presented. Authors tend to write to reach the multitude and try to reach all within their circle of readers. The world's best-sellers are often so popular that they sell out very quickly and second and third printings have to be made to meet the market demand. There are many books already printed in each generation and untold books are unobtainable and out of print. Collectors delight in this and will give almost anything for out of circulation books that still have a demand or appeal.

The Bible is a very good example of this

Many versions are collector's pieces and these have become extremely valuable. The Bible itself has merit all of its own, but the collectors often tend to go only for the value of the book and not the merit of the biblical contents.

Revival?

What has this to do with literature revival? Every book or piece of literature has followers that adhere to it, which also includes the Bible, unless, of course, the book was unpopular in the first place. Each author has followers therefore who believe in what the author has written. The men and women of God, who are authors, also have their followers. Those who have written their books that continue to be in demand can be called successful authors. Those who have had books written about them, if these books are still in demand, can also be called famous people.

Authorship revival

By this is meant that the author who has written a book that has changed the lives of numerous people can be called a revivalist, for he or she has brought into being a line that extends down the years through popularity and demand. Some books are so famous that one can ask people about them and everyone, at some time or other, seems to have read or heard about them, or even still quote from them. When God releases a book through an author that seems to bring about life-change in people, then a revival has come into being.

God is the author of the Bible and all revival points to Him

Jesus is extremely famous, whether they speak good or bad of Him, but still, there are untold billions of people who have never even heard of Him. Many people of the Bible are also famous, having performed some outstanding feat for which they have become well known. Samson, Joseph and King David are three who fit this category. Samson is known for his great strength and long hair. Joseph is known as the slave that became second to Pharaoh in the land of Egypt. David is known for killing the giant, Goliath. God is also famous, so to speak, but somehow, does not seem to stand out as the others, even though He is the One who

inspired the writing of the Bible, which could be because we cannot see Him. We all tend to identify with Jesus who came to sinful man, took on a fleshly body, lived among us, had an extremely successful and miraculous ministry, teaching all so wondrously plain and yet disturbingly powerful.

Bible author's revival

Paul the apostle, who wrote many New Testament letters, known as epistles, is very popular and his writings have given rise to numerous books published over his treatise of early Christian doctrines. We even speak of someone being a Pauline disciple or a Petrine disciple, meaning that they follow and advocate Paul's teaching or Peter's teaching. Nevertheless, who can argue that Paul, Jesus and Peter are still being quoted from the New Testament, even after approximately 2000 years after their deaths. The Pauline revival is still alive today. The Petrine revival is still alive today. The Jesus revival is still alive today. This is proof of what is called literature revival.

Why does God allow books to be written when there is the Bible?

Books are a means of expressing truths that can be sold, copied, referenced and above all, read. Each author who has taken the words of Jesus, Paul and Peter, has treated the subjects that he writes about in varied and different ways. Each author who has the right interpretation furthers the teachings of these three famous people. Nevertheless, there are critics of these three people even in our times and perhaps more so. These criticisms compel those who wish to know the truth for themselves to go back to the original sayings of these three people recorded in the New Testament. This of course applies to all those who have had a part in writing books of the Bible, from Moses to the apostle John. The source of their writings is the Bible. Those who learn correctly from them become avid readers and tend to follow their teachings. These that are considered dead are yet speaking in the heart of their revivals.

The central theme of the Bible is Jesus

Every true revivalist who adheres to the teachings of Jesus has to go to the New Testament to read what He said. Every true revival that has Jesus as its focus is a Jesus revival. There is also what is known as a Holy Spirit revival, but even in this, the central theme is around the finished work at Calvary, which Jesus has accomplished before being raised from the dead and ascending into heaven.

God revival is Jesus centred and Holy Spirit-driven

In this type of revival, God is the central theme. Everything revolves around God as the one who has visited in revival, through the Holy Spirit and around the teachings of Jesus Christ, His Son.

Literature as a means to revival

One speaker who travels the world can never equal the exposure that is presented each time a book is opened up somewhere. The one-man revivalist can only preach so many sermons to so many people, but his books, driven by the Holy Spirit, can reach billions of people. Literature may not have the dynamic impact of a speaker who visits in person, but it can open up an ever-widening circle of readers who can get to know of the revival and its power, which would otherwise never have the chance of being touched by the revivalist's message.

No man spoke like this man

The authoritative words of Jesus still have an appeal to the seeking heart today. He spoke of His Father's love for Him and all those who come to God through Him. He does not boast

of Himself at all, yet the authority of His words reaches into the heart and soul of sinful men and women and change them. Where they were wrong before, as they are touched by the words of this remarkable person, they seek to become right. The words of Jesus have a penetrating power that goes deep into the heart of men and women everywhere, no matter what their race, creed or culture, changing the unchangeable in ways that are supernatural and awesome.

Revival is a fire that burns into the heart

Literature can be the fuel that flames the fire.

Read good books. Read Bible books. Read gospel books. Above all, read the Bible. Let God guide you to the books that you read by simply asking Him to direct you to them. Here is the prayer that you can release to God, praying from the heart in faith:

“Heavenly Father, please help me to read those books that you send my way, to teach me concerning the faith that is in Christ Jesus as Lord of my life. Keep me from the books that teach otherwise than wholesome, sound, true teachings. As you select these for me to read, consider the motives of the authors and separate anything that would cause troubling in my spirit or to my home and our family. Let me grow, be strong and be a revivalist for you by reading the Scriptures daily. Teach me your ways from them and lead me in pleasant paths that will keep me in the hollow of Your hand, with Your blessings for us all, until Jesus comes again to fetch us. Thank you, God. In Jesus name and for His sake. Amen.”

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13.Revival through teaching Acts 28:31

Open confession of your sinful and iniquitous heart's desires - repentance

- If you hide your iniquity God will not hear you.
- If you want to sin then you will continue in your sin.
- If you forsake your sin and its consequences you will find deliverance.
- Jesus is there to forgive, deliver and help you to fix up with those you have wronged.

So, confess it to Him and ask for mercy.

Open confession of full and final deliverance through Jesus Christ as Lord - restoration

- Each person needs to confess his sin.
- Recognise where you have hurt others.
- The sin of the heart has to be surrendered.
- The sinful heart has also to be surrendered.

Realise that no sin is too great for Jesus to forgive.

Open-hearted following Jesus all the way He leads

- Sin is to be forsaken more than sin is to be confessed.
- The sinfulness of sin can only be uncovered by sin confession.
- The confession of sin is the leading of the Lord away from sin's dominion.
- Jesus alone has conquered the dominion of sin.

He knows the way out of sin and will always bring the repentant out of sin to God's righteousness.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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Stage 6 - Manifestation of the heavenly Bride of Christ

Preamble

These studies are presented in a progressive study order and are suitable for bible study in the church, bible school, believing group and home-centred outreach. The modules may also be grouped and used for topical studies and seminars. We are trusting God to inspire His people everywhere to use these modular studies for themselves and to help others to use them in seeking and finding Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives.

All working for God

Stage 6 - Manifestation of the heavenly Bride of Christ

1. It concerns the godly and the wicked Psalm 147:6

Romans 2:4-6 “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But by your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each one according to his deeds.”

IT is of the Word of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Here it talks about the ‘day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each one according to his deeds.’ The fact that God has a judgment day is a fact of Scripture. Many passages speak about that day, but one or two will be mentioned here.

Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

In this verse, Jesus speaks about His reward is with Him. Often, we talk about our reward that we are going to receive from Jesus, but it is His reward and it is with Him. To get the reward that Jesus speaks about, we are to be of those who can receive it.

The Book of God - is our name in it?

This reward has a two-fold aspect. The reward of the just and the reward of the unjust. Daniel, the prophet, speaks of a time of such reward.

Daniel 12:1-3 “... And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”

The apostle John also speaks of such a reward:

Revelation 20:11-15 “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up their dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

IT is by God, through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit

Revelation 3:5 “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

The righteousness of God and His judgment are an integral part of these verses. These days it is felt by many that the judgment of God is a matter of great doubt. Many scientists have declared that the evolution of man is part of our natural history from way back to the time, as we know it today. There is a natural tendency for everything to find its place in life. According to this theory, there cannot be a judgment by God. If there is a type of judgment to come then it is probably the man himself that will bring it upon himself, through his errors of blundering, all part of the evolution process, whereby the strongest and fittest survive. The thought of a God who can decide the destiny of mankind is foreign to the scientific thinking of the great majority of learned scientific professors. God has a different view of these things.

IT is God’s truth

The Bible has ample proof, if it is read and taken seriously, that judgment has always been a part of the truth given, affecting the natural history and spiritual destiny of the people of God. This thread can be seen running through all recorded affairs, from Adam and Eve to Jesus Christ himself. The New Testament shows Him being judged by the Jewish people, the Romans and, if the truth is told, by God Himself. The Jewish people in particular have undergone a tremendous series of judgments over the centuries; some may say that they even deserved it and brought it upon themselves. Those who have read Jewish scriptural and secular history and the history of the Jews in modern times will agree that the Jewish nation has been under terrible judgment, from their enemies, from mankind and even from God Himself.

IT is invincible but can be made weak

The next point that is brought to our notice is ‘your hardness and your impenitent heart.’ The Scriptures are always personal to us. It does not mention the other person’s hardness and impenitence. The previous verses of this chapter, not mentioned here, have to do with judging others and condemning yourself. God is a personal God. He has certain requirements for each of us, simply because we are part of His creation. He lays down the laws, rules or requirements, and these are given to us in His Word, in particular the New Testament. We can deceive ourselves and say we have no sin (*1 John 1:8*). We can also say we have not sinned (*1 John 1:10*). We can, however, confess our sins (*1 John 1:9*), and discover that God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 1:29-32 names a few of the wrong things people are capable of doing and in verse 32 it talks about:

Romans 1:32 “the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

IT works out our salvation

The next point we come to in this particular passage that we are considering - ‘Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?’

Let us consider this personal aspect and see what it means. God has included us all under sin, and we are all sinners, according to Scripture.

Romans 3:10-11 "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.'"

IT goes to the ends of the earth

Is this only true of Paul's times or does it apply also now in this day and age? By observation, you can see that this is still true daily. Murder, rape, violence, robberies, etc. are still committed. Even if we do none of these things, we still have a problem within ourselves to a lesser extent - we can all sin from time to time if we are not careful. Anger, division, resentment, hatred, arguments are all part of our life, perhaps not from our side always, but true.

IT is invisible but can be manifested in various ways

Now let us talk about this. When God sent Jesus, His Son, to die for us, to take away our sin, is it correct for us to assume that we can continue in our sins? Why would God waste and sacrifice Jesus on the cross of Calvary if we can still go on sinning every day? Surely then we ought to find out what God wants us to do about sin in ourselves and others. The work of salvation is invisible, but once it has been affected in the heart of a sinner turned believer, it has a visible manifestation in life.

IT is the Lord - Reconciler of Heaven and Earth

There is another very good point in this passage.

Romans 2:5 "... you are treasuring up for yourself wrath ..."

Treasure is important to us all. Who does not like treasure? However, this type of treasure is not very good for us, and yet we take chances with God and it starts to become a treasure to us. We just do as we like. Who would not like to do this? Daily it becomes our joy and pleasure, just as a treasure would, but there is a day coming when we will have to give an account of this treasure to God.

1 John 2:17 "And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

The will of GOD is what counts. On the other hand, there is a Scripture that speaks about another type of treasure:

2 Corinthians 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, ..."

This is speaking of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Jesus Christ within us, who believe.

IT bestows blessings to the faithful

Let's touch upon these points again.

A day of God's wrath and judgment is coming.

Revelation 6:17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who can stand?"

We will be rewarded according to our works and deeds, whether good or evil.

Revelation 22:5-6 "There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Then he said to me, 'These words are faithful and true.' And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place."

Romans 2:6 “who ‘will render to each one according to his deeds’”

There is everlasting life, on the one hand.

Romans 2:7 “eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality;”

There are everlasting shame and contempt, on the other.

Romans 2:8-10 “but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of the man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honour, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

We cannot say that we are without sin.

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

We cannot deny our sins.

1 John 1:8, 10 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

IT returns to God, bearing fruit for Him

The Spirit returns to God, bearing the fruit up to Him, which is so pleasing to Him. This fruit is the ‘it’, that God desires from every one of His creation.

This is the reason for repentance, receiving Jesus, confession of our sins and turning to God in loving faithful obedience. Obedience to Christ’s commands is necessary because this is the basis of the judgment, the standard whereby we will be judged.

John 12:44-50 “Then Jesus cried out and said, ‘He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me and does not receive My words has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

IT is real to the believer

Jesus Christ came as Lord of your life, too:

- save you
- forgive you
- cleanse you
- restore fellowship with Himself, with God the Father and with one another
- deliver you
- bless you
- fill you with His Spirit and glory
- grant you the liberty to walk before Him
- the fullness of joy.

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2. Impartation - Holy Spirit gifts Romans 1:11

The Holy Spirit Gifts

This brings gifts of the Holy Spirit to the believer. However, any of the nine Holy Spirit gifts can be imparted through the Holy Spirit using any of the twelve ability gifts working through true believers, provided God allows such a happening and helps to show what gift/s has/have to be imparted. The faith of the believer who transmits such a gift can quicken the faith of the one receiving the impartation. God can, however, as an act of sovereign will, ask someone to lay hands on another for the impartation of one gift or another. Gifts can also be transmitted through true prophetic gifting.

The Holy Spirit uses the ability of gifts as a means to impart the Holy Spirit gifts. The combination of these two types of gifts helps to carry over the workings of the Holy Spirit.

The gift mix of Holy Spirit gifts and ability gifts are important to us as believers. As soon as we can begin to understand the working of our gift mix, we are that much more equipped to realise fruitful labour for Jesus.

The Holy Spirit can do this work fully as we allow Him to work within us. His ability becomes in us a powerful manifestation that works through His inspiration imparted to us.

1 Corinthians 12:7 "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."

All nine gifts for one person?

No one person needs to have all nine gifts. This is clearly stated in

1 Corinthians 12:11 "But the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills".

The surrender of our will, through repentance, brings us into line with God's will and the Holy Spirit (He) knows what God wants for us. We don't need to expect or even ask for all the gifts. The apostle Paul tells us in:

1 Corinthians 12:31, 13:13 "But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Choosing gifts

It should be remembered that for each gift that God gives to you, you will sooner or later be required to give an account to Him of what you have done with that gift.

Romans 14:12 "So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God."

Also, for every gift that you receive from God there will be a testing time as you begin to operate in that gift; the more gifts you have the greater the testing time for you to reach maturity in the working of those gifts. This is not a very happy process to go through as it involves much intense Holy Spirit training. It is far better to let the Holy Spirit Himself decide on the distribution of gifts to yourself. His choice will be the right choice for you. He can add any gift that He desires, as you progress in your spiritual life with Jesus.

Mark 4:23-25 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear ... Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Methods for gift impartation

Listed for your convenience is a list of 12 different methods that God can use, to channel the nine Holy Spirit gifts through you for His glory, your use and the blessing of others. Any one or more of these methods are used by God to channel, through a chosen person, useful abilities, each ability being also a gift in its own right. Each ability that we have, that is opened up will bring God and the knowledge of God closer to us.

Any method that God chooses to use as well as having the ability to use the method, is a God-given gift to us so that we can truly profit in spiritual matters.

1 Corinthians 12:7 “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”.

Ability gifts linked to the Holy Spirit gifts

We can receive through prayer the capacity to use any of these God-given abilities including the Holy Spirit gifts. It is not the ability apart from the Holy Spirit, but the ability through the Holy Spirit that channels all the gifts and lets them operate successfully.

Endeavour to understand this great difference between the ability gifts and the Holy Spirit gifts. Having a gift consciousness or being preoccupied with gifts will not work for you. It is by seeking the Giver of the gifts and by practising obedience in doing what He tells you to do that the various gift mixes will operate to their fullest extent, the Holy Spirit Himself blessing such obedience.

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3. You receive more than you can imagine - prove it Romans 5:17

It is impossible to imagine what God has in store for you so do not even try. The reality of serving Jesus correctly always surpasses your expectation, provided that you expect faith in the working of Jesus in your prayer life. He often surprises us, who have learned to trust Him, by exceeding our expectations by far. Many answered prayers have with them a surprise element that astounds the believer. However, you must prove this for yourself. Start by praying prayers of faith, releasing each prayer to God for His fulfilment, in His way and most importantly in His own time. His time, however, is 'the now' of faith.

A new-born believer does not know the end from the beginning

We can bluff ourselves and say we know what is going to happen, sometimes even assuming that it will happen in a certain way. This often proves to be incorrect. Can you imagine a new-born baby knowing everything? Babies have to grow first and experience first-hand whatever unfolds before them. This is an unfolding experience that enlarges itself as we continue to grow. The new born believer has a similar process to go through. Even mature believers, those who have experienced years of answered prayers, are often shocked in the way God answers their prayers, usually from unexpected sources, especially if they did not tell a human soul about their prayers.

God is the Initiator

The Initiator of each prayer is God Himself, for it says that He hears us before we pray. If this is so and it is, then we only pray to release our faith before God for ourselves to Him. He knows every request before we ask, but Jesus told us to pray and ask anyway. Sometimes, a sigh has the same result as a prayer, if it comes from the heart.

Man is the recipient

God initiates the prayer and man receives the answers to that prayer. The results of prayer can be astonishing at times and at other times seems to be a natural outcome. Sometimes prayer is answered immediately and other times the answer unravels over some time. Either way, prayer brings a Godly result, and a faithful prayer brings a faithful result. Man receives the blessings of answered prayers even as God receives the blessing of worship and thankfulness. Open the heart to start praying and God will open the fountains of blessings in answering those prayers. The experienced prayer warrior has an abundant store of stories of answered prayers, both miraculous and seemingly natural.

Only prove the pudding by eating it

No one can say prayer does not work, who consistently work at it. Even sporadic prayers have been answered at times. The odd prayer that seemed to carry no weight with God, suddenly comes into life, bearing a fruitfulness that astounds us. It has been said that true prayers which have been truly answered are 'unbelievable.'

No one knows the way of all things but God

Every prayer has the correct answer. Sometimes that answer can be 'no.'

The 'yes' answer has a wonderful effect on the praying believer. Even a 'yes' prayer received by a sinner, remarkably changes a person. Sometimes we pray expecting a certain answer, only to receive a remarkable and astonishingly different answer. This can be confusing at first, but as we learn to trust God in everything, even for the answers to our prayers, we begin to realise that He knows best and that His choice is always the best for us, or rather, in our full interest. He knows what we need and will supply all our needs.

Lead by his Spirit

The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and will therefore lead us in this matter of praying. He will direct your thoughts and mind according to His leading towards the perfect solution. He cannot fail in doing God's own will and helps us towards bringing our own will into subjection to that will. He has the perfect method for praying and can even teach us how to pray. He has a life of His own that causes us to be led, and as we follow, He opens up the way for us to receive each answer that is forthcoming from God. Follow Him and receive His results.

Adversities of life and their solutions

There are times in life when we desperately want a particular thing so much that we are inspired to pray for it. Other times we may feel a press or coax within that nudges us to pray in a certain direction. It can also happen that there is an urgent lack impressed upon the spirit that causes us to seek God's face with pressing urgency. This is the leading and guidance of God's Spirit for our or someone else's ultimate benefit. The answer comes soon enough and we then realise the urgency of the Spirit for us to pray. Life can have strange turns that often leave us perplexed and confused. Sometimes we seem to get an advance impression of impending disaster which causes us to pray. Heed this warning and spare yourself a lot of trouble in the future. God is working something important out for someone, somewhere, even if not for yourself. Let Him work through his Spirit within you for blessings.

Giving to God and receiving His increase

It is impossible to give something to God and not get a greater increase back, provided your giving is in the right spirit. Sometimes we give something to God and wonder why there seems to be no return. The return does not have to come straightaway. It can come at a time when it is needed. The increase is something like a seed harvest. Plant the seed, let it grow, and at the right time, you will have a harvest of fruit or seeds. There is such a thing as a miraculous increase. Faith is the key to receiving such an increase, but it must not be faith in your faith, or even faith in your prayer, but faith in God.

Let go and let God ...

Everyone who begins to have a life of prayer will experience many wonderful things happening, which otherwise would be accredited to circumstances. The person that prays has many a changed circumstance that can be classed as miraculous, especially if the outcome was unexpected or cannot be fully explained. God can even send angels to answer your prayers. Nothing shall be impossible to God. Prove this for yourself and begin to consistently pray believing prayers, full of faith and loving trust in the One who answers and the One who cares enough to answer. If you could answer your prayers you would, but now you can't. So, let God answer them for you and prove that He is indeed your God.

However, do not try to prove God first, but let your prayers rise before Him in all your needs, and trust Him to fulfil them all, as it pleases Him. Remember to thank Him for the answers that are forthcoming and after they have come into being through their fulfilment.

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4. The Holy Spirit gifts Ephesians 1:3

Spiritual Gifts 1 Corinthians 12:4.

The spiritual gifts that are mentioned by the apostle Paul are grouped into three main categories:

- Gifts

The gifts that the Holy Spirit imparts are help gifts that are given to us to open up God's way to us.

- Ministries

The ministries that Jesus imparts are given to bring us all closer to God, helping us to walk with God and keep on going forward with Him.

- Activities

The activities that God works through us are given to assist us to know God, concerning who He is, what He does and what He wills for us to know or experience.

Different kinds of gifts

Now let us distinguish between the different kinds of gifts that people can experience.

There is one very strong indication that a gift is good, and is from God if it blesses people in helping them to believe in God and to believe God. Deceivers and unbelievers will never be truly blessed by these gifts as they will not be used for the benefit of others but personal benefit and will eventually do more harm than good.

These gifts also have a bond that is indissolubly connected to the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences in ministries, but the same Lord. There are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all."

The gifts, as opposed to the ministry and activity gifts, are listed for your convenience:

The nine Holy Spirit gifts

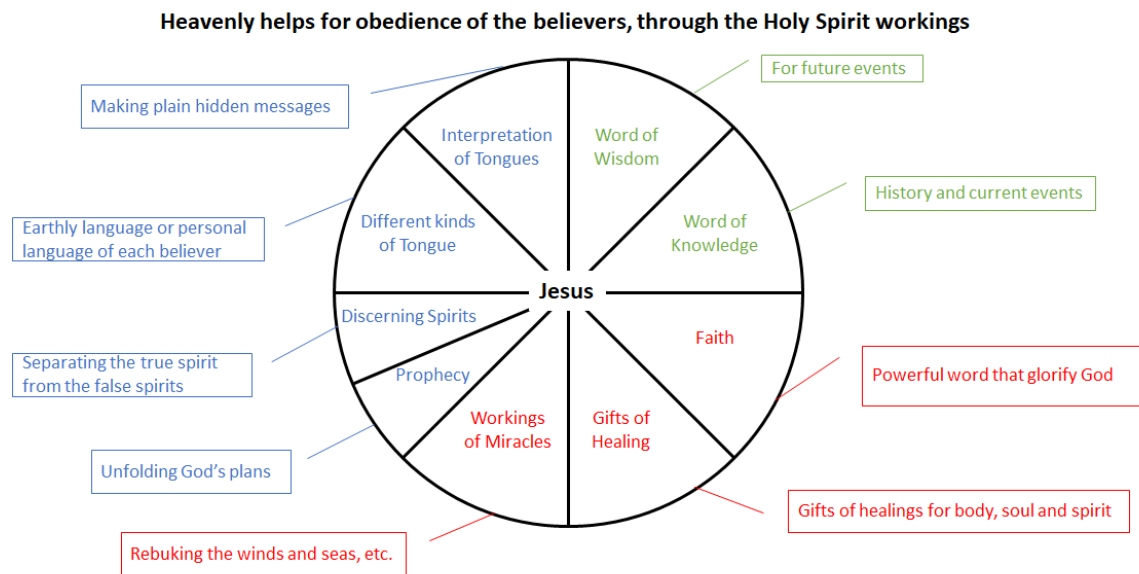
There are certain gifts God has set aside for opening up to the believer in God's spiritual world. These are not to be confused with the description, previously listed, of the various types of abilities to experience spiritual matters, which are also gifts from God. God understands better than all of us that His world, which is the invisible world, has to have a means of conveying spiritual truth to those who are seeking. These Holy Spirit gifts, named helps as opposed to experiencing abilities, are mentioned in the New Testament, *1 Corinthians 12:8-10*. They are nine in number:

- the word of wisdom
- the word of knowledge
- faith
- gifts of healings
- the working of miracles
- prophecy

- discerning of spirits
- different kinds of tongues
- the interpretation of tongues.

It does not mean to say that because there are only nine gifts, this number limits the expression or scope of these gifts. This is not so. Let it be sufficient to say now, that these nine gifts can convey anything to us that God wishes us to know, simply because they are imparted through the Holy Spirit of God, who knows perfectly the Father's will in everything.

The manifestation of these gifts



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The working of these nine Gifts is not limited to only one person, but are manifested in a full measure throughout the whole spectrum of the body of believers throughout the whole world. What one believer does not have, be sure that in some place or another, in some church or other, there will be a believer who will have it. This makes it important for us not to turn away from other believers, but rather through growing love, to allow for a getting together as God Himself opens this possibility up to each believer, through the personal daily experience that we all are destined to go through.

These gifts can and do operate in the realm of the natural as well as the spiritual.

These gifts can very often work in conjunction with each other and any one type of gift does, and can, compliment, strengthen and expand the working of any other type of gift.

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5. The twelve ability gifts 2 Peter 1:8

Some examples, at random, are taken from the Holy Scriptures.

You will notice that all these gifts are spoken of in the plural. This is because there are many different kinds of manifestations in each gift category, e.g., dreams, visions, visible manifestations, etc. are all grouped under seeing gifts.

Knowledge gifts

These are based on presenting to us knowledge, things of the past that have taken place, things of the present that are taking place or things of the future that will take place.

John 2:24-25 “But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and did not need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.”

Seeing gifts

These show us things through dreams, visions or other methods of sight that God wishes us to know.

Luke 1:11 “Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.”

Hearing gifts

These gifts use our hearing abilities, either naturally or spiritually and convey whatever God wishes us to receive.

John 11:43 “... He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Lose him, and let him go.’”

It is interesting to note that even Lazarus that was dead could hear when Jesus spoke to him!

Smelling gifts

These gifts help one to become aware of sweet fragrances or smells that are not usually apparent to others.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?”

Touching gifts

This gift has sensitivity towards the laying on of hands and impartation by touch.

Acts 3:7 “And he took him by the right hand and lifted him, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.”

Inner perception gifts

You will become aware of something going on inside of you that you can sense. As an example, you could sense the presence of someone or something inside of you that normally was not detected or previously experienced.

Luke 8:45-46 “... Who touched me?” ... Jesus said, “Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.”

Tasting gifts

You taste something sweet, sour or bitter that suddenly forces your attention to focus on a specific taste or spiritual taste sensation.

Revelation 10:9 “So I went to the angel and said to him, ‘Give me the little book.’ And He said to me, ‘Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.’”

Doing gifts

You are inspired to do something that you cannot normally do, such as writing a book or healing the sick.

Exodus 4:2-3 “So the Lord said to him, ‘What is that in your hand?’ He said, ‘A rod.’ And He said, ‘Cast it on the ground.’ So, he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.”

Discerning gifts

This is a gift that opens up spiritual discernment. You become aware of an understanding that dawns within yourself, which becomes an absolute certainty.

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Feeling gifts

You experience strong feelings of the Spirit within yourself that stirs your very being towards God.

John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”

Mark 1:41 “Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’”

Outward awareness gifts

You become aware of a presence nearby you, or you may become aware of some unusual happening near you, through this gift.

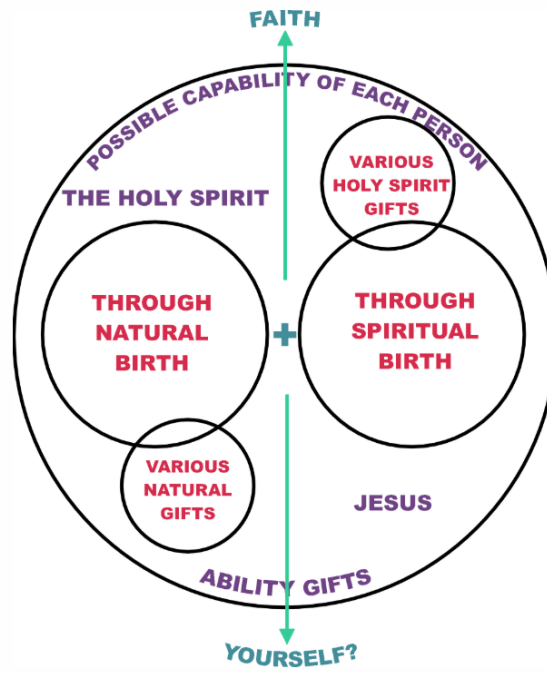
Genesis 22:13 “Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So, Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for burnt offering instead of his son.”

Luke 19:4-5 “He ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.’”

Speaking gifts

These gifts can pass on God's working to us through our hearing processes. Through further inspiration, these can again be communicated to others for their edification.

Acts 2:40-41 “And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’ Then those who gladly received his word were baptised, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”



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6. Special spiritual gifts in use 2 Peter 1:3

We notice in reading the Scriptures that God uses speech as a function to bring about happenings, e.g.:

Genesis 1:1-3 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light."

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Notice the order of importance. The Word, The Word was, The Word was God instead of the other way around, The Word was God, The Word was, The Word. This order of priority stresses the importance of the Word in the whole scheme of things, whether as originally spoken in the beginning, or subsequently written into the record later on. Not that God is less important than His Word, but as far as man is concerned, The Word is hereby shown to have special importance in the plan of God's revelation to man.

This gift is one that God Himself has undertaken to use towards the world. Many examples can be cited and it is suggested that you take note of this fact as you read the Scriptures for yourself. Is it not true that one who gives gifts must be able to use that gift himself if he so chooses? Can you imagine someone giving a gift away that he has not got in his possession, or that comes through the giver? How much more does this apply to God Himself.

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

We all have many of these gifts given to us in the form of our abilities, including the ability that most people have, both to see and hear.

Psalms 94:9 "He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye shall He not see?"

God can just as well also speak to us in various ways, for

Matthew 4:4 "... It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God,'"

Hearing the Word of God is therefore a personal gift that each sinner can have for himself/herself if each one will only ask God for this ability. That God cannot expect us to live by His words if we cannot either read them or even perhaps hear them. Such a gift once given should eventually lead the sinner to become a repentant sinner.

The hearing of faith.

Romans 10:11-15, 17 "The Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!' So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Some important points are stated here:

- The Scriptures speak presenting a Saviour.
- Believing in Him will prevent shame.
- There is no distinction between believers.
- The Lord is rich to all that call upon Him.
- Those who call upon His name will be saved.
- One can only call on Him through believing.
 - by first hearing about Him
 - from a preacher
 - who is sent to preach the gospel of peace, bringing glad tidings of these good things?
- The word of God creates the faith to hear, once the word of God is heard and received.
- God has given to each person a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt with each one a measure of faith.”

This measure of faith can be opened up to each person concerned and it can also be developed, once correctly understood, with constant use. Paul the apostle, in addressing the Hebrews said,

Hebrews 4:2 “For indeed the gospel (which means good news or glad tidings) was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it”

A personal hearing gift

Once having heard and received the message through faith, letting the Lord save you, it then becomes possible to hear even more closely, personally, the voice of God speaking to you,

Isaiah 30:21 “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’ Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left”.

This voice once discerned and received into your spiritual love for God, through His love, will stay with you forever - provided you let it continue and allow yourself to be exercised in such a gift. This opens up a wonderful dimension for the true child of God. The children of God should understand these things to be a recipient of these things, asking and trusting God to honour His word to you through your faith in His gift.

The special functional seeing gifts

The above also applies to seeing gifts.

Isaiah 33:17 “Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will see the land that is very far off.”

This group of functional gifts all are given by God to open up the light within the darkness, insight instead of ignorance and understanding instead of confusion. Seeing into the spiritual realm opens up the heart to deeper spiritual wisdom, knowledge and understanding. These gifts that reveal the unseen spiritual world to the believer are given to transform a picture, seen in a night dream or a day vision, through correct interpretation, into a spiritual reality that can more easily be received. Interpretation, to be effective, should not be of any

private interpretation. Daniel the prophet needed special understanding to help his king, so he asked his companions to

Daniel 2:18-23 “that they might seek the mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So, Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said: ‘Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king’s demand.’”

Prayer to the God of heaven brought the interpretation of heaven. Daniel could then tell the king,

Daniel 2:45 “... The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

There are other instances in the book of Daniel where this excellent practice of Daniel brought spectacular results through interpretations received from his God.

The special functional gifts

Personally, hearing the voice of God, or perhaps seeing angels, Jesus Christ, or even the Holy Spirit (as a fire, a river or as shining cloud, etc.) is often a rare spiritual experience that is both startling and wonderful. It opens up a world of understanding that otherwise would be closed. Hearing the Word of God preached or taught also has this very same result and lives can be instantly changed. We will be dealing, in different ways, with these special functional gifts as we continue in this programme. Do not, however, be in a hurry to experience these things but start opening up your heart to Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, and these possibilities will be opened up more fully to you and at the right time.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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7. Fruitfulness - nine-fold Galatians 5:22-23

PART ONE

The mention of fruitfulness in the Scriptures has a strange ring to it. Fruitfulness has to do with living things. For instance, God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth with their children *Genesis 28*. God blessed Noah and his sons and told them to be fruitful and multiply *Genesis 9:1*. God also spoke to Abraham and promised that God would make him so exceedingly fruitful that nations and kings would come out of him *Genesis 17:6*. Isaac blessed his son, Jacob, with God's blessing of fruitfulness to multiply *Genesis 28:3*. Joseph was to become a fruitful bough by a well *Genesis 49:22*. Then again, the Jewish people were also told to be fruitful and multiply. This is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. The strange thing about all this is that God calls these people fruitful. The reference is to be a strong and vigorous tree with lots of fruit on its branches. Then the apostle Paul enlarges the theme of fruitfulness. His inference is rather to be fruitful for God in bearing the fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such, there is no law."

There are spiritual fruits

The fruit of the Spirit is a nine-fold fruit. The fruit is spoken of as being nine separate parts, all contained in the one type of fruit, spiritual fruit or fruit of the Spirit. He could have said 'fruits', but he did not, and therefore we confer that there are not nine different fruits, but rather one fruit, containing nine parts. These are:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

God uses trees of righteousness for fruit-bearing

The inference made about fruit-bearing pre-supposes fruit-bearing trees. Jesus spoke about good trees and bad trees and points it towards man, saying,

Luke 6:43-44 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree is known by its fruit. ..."

Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks"

In another place, the believers are called

Isaiah 61:3 "... trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

A righteous tree is spoken of as being

Psalm 1:3 “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also will not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.”

Parables of trees are a common theme in the Scriptures

The concordance will help you to discover this theme. The reasoning behind all this is simply that God made mankind and put them in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep His garden. They failed and God turned them out of it. He had a garden but did not have men and women to keep it. Cherubim had to keep it, Genesis, 3:23-24. The recurring theme that comes forward in Scripture is that God wants men and women to be His garden and not the Garden of Eden itself. Paul the apostle reminds men and women believers that they have been planted.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 “I planted, Apollos (he was a converted believer) watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”

1 Corinthians 3:23 “And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

The bearing of seed is necessary

A tree needs to bear seed to become fruitful. A peach tree bears peaches and the pip inside each peach has the promise of bringing another tree into being. However, the pip needs to be planted first to do this. The seeds of the tree are the life of other trees that will each bear their fruit and is either a fruitful tree or a fruitless tree. What type of tree are you? Your answer needs to be given to God who is in charge of all the trees, whether good or bad.

The promise of fruitfulness from the tree

Each tree has the promise of good fruit, but the life long history of the tree will uncover the truth of the fruit-bearing success of the tree. Each believer has to continue in their faith, keeping on in the believing life and holding fast to the place where it has been planted, continue to grow, bearing its fruit. The difficulty of this process is that we (the tree) could be cut down (killed.) Our witness (the leaves) could be destroyed (taken away). Our fruit could be wasted (thrown down and tramped upon). Our seeds could become scattered (by birds, animals, men and women.) Our sap (inner prayer life) could dry up. To find out what sort of tree we are we have to continue to the end of our life. The record of our tree life will then show what sort of tree we were.

The living truth unfolding from the seed of the tree

Each seed contains its type of truth. For the seed to reveal this truth it has to die first. The seed contains the essentials to begin a new tree, but it has to produce that tree. The seed is a mystery to be unfolded through the life and growth of the tree.

The promise of the life-bearing patterns of the seed

God has ordained every tree to have its type of fruit. There are many varieties of fruit trees. If we enlarge the symbolism of the tree, we can include many other types of trees, such as mustard trees, seed-bearing trees, cork trees, etc. Each has its purpose and each has to produce its fruit (or seed) to reproduce itself. In a handful of miscellaneous seeds, it will be hard to identify each type of seed, unless we are experts on such matters. Put the seed into the ground, water it, look after it and as soon as the shoot comes up sufficiently, it will be easy for us to see what type of tree has been planted. We will still not know if the tree will be good or bad. This has been proven to us over the years. So, it is with God’s seeds that are planted into the soil, springing up and bearing fruit.

The opening up of the seed is germination

The tragic thing about a seed is that it has to die to bring forth a new tree. Germination comes about when the seed is good and is alive with the prospect of being germinated. Some seeds will not be able to die, as they are already dead. Others will only live a short while, for various reasons. The hardy seed will come shining through every time.

The planting in the ground

The seed has to die and be buried into the ground, covered over, away from the light of the sun. There is a process that allows seeds to grow in the light, but sooner or later the seed has to be planted to be a stout, solid and fruitful tree. The process of fertilising the tree above ground has its advantages, but this takes a lot of care by man. The trees that are left in the ground somehow manage to grow, for God is looking after them, even if there is no man to care for them.

PART TWO

Outside care with inward protection

The gardener has to take care of his trees. They need him because, although they have inward protection, they are outwardly extremely vulnerable. Fires, heavy rains, storms, volcanoes, whirlwinds, lightning, etc. take their toll on the trees of the earth. The gardener usually saves a sick tree, but the success of the outcome depends on many factors. These are not always in his hand. The tree has to rely on its fortitude and inward strength at times as it stands alone amid all these troubles. Some trees have been burned and have lived again. Some have been uprooted and stand skew in the ground, but they go on living anyway. Some have been transported down a raging river and have somehow been resettled in another place and have survived.

The opening up of the leaves promises life-bearing processes

Leaves not only beautify the tree, but they provide life to the tree. In nature, its roots feed every tree, but sometimes the leaves have to feed, not only the tree but the roots also, depending on the circumstances of the tree. Without the leaves, the roots take all the strain and the bare branches have to strain to take in moisture.

The opening up of the flowers promises fruitfulness

Flowers are beautiful on a tree. Each flower has the promise of a fruit that is being brought into being. Each flower must also die to bring forth its fruit. The more flowers there are on the tree the more promise there is of the tree being fruitful.

The seasons take their toll, but the trees are hardy

The seasons come and go and the tree has to endure each type of weather that each season brings with it. The tree needs warmth, sunshine and rain, but if it is a good tree it can stand the cold, the snow and the ice as well.

The growth of the trees

Growing trees are a joy to see. The fruit-laden tree is a pleasure to all. The amazing leaves make the tree a place of shade. The roots take up the nourishment. The branches spread the leaves and provide a place for birds and animals to rest. Over the years the tree is growing slowly. It has many seasons of fruit-bearing. Sadly, then comes the end of its time and it begins to die. Old age seeps in. There are numerous signs of weariness and decay showing on the wrinkled bark. The branches are few and wispy and dry branches are abounding more and more each day. Suddenly there is no life. The tree is dead. Its promises of bearing luscious

fruit are over. Nothing is left but drying firewood whose usefulness lasts only as long as the fire burns.

The death of the tree is the “life of the tree”

Then the tree has one final death wish: use my seeds to raise many new trees. With its last dying breath, it tries to keep its last fruits ripe and healthy to continue its species. A good tree to the last. God is pleased with the tree that fulfils its destiny to the end.

The ‘life of the tree’ is the death of the tree

The saddest thing of all is that the tree is busy dying whilst it is giving its life for its fruit-bearing virtues. The more fruit the more it is possible that branches will break and that horde of various types of animals will swoop down upon it. They break the branches to get at the fruit. It is such a sad thing for the tree.

Unfolding of the inner working of these seeds

The mysterious life working of these seeds are hidden inside the shell. This seed has to be placed in the soil, under the ground, also hidden to bring forth its new life sometime or other. The amazing thing about all this is that the tree grows, we know not how, yet through the hidden mystery of its seed, with its inner working and planting of that seed it brings forth shoots that appear above ground and start growing into a tree that should one day, if it survives, bear much fruit. The seed is the Word of God. The soil is our hearts. The tree is our life. The fruit is the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit. The fruitfulness of the tree is governed by the use to which it is being put in God’s orchards.

- The good seed - The Word of God
- Brings forth a good tree of God - The man or woman of God
- In the good soil of the heart - A good and honest heart
- Of the good man - A righteous tree
- Who will be a believer - A Godly tree
- Bringing forth good fruit - The nine-fold fruit of the Spirit
- Because the tree is good - Bearing precious spiritual fruit
- Planted by Jesus - Through the preacher, teacher, prophet, spiritual counsellor, missionary, inviter or witness
- The tree is growing still - God Himself giving the increase

God loves these trees that beautify His garden. Looking after them, even to their predestined end. Therefore, let us become good trees to beautify His garden, by allowing Him to work with us to His glory and benefit, for in so doing we will also receive the benefit of that glory.

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8. Giving to others what you need Luke 6:31

If we always hold on to what we have, and are not prepared to give what we have to help others as the need arises, we can only expect to enjoy what we have. It is in giving to others out of our own need that we begin to enjoy the love of helping others for its own sake.

The unselfishness of giving

There is a way to have and yet give out. It is a principle of life itself. We are always giving ourselves to some cause or other, whether for our benefit or the benefit of others. Every day we spend giving out, we are busy dying to other areas that we could be enjoying. For instance, if we go to work every day and give eight hours to our work, we are denying ourselves that time to be at home with our family. The preciousness of our giving depends on the sacrifice of our time, effort and labour - and the returns to others or ourselves are directly related to how we apply ourselves. We give unstintingly to our families, but when it comes to strangers, we are not interested. True, giving involves those who are our responsibility and those whom God sends our way, which is also part of His responsibility shared with you.

The return for giving

There is a return that comes to you when you give. It may not always be in kind, but it nevertheless is a return. There are times, however, when we do good to others by helping them that we do not get back the same type of consideration, but ingratitude is shown. This is unavoidable in some cases as the recipient of that which we give is not always concerned to give back anything, much less gratitude. This happened to Jesus too. However, God has promised to repay us in such cases.

The reward for giving

There is a reward in giving that is two-fold. It pleases the giver to give and it pleases the recipient to receive. Besides this type of reward, there is another type of reward that God gives to the giver. It is the reward of the secret giver.

The openness of giving freely

The person that can be free in their giving, without any thought of receiving anything back, but who gives out of a loving heart, is truly the most blessed of all. Jesus says so.

Good stewardship

The responsibility to give rests with the giver. We can foolishly give to another only to find out to our chagrin that the person who has received our gift wastes it or throws it away. The person who cultivates good stewardship does not give without some sort of responsibility being shown by the recipient. We can give someone food and they can then use their money to buy a drink to get drunk. This is a waste of good money. Using good stewardship, the gift will always bless the one that receives it.

Giving accountability

God gives us everything that we receive. It may come through work, a friend, or family, but it is out of the hand of God, who creates the desire in the giver to give. If we waste money by giving foolishly, our own family will suffer. Our first responsibility is to our family. The overflow can be used for others. The truth of the matter is that we can give so much to our family that we spoil them and there is nothing over to bless another with. Balance is needed in this matter of good stewardship. This type of balance comes with experience in giving.

Receiving accountability

Just as the giver is accountable to give, so the receiver is accountable to receive. If we have enough for ourselves and another offers to give us more, we need to decide whether or not we need it, or whether it would be better for the giver to give to another who needs it. This is called recipient accountability.

Working with what you have

God expects you only to work with what you have. If you have faith, work with it. If you have love, work with it. If you have hope, work with it. If you have money, work with it. If you have talents, work with them. You are not expected to work with something you do not have. As you work with what you have, it increases with use and becomes more. If you are a prayer warrior and you continue in that, you will become a greater prayer warrior in time. This applies to everything we have and whatever we do. Use your muscles and your muscles will grow and start to bulge.

Working in what you do not have

There is also a principle that can be used effectively if we know how - with what you do not have. The way this is done is to let God do it. Yes, we have to have the faith necessary to go with this type of faith, but it is a principle that works. If you have faith and God honours your faith and helps you in what you believe for, then that is your faith at work and God is honouring your faith. When your faith ends, and you cannot believe anymore, by asking God to do it anyway, then it is God alone who is doing it. Your part is to pray past your lack of faith and ask God. So, your prayer is working for you in getting God to act on your behalf. You need to know when you need this type of faith and you need to know when you need the other type of faith. It is either your faith or God's faith that brings the results and both depend on our prayers. The one believes in prayer and the other is desperately reaching out towards God in searching prayer.

In other words, whilst we have faith, we can use our faith to reach out to God, but when we are at the end of our tether and our faith, we can also learn to draw upon God's faith, for He is faithful (full of faith). An excellent example of this is when Abraham did not have faith anymore and yet God stepped in to help him. God had promised him a son in his old age. Later, the son was born. God then asked him, at a particular stage, to go and sacrifice his son. Abraham obeyed, even though he knew God had said that Isaac would be born to him as his heir. He prepared the altar for the offering up of his son. He was about to plunge the knife into his son when an angel appeared and provided a substitute sacrifice. The one part of the story conveys Abraham's faith (his son would be sacrificed) and the other portrays God's faith, in providing a substitute offering (the sacrificial ram). We cannot conclude that Abraham was thinking of only play-acting out his faith, for he was prepared to honour God's request by killing Isaac, his heir. God stopped him and took over the continuance of his obedience by providing the ram in the thicket. Abraham knew that his son would die, but God knew that his son would live, obedience versus God's sacrifice. Abraham had something, he had obedience and God gave him his son back by God's act.

- Labouring for what others need.
- Working while it is still day.
- Working in His name.
- Working for His sake.
- Labouring for yourself.
- Working for the Kingdom.
- Working for His righteous cause.
- Working to occupy till He comes.

- Labouring for an enduring reward.

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9. Pre-revival - all on the move Acts 3:19

The Holy Spirit has a pace that He works too, moving forward either faster or slower before and until the revival comes. The revival that has been foretold sometimes has to have a long waiting period for the players and the working to mesh together in that moment of revival breakthrough. This pre-revival working has four main pulses (or throbbing).

The first pulse: Quickening

Simply stated, the quickening stage is the awareness of something happening. It is often intangible, but noticeable. You sense that something is happening. The discerning person will feel as if there is new blood rushing through the veins of the Lord's body of the believers. A new vitality flowing within the Lord's body, his family is sensed.

The second pulse: Refreshing

The sense of impending strangeness can be felt and discerned that the body is being refreshed. A new invigorating abandon is discerned.

The third pulse: Awakening

It is as if the people are not sleeping anymore. They become wakened to what God is doing or requiring of them. They have a sense of urgency and purposeful determination to go forward into what God is doing or requiring of them. This represents the volunteering stage, for volunteers come forward to do what is expected by the messages or what the Spirit requires of them.

The fourth pulse: Revival

This stage is unmistakable as it brings in converts and there is the new life that comes into being, within the church, body, or members. There is a rushing move of believers and sinners, pulsing and throbbing towards being a part of the move and not wanting to miss it for anything. The discerning will say there is the revival in our midst here now.

Revival can break forth without any one of these stages preceding the other. To understand this, consider the difference between wind-driven rain and down-pouring rain.

In the first case, the wind is noticeable and the rain is pushing at the face from the side. It can pound into us, either softly or heavily, depending on the force of the rain and the wind combined. You may even fall over if the wind is strong enough.

In the second case, there is no wind to move the rain around and it seems as if the water is just falling out of the sky on top of you. Here you do not fall over.

The rain, in both cases, is the same. In the revival, the Holy Spirit can be present to an extreme degree, toppling people over by the Spirit of God or He can just saturate us, without pushing us and toppling us.

The difference is the wind or absence of the wind.

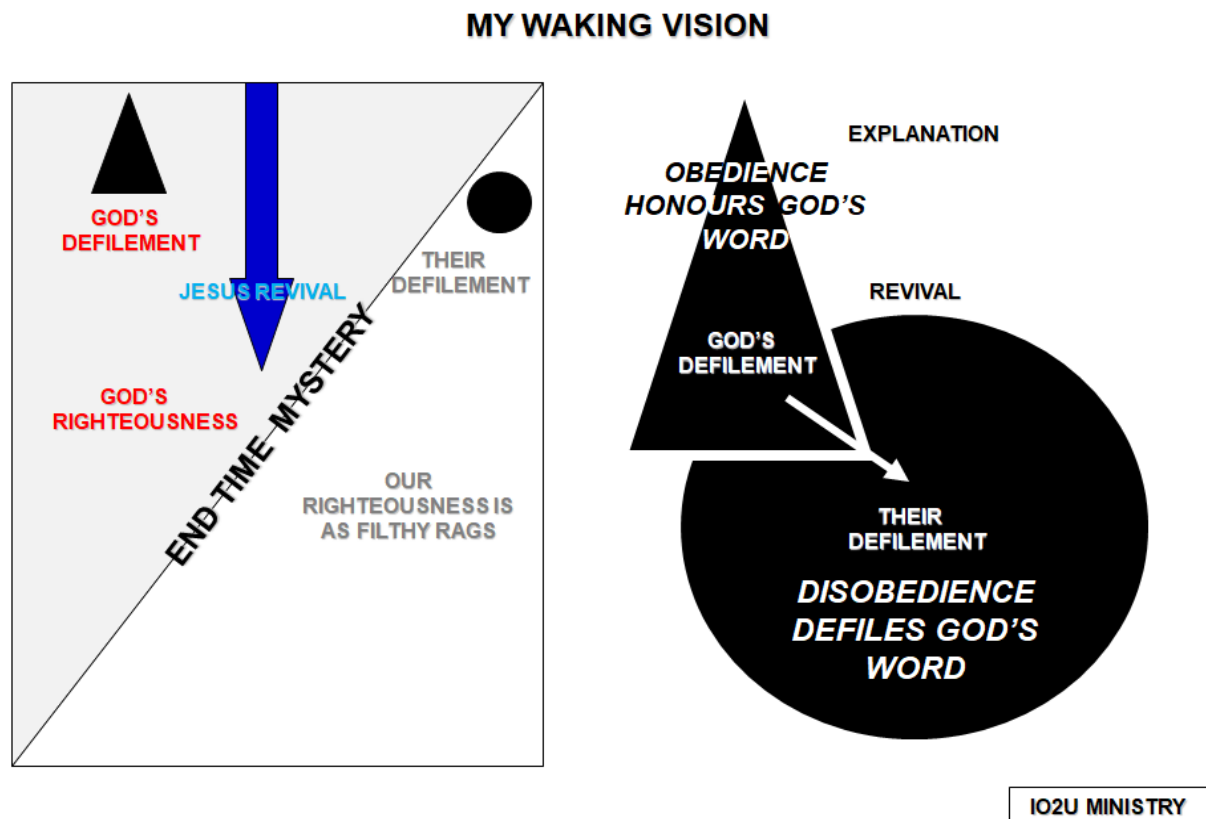
How can one compare this to the four pulses?

- The quickening can be compared to restlessness in the atmosphere.
- The refreshing can be compared to the wind that moves in and out the raindrops as they begin to fall.
- The awakening can be compared to the strong realisation that it is going to begin raining because the drops are falling around you and wetting you, even though just slightly.
- The revival can be compared to the experience of the driven or falling rain.

These stages can happen slowly or suddenly because a gentle rain can come down slowly, or a downpour can occur quickly. The pre-revival then turns into revival, just like this when it starts to drizzle and then begins to fall heavily. There are ways to gauge the intensity of such a revival and we speak of moving of the Spirit, a small revival or a mighty outpouring.

The rain of expectation is not the same as the realisation that it is now raining. All the signs of rain are there at first and then the rain comes, but once it is raining then the expectation has been realised in full.

The way of revival - discerning it



This vision is in pictorial form to show that God can be defiled by changing His word or by disobeying Him. The heathen defile God and it is not expected from the believers that they also defile God. Paul said that the Jews, by disobeying God, dishonoured Him before the heathen so then God decided to dishonour the Jews before the world. This is why the Holocaust came about. Repentance changes this defilement when we confess our sins, especially those against God, as sins of commission; and those that have neglected what He has required.

The gospel of repentance which is being proclaimed throughout the world helps to bring the right balance between God and man. It will benefit all to take note of these things and act responsibly.

Revival impulses

The revival way is often overlooked, even though all these three pulses may be there and when this happens, the revival can subside, almost as quickly as it started for the rain that is falling now, that was previously falling heavily.

The three revival impulses are people that are hot for God, people who are lukewarm and have lost their fire and people that are cold toward God that are backsliders. True repentance

is the way out of this dilemma.

People say, no, this is not a revival, when they should be saying, yes, this is pre-revival. God's Spirit can be disturbed and go away, believe it or not. People can resist the Spirit and cause Him to be turned away. When pre-revival is recognised and utilised correctly by all, it encourages revival waters to come down further, spiritually speaking. The difference between natural rain and spiritual rain is this. Natural rain comes from God, not needing our help. Spiritual rain comes down from God, needing our faith.

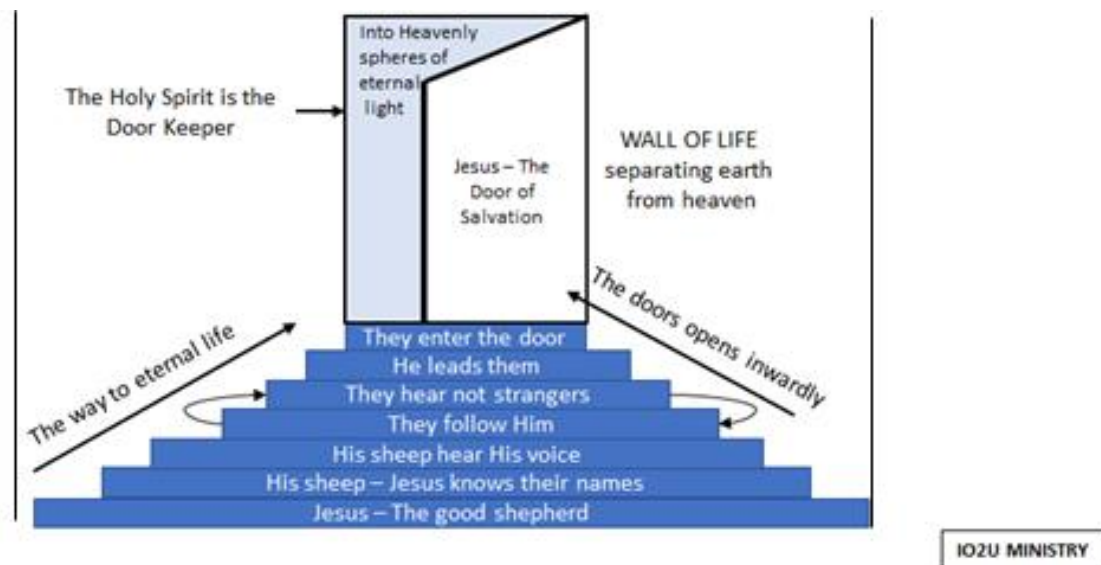
Speaking of revival

The one that has continued unabated till the present day is the one that leads to repentance and a turning away from sin to Jesus. This will continue till Jesus comes. The others are what can be likened to 'flare-ups' and 'die-downs' in the case of fire revivals, 'falling rain' or 'flowing rain' in the case of water revivals and 'revival breeze' or 'mighty rushing wind.'

A lasting revival reaches the finish line

Revival has a spreading effect. Once started it can spread rapidly, slowly or even agonisingly slowly. It gains momentum as it goes forward and either continues growing, being sustained, or eventually abating all together. It, however, has a running course to the finish line. The revival that continues unabated and grows bigger and greater is the one that we all expect to happen. In practice, this does not often happen. The other two can just as easily be started and stopped.

Opening up the revival



All of these, whether they be the four pulses or the three types of revival, are necessary and all contribute to the end-time revival. God, Himself is busy with these, ready to pour out the golden vial of His blessings. We need to be aware of them and seek them with our whole heart. He has the right timing and already His pouring out has been in the earth for as long as He has spoken. When He spoke to the sea it obeyed Him. When He spoke to the molten earth it obeyed Him. When He speaks to the winds, these obey Him. Why shall we not also obey Him, we who are the best and most wonderful of His creation? Why shall we not seek His revival? It is our inheritance that Jesus died for.

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10. Working out your salvation brings results Philippians 2:12

There is a strange paradox working in the Scriptures. Two equally opposite things are nevertheless equally true. God at work, yet we also work with God. When we are weak then we are strong, and so on. Equally true is that God saves us, but we also need to save ourselves.

God is the reason for our need of being saved

If there were no God, we would not have to be saved, there would be no need for salvation. The Scriptures declare that God exists and expects obedience from us all. He has found us all falling short of His glory and, paradoxically, wants us to nevertheless share in His glory, hence salvation is offered to all people.

Salvation is a personal matter

There is no sense in giving salvation to others if we are not saved ourselves.

“First save me, Lord, and then help me to save others. In Jesus name. Amen.”

It is not what we think it is, but what it is

Thinking that we are saved is not the same as being saved. You will know it if you are saved. There is a witness that this is so. The witness is true and cannot lie. We will also see that we do not have a desire to sin anymore, but rather we yearn for righteousness.

Salvation is knowing Jesus as your own personal Saviour. It is impossible to be saved and not know Jesus. There is some strange awareness inside ourselves when we know Him personally. It is as if we are with Him all the time and do not have to always be searching for Him. It is a wonderful realisation that you belong to Him and that He in turn also belongs to you. It is an inescapable thing that warms the heart and gives you a special glow inside. You also have a secure feeling that even if the mountains fall, the streams fail, death comes, all will be well. You do not have to prop-up your thinking with all sorts of positive methods that you have to do day in and day out. You are not only secure with Jesus but you can communicate with Him. It is as if He is always listening to you. There is no need to bluff ourselves in this matter. Just get Jesus to come in through His Spirit and you will be filled with Jesus in your innermost being.

Jesus is the Saviour

Anyone who has tried to save himself has had to find out it does not work. Salvation is a God act that needs Jesus to fulfil it through the Holy Spirit.

Apart from Jesus, your efforts will be futile. You will never be able to please God fully. You will always be failing and above all, you will finally fail altogether. Jesus has to stand in the middle of the salvation story. It is surrender to Him and His power that brings about salvation. Without full surrender, you will not be able to come into that personal relationship that is so full and meaningful. Jesus asks for a total commitment to God, first of all, then He asks for us to approach the Father through Himself. He is stating a simple truth, namely that without Him you cannot be saved. God also declares the same thing about His Son, Jesus. He is God appointed to save everyone who comes to Him. He also says that God has to draw you first otherwise you will never come to Jesus.

It is initiated by God Himself

Commitment alone is not enough. A personal experience in meeting Jesus is the real pivotal point of being saved. God has called us; we can respond and Jesus will receive us. This is His promise.

It touches every aspect of a person's life

Being saved is not just a once-only experience, although it often feels like that to the person who experiences true salvation. You are saved, you are being saved and you will end up being saved, but you will have to continue with Jesus until the end. Sometimes it seems to us that we are saved, then a disappointing thing happens and we start to doubt. This does not mean that the relationship has ended. Rather it means that we need to draw closer to get more of Jesus and His intimate love. He will keep calling you back until you respond. You, however, may decide never to respond to his love again. This is a problem that some people have. Jesus will keep on trying until He sees that it is impossible. This is spoken of as being given over to yourself. It is tragic, but it can happen and sometimes does. When you are saved, you are saved. When you are delivered, you are delivered. When you are free, you are free. It is up to you to continue in the relationship and do what Jesus requires of you in every aspect that Jesus talks to you about.

It bears fruit and gives new results in everything

Salvation has to bear fruit. This is called fruit meet for repentance. It makes perfect sense that if Jesus has touched you then that touch is all-inclusive. You may not have everything that He wants to give you, for you are like a new-born baby that has to grow until maturity. But then has God not provided parents or guardians over you who will help you grow up over years? In the same way, God will give you someone to look after you and help you to grow up into a well-taught and loving believer as the Father's own son or daughter. God looks after us. Jesus looks after us. The Holy Spirit looks after us. We look after each other. We look after ourselves. Unseen angels also look after us. The fact is that we do not need to go through life with many troubles and hardships that could otherwise be avoidable if we would only take heed to the advice and help that we receive. We start bearing fruit from the time the seed is first planted into our hearts, but it may take time for each tree to grow and reach the fruit-bearing stage. Just imagine a fruit tree without ever bearing fruit. Just so, a true believer has to bear fruit to be a good tree. A bad tree cannot bear good fruit and a good tree cannot bear bad fruit. Look after your spiritual tree and let Jesus take care of it all the days of your life. We all need to bear fruit and be pleasing to God who planted us in the first place.

Salvation is an eternal rescue

Rescue work done in a mine is similar to that which is done in a dark heart. The person in a mine accident is so trapped that he cannot get out. He has to wait for rescuers to come and rescue him. The wait can be intolerable. As soon as he is rescued, he will know that he is rescued. The confines of the mine will have been overcome and he will be taken to the surface. This is basically what happens when you get saved by Jesus. You will know that you are saved, rescued and have been set free. The confines of your sin, the troubling of satan and the demands of the selfish self will have been taken away and you will find it easy to overcome. The difference ends there, for the miner may have to go back to the mine, but the sinner that is released does not have to go back to his sin. The work is eternally done and the person can enjoy the newfound freedom from these tremendous burdens and strains of trying to overcome.

We are rescued from three things

The grip of satan.

Satan has a firm grip on everyone who does not know Jesus personally. The believer that has been rescued from this will know it and be thankful every day.

The insatiableness of sin.

It is easy to see if sin still has a grip on you because you will still long for sin and the pleasures of sin. The cravings and longings will still be with you and you will have to battle them, like a continual war that is coming against you. The opposite is true if you have been saved, you will be free from sin and its yearnings.

The tyranny of the selfish self.

This is a very real happening and you will get very discouraged and will feel very uncomfortable if you discern that you are in charge and not Jesus. The self of selfishness is terrible and once you realise that this is gone, then you can be assured that you have met the Saviour, who delivers us from these three things that are common to the human experience.

It is God at work in your own heart first of all

The first cause is God at work in the heart. The second cause is Jesus the Son of God. The third cause is the Holy Spirit, who is the one who does the work on earth.

It is God at work in the hearts of others around you

The same God that is working within you is the same God that is working in others. You may not think so, but He is greater than we could ever imagine and, by His Spirit, is also everywhere. We need to see God in others and this will happen when we are saved. It is a strange thing that true salvation brings a brand-new outlook to those who are saved. This is wonderful and it seems that everything has become new, which is what has happened. You see yourself differently and you see others differently. This is known as the new birth.

The Holy Spirit does the unseen work

When we are born again, we experience a new awareness of being changed irrevocably from the inside out. This type of change can never be accomplished by human agency. It has to be divine, God at work in the innermost part of your being, and it is. Behold all things have become new. It is not having a change of mind that does it. It is not having a changed heart that does it. It is the working of the Holy Spirit that brings this about. He invisibly works within the heart, changing it wondrously.

Keep yourself for it is God keeping you

Even though we have experienced this new birth that comes from God, we still have to look after it ourselves, paradoxically speaking. God is keeping you through His great love and power, but you also have to keep yourself in the love of God.

No one can save you, but yourself

Failure does not take away that feeling of being born again, for there is eternal hope in the heart of one who is born again. This hope is kept alive by the Holy Spirit and the flame is continually being kindled. This experience is wonderful and if you should lose it, you will indeed know that you have lost something precious. The Holy Spirit will encourage you to stand up and start again, even if you have failed most miserably, for it is God breathing inside of us, inspiring us to overcome and be victorious.

Prayer can save yourself and others

We all get saved through prayer. Someone or another has prayed for you to be saved and you get saved. You in turn start to pray for others to be saved and they get saved. Even though it is God through the Holy Spirit that is inspiring you to pray, it is nevertheless ourselves who bring salvation to others. Jesus can also appear to someone directly, but it is also because someone or some group has been praying for you.

Prayer changes even the impossible

Prayer is a wonderful way of speaking to God. He will listen to your prayers and answer them as you continue to pray and believe. His ever-present watchful care over us is watching and waiting to answer, especially the prayers for salvation. We need to keep on praying for those who need to be saved and we need to be saved ourselves. The impossible happens as we pray and believe. Nothing is impossible once we have decided to hold on in prayer, believing it to be so and waiting for the result to come about. Jesus gave us just such a promise.

So, start working on your salvation now and save yourself from this untoward generation.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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11. God says “Labour” John 4:38

Ourselves - labourers

The work of willingness is the greatest work that we can ever give to God. He is the Initiator of all that we have, whether we are believers or not, even though we have worked for what we have. If God had taken away our ability to work for ourselves and we are still successful then we can truly say that what we have is what we have ourselves earned without God's help. All other instances are reliant upon the handouts that God gives us as human beings. The key work is 'labour', but the emphasis is on the willingness that is being displayed in the labouring process. Happy are we if whilst we are labouring, we are doing it in the love of what we are busy with.

Work while it is still day

The day is long for us so that we can work whilst it is the day. In the natural, this is true and also in the spiritual. Working on a project gives us the force and the power to achieve our goals. If we stop any project that we have started, we stop the project. The work and the project go together hand in hand. The daytime is a time of working and when we have worked, we can rest in the evening and sleep at night. This is a fact of life, a fact of nature.

We all have to work

In the spiritual, there is a similar working. What we put into a spiritual matter is what we are going to receive, either with interest, dividends or gains. It is very much like sowing seeds. If you keep the seed in your storehouse you will not have a harvest, but if you sow the seed into the field you can have the expected harvest, all things being equal to that end. If God sends the rain or we have enough water to keep the plant watered, then the ground will do its work as well to help towards the harvest. Without the labour of putting the seeds into the soil, how can we expect the harvest?

Who is doing the greater part?

Even though we are doing the work, even as hands and feet for the Lord, as it were, we still need the better part from God to help us through our tasks and to end up with a harvest. If the farmer, despite all his hard work, does not have the added blessing of rains, good weather and fertile soil, the plants will not be able to prosper towards the harvest. We need to be grateful to God and express our thanks continually for all His help and care.

The miracles that we expect are not fully dependent upon us, although we are asked to pray for them, but upon God who does them. Prayer changes things, but without the extra part of labour that is to be added to the tasks at hand, we will surely fail. The Scripture tells us that we are co-labourers together with God as we go about our tasks. We can claim to have done our share, but we also need to recognise that the far greater part of the whole picture is completed when we see God's part that He has added to our part.

God brings things together

It is like a puzzle that is being put together. We build it, but God is the original Maker of the puzzle. He makes the picture in the first place and He, it is, that has cut out the parts. The devil is the one who has scattered the parts, as it were, and we are the one to have the labouring task of putting it together again, with the help of the Puzzle Maker. When nothing seems to fit, just ask **the Puzzle Maker** (Jesus) and not **the puzzle scrambler** (satan).

What is our part?

Our part is to obey God in that which He puts upon us to do, that which He lays before us

to complete. Heaven only knows how many people get this right. Many, stop building the puzzle. Our part is to complete the puzzle and not to give up till it is completed. Today we know what is taking place because it unfolds before us moment by moment, but who knows what tomorrow will bring forth to us? That is why Jesus commanded us in *Matthew 6:34* ***“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its things. Sufficient for the day is its trouble.”***

As our day unfolds before us, as God is ordaining it to happen, let us do our part. This is to follow Jesus in whatever He has commanded, asking the Holy Spirit to help us and grant us the power to do our share, whilst He can be trusted and relied upon to do his share, which is always the greater part.

Who are the labourers?

Every farmer has labourers. God is the greatest Farmer that ever was. We are told this in the New Testament. We are also told that we are God’s garden that He has planted in His Kingdom. We are reminded to bring forth the fruit that is expected by the Farmer, otherwise, the fruit tree can be chopped down. In a similar figure, Jesus compares us also to the labourers that have to go and help the garden to grow. He is the One that sows the seed and as He asks us, the labourers, to sow with Him, in a sense, we also sow the seed. The work of the labourers in sowing the seed, planting the fruit trees, and watering cannot be underestimated. If either of these matters is neglected there will be little or no harvest.

Using the soil that God gives (those who receive the Word of the Kingdom of God) with the seed (the gospel news or glad tidings of the Kingdom of God) will bring forth its fruit (the faithful works done in goodness for the Kingdom). There is enough seed. There is enough ground. There is enough water. There is enough nourishment. All true.

The real question that needs to be answered: are there enough labourers?

Jesus - Landowner

The land of the Kingdom of God, which is in this world at present, is part of the Kingdom of God to come. The Lord’s prayer expresses it in this way ‘Your Kingdom come. You will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ The whole earth is part of God’s Kingdom that is to come forth. Of course, this will receive its greatest expression when Jesus comes back again, but even now, is still nevertheless true.

It is His work

Jesus said to His disciples, I have work to do and how straightened I am until it is done. In other words, how involved I am, how concerned I am, how troubled I am, until this is fully done. He left His disciples behind to finish the work. He expects them to finish the work. He will reward them when He comes back if they have finished the work. Those who labour for God in His work are those who will be blessed when He returns, with rewards suitable to their success.

The field needs the labour

Who can deny that a field left to itself will bring forth natural things, as nature would have it? On the other hand, a field that has been cultivated will bring forth that which has been sown upon its soil. The world, as it is in the natural, is like the natural outcome of nature on the field. The spiritual work that is being put into the world by the spiritual labourers will bring forth that spiritual fruit and increase that God expects from those who believe.

It is the believer that is changing the world for God by helping God to change those who repent and come to Jesus to become true disciples, true believers and truly good people for

God. While we as labourers work, Jesus watches over us as the Overseer for God, instructing us through His Holy Spirit in the work and the labour. Leave the field and the weeds will multiply. Cultivate the field and fruit-bearing plants will grow.

It is a foregone conclusion that the land needs the labour spent upon it by the labourer, who will also help in the harvesting and share in the harvest.

What type of labour counts?

There are two types of labour. The one produces sweat, the other produces tiredness. The person who tills the ground is in the sun all day. He has to work hard. The sweating labourer is useful for planting which takes a special type of skill but also needs the attending labour that goes with the planting. Just imagine that a person who knows nothing about the art and skill of planting competes with someone who knows everything. The one who puts in unskilled labour and without supervision from someone who knows will barely reap a crop. The other one will open up the soil, prepare the ground, and then sow the right seeds into the right type of soil. Who will get the best results?

This applies to all of us who are labouring for Jesus. We work. He directs. Skilled labour comes from experience or has studied. That is why the New Testament tells us to study to show ourselves approved unto God, a skilled workman, rightly dividing the word of truth.

What must the labourers do?

Every labourer has to work on the field that is pointed out for him by the landowner. No labourer that works for a farmer can decide by himself what to do. He is set tasks to do according to his skills and level of knowledge. His skill, together with the understanding of his work, helps him to do what the landowner decides for him to do. God is the Landowner. Jesus is the one who hires the labourers and the labourers are those who do the work allotted to them. One of the reasons why those who believe in Jesus and who want to work for Him, wait for instructions. You hear this quite often; I am waiting for God to show me where to go and what to do. The labourers have to work for God in the way that He has appointed for them. This way is opened up to us as we study the Scriptures and ask for God's daily guidance. Once this guidance has been received, we are to continue walking forwards in it until the work is completed. Each day the new portion of work opens up to us and we continue doing what we have to do to get the job done.

Jesus - the Farmer

There are many Scriptures that Jesus himself quoted which prove that Jesus is the Farmer. God is the Landowner and the Holy Spirit is the Overseer of the work.

As we begin to understand this relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we begin to realise that God expects much more from us than we are prepared to give. He does not want lazy workers, those who are time wasters or those who take unfair advantage of the land that belongs to Him.

The harvest at the end

The object of farming is to produce. There is livestock that has to bring the young into the world. Some seeds need to be planted to yield a great crop. The New Testament speaks of this harvest of people, souls that need to be saved, healed and delivered. These parables of the farmer are quite a few and Jesus was referring to Himself. No farmer would like to have little increase after much hard toil. Jesus is coming again to institute harvest time.

The work of the Word of God in labouring

Jesus speaks about the Word is the seed of the Kingdom of God. This seed is good. It can bring forth enough fruit at harvest time, provided that the seed has been planted in the right type of soil.

Although there are labourers appointed to help in the harvest, there is also the good seed, that has to do its work as well, in producing that harvest.

Opening up the revival through labouring

The labourers are an important part of the harvest ingathering. They contribute immensely to the timeous harvesting for the farmer to gain as much of the harvest as possible. In the revival process, there is a similar activity around the gathering of souls.

- The seeds have been planted by the farmer - Jesus.
- The rain and sunshine have been provided by God - through His overall care.
- The seeds themselves grow - the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The ground gives the nourishment that is necessary - the life force present in the Word of God.
- The shoots constantly grow and develop - growth and capability.
- The plant bears its fruit-producing possibilities towards revival.
- The fruit can be replanted for the further increase - revival.

Without the labourers to do whatever is necessary, all the plants are unable to produce returns that are expected by the farmer. This is the very reason why Jesus told his disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel. The gospel will bring forth the results that Jesus (the farmer) expects from its spreading (sowing the seed).

Will the labourers bring the revival?

There are numerous believers throughout the world. One would expect that there would be a literal explosive crop of new believers everywhere. This is not the actual case in practice, the reason being that not many believers take their responsibility seriously, to go and sow the precious seed.

The parable that Jesus told expresses this truth. A farmer had two sons. He told each one to go and work in His vineyard. The one said he will not go, but soon relented and went to work for his father. The other son said, he will go but did not go at all.

Where are those who can be counted and not only say, I will go, but will also actually go?

The time invested in the Kingdom's name

The farmer needs to use up the time allowed to him each day to till the soil, sow the seeds and reap the crops. From the first day of work till the last day of work may take a few months. This time is the value of the planted crop as opposed to the work of the seeds in the ground. The seed will do its share if the farmer, with his labourers, will do their share. The work of the Kingdom is just as real as the work that is given to produce a harvest. Without the labour and the Word of God, there can be no harvest.

The work of the Spirit in labouring

The farmer can supervise, labourers can work, seeds can grow, plants can bear seeds and the harvest can be reaped, but without the work of the Spirit of God, nothing will result.

Imagine this scenario. The farmer says to the labourers, plant the seed. The labourers say to the farmer, you do it. The farmer does it, but the seeds say, I will not grow. Can the farmer plant himself into the ground in place of the seeds? Yet we expect God to do everything else even though He has supplied the seed.

All things work together, but without the Spirit of God to help us each step of the way, whether we are farmer, labourer or seed, nothing can be expected to happen.

When will it all come about?

Every day there is talk of a revival. It will take more than talk to start a revival, however. Revival is God's prerogative. After we have done our share, we can rightly expect God to do His share. Even after having done all that there is in the farming process, with each contributing their share of the labour, the blessing and increase that comes from God alone is still needed.

Prayer is the ingredient that makes everything work together and produce together. Without prayer and trust in God, there can be no fruitful harvest.

What will be the reward of the labourers?

At the end of harvest time, there is great rejoicing and festivity. Every person, from the farmer to the labourer, is happy that the harvest is over and that the fruits are reaped. This is the joy of the farmer and the labourers together. Despite this joy of having obtained the result of all the toil, care and anticipation, there is still yet a greater reward, receiving the wages for work well done. The bonus that attends a successful harvest is one of the greatest expectations of the labourer.

This is what Jesus has to say about the harvesting of souls.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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12. Witnessing for God Isaiah 43:10

There are three ways of telling others about God. The spoken word so that a person can hear it. The written word so that a person can read it. The word being enacted out for a person to see for themselves. The last method is one of the most powerful methods that there are. One picture is worth a thousand words and can show details that nothing else can reveal so clearly and so quickly. A drawing can capture a person's imagination and we tend to live ourselves into a dramatic and enjoyable picture as if we were right there ourselves.

A descriptive book can make a grown person cry. A descriptive story that is being told can move many people into experiencing all sorts of emotions.

Witnessing

A witness for God, given in any of these three methods, should be of such a compelling nature that it draws attention to itself and what is being witnessed. All great biblical examples are of this nature. To name only one, Jesus walked on the sea in the dead of night. Peter also tried to do it and could only do it as he kept His eyes on Jesus. He sank immediately when he looked around him at the raging sea. Jesus then put out his hand and saved him. This is the recorded witness of an event that happened. This eye witness account of the disciples to this event is recorded for our benefit. Peter, no doubt, also testified about his experience to many. A witness is one who was there and saw it happen and testimony is the telling of the happening by one who was not only there, but who was actively involved in the incident. In this account, all the happenings were around Jesus and Peter who were actively involved, while the others were onlookers.

Opening up the witness in heaven for yourself

The witness of a person who has seen Jesus can also be his/her testimony. Many a miraculous happening takes place for others; we hear about it and tell others of what we have heard. The witness, however, was there and can give an accurate account of everything. When God does wonderful things for His people and we are present to witness it, our witness becomes a beautiful method for God to reach others. If we see things taking place and telling others about it, we, as reliable eye witnesses, open up the faith of others. God is a witness for us, seeing everything that happens to us. We in turn are witnesses, seeing everything that happens to others. By choosing out those things that we witness, especially the wonderful things of God who has intervened in the affairs of people bringing miraculous changes, we glorify God and open up a witness account in heaven with God.

Give an account and not a running commentary

Witnessing has five very important aspects needed to make it a perfect witness:

- You have been there, at a given place or in a particular situation - qualified to witness for the truth.
- You either saw it yourself or you experienced it for yourself - vouch for the voracity of events.
- You give an accurate account of what happened, either what you saw and/or experienced/or heard - help anyone to judge for themselves.
- A God-centred witness has been ordained of God, has God as its central focus and glorifies God - promote God's cause.
- It has a God-driven purpose - reveal God and His love.

A running commentary of an event that has taken place is witnessing to that event and a personal interpretation in the mind of the witness adds an extra touch. A true witness not only

tells of the events that have taken place but also interprets their significance towards a purpose-driven goal, telling it to facilitate a particular course of action.

Take, for example, a witness in court giving his witness so that the jury can judge matters for themselves whether or not matters testified to are either true or false. The purpose of the witness is to try to convince the jury to a decision for a course of action to be taken. God has asked us to be His witnesses - tell it to others.

Giving up yourself and your testimony

It is important to remember that, before you witness for God, you have to have already placed yourself into God's hands. Being in God's hand will balance the fact that you, as you witness, also place yourself into the hands of men and women, some believing and some doubting. No matter what witnessing you do, every time you witness anything you expose yourself to possible ridicule.

The doubters are always there to question what you have seen. Were they there? No? Were you there? Yes? 'I believe whatever I like, and you can also believe whatever you like.' This is a common course of events after witnessing about anything, but especially when it involves faith matters. You cannot give your witness and/or testimony without giving yourself into the hands of those who hear it.

Thank God He is there to help and protect us when we faithfully witness for Him.

Letting the world know

Believers must witness God. The world is in a lost condition and God can reach people through the witness of His people. Their testimony is important to tell the wonderful works of God towards them in His love for them. Keeping quiet at a time when we should be speaking up is not only a hindrance to our faith, but also blocks the working of God in the lives of others.

Your witness is your unique witness and not another's

It is easy to tell of other people's experiences under the cloak of passing on the news. Anyone can do this and it does not take any sort of commitment. On the other hand, your true witness does. Speaking up has a strange way of working in other people's lives. Many believers pray and wait for a God-given opportunity to witness. Others again take the method advocated by the Apostle Paul,

2 Timothy 4:2 "... Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, ... with all longsuffering and teaching."

Believers often leave this type of witnessing to their pastors.

However, if you have a witness then you are responsible to give it out yourself.

God is your witness as you are witnessing

God bears witness with us that we are witnessing the truth and always helps such a witness. There are many wonderful witnesses that history tells us of where they spoke the truth even though death confronted them. The conviction of their hearts, which is the only way for us to go if we are to have the peace of God that passes understanding, would not allow them to do otherwise. God inspires witnessing just as much as He inspires preaching, teaching, prophecy or exhortation. Your witness is precious in the sight of God.

Letting go of a boasting tongue

It is important to witness truthfully. If you doubt what you are witnessing, this will

invariably eventually be shown up as false. A boasting tongue is without any value to anyone, least of all in the working for God in the matter of witnessing. Empty words will bear no fruit. We have nothing that we can boast of, as Paul says,

Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God”

It is the Spirit of the Father that is speaking through you.

The Holy Spirit will always help us in our witness as we ask for help and trust Him to help. The Holy Spirit has a very important role to play in witnessing. With His help our witness will develop:

- The courage to carry on witnessing for Jesus.
- The life of Jesus is being extended to others and greatly increased within yourself.
- The essence of truth to shine more brightly within your own heart.
- Faith in the power of God to effect wonderful changes.
- The strength of your conviction that is carried over to the other person and God proportionately strengthens your resolve to belong to Jesus.
- New strength to withstand onslaughts against your faith.

You speak for Jesus

Every time you witness seven things are happening, at the same time:

- Jesus will mention your name before the Father.
- The angels draw near to help you with your witness.
- You will be emptied and ready for refilling.
- You will be working with God to extend His purposes.
- The Holy Spirit becomes more alive in you and your faith is enlarged.
- The Word of God becomes more real to you.
- Jesus is exalted through the Holy Spirit and God gets the glory.

What did you say? Am I listening to you correctly?

Your witness is telling forth the wonders of Him who called you to be a partaker of His glory. As you speak the Holy Spirit will come and touch you in a special unique way to affect that glory and that purpose which God intends. Sometimes a person who listens to your witness will say nothing. Other times there are those who will violently oppose your witness. Again, there are times when people will enquire further by asking questions. More often than not your witness will seem so supernatural to the listener, that they will show astonishment. What seems almost natural to you is astounding to them. Remember you went through the pre-witness stage and you can well remember the battle you had to accept God changes yourself. After coming through with the help that you have received from God, it seems almost commonplace to you. To others it is brand-new and sometimes can strike deep into the heart, life and circumstances of the listener, even provoking tears. God is at work. Be thankful. Your witness, with your testimony, has been effectively used by the Holy Spirit to motivate a great change for another.

Some hear only what they wish to hear, but as your witness is quickened by the Holy Spirit, they will hear what they are supposed to hear. God will see to it.

“Dear Father, please let me testify for Your glory and help my witness to be true and effective, changing the unchangeable in others. Let your love become known

through my witness. Help my testimony to bear the fruit that will please you. In Jesus name. Amen.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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13.Holy Shame Revelation 3:18

Part One - The Holy Spirit has it - Do not be ashamed

He has counselling grace

The way that God works is through counselling. He is continually counselling us to become His. He will keep on counselling us as long as we are open to that counselling. He has a way of keeping our dependency upon Him open and this openness (or shortage) is called the way for His grace. The grace of God towards us as sinners is the way that God keeps opening His counselling channel towards us. He loves to speak to His people and He loves to speak with sinners. The difference between the sinner and His people lies in the fact of our obedience to His commands. The call of God to the world is and always has been, come back to your God. If we heed the admonitions, caution and guidance of His counselling, He will continually help us to keep on the straight and narrow that He is guiding us onto. If we deviate to the right or the left, we will sooner or later find, much to our chagrin, that we have gone astray and have lost the way forward, towards God. We become blind people, who have to feel their way of having their other faculties but lack the sense of sight. Spiritually speaking this happens to us as we turn aside from God's counselling. The grace of God is there to protect us in the grace of God through His Holy Spirit.

The Grace of God

Even when sinners are seeking God, even though they have not found Him, they can nevertheless still be under His grace. If this were not so then no one on earth could ever find God, because we have all been blind towards God at one time or another. The Scripture tells us that the grace of God has appeared to all men. Once we grasp this, we will begin to see the magnificence of God in allowing us to approach Him for the needed changes in our lives. This hope of being counselled by God through the Holy Spirit keeps us alive to the possibility of finding God through His drawing grace.

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; ..."

God has restitution conviction

Jesus came to save us from our sins. The counselling that God gives us in dealing with our sin is wonderfully apparent to those who receive His grace towards their problems and sins. The counselling aspect of His Spirit and His Spirit's work is understood when we open up our hearts to receive God's counselling. The Holy Spirit does not only convict us of sin, but He is constantly changing us into the image of Jesus. The world has chosen a way for itself and so has God. The world's way is in opposition to God and will never agree. The difference between knowing God and His way and following the world and its way is plain for all to see who read the Scriptures and follow its precepts and commands. The conviction of the Holy Spirit reaches its fullest expression once we allow a conviction to come towards us in our dealings with God and mankind.

God's way of being restored

We are the recipients of God's grace and this grace of God opens up the four ways for us that will bring us into a God-centred relationship, as God would have it.

The first way is sin revelation. God uses sin revelation to open up to us the meaning, power and origin of sin.

The second way is sin conviction, which God uses to remind us, utilizing His truthful convicting Spirit, that we are on the wrong road altogether and need to turn back to Him.

The third way is sin confession. This is where, after having seen our sins, utilizing sin revelation and conviction, we then have to deal with these sins and confess them out, to be set free from them.

Between the sin conviction and sin confession stage, we find that there is another stage which is called sin repentance. This means that we have deep sorrow for our sin and we deplore the fact that we have sinned and are therefore sinners against God and His commandments.

He has everlasting teaching

Besides this very important part of God's counselling, there is the aspect of teaching and training us in the way we ought to go. God's ways are so superior to ours that it is like a night and day situation, the night is our way and the day being God's way. The everlasting requirements of God's way cause God to continue teaching us until the day we die or Jesus come on the clouds to fetch us. The redeeming light in all this is that Jesus came to show us what God requires of us. It is not the miracles and all the other things that Jesus did, which alone is the criterion of showing what God wants from us, but rather it is the life of obedience that He presented in such a marvellous manner. God will give us all our ministries that please Him, just as He did for Jesus, and of course, we have to walk in that example of Jesus as far as the works are concerned. Without the life of Jesus and knowing Jesus, He will say:

Matthew 7:23 "... I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practise lawlessness!"

The teaching of the Holy Spirit will open up the way for God to respond wonderfully to our approach and our fellowship with Himself.

God is against sin but He is for the sinner

This training takes on a particular aspect, when we realise that God is not against us, but ever for us, and that He would help us to become pleasing to Him. The teachings of man and the teachings of God separate the true believers from the false, and we can then become pleasers of God rather than the pleasers of men. Without a close following of God-centred teachings, we are all apt to go astray. Correction is necessary to keep us on the right way before our God.

He has hoping help

The greatest way for satan to enter into our lives is to take away our hope. If we sin for instance, then we lose hope that God will still hear us. We then start to drift away and satan meets us on the drifting away pathway, presenting us with new sins each day. The way to get renewed hope is to return to God and admit our wrongdoing. The more sincere we are about this the closer we will come to re-fellowshipping with God again.

Satan has a way of returning until he is banished

Satan is a deceiver that does not give up and will return at the slightest provocation. Therefore, the way to oppose satan and his works is to get back your hope, the quicker the better. Do not delay on this, for part of his treachery is to keep us blinded by our sin. Sin confession takes away the blindness, but the blindness can only be removed after we are convicted of our sin, realise our sin, confess our sin and then forsake our sin and its consequences. Hope is eternal, but it can become a false hope if we are continually disobedient to God's convicting conscience within ourselves, quickened by the Holy Spirit's promptings. Get hope again and become alive with God if you have failed in any way.

He has loving hope

The Holy Spirit, emanating from the Father, and being the representative of the Father on earth at this time, will always offer loving hope. Hope without love is useless. If we were given a choice between hope and love, which one would we choose? The better way is to choose both. Hope that is eternal with an everlasting love. God loves us and wants to see us saved, delivered and at liberty to work for Him. Satan wants to see us unsaved, undelivered and working for him. The hope of God's love is the difference between losing and winning. Whilst we have God on our side, we lose the devil and when we gain the devil, or if he gains us, we lose God. The truth of this statement is shown in the fact that those who turn away from God become worse off than they were before being converted.

Backsliding attracts satan

Backsliding means that we have been steadily climbing upwards towards God as if we are climbing a mountain or steep hill. When we slide back, we tend to give up and go down rather than start again. Once we start to backslide and the position is not reversed, we will never reach the top of the hill. The reason for backsliding being so dangerous is simply that the backslider has little or no protection from satan's influence once they have started to backslide. When the backslider starts turning away from God his/her mind becomes clouded over with unbelief.

Help for the backslider

If backsliding begins and we realise it and ask God for His help, He will help us. The backslider has turmoil inside that confuses thought. Remember three spirits are trying to gain control - the self, God and satan. Backsliders are under conviction of their sin for they are being accused by God's Spirit. Satan does not have to accuse them because they know that they are wrong at the beginning of the fall from grace. The hardness of the heart progresses with every passing sin that is being added. This is contrary to the eternal hope that God offers us. His hope for us becomes our hope for ourselves as we turn away from every known sin to walk with God, enjoying His power and His counselling towards righteousness.

He has redeeming truth

The Holy Spirit is busy with redemption. He knows what God is planning for the world, God's wrath and punishment against the sinners, and is continually working to prevent this for the individual sinner who is willing to turn from their sins. The truth that He presents will always take us out of our sinful state of walking in self and sin. The sin of the self and the self of sin is always uppermost in His agenda for change.

God's counsel to our hearts

He will not leave us alone, but will continually remind us that we are doing wrong. We can shut Him out by our incorrect reasoning, excuses and twisted answers. His truth cannot be changed to suit any person, He always speaks the truth. The person's lies can turn the truth around, but the Holy Spirit will then present God's truth as a convicting spirit and not a pacifying spirit. The pacifiers are many in this world. They are always prepared to tell you, that you are not wrong, all have to learn and God will forgive you while you are learning. Numerous reasons, which are all contrary to this teaching, are all intended to counter God's conviction within your heart. The response of your own heart is what God requires. Each person knows his/her sin. It is also possible and often happens, for a person to lie to their conscience. It is even possible to lie to the Spirit of God, who would prefer to be a keeper of conscience. The redeeming truth is the truth that always redeems men and women from their sins and the harm that they are causing to themselves and others.

Part Two - He has to revive growth

Once sin has been dealt with and confessed out, the Holy Spirit has a tremendous store of love and hope from God, through Jesus Christ's atoning work and ever-continuing intercessions made on behalf of God's children. The people of God will rally around the person who confesses their sins, simply because the Holy Spirit in them is prompting them to do so. This is an additional encouragement from God. The confession brings renewed hope, the renewed hope brings revived love and revived love brings into being, the most wonderful thing of all, new growth. Let Him revive you and help you to grow daily.

He has electing to anoint

The Holy Spirit has the spirit of an election at heart. This means that the sinner has been elected by God to become a saint. The unrighteous have been elected to become righteous and the unholy has been elected to holiness. The anointing of the Holy Spirit will always take us along the righteous way of the Lord. His anointing ability to come over you, rise within you and present you faultless before the presence of your God, is one of the greatest attributes and workings that can continually benefit you. This is the perfect reason for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the speaking of new tongues. The Holy Spirit goes into the heart and brings forth the fruit-bearing responsiveness that is so pleasing to the Father. The election has all that we need, for the Holy Spirit will perfect our election. Give Him the chance to do this in your life and you will never be the same again. He will present the new birth to you and also present you to God as being born again.

He has a predestining vision

The Holy Spirit will enlarge your vision of His predestination. It is one thing to be saved, but completely another to become a worker for God, working with others in His vineyard. The anointing will open up the area of service for you to walk in. He will direct every one of your spiritual footsteps towards the perfect walk that God requires of you. You need not worry about failing for His love and hope is limitless and His intimate support will take you through every circumstance, place and position wherein you may find yourself. This trust is part of the predestined vision that He is continually extending to your heart, every day. Everyone that has learned to trust the Holy Spirit is growing all the time in spiritual matters and concerns. The power of an obedient life has enormous potential towards revival outpouring. If you are a revivalist, then the Holy Spirit will encourage you in this direction. If a counsellor, then you will not fail in counselling. If a preacher, you will continue faithfully in your preaching.

He has to restore confession

While we are in this body of flesh, we will always be open to failure, subject to the weakness that is common to all mankind. The difference of being a believer in Christ Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit, is startling in its effects. Before conversion, you struggle with sin and your submission to its demands. After conversion, the sinfulness of sin is shown and your desire for it is non-existent or continually diminishing until there is no draw whatsoever. The message of deliverance is one of the greatest challenges presented to the human race. You do not have to continue in your sins, you can be delivered from them. Repent, confess them out and forsake them.

He has increasing life

Jesus came to give us life and life in greater abundance. The Holy Spirit knows this and will always endeavour to persuade you towards that marvellous ideal. The question to answer for yourself is, do you want this from the hand of Jesus or not? The answer of a conscience that is fully surrendered to God, within the framework of His truth, will always say; yes my Father, and no, satan.

He has resting strength

The Holy Spirit will bring you into the rest that Jesus promises all who come to Him. He will always present the way of rest rather than the way of servitude to sin, unrighteousness and evil. The rest of the Lord is marvellous if we have surrendered ourselves to it, in the Lord. The world and the position of the world towards the rest of God are usually that of ridicule, but once you have tasted the wonderful effect of this rest, you will be satisfied with nothing else. The rest of God is perfect and cannot be disturbed. Satan cannot come in to touch it, men and women cannot take it away, and you will look after it, because of its preciousness to you and those around you. Experience this rest for yourself by praying this prayer of release, now:

“Dear Father, I know that I am wrong because my heart continually condemns me. My conscience is being disturbed by that insistent small voice that says I am wrong. I even sometimes doubt its voracity, thinking that this is none other than the devil talking to me. Yet I know that satan will never prompt me to righteousness, only Your good Holy Spirit within and towards me offering eternal change. I hereby admit my helplessness to change, but I express my willingness to come to this position of surrender. Please give it to me now, the surrender from unrest to that of the peace that Jesus has promised all those who ask for it. Give me a rested conscience, a rested heart and a rested spirit within so that I can continually glorify You. I thank You for the finished work on Calvary and ask You to grant it to me now. I accept it from You, for You are glorious, wonderful and gracious, the God that cares for me. Thank you for it now. Help me to keep it forever, in Jesus name and for His sake. All to Your glory. Amen.”

He has calling conception

The great gift of God’s calling is extended towards us. This invitation is to receive the new birth, to be reborn by His Holy Spirit. God not only calls us, but He can help us and keep us in that help. He is faithful and keeps faith in all generations. His calling is without reproach, for He delivers us from that reproach. His calling is without blame, for He delivers us from that blame. His calling is without fear, for He delivers us from that fear. Whatever reason Satan presents to us, God has an equally valid reason, but more than that is willing to back it up with His oath. This is powerful and will beat hollow the puny efforts of satan.

God’s promises are true

God’s promise of eternal help is our guarantee that He will help us, no matter how long it takes, no matter how long the way is for us to go on, no matter how hard things are pressing against us. This is wonderful once we realise it for ourselves. The experience of daily walking with our God reinforces it for us and we become more confident as each day goes by. This is called renewing faith and is affected by the Holy Spirit within us. The word of God is another irreplaceable help in this regard. The word of God and the Holy Spirit, working together as one, reinforces our faith for us. Faith is the very precious gift of God for all, for everyone has been given a measure of faith. When we use our portion daily, it grows wonderfully. However, when we allow God to unfold it to us, it becomes miraculously entwined into our personality, character and disposition. Trust God and experience this for yourself.

He has faithful gifts

The Holy Spirit has gifts within Himself, that are, in fact, God’s gifts. This is found in the passage of Scripture, in Corinthians, where Paul the apostle talks about it. The same Spirit of God brings forth nine gifts that are for the encouragement, empowering and blessing of each

believer. This is dealt with more fully elsewhere, but let it suffice to say now that these are faithful gifts, coming from a faithful God, through the faithful Son of God, using the Holy Spirit Himself. His power is God-centred and His scope of operation is God-expressing. God is always presented as being a faithful God who will fulfil all of His promises to every believer.

He has healing compassion

In God's working towards people, there is always an abundance of healing compassion. The Lord Jesus came to seek and save the lost, but as He was busy doing this very God-appointed task, He was always praying for the sick, diseased and possessed. They crowded around Him and pressed Him on every side, for their needs were very great. The blind, deaf, dumb, lame and dead were brought to Him and He healed them all. He has not changed. He is still the same Jesus today, even more, powerful in Heaven than He was on earth because He can now heal anywhere and everywhere, whereas He was then localised in the land of Palestine. We are told that healing is the bread of the children.

He has to strengthen the power

Whether we are God's children or not, we have puny strength on our own. We just need to get a debilitating virus and we will know how true this is. The world's great men and women, who have ambitious programmes that continually drive them, have tremendous resources from their human potential, simply because we were all made by God in the first place and derive power from this source, as beings that God has made. He sustains us and helps us every day, whether or not we recognise this. There is, however, another source of power that strengthens us. This is not the inborn natural talent or strength that we have as human beings. It is the dynamo power of God Himself. This power is spiritually regenerating all the time. The dynamic strength and power of God to those who are reborn by His spirit is extremely great, bordering continually on miraculous energy rather than human energy.

He has empowering strength

What this means is simply that even when our resources of strength and power have diminished to such a degree that we are powerless, incapable or inefficient, we can tap a power that is equal to everything that we lack. The Holy Spirit has this dynamic power within Himself, the true redemptive and elective power of God towards us who believe. This is summed up in the saying of Jesus that all things are possible to them that believe. The believer's heavenly advantage over the non-believer's earthly advantage is one of holding onto God's faithfulness because He is true who has promised. This strengthening power is distributed throughout the body of believers in the world. We have to draw daily upon the source pool of His mighty strength. Once you learn to draw from this you have an endless supply of spiritual and, yes, even natural strength. Why not come to God and ask for this strength for yourself.

He has saving mercy

The greatest miracle that can ever take place is the healing of a weary, sin-sick, lost sinner, who is doomed for hellfire, and change him or her into a righteous saint destined for heaven. Will you take Him now and let Him do all this for you and yours?

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