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Thwarting revival 124

Module 3

Stage 7 - Breaking satan's hold and releasing God

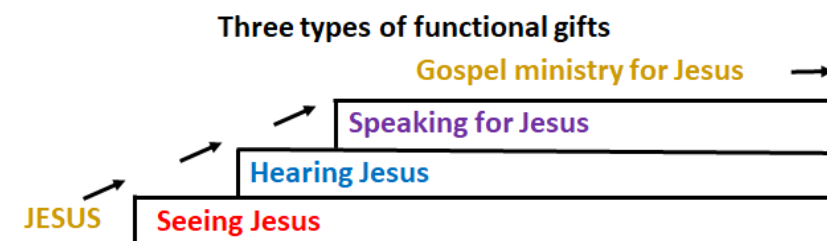
Preamble

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.

Working in the spirit

Stage 7 - Breaking satan's hold and releasing God

1. Three types of functional gifts 1 John 1:1-3



- The first area of understanding to be opened up is the seeing gift.
- The second area of understanding to be opened up is the speaking gift.
- The third area of understanding to be opened up is the hearing gift.

It is prophesied that in the last days there would be five things that would take place:

In *Joel 2:28* mention is made of these five happenings:

- Prophecy by your sons and daughters
- Dreams by your old men
- Visions by your young men
- My Spirit on My menservants
- My Spirit on My maidservants

From the above, we can understand that God is willing to use children, young people, and old people, both male and female. Just mentioned in passing, and stated in general terms, prophecy is a talking gift, dreams and visions are seeing gifts and faith is a hearing gift, all coming into being through the hearing of, the realisation of and accepting the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, as the true Word of God.

The Book of Revelation

This is a prophetic disclosure, made up of words and visions that the apostle John heard, saw and spoke about, finally writing them down for us, which demonstrates to us perfectly, the combined use of recorded words and visions, by using the method of speaking (telling or talking) them out, and describing what has been seen, so they can be understood. The apostle John was an experienced servant of God who could perceive perfectly these three types of God communication through the Holy Spirit.

Seeing correctly

It is said that the most powerful presentation that can ever be experienced is to see for yourself because one picture is far better than a thousand words. As soon as a blind person is made to see again, the wonder of what is seen is too marvellous for words. One sight vision that a blind person could perhaps receive by seeing would be much more dramatic than anything else that he/she may experience through the five natural senses. It is just the same in the spiritual. Just imagine what it would be like if we could all see Jesus in a vision, dream or spiritual revelation. How wonderful that will be. Yet we are often left to imagine for ourselves, through some picture or painting, what Jesus could perhaps look like. Jesus Himself, however, is actually like no other, and has been described as such by many who have seen him in our present day.

Jesus opens the eyes to see

He says in,

Revelation 3:18-20 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eyesalve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. 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."

Note the order that Jesus Himself gives:

- Receive His counsel.
- Buy His gold that is being refined in the fire.
- Become rich with the true riches - see *verse 1*.
- Receive white garments for your clothing.
- Cover the shame of your revealed nakedness.
- Anoint your eyes with an eye salve so that you may see.
- He rebukes and chastens His loved ones through His love.
- You must be zealous therefore and repent.
- Open the door before which Jesus is standing and knocking.
- Hear His voice.
- As you open the door Jesus will come in.
- He will dine with you and you with Him.
- Obey Jesus in your gospel ministry.

Some say that this message belongs to the church only. If this is true then it proves that the church has believers who are sinners needing repentance. If this is not true then it proves that sinners who are not in the church need to come to repentance to become believers. Either way, it proves that Jesus wants to counsel such who need His counselling. Each should, by the Spirit, be able to know his/her own heart in this matter.

Helping towards buying this type of gold, speaking spiritually, through the progression of this programme, will give you that which is necessary to understand this more beautifully. Learn from this programme as you progress towards learning to personally tune in to Jesus, for only He can give you this spiritual gold.

Yes. Only Jesus can give it to you. You can ask for it. He decides to give it or withhold it from you.

Psalm 84:11 “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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2. Working with the truth of the truth - exposing the lie 1 John 2:27

God always uses truth to overcome the lie. Truth is always His truth and because it is His truth it cannot be altered to suit the personal circumstances of men and women. God is always working towards exposing the lie and replacing truth with truth. This is not always discernible in the affairs of men.

The truth is God's truth and is unchangeable

The truth is presented from God's viewpoint and goes against the grain of man in his present state. God's truth is irksome to some, bothersome to others, and downright disgusting to others, simply because it goes against the grain of human nature. Human nature, being what it is, prefers to be left alone to its own devices and does not easily adjust to correction and outside interference, especially from a God who cannot be seen, who is insistent upon certain requirements, who calls all men/women to judgment.

It has an element of past, present and future judgment

Truth is a standard that is always there to measure past, present and future actions. The truth will suspend judgment, bring judgment or release from judgment, no matter how long it takes. The person who kills somebody secretly is hounded by conscience until the deed is discovered, brought into the open through confession, or left in the dark until a later date.

Judgment is not always speedily carried out

The Scriptures declare that judgment is often left until a later date. The reason being that God will bring the sinner to judgment as He pleases. He cannot be told when or when not to effectively pass judgment and bring the sinner to account for his deeds. There is a day that has been reserved for just such a happening.

Judgment may be delayed but never set aside

Although people sometimes getaway, for the time being, with murder and many other grievous crimes, there comes a day of reckoning for us all. The Books will be opened and the works, made up of many sinful deeds, will be made manifest and be judged. God will be the Judge on that day.

The work of truth in the heart

There is a word of truth in each heart and we go against that truth at our peril. The lie will enlarge until it becomes more lie than truth and the truth will enlarge until it becomes more truth than a lie. The circumstances of life bring this about. There is, however, a third class that also abounds. Truth is hidden by deceptive means and the deception then also becomes larger each day that goes by. Blessed is the heart that allows truth to stand and stands by the truth.

The truth of life

Life has its truth which each one has to discover for themselves. The truth of life is enclosed in future mystery and as we go on each day living our lives to the full, this truth will be unfolded to us as a sort of enlarging panorama. There is, however, the standard of God's truth that adds a dimension to our lives in either a wonderful or devastating way, depending on the actual circumstances in which we daily find ourselves. For some people, their life can be shortened or lengthened by the circumstances that they encounter, and for them, that is the truth applicable to their own life. The Scriptures declare that God is in charge of this truth, knows all about everything and is supreme over everything.

The life of truth

We are all exhorted by the Lord Jesus Christ to come to Him, who is Truth. He claims that His teaching is the truth and should be obeyed. The person, who allows this truth to enter, becoming part of their inner make-up, will receive the benefits of such surrender. On the other hand, it stands to reason that the person who chooses not to follow this type of truth will not receive any of the benefits that have been promised.

The preaching of the Gospel to the poor

The Gospel is claimed to be extended to the poor for the poor seem to have a greater delight in the Gospel than the rich. It does not mean to say that the rich cannot receive the Gospel, but the demands made upon believers can be a hindrance to the gaining of riches by honest means. The option to receive or reject the message of the Gospel lies with each individual, even though there is an end reward or punishment imposed by God Himself.

The open lie and the hidden truth

There is such a thing as an open lie. The open lie comes into being when a person decides to work against the truth of what he/she believes. Everyone that has dealings with such a person can see and will get to understand that such a person is fighting the truth of what they believe. After all, such a person can speak one thing and then do the opposite. This will come out after a time for it cannot be hidden for long. Actions always speak louder than words.

The hidden truth is when we believe one thing and present another. Many a person is a believer at heart, but fear of man, or some other important reason, causes such a person to keep quiet when it is time to speak up or take a stand.

Jesus spoke of the hypocrisy of some of his followers and some of those, outside of His intimate group, who were trying to trap Him in his own words.

The opened truth and the closed lie

God is always concerned about opening the truth, plainly for all to see. Mankind, however, tends rather hide the lie. This divergence between God's unchangeable ways and man's changeable ways is the reason why the real truth should be told, exposing the lie. Mankind does not easily give up lying, but neither does God give up telling the truth.

Half lie or half-truth?

There is a middle truth that lies between these two principles. The half lie and the half-truth. What is the truth? We always try to uncover the truth when an important decision depends on knowing the truth, but if there is no real importance, or if the threat of punishment is there, we tend to cover up the truth. Is this not true of us all? God, however, is not pleased with this way and therefore presents His way to us through the Gospel of truth. It remains a fact that we can hide the truth, but it will become part of the exposure of judgment or we can open up the lie which will then become released from the exposure of judgment. The choice remains ours, but the consequences of that choice, whether good or bad, will become part of our eternal destiny.

The moments of truth and decisions of the future

There is such a thing as the moment of truth and this will bring out what is in the heart. The moment of truth has a consequence for us and can lead either to a life-threatening situation or to a situation of death. The world is full of examples of such actions. The results of truth and the results of lies can be awesome at times and deception can cause a whole nation to crumble, and its peoples to become enslaved.

The working basis of judgment

Mankind in general often set themselves up as judges, sometimes even swaying the scales to tip either favourably or unfavourably between life and death situations. This will itself come under the judgment of God Almighty at the time appointed, where every matter will itself be weighed, every outcome of judgment and every judge will themselves be judged. God will be revealed to be supreme simply because He is supreme and His truth will be the standard whereby everything, whether small or great will be judged.

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3. Shallow believing and deep faith Mark 4:4-8

How is it that some believers have such strong faith and other believers seem to have such strong doubts? It depends on the shallowness and depth of our faith. Faith can be increased with usage and just as easily doubt can also be increased in the same way. Practice makes perfect. But what happens if we have nothing or little to practice with if our faith seems to be non-existent or small?

Nevertheless, we have a promise

The promise is that we can ask God for whatever we need. Faith is the most important part of our side in relationship with God, so we need Him to supply it. How do we get more faith? The disciples of Jesus gave us a perfect example of how they did it:

- Recognise the need
- Turn to Jesus
- Ask for help
- Expect a solution
- Receive the deeper faith
- Enjoy an increase
- Use it or lose it
- It increases with the use
- Be thankful
- Look after it carefully

Take it as it is or leave it as it is

Faith has a working that expects miracles. Many people believe faith is knowing about a particular subject, but faith is much more than that, it is an experience and an inward impartation. God has faith so Jesus can draw from Him. Jesus has faith so we can draw from Him. The Holy Spirit has faith so we can receive His impartation. If you are not prepared to change you will find it difficult to receive and believe, but as you open up your heart to receive you will begin to believe. Opening up comes from the little bit of faith that you do have.

Open up the way for believing this promise

It becomes possible to please God as you draw closer to what He has promised. By taking a stand with His promise, it becomes possible to enter into a newer perspective and a new relationship within that perspective. Allow God to do what He has promised.

Your way before you determine what you need to do

Your position as either a believer or as a doubter will determine what you need to do. By taking a truthful stand and asking God to open up your way to faith or even to increase your faith, will determine whether or not you receive more faith, whether your stand with His promise is going to work for you favourably, or against you, unfavourably. Entering into the promise opens up the way for that promise to be fulfilled and by staying without the promise, taking a stand against that promise, will likewise leave you outside its scope of expectation of being fulfilled.

If your doubting heart needs changing ask God to do it

Even a doubter can receive help if he recognises his doubt and comes to God asking for help to believe. Jesus said He would receive all and send no one away empty.

Giving your best to God

Your best will never come out of your efforts apart from God's help to you. If it were otherwise then we would not need God at all. By really meaning it with God you will enter a two-fold relationship, from you to God and from God to you. Whatever you give God you will receive back in the very same measure, but of course with added interest. He tells us to approach Him and He tells us to ask. He encourages us to believe and He gives generously.

Nevertheless, we are being changed

When we come to God, we can have the strange anomaly working in us that seems to indicate that nothing is happening. Believing God is not a negative emotion or a positive thought, but rather an acceptance of what He is capable of and is doing for you. When we hear a promise of God and receive it, we start to open up its benefits towards ourselves, for God is doing just that very thing for us. When we doubt or reject His promise we are on our own and receive nothing, but even more tragically, satan can add to the doubt and make it more impossible to receive anything in the future. Ask for change, believe the change, receive the change and it will be so. It is something more than positive thinking; it is positive believing, which also by the way promotes more positive living.

The image of Him

God wants us to receive Him as He is and know Him as He is. He, however, has chosen faith as the means to enter into this closer relationship with Himself. Jesus showed us the way to associate with God. He has much to say about his relationship with God but always brings it back to hearing and being obedient.

The mirror

The Word of God is spoken of as a mirror; for it is something we must look into, changing us into the more perfect image of God's Son, Jesus. The mirroring of the Word of God shows us a better way to live and a better way to die - with God and for God.

The opened heart and life

We all know how easy it is to shut our heart towards someone, especially if that someone has hurt us deeply. As soon as we forgive that person or start letting go of our grudges, we tend to reopen our hearts, or rather we feel that our heart is opening up to that person again. Just so it is with God. If we do not recognise that God has complete control over our lives, we tend to get unhappy with what He allows to come our way. This unhappiness brings coldness and aloofness. To get back warmth we need to respond to His love for us so that we can release God to being God and learn to accept His way of doing things. As we do this then the warmth of the relationship will start to come back into the heart, life and loving attitude. Responding to God has a similar reaction to responding to an enemy that we start to befriend.

The working of His Spirit

Our response to God is the working of His Spirit that is brought towards us to change us from continually sinning against Him. As we turn back to God through Jesus, a new relationship commences between us. During our past lives, we have daily hurt both Father and Son by our attitude towards Their goodness to us. We may not have recognised it previously and have taken His goodness for granted. Responding to His offer of loving us despite ourselves and our weaknesses, will effect changes in us wherever necessary and we are drawn closer to Him by His Son through His Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of His working

God loves us enough to have let His Son Jesus die for us and thereby save us from our sins, death, the grave and hell as well as rescue us from the clutches and power of Satan,

demons and darkness. His life and light are shining in the place of death and darkness.

The need of the soul

As we begin to realise that our soul requires life, and of being saved from eternal condemnation, we are in a position to realise that we need God and His help to overcome this and escape it altogether. This is the work of the Holy Spirit towards each heart, both believer and unbeliever alike, pressing us to make that all-important choice to go all the way with Jesus and receive all of His blessings.

The soul of the needy

Jesus spoke about the soul that needs to find God, needs to be saved, needs to recognise His sovereignty and come to Him as a living Saviour, who can help us in every possible way that we could ever imagine. But all in His good time.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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4. Willing the way to go, or going the way of the willing? Matthew 26:41

God works with surrendered wills and not with the will, independent of Him. True faith is bound up with the will of God, rather than the will of man. It is what God would like a man to do rather than what man would like God to do.

The need is Jesus

The uniting factor in true-believing faith, centred in Christ Jesus, is not, as one would suppose, the believers themselves, but rather the central theme and person of Jesus Christ. God has spoken this of His Son. Jesus as the Son of God says this of Himself, and the believers in the early church also unite in their faith around this theme, Jesus Christ, appointed as Lord.

The working of the Spirit of God in the human heart

The Gospel is extended to all people by the Spirit of God to bring forth the Spirit of Jesus as the central theme of salvation, liberty and deliverance. The Spirit of Christ means that we need to accept Jesus Christ as the One and only person who can save us from our sin and restore us, with the same spirit as Christ had/has in His submission, to God's favour. To this end, there is a working within the Gospel message, driven by the Spirit of God that reaches into the human heart of doubt, fear and anxiety, to change that heart into one of believing and trusting faith.

Willingness to yield to the Holy Spirit

The method used in uniting believers in Jesus Christ is brought about employing the Holy Spirit that God has poured out into the earth at Pentecost in the first century. The call goes out, from that time to receive Him as the Spirit of God's promise that would come to all who would receive Him. We are to open our hearts to receive Him, for that would then open up the way for Him to come in and live with us. However, the call to receive the Holy Spirit comes after the call to receive Jesus Christ, through repentance.

Yielding or resisting?

The call to obedience under God's beautiful invitation is open to the believers who are touched by the Spirit of God to receive Christ and then who will be quickened by the Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit is the One who does the work by imparting the life of God, through Jesus Christ and this life is revealed as eternal life or life eternal.

Obedience or self-will

There are two main themes in the Gospel that are presented for our consideration. One is that no man can save himself from his sin, but God alone, and the second one is that God requires obedience to His commandments as revealed through Jesus, His apostles and prophets.

Open up for change

The Gospel is extended to all with a simple message, to receive Jesus and stand with Him until He comes back again on the clouds of heaven. The Holy Spirit is given to believers who receive Him and also to help those who need Him, as Comforter, Helper, Intercessor, Revealer, Guide, Teacher and Prophet. His helping includes the impartation of spiritual gifts, working salvation, healing and conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment to name only a few. As these modules progress, many other wonderful workings of the Holy Spirit will be revealed as the Scriptures are brought to bear as evidence for the propositions that are framed in these studies. Without us, as the recipients of this wonderful gift, opening up our hearts to

receive Him, we cannot enjoy the direct assistance that He, as God's Representative, no, as God Himself, can extend to us as believers.

Receiving God's best

The Holy Spirit has been given to the world, and more specifically to the believers in Jesus Christ, to help them in their love and service towards God. The best that God had to give was His own Son, Jesus Christ, for the sins of the world and therefore whatever else He has to give is open to us, as obedient believers. Why receive only the second-best when it is possible to receive of His very best?

Needing help?

It is not an easy thing to be a believer without the help of the Holy Spirit. God has a tremendous call upon the believer's life to follow Jesus, which is certainly not the accepted way of the world, and the believer needs all the help he/she can obtain in extending the Gospel against such tremendous opposition. He will provide adequate help for us on earth, even as Jesus will help us from heaven. God, Himself will help us, directly through the Holy Spirit and through the believers themselves, who have received Him and trust Him, to assist us all in our efforts at being true believers. Use His help and you will become more like Jesus each day, in a way that is impossible any other way. The Holy Spirit will open up the Scriptures for us in a way that would otherwise be impossible without His direct and ever-present participation in the lives of believers.

Finding it in the Helper

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, will work within us whatever God requires and there is nothing impossible to Him if we could only believe. Countless testimonies of miraculous help given all these years, ever since Jesus Christ rose from the dead and entered into the heavens to sit at the right hand of God, His Father. Nothing is lacking if we have the Holy Spirit with us, for He brings Jesus close to us, and Jesus brings God with Him, to live within us, as by the Spirit.

Work while it is the day for the night comes

The impossible task of evangelising the world is being made possible by the Holy Spirit and the ever-present help that He gives the believer. We need to fully realise this and make use of this knowledge, as well as make use of His unlimited, all-powerful and all-embracing abilities. The sooner the believers realise this the quicker will the Gospel be spread and the sooner will millions of people be saved, set free from sin and turn to righteousness. Jesus Christ, through the inner presence of the Holy Spirit, in individual and collective groups of believers, will encourage them to work for Jesus and the extension of His Kingdom. Imagine the army that could stand up, if everyone will work and do what is required of believers, wherever such may be found throughout this immense world.

Knowing yourself and the Jesus who knows you

The Holy Spirit will help you to get to know yourself better and will bring such startling changes that you will become a new creature in Christ Jesus, with all things being made new to yourself and your families. It is Jesus who knows you personally and it is the Holy Spirit that will introduce Jesus to you and make Him alive and real to you in every facet of your life. Trust His help, just as you would trust Jesus if He were here in person and God if He were visiting your home Himself. He will not fail you for He cannot deny Himself, even as God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son, cannot deny themselves.

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5. What is it that you lack? Psalm 34:10

Many times, it seems to us that we lack something. This often comes about because we are comparing ourselves with others, measuring ourselves with what they seem to have and what we do not seem to have. We would so like to have this particular gift or that specific ability. It makes us sad that we are not as capable or as popular as others because we lack just this one gift or just that one ability. Once we have stopped looking at and comparing ourselves with others this will all change. By seeing others and their abilities we are unable to focus on our seeming lack and do something about it. Whatever it is you lack you can make up for it, instead of being jealous of others, by concentrating on your gifts and abilities.

We lack no good thing

We are told this through the Scriptures. It is such an amazing statement and needs to be considered more carefully. 'Good' means that it is something useful, helpful and worthwhile. 'Thing' can mean a particular gift or even something else which can be ours. The more useful the gift that you have the more you can use it to help yourself, please God and serve others.

If this is true what shall we do about our lack?

If this statement is true that we do not lack any good thing, then we need to examine what is wrong and what we need to do about it. One of the most important discoveries that you can make about yourself is that you lack no good thing. Once you have discovered what that good thing is for yourself and you begin to use it more and more, you will be astounded that you took so long to discover it. Looking at others hinders you from really seeing yourself and the more jealous and envious you are of others the less you will be able to enjoy that which God has put inside you, for you to help and please Him in helping others.

God has all that is necessary

Even if you do not have what you would personally like to have, it does not mean that you have to be miserable about it. Once you realise what you have and use this, you will gradually begin to see that God knew what He was doing when He distributed your gifts to you. If only we could see as He sees, it will save us so much trouble and will help us to use our valuable time in the most constructive and beneficial ways possible. Many a talent has opened up for someone suddenly and unexpectedly when they have been forced by circumstances to do certain work. The ability was always lying dormant just waiting to be found. This is usually profoundly startling to the one who discovers such a hidden talent. Could it be that God, who knows what we are capable of doing in such an instance, arranges circumstances to bring out the inherent capacity to fill up a certain position or do a particular work? Even if we are not suited for a particular work, utilizing continual prayer God opens up the capacity to learn, and by this daily learning process we grow and thereby become capable.

Change for opening-up

An attitude change is the most important step to open up this process of discovering what we are capable of doing. Once we have decided that we cannot do something, no one can get us to do it. We are, in this instance, our own worst enemy. The Scriptures point out the value of coming to God for this opening-up process.

His Holy Spirit helps us

We are not left alone to accomplish this change on our own, but the promised Holy Spirit is ever-present to help us. The amazing thing about learning to trust with the help of the Holy Spirit is that we achieve startling results in the shortest space of time. Having discovered for

ourselves this amazing working it would be foolish to go back to the inferior way of doing it all by ourselves again.

We have the Word of God

The opening up of the Word of God and what it extends to us through Jesus is the way for us to understand what this is all about. Yet we neglect to earnestly read the Word of God. By starting to read the Word of God for yourself, and not reading the books that open up the word for you, you will be astounded at the power and strength that you will receive daily. Reading alone, without asking for help in prayer, will not accomplish much, for knowledge without the power of doing what you know is only half the benefit. Jesus has promised to help you in understanding His words and by understanding them you will be in a position to enjoy the moral and spiritual practices help that they offer. Read, heed, plead and steadily continue expecting that daily help and you will receive it.

We need each other

Despite having the Holy Spirit to help us we also need others to help us. Those who have been there before know the way. Letting ourselves be taught, whilst searching the Word of God for ourselves is the quickest way for God to open up the understanding. Some people make the mistake of only reading the Word and do not expect God to use others to help them. This is a fateful practice and can lead to bigotry and unreasonable living standards. Even the disciples of Jesus had to learn from each other, although Jesus was present with them, teaching them the precepts and parables of the Kingdom of Heaven. There is what is known as the vertical learning process and the horizontal learning process. Vertical is between God and you and horizontal is between two or more people. The vertical meets in the centre of the horizontal and this are the point that God uses to help you to grow in grace and knowledge of Him and His ways. There are two commandments in the main and they bring this example into sharp focus.

We have a guarantee

We have a wonderful guarantee that God is our ever-present help. By using the help that He supplies we will grow and become wonderful examples of what it means to be a believer in Jesus Christ.

We have a gift mix

Our gift mix is personal to ourselves and will be used by God to extend His purpose and plan in our lives, and equally wonderful, towards the lives of others. Why try and copy and/or envy another? You will need their gifts to do what they are doing. This makes no sense at all, and yet some people are wasting time, effort and money to be like others. Forget it, it does not work and even if it does it will leave you unsatisfied. Use your gift mix and discover for yourself with the help of God and those who can help you, what you have to do using the mix. Everyone has this gift mix and all can discover working for themselves through prayer and practice.

We have a pattern of good works

Apart from the gift mix, there is a pattern of good works that is revealed in the Scriptures by those who have gone before. Their teachings and example have been recorded for our benefit. Especially valuable is the witness of the 12 apostles who daily lived and moved around with Jesus about 2000 years ago. Having personally witnessed the miracles and hearing the wonderful teachings of that ministry, they exhort us to follow in His footsteps, to look to, learn from, lean on and to emulate Him.

We know Him

Getting to know Him is the way for us to learn of Him. Know Him personally and learn from Him. He is the best Teacher around and knows exactly what you need at any time and in any given situation.

We are His

The assurance that we are His is one of the most settling things that can come our way. This assurance is given to all those who come to Him and ask His help. He not only gave Himself for us but has also gone into the heavens to intercede for us directly with God.

He is ours

Belonging to Jesus is only half of the blessing. The other half is to know and understand fully that He belongs to us. We form part of Him and the imagery used to establish our faith in this is rich and all-encompassing. The Shepherd of the sheep. The Husbandman looks after the fruit trees. The Vine that supports the branches, to name only a few.

Why do you doubt, only believe

Whatever answer we can give to this question there is a corresponding answer that encourages believing. By reading the Scriptures we will uncover numerous reasons for having faith and encouraging faithful practice.

Going forward in your faith

Your faith is your faith. You will not be able to substitute your faith for the faith of anyone else. When Jesus went around healing the sick, He often said, according to your faith be it unto you. Yes, one person can pray, but you must also believe, for it's the joint approach to God that brings the result. I pray while you believe is just as powerful as you pray, while I believe as long as you both agree together in that for which you are praying.

Knowing the difference between working and loafing

The person who has discovered his/her gift mix, using revelation, personal experience and/or practice, will be encouraged to work and use those gifts to help others as well as themselves in their daily labouring for the extension of God's will on earth and His Kingdom rule. The person who is not working is loafing and the loafer has so many excuses for not working; I am not suited - become suited; I do not have it - get it; I am not capable - become capable. This is part of the meaning of what Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." Once you have discovered your aptitude for a particular form of ministry, whether it be helping, teaching, praying or prophesying and whatever else, it becomes a more precious and wonderful way of living towards what God has in store for you and yours.

Opening up the Word of God to others

The greatest privilege that anyone can have is to be able to approach God in prayer. The greatest privilege, besides the first, but equally important, is to then extend help to others who are less fortunate than yourself, whether it's your family, friends, relatives, believers and/or needy sinners. Opening up the word of God to others that are seeking is a blessed work and will be rewarded when Jesus comes back. We are all exhorted to labour in the work of extending the Kingdom and rule of Jesus.

"Let thy will be done on earth as it is being done in Heaven."

The blessing of God's opened words to you will help to extend similar blessings to others who may need it.

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6. The life of the Spirit John 3:6

The life of each person is in God's hand and under His control. He is the Father of every person living and dead, although countless numbers of these people did not know it. He is the only one who cares enough from the beginning of all things. He was the One who had a masterful design for each person's life. He is the One who carries us from the cradle to the grave. He is the One who holds full sway over our lives. The alternative concept that the devil is our father is not something that bodes well for us human beings. The two concepts are in contradiction to each other and the two extremes have been a constant controversy down the ages. The issue is of great importance to all of us. The Scriptures make a strange declaration about this. Our life and our breath are in God's hand, centring around Him. His Spirit is the only true Spirit and His life is the only true life.

The only truth is real truth relevant to you and others

In the ultimate scheme of things, what we believe and what we understand to be truth will dictate to us what the outcome of our actions, faith and concept of truth is. We are what we believe ourselves to be. Some believe that they will become famous. This will have to be proved first. Until that proof is forthcoming, we cannot say that he is famous. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. What we are is what we are, no matter what we believe for ourselves. The inner worth of a person is the total of what we are deep down inside of ourselves, where we are alone with our thoughts, feelings and attitudes. We can also say something good about ourselves, but if we are not so inside, we will know the truth, no matter how hard we try to conceal it. God, however, claims to know us intimately and better than we know ourselves. His truth, therefore, is the ultimate test of what we are, inside and outside of ourselves.

The virtues of Himself - God revealed

No matter how good we are, there is a searching truth that comes from God through His Spirit, deep inside of us. This is called a conscience. Conscience is a mysterious thing that can be useful towards either helping us or hindering us. We can put conscience aside, but it has a way of coming back to confirm the truth of what we believe. We are therefore answerable to our conscience, and through our conscience, to God. God reveals Himself to us in strange ways which defy the interpretation of other people in the matter of the answer of a good conscience. It is God within man, whether we receive it or not, whether we believe it or not, whether or not we have allowed our conscience to be corrupted, that is at work in this strange mysterious entity within. It keeps us or it can destroy us. In the long run, conscience tends to make fools of us all, if we continually ignore its promptings. Sooner or later our conscience will catch up with us, either in real life or in the judgment of God.

Running the gamble or gambling with life?

Daily many people try to run away from their conscience. Those with a drinking and drug problem are especially prone to such a thing. Besides resorting to escapism, they try to still that voice of the inner man's urgings. Nevertheless, conscience plays the role of being a keeper over our souls. It will be to our detriment to still our conscience or even ignore its promptings, or insistence. It is God's precious gift to mankind to keep them on the way of being truthful to themselves. What we believe conditions our conscience; and our conscience will either accuse or excuse us on those very grounds. Yet, how many of us, have at one time or another, refused to listen to our conscience and have taken an opposing course, later on regretting it. When the outcome comes to us, called the day of reckoning, we realise what a fool we have been. We cannot afford to run the gamble of a corrupted, diseased and even dead conscience, because we are gambling not with our conscience but with our lives.

No one knows but the Spirit of God

There is such a thing as a stilled voice of the inner man just as there is an active voice of the inner man. We know this because we are all partaking in it every day, whether we like it or not. Keep on doing wrong and eventually, the voice of conscience, alias the voice of the inner man, will go to sleep. Further stages are a sick conscience, a diseased conscience and a dead conscience. Conscience can also be on fire. This simply means that we are troubled day and night, continually by our conscience, not having any way of escape, or rather, not seeing or knowing of any way to escape. The person trapped in their conscience can be tormented beyond their capabilities of being able to deal with its torments within the confines of the human spirit and soul's consciousness. It is God's Spirit that knows all things, and whilst the Spirit of God is still active, this inner troubling goes on until dealt with.

The man knows because of the spirit of man

Conscience has a two-fold aspect at work. The first one is simply, what have we been taught by our teachers? The conditioning of conscience begins at an early age and is regulated for good, according to what our teachers believe. Usually, this starts with the parents. Then the family, then the close family, our schoolteachers and our everyday experiences for the well-being of our inner man. The spirit of man knows what the spirit of man requires from us. The demands of the human conscience are amazing at times, for we see that certain courses of action will often cause our conscience to be uneasy, that strange feeling inside that something is wrong and we just cannot put our finger on it. Heed the warning. It is your human spirit working with your conscience, telling you, no, careful.

The hope of the believer in His anointing

The human spirit is not sufficient when it comes to the serious matters of God's actual requirements for our lives, which we have been taught, learned and received as correct. God has therefore provided the anointing of His Spirit to quicken our inner spiritual life, conscience and being. No wonder that believers who have discovered the anointing can interpret God's will for their lives in a way that can be both astonishing and wonderful. The anointing creates a certainty within and enlarges our hope of doing God's will. Happy is the person who has this anointing working day and night, whether awake or in sleep, for his/her benefit and blessing. The anointing belongs to God but is given to men and women who believe for their profit and spiritual well-being.

The way forward should always be the best way forward

When we are confronted with two important choices, we can go through a process of elimination, by asking ourselves, first of all, how does this affect me and secondly, how does this affect my spiritual relationships? The first one usually involves searching the answers using the human spirit, but the second involves searching for answers, either through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Christ. The human spirit will often lead us around a matter, but God's Spirit will always lead us into the matter, by drawing us into God's solutions. God knows what we need, what we deserve and intend to have. He also knows what is best for us, knowing the end from the beginning. He will guide us forward to the best solution as we learn to trust fully in Him.

Virtues of your calling with Himself - God manifested

God is virtuous and will always demand virtue from His children. The calling for our lives, into a relationship and walk with God, has a demand that this very same virtue become part of oneself. God will always prompt us in the right direction if we are being true to Him in our relationship. With the upright, He will show Himself upright and to the froward, He

will show Himself forward. This is His way of manifesting Himself with us, for His glory and virtues. He will prompt you in the way to go, provided you are given over to go that way. He even works within the sinners in this way, but the working is different then. The sinner can feel an emptiness and lack of purpose deep within even though outwardly there seems to be happy with the way of life.

The working of the good things of God

God has two sides to His working, releasing and judgment. The liberty one feels and experiences with God when right is being done, and the uneasiness that one feels and experiences when wrong is being done contributes to the well-being of each individual. The conditioning towards that working standard is what God wants to teach us, even taking care of it for us, as we allow Him to do so. God intends only good outcomes for us, even though the outcomes may take time to be worked out in our lives. Give God time and He will solve your problems for you in such a marvellous way that you will realise that they have been effectively and permanently solved. It is God's will to bless and not curse the man. Adam and Eve were punished but not cursed. The ground was cursed for their sakes, due to their punishment, but they were dealt with mercifully, despite the punishment for their sin. The very same rule applies to us. Others can curse us though, even if this is wrong in principle, but the causeless curse will not alight.

The way around is still going forwards

Sometimes we have to go around obstacles that appear to be immovable. With God at work, He may decide to take you the long way, the way around, instead of the shorter route, the reason being, simply, that He knows better. He will take you through the short route if that is what you require. The short route goes through or over obstacles, figuratively speaking, and the long route goes around or even under obstacles, again figuratively speaking. God can even move the obstacle and we walk on as if there is nothing there as if we are going through it. This is known as walking in the Spirit of God through the anointing. This type of believing can be nurtured and is called the miraculous way. The Spirit of God accomplishes such miracles for us, but we need to continue each day with God and allow Him to dissolve these insoluble obstacles for us.

The anointing will always be there to help us arrive at our required spiritual destination; for it is God's chosen way for our lives. This way will take us towards God and will be attended by the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit and His anointing.

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7. If it is true, bring it into being John 17:17

When someone gives you a gift you take it from that person and it becomes yours from the very moment it comes into your possession. All the enjoyment that you can receive from such a gift becomes yours when you take it and start to realise that it is given to you free of charge, you do not deserve it, you have not earned it, and, of course, sometimes you do not know what it is until you unwrap the gift and open it. To your surprise, there it is, as large as life. This is called being given a gift.

There is a second form of receiving a gift and this is to receive a promise. A promise is also a gift, but will only materialise when the promise is fulfilled. You can either therefore receive a promised gift or a gift of promise. The one gift is given after a promise and the other is a gift of promise that will materialise later on. We can be promised a salary increase later on. It is then not the same as being called into the manager's office, seated down and be told, you're given a raise. Every promise has a period that elapses from the time the promise is given to the time the promise is fulfilled. God has promised us something. Open it up by reminding Him of His promise; or if you have to take it now, you have to do something about it. Go and fetch it or receive it now, whichever applies.

A promise can be a truthful one, or it can be a lie. You have to open it up and bring it into being by reminding the person who has promised you to fulfil it.

Call forth the truth

When God makes a promise, you have the right to ask Him to keep it, simply because you do not expect God to lie, but to always speak the truth. Asking God to fulfil a promise that He has made is the same as calling forth the truth. God said He would send Jesus Christ to come and die for our sins. At the right time, it came to pass. In this case, God called forth the truth and brought into being the promise and the fulfilment. God can call the truth forth and so can we when we appropriate the promise for ourselves in faith.

It will sustain you

We have sometimes waited for a long time for a promise to be fulfilled and when it comes to pass, we are glad. While waiting for the fulfilment, the anticipation of the promise being fulfilled someday keeps us going forward to that day. The promise is then spoken of sustaining you in the meantime.

It opens up doors for you

Every promise that God has ever made, if not yet fulfilled, is like going through a doorway into a room. The doorway is the place of entry and the room is the place of destination. You have arrived in that room, so to speak. Exactly, in the same way, a promise must be entered into to be fulfilled. The promise is like the doorway and its fulfilment is entering into the room. There is a wonderful promise that will sustain you. It was made by Jesus, God's own Son - I will never leave you or forsake you, even to the end of the world. However, if you do not appropriate it by exercising your faith in this promise, by believing it and resting in it, you will not be able to enjoy its comforts. If, on the other hand, you will enter into the door of promise and wait for its fulfilment every day, it will not only work for you, because it is true, but you will be at rest, enjoying its fulfilment.

It changes circumstances around

Every promise that God has ever made, that Jesus Christ has ever made, will start working for you, once you receive it, believe it, and start appropriating it for yourself, daily. Some promises are what we call, short term promises. Some are long term promises and some are

for the next life. Whatever the promise, once appropriated for yourself, it starts to work for you wonderfully and immediately. The circumstances for its fulfilment are set in motion in the invisible world of faith and start to come about in the world of the natural. This is called the miraculous. The more you learn to walk in this way of faith, trusting God to fulfil His promises, the more you will see your circumstances changed around in miraculous ways.

It is God centred and Christ fulfilling

Every promise has God as its centre and every promise that is fulfilled is brought about by the Lord Jesus, through the Holy Spirit that begins the work of fulfilment and will not stop until He finishes the work. If on the other hand, you believe it and then give up hope of its being fulfilled, or forget about it as if it is of no consequence, then the promise is unlikely to be fulfilled. It is another matter, if you ask in faith, stay in faith, and then forget it, for this is the best way to let it happen. Continuing in faith, even though you do not concentrate on it, gives God the chance to bring about that miraculous change. When it happens, you are startled, because you had forgotten about it and here the fulfilment is reminding you of what you prayed for. This happens.

It is your heritage

Every promise is your heritage, and from time to time you can use that specific promise that applies. Build on truthful promises and then you will get truthful answers and or/fulfilment. There are thousands of promises in the Scriptures and there are so many examples of prayer being answered that it becomes impossible to read the Scriptures without noticing them. How many promises have you appropriated for yourself in your lifetime? Sometimes we tend to forget those that are fulfilled and put it down to chance. This is not true, for circumstances are and can be changed through prayer.

The Holy Spirit has it all

The Holy Spirit of God has a way of bringing about your prayers to fulfilment as well as the prayers of others that pray beneficial prayers towards you. Sometimes we have an insoluble problem, but after talking to someone that problem starts to come right, simply because the other person has the faith to believe in you and the changing of your circumstances. Often you are surprised that it was solved so easily, but this is because you have prayed and the other person adds their prayer and together the miraculous faith result is accomplished. Heartfelt prayer has the best chance of being fulfilled. Mind prayers are not as real and as miraculous unless mixed with faith from the heart. Positive thinking is not the same as positive believing. Positive thinking comes from the mind and has to be reinforced by positive action, whereas believing comes from the heart and is reinforced by faith. Every answer that you ever need is bound up in the Holy Spirit of promise.

Take what He gives you

God has promised, Jesus has guaranteed the promise, and the Holy Spirit then fulfils it. Take what God gives you. It is His answer and if you have asked for a specific thing and not received that thing, but something similar, perhaps just as good or even better, then it is God's way of saying, you did not ask as you should have and I have taken care of it for you, according to My prerogative of answering prayer.

Receive it now by asking for it

If you have seemed to get failure in your prayer life, it does not help to say I will never pray again. Rather keep on trying until you do get it right. If you once get it right and you have learned how to appropriate faith to receive a promise of God from God, then your life will begin to change for the better and you will start seeing more and more miracles as you

pray more and more. We write exams after studying and if we should fail, we write the second time, or do we just give up and walk away and say the study did not help me at all? Start with a prayer that is equal to your faith. The bigger your faith the greater the demand that can be made upon your prayer. Like all things, practice makes perfect.

It is precious and it will endure

Every promise is precious and every promise that God or Jesus has made will always be able to stand the test put upon it. It is a very precious thought to know that you are not just talking to yourself, but you are talking to your Heavenly Father or Jesus Christ your Saviour, and that the Holy Spirit is standing ready to back up God, His word and your prayers.

God all the way to receive the IT of it

It is the Lord Jesus who helps you to get answers to your prayers, even miraculous answers because He is the One who personally takes your prayers through to the Father, being seated on the throne of God, at His right hand. Once the work is given towards the promise being fulfilled, the Holy Spirit moves into action to do it. The wonder of it all is that not only does it work in this way, but the angels have a part to play in the carrying out of your requests, for they are ministering spirits that are being sent out to look after your spiritual welfare and well-being. The more you endeavour to pray and believe, the more you will learn to live that way for all your real needs. It is the answer to every prayer and it is precious. It will be your joy once it has come to pass and you may pray for it to happen, whatever it is. Jesus spoke about this in His teachings. Whatsoever you ask in prayer IT will be done for you. Start praying for it (what you desire) to happen and IT (God's answer) will happen.

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8. That part which is missing, who has it? John 10:10

The whole is not a part of the whole but is made up of several parts. These parts all together make up the whole. Sometimes as believers, we feel that something is missing, whether we pray and do not get answers, or we are feeling inadequate for whatever is required from us, or we wonder why we feel so empty after reading the Scriptures. We need to know what it is otherwise we are left with a feeling of emptiness or a feeling of uncertainty.

How do you know it is gone?

If you were happy before and now are not happy, then you will know that 'happiness' is missing. Whatever it is, if you carefully look for it, you will know what it is. If it is gone and you know that it is gone, then you have to settle the next question.

What is missing?

More often than not we do not quite know what is wrong. As we try to discover or uncover the strange missing part or portion, we begin to realise that we need help. What is missing? This is the question. Why is it gone? Where is it?

Have you received it?

The first thing to do is to ask yourself, did you have it before? If you had it before, then ask who gave it to you or where did you get it? By being honest in this way with yourself, you will get the answer and you will know is it something you need to get back, or is it something that you now need to receive? Being perfectly honest with yourself is the very first prerequisite to finding out what you need to do about the part that is missing.

Where is it now?

Once you know what it is that is missing, then you need to know, where is it now, who took it, did you give it away, did you lose it or was it stolen from you? These questions help to reveal where it is now.

Who gave it away?

If you realise that it has been taken away from you, then you need to ask, who is responsible for letting it go - me or another? Did you give it away or was it taken from you?

Who has it now?

The most important question of all, who has it now?

The three possibilities

- Has the devil stolen it from me?
- Did someone else steal it from me?
- Did God take it away from me?

Others?

Can someone take something from you without your permission? Of course. This happens all day long in the world that we know. A virgin is raped and her virginity is stolen. Money is stolen. Possessions are stolen. Yes, even your character and good name can be taken away from you by slanderers.

Satan?

Satan can also steal from you. He can deceive you and you can fall into his snare. You can

be deceived into letting something go to another.

God?

Has God taken it away? Has He given it to someone else? Has He taken it back? Have we neglected to do something that was required of us to do?

These are important questions and need to be answered. The Scriptures help us to understand something about this.

- God gives it to us for good and does not take it away from us.
- Your place can be filled by someone else if you leave it.
- Your life is your own and no one can look after it for you.
- If you lose what you have received then the only way to get it back is to ask God for His help.
- By delaying we can miss the golden opportunity to do something about it.

Faith restored

The One who gave you faith in the first place is none other than God. If you lose your faith, the only One that can give it back to you is God. Why not ask Him for it back?

Once you have established what is missing, why it is missing, what can I do about it, what do I need to do now and what do I need to fill the hole, you can begin to make amends and seek the restoration and healing that God can give you, but the very first thing is to get back your faith.

Take it back while you can

The longer we go on believing that there is nothing wrong, the more difficult it is to get back what has been lost or to fix up the matter with God. The best thing to do is to do it straight away and not defer finding the solution. If you lose your purse at the bank, and you remember that you left it there, you do not go back ten days later. You go straightaway. The same in spiritual matters. There is no difference.

God? What does He think about it?

It is absolutely important and paramount to find out what God thinks about a given matter first before we go running around all over looking for answers. Take time to pray and ask God for an answer to the dilemma that you find yourself in. He will not despise you unless of course you have first of all despised Him and what He requires of you. The person who discovers this type of problem needs to do heart-searching and make amends in the confession of the sins that stand in the way of getting your faith back or getting God to be in fellowship with you and you with God again.

Jesus is the answer to your failure

It is good to remember that Jesus is the Middleman between you and God and that His work is to bring you back to God. He never tires of this for He is an everlasting Mediator. For every failure, Jesus has the perfect answer and for every answer that you are seeking or looking for, there is a Scripture that will cover the very thing you are searching for. It may not be the exact thing, but it will reveal the principle that will give you the answer that you want. Go to the pastor, talk with someone, seek advice, pray, etc. Heed the advice and God will open the way for you to be restored, or the problem to be solved, no matter what it is.

Faith has a perfect reward at the right time

Faith has a strange way of bringing us closer to God and unbelief has an equally strange

way of separating us from God. Practice the better method of believing and you will always have access to the Father, through Jesus, using the Holy Spirit. God never gets tired and never sleeps. When we are sleeping then He is still watching over us to help and protect us through the night. Only believe. Not one hair will fall to the ground, but your Heavenly Father knows of it.

Now, giving your best to God

We can live in the failures of the past or move in the successes of the present. If we did not give our best to God before, now we can. If we failed before, now we can try again and succeed this time with His help. Come back for success and leave failure behind. We need to be honest with ourselves though, for each lie that we tell ourselves, or each self-deception that we practice, will only tend to make matters worse and we will eventually lose the way forward. Be true to yourself and it follows that you will be true to others as well and more so we will be true to God. The person that stumbles can get up again and can restart where he/she left off.

Forgetting those things that are behind, press on

Once we have fixed up the matter with God and if we have wronged others, having asked their forgiveness, we can go on, leaving the past behind us, pressing forward with God into the future, leaning on Him every step of the way.

Your example counts and your witness is telling

The thing that matters once you have started to go forward in faith and have begun to believe in the care and love of God again is the need to set a better example to others and ourselves in everything. The example that we set draws people who need us, and we can then help them, having been through the same or similar circumstances. God will assist you in every way as you witness and stand with Him to offer this kind of help. People join themselves to those who have a true witness and you will likewise find that you will join yourself to those who do likewise.

Remembering the love of God towards yourself and others

The love of God is the reason for every believer to stay with God and every sinner to seek out God. His love is wonderful and opens the way for leaving error behind. Forsaking sin and going on towards Him in everything we do, say, think or believe. The love you receive is the love you can give. The love you enjoy will be the asset that helps you to give such similar love to others. The infallible proof of that love is shown to us in that God gave us His Son.

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9. Give what you can 2 Corinthians 9:7

No one can give what they do not have. It is a universal rule that you can only give what you have, except the people who take what belongs to others. God does not expect you to give what you do not have. Therefore, give what you can and God will see your desire and help you with what you cannot give.

Expect to receive God's greater returning measure

Every person who gives can receive back from God. Many give without expecting anything back at all. Some people are known to be givers. Others are known to be receivers. Some are both givers and receivers. Whichever category you belong in, there is one secret that can be learned by all, namely to be a giver and receiver. Give to God and expect His greater measure back. It may take time, but it will surely come as you open your heart to give and receive. The motive for giving should not be to receive but change the motive of only giving or only receiving to both giving and receiving. Some people are too proud to receive but prefer only to give. Let go of pride, if that is the case, open up the heart to receive and you will receive.

Open the door for God's gracious giving

Many times, a person does not receive simply because the room for receiving is too small. We do not have room enough to receive it. The blessing may come in a bigger surprise than you anticipated and then we say no, how can we receive this? We only asked for this or that and certainly did not expect it to come about in this way or with this result! Why stand out in the cold when the door is open for you to go in? You usually only ask what you can believe for, but you can also ask for an increase in your faith to believe for more than you can normally receive.

Open your door from a single door to a double door, by asking God to do it for you.

Open the door for your gracious receiving

Sometimes people ask for something and then God decides to bring the answer through their enemies. They, therefore, refuse to receive it, as the enemy is still an enemy. Putting limits to receiving, through whoever, or whatever will cause you to often turn away the answer to a prayer. Graciously receive answers to grow in faith.

Pressed down measure - overflowing

Sometimes God chooses to answer our prayers with such magnificence and abundance that we stumble over the simple matter of receiving it as He decides to give. Jesus spoke about a pressed down, running over the measure. Ask yourself and honestly answer the question if you can receive it the way it is given?

Time, money, labour or purpose

Sometimes God expects us also to give first. He can ask us to give and put us to a test of obedience and trust. He can, for instance, ask us to use our time for someone in a certain way, such as babysitting. He can also ask us to help someone in a particular way, which will involve our labour. He can also test our purposes in receiving or in giving and can cause us to examine our motives. Whatever you have to do, do it, as best you can, for it often opens up an unexpected door of blessing for you. Sometimes God may expect you to give money away to someone in need, even as He may sometimes ask someone to give you money that you need. It runs in a circle, for there is a time for giving and a time for receiving. Either way, your turn comes.

Give what you can and believe for what you can't

The principle of sowing comes into play here once again. The seed has to give itself; it has to die, it has to be buried, and it has to burst itself to bring forth new life, bearing many other seeds. The principle is the same in the spiritual realm. Give to receive, giving what you have and believe for what you do not have, which then opens up God's giving.

You cannot out-give God

Trying to out-give God has a major problem attached to it. You do not have the resources that He has at His disposal. He has millions of servants situated all over the world and He can tell any one of them to help Him to solve any of the prayers that need answers. He has the resource of angels. He has the resource of His Holy Spirit that is everywhere present at the same time. We are limited in our giving, but not so the Father. He can give immeasurably above what we can ask or think.

Waiting is also working

While we wait for God to answer we are in fact, working with God. If waiting is not working then waiting for means loafing. Working together with God is part of our obligation as believers. Working with instructions and waiting for instructions is the same in a servant and master relationship because the servant gets the same pay whether he is waiting or working. This also applies to us as believers. However, we have, as true believers, a most intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father, simply because we are spoken of as being sons of the Father. The servant is said to wait for instructions, but the sons give the instructions. This makes a major difference to our believing. Develop the mind of being a son of the Father together with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a more personal and intimate relationship with far better results than being only a servant.

The labourer is worthy of his hire

When we do something for someone, we usually expect a reward for our time and labour in the form of a monetary return. This is the way we as humans see it. God, however, sees it in an entirely different light. He expects us to do what we have to do but wants us to know that we are, after having done all, still unprofitable servants. He will repay what is our due, and this repayment is not always made in this life. If someone hires you, you can expect to be paid. If God hires you, you can also expect God to repay you.

The five types of giving

There are five types of giving. These are stated here:

- Payments - The worker gets paid for what he has done.
- Gifts are freely given, without asking - The giver gives a gift to someone for any reason other than payment.
- Gifts are freely given, but asked for - The giver gives because he has been asked to give.
- Gifts are given in place of payment - The worker is not paid for work done but is rewarded using a gift.
- Gifts through inheritance - A gift is given after the death of someone.

In God's plan, there is scope for all these five types of giving.

Rewarded for believing God

God can give you something for working for Him. He can give you by asking Him because He wants to or He can give you because Christ died for you. He can also give you a

gift instead of a payment. Whichever way He decides to give, it is still necessary for you to receive it from Him. If someone gave you a gift and you say no thank you and refuse to take it, does this make the gift any less than it is? God offers us so many things, through many wonderful promises, but it is up to us to open up our hearts to receive each one from Him and treasure them fully for ourselves.

God's gracious giving

The graciousness of God in giving us any gifts at all is one of the wonderful miracles of God towards mankind. He gives gifts, not only generously, but also freely without a price to pay. The reason for this is that the Lord Jesus Christ has paid for them on our behalf. Moreover, the more we learn to receive from God, the more generous God can be towards us, both individually and personally. The personal reward comes from God by believing, trusting Him, in loving faithful obedience. Prove this for yourself by learning to live continuously under God's generous loving relationship towards you as your Heavenly Father.

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10.The judgment of Christ in the heart of God's love 1 John 4:17

Ten blessings through Christ's judgment on the cross at Calvary

- The battle to win the world was lost at Eden, but the victory to gain the world was won at Calvary.
- Satan robbed the world of its life in paradise, but paradise was restored at Calvary.
- Death became a lot of mankind when sin entered the world, but when Jesus died, eternal life became the gift of God for everyone who receives Jesus.
- The work of God did not end at Calvary, but the power of satan did and the God of power thereby cancelled satan, his power and his work.
- The greatest defeat that satan has ever suffered was when Jesus stayed on the cross and died, shedding His blood for us all, for thereby He declared that the victory had been obtained through His finished work.
- Go into all the world and make disciples is equal to all the other commandments.
- Declaring the end from the beginning God told of the birth, life and death of Christ that would bring peace and goodwill to men, women and children everywhere.
- By giving His son for a dying world God gave the very best of Himself to save us for Himself and create an ever-living new world.
- The punishment for sin was manifestly displayed on the cross, but so was the reward for righteousness, because after the cross came the resurrection of the dead and Christ became the first-fruit of the resurrection when He went to Heaven. He promised to come back for the harvest.
- His life was taken through the crucifixion, but eternal life was given to Him at His resurrection and we can likewise have the same by following Him on the day of resurrection of the righteous dead, when He comes again for mortality will then be swallowed up by immortal life.

Two other blessings

- As He is, so are we in this world.
- If we know that He is righteous we know that all who are righteous are born of Him.

At the heart of God's love is this terrible act of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Do you want the new life that comes about by receiving Jesus through His invitation to be born again?

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11. Progressive stages of pre-revival Acts 3:19

At one time or another, most believers have been interested in revival, especially when they see and hear about the miracles that abound in such times. When they do not have that special touch that everyone else seems to be experiencing, they become discouraged and give up trying to experience it for themselves. It seems like a good dream that does not come true and leaves behind a disappointing taste in the mouth when we wake up in the morning. To avoid disappointment, it is important to know that there is a pre-revival period that opens up a revival.

Pre-revival can be called the brooding period, where everyone talks about revival and is in some way or other trying to bring it to pass. Even though it is a living chicken in the egg, it is still not the real live chicken with feathers that can lay eggs. Revival on the other hand can be likened to the hatching period, when the chicken comes out of the egg and begins, to truly live.

Pre-revival consciousness

One can think of the pre-revival period as if one is climbing up a flight of stairs. Halfway up is not the same as being right at the top of the stairs. If we give up halfway, then we have only reached halfway. However, if we continue up the stairs, a step at a time, we will eventually find ourselves at the top. By being negative and inclined to counting our losses and saying we are only halfway up, we are inclined to get tired and find that we do not want to climb up the rest of the way. If, on the other hand, we realise positively that, we are already halfway and only have the other half still to go, then we will find the will and determination to climb up to the very top of the stairs. As we go higher it gets all the more exciting. Three-quarters of the way nearer the top is the same as saying, we are three-quarters of the way down, but only one-quarter of the way to the top. The further you go towards revival the easier it is to go forward. It is like going into half the race and then going out the other half, and you realise that you are nearer the end than going back to the beginning. We need to run the revival race and get to the finish line.

Seeing the desert and not the leading of the Lord God

The people of Israel were glad to leave Egypt behind, but were not glad to head towards the Promised Land, for they only saw the desert and not the deliverance towards their destination. They continually mumbled and murmured, moaned and groaned against God, so much so that God became angry at this discrepancy in their faith and He thwarted them. Those who held on, waiting to get there, got there. We need to ask God for a heart that is always patiently and expectantly pressing on towards His revival; a heart that can endure the wait, the trials and disappointments along the way.

Never count your losses before you have counted your gains

Many of those who have preached revival have at some time or another, somehow or other, grown weary in their walk and have stopped expecting the revival. Their reason for this is that they are counting their losses instead of counting their gains. The right way is to count your gains first and then have a look at the losses. By doing this you will always find that the gains far outweigh the losses.

God talks about the latter rain

We know from history that the former rains came when Jesus came to the nation of Israel. Those who accepted it at that time received it. Furthermore, it went out from them and was extended to the Gentile believers. In the same way, the latter rains will appear, starting with the Gentile believers and extending to the Jews. God has told us that it is coming and often

we want to bring it on by ourselves. The realisation that it is His revival and not ours helps to allay this type of temptation. God will lead you in the way that you have to go, but let His eye guide you all the way. He does not dismally see the desert sands of the long walk towards freedom, but buoyantly leads us towards the destination of our faithful expectant destination.

Letting God help your thinking and lift you up

The real trouble that we all experience in waiting and praying for revival is that we seem to be so alone in it all. However, if you let God help you in your believing and thinking, He will encourage you all the way. He knows the end from the beginning and He knows what He requires for revival to break forth.

Ask God:

“What do You dear God, require from me as a would-be believer and trusting revivalist? I ask this from you in Jesus’s name.”

He will not only answer what you need to know but will inspire you to get there, with His constant help and with His inspiring motivation. When you are discouraged, He will lift you. When you are up, He will keep you there. When you are there, you will know it is a revival.

Never mind the next person, take what belongs to you

On the way towards revival, there are many stepping stones. Each step costs some sort of effort from those who are moving up in this way. However, there are others with you. You are not alone:

- Angels stand by.
- The Holy Spirit stands by.
- The Lord Jesus stands by.
- The Father Himself stands by.
- The true seeking and thirsting believers stand by.

The Word of God is there to support you in your quest towards that thirst-quenching and hunger-filling experience.

Open up a revival way for yourself

Never let it be said that you are better off going the way of being a self-satisfied and non-seeking believer - satisfied to stand alone in the small world of your faith. This is how to become closed up into a self-interest world of your denominational stand and viewpoint. Not that a denominational stand and viewpoint are wrong but, rather, imagine a small trickle that causes us to say, “Is this all that there is?” or a revival river that moves us to exclaim, “God, how much more is there?”

To be or not to be - revival conscious

Leaving our safe denominational heritage, wherever that may be, whichever part of the world that we may find ourselves in, is not what this lesson is advocating. This would lead us to become free-roaming spirits. We all have this denominational thing in some form or other, for we all tend to form clusters around a common nucleus. To have a nucleus without a leader and a name leads to an independence complex. Even nature teaches us that bees cluster around one queen in a common hive and that ants swarm together. Standing alone is not the answer. This leads to individualism. Jesus formed groups, the apostles formed church groups and the local members are called to form a local group, no matter what banner or name we stand under. Becoming a true revivalist has the personal touch of Jesus in it and has a crossing border result. This does not mean I have to leave to go elsewhere, but rather that my

service may extend across man-esteemed borders to God-esteemed borders, to be a blessing or help.

Jesus Christ as Lord, the inspiration of revival

Jesus always brought revival wherever He went, even though there were times that His people and family could not believe in Him. If we take the viewpoint of the apostle Paul, who exclaimed, Jesus, forever the same, today, yesterday and tomorrow, then what is there that can stand in the way of revival coming to us now? It was so then, why not now? Has Jesus changed? Is it not rather that we have lost the secret of having a Jesus revival? There are, despite this pessimism, many which have a personal revival touch of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Endeavour to obtain, and pray for, a Kingdom heart embracing the Kingdom themes

Open up your heart to obtain a Kingdom heart that realises that there are numerous and diverse ways in which God works. In all sorts of people, with all sorts of backgrounds, even having different tenets of the one Christ-centred faith. Keep your faith, but seek 'it', the living waters, flowing out from the heart of God into your heart. First, your heart needs to be filled to overflowing, then through your overflowing heart, flowing out towards the rest of mankind, those whom you daily come into contact with - those people interested in finding more about God and who are also searching for that endless supply of living water that Jesus spoke about.

One-man/one-woman revival?

We can become a church without a name, or the invisible church, becoming known as people that have a radical cause. Then too, being labelled extremist has a touch of the delusional man in it. It is possible to be so filled and overflowing that you are your revival, so to speak. This does not work. Every true revivalist needs the help of others and gives help to others. Those who are out to fill everyone else, but never have to be filled themselves, are a danger to themselves and, in fact, to everyone else. Genuine one-man or one-woman revival starts with a person but spreads through to others who then take it further. Jesus had a revival wherever He went, and if there ever was a possible prospective candidate for being a one-man revivalist it was Jesus Christ because He is Lord of all. Yet, that is not the way He went about it. We remember what He did. He chose out twelve men to support His cause and then sent them out to convert, first of all, those of the House of Israel, then Judea, then Samaria, then the whole world, to His cause. What a wonderful example to follow. The same applies to Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, for he said "be followers of me, even as I am of Christ." He also said, "follow God, as dear children." Note the plural - children. There are many children in the family, but only one Jesus.

A forming group is like a tree

A forming group is like a tree with roots, trunk, branches, leaves, flowers, fruit and many new seeds

The Psalmist says a tree planted by the waters. A tree has roots and it grows up into a tree. The result of the seed of a tree being planted into the ground is a growing tree. The revivalist that is truly a revivalist will find that the growing tree has roots, forming out of the planted seed of each revival, growing into a revival tree. This eliminates those who want to be the sole centre of attraction. The prospective one-man or one-woman revivalist that does not point the way towards God, through Jesus Christ, using the Holy Spirit, is nothing but a one-man/woman revivalist, who himself/herself needs to find that deep inner repentance from self-centredness, needing to partake of the heavenly restoration which true revival brings.

The call for all to come, eat and drink

Being thirsty and hungry is all that is required - if any man thirsts let him come and drink. The Spirit of God can quench your thirst and fill you. Everyone can drink of its profoundly beautiful, clear as crystal, refreshingly pure, soul-quenching, ever-living waters. Once you have tasted of this water that comes directly from the heart of God, nothing else will be as sweet or satisfy as much ever again. If such be the case your soul will be abundantly satisfied, for revival is an everlasting process that only needs to flare up, as the Holy Spirit winds blow from time to time, in their direction. The Spirit will quench your thirst but it is the Word that stills your hunger. Looking always for new waters, the Spirit, and leaving off seeking the bread of life, the Word, you will never really be satisfied. Even as we cannot go longer than a few days without the water, so we need the Spirit of God, and just as we cannot go very long without food, so we need the Word of God.

Drink and eat to be satisfied

“Drink ye all of it” and “eat ye all of it” was commanded by Jesus who claimed to be the only One who could give us this living water that would come from God using His blood having been shed on Calvary for a lost and dying world. Rivers of living waters, living streams of waters, everlasting waters that can continually quench every thirst and never let you ever be thirsty again. Is this possible? Jesus said that it is so. He also said He is the living bread that came down from heaven to give life to the world. This is the true heart of any revival in any true-hearted believer, anywhere.

A sudden breaking forth

You and I have to be ready for that suddenness of the Holy Spirit’s working. We should never underestimate the working of God’s Holy Spirit, refusing to look at the circumstances prevailing around us, but rather looking up towards the ever-living God of Heaven.

Our prayer should be:

“Yes, Lord, yes. We are waiting longingly and we expect You to suddenly come down to us, through Your Holy Spirit and break forth as in the days of old. Yes, Lord Jesus. Please, grant us Your revival. Amen.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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12. Spreading revival Isaiah 48:18

Each line revival moves forward in two different ways. You are either a line revivalist yourself or you join and help another line revivalist. Whichever way God is using you, the spreading of this type of revival, indeed any other type can extend far and wide throughout the whole earth. These two types of revival progressions can be repeated over and over again extending in all directions. This is called spreading revival lines. The character of the first revivalist's spreading lines may differ in many ways from the second. This is one of the dangers amongst revivalists and can be caused by jealousy and envy, but not necessarily so, springing up between two different groups or even amongst other revival groups. This is how revival fires get dimmer and eventually peter out, and is also precisely how denominationalism results.

Denominationalism

Denominationalism is not a bad thing in itself, because it groups people around a common doctrinal approach but, at the same time, it separates people who were once standing under one touch of revival fire. As soon as the real flames of true revival dim, they each follow their various forms of doctrinal approach towards the Gospel. All the great denominations of today had this spreading fire from some source and eventually separated into the various groups of today's mainline churches.

Their lines have gone out into all the earth

At every age, some stand up and take the theme of Jesus further. However, some shine out in doing it in such a glorious manner that they are said to have brought revival to their generation. Amongst these are found some of the great revivalists in modern times, John G. Lake, Oral Roberts, Benny Hinn, Andrew Murray, to name but a few, and all these, although their theme was Jesus, have their lines falling to them in pleasant places throughout the earth. They have become household names and their writings, even their exploits, are being quoted everywhere, their names on the lips of many people in many nations.

Make a name for one or ... have a line revival that spreads revival?

The fame of a true revival has with it the name of someone linked to Jesus who is the first cause. The person is not the first cause, but Jesus is and when this particular person links himself to Jesus, Jesus carries him or her along with the revival that He has instituted through the Holy Spirit as the great instrument. These people never thought that they would become famous, but as they continued in their expression of what revival means to them, they have come to be known as revivalists, some even becoming very famous, also being quoted and their methods copied. The true revivalist is not interested in making a name, or in spreading factions. Rather they are truly interested in promoting only Jesus, His work and the extension of His Kingdom, which are the very centre and reason for spreading revival.

The true revivalist

A person who starts a revival, or rather, through whom God starts a revival, is called a revivalist. A group can also be the source of a revival where revival breaks out spontaneously, manifesting through a group of people, all at one time. This is called a group revival. If it breaks out suddenly in a church it is then known as a church revival.

Helpers for the revivalist

Every revival needs helpers to carry it on. There may be many helpers, but there is only one true revivalist. Paul had his Timothy. Mark had his Titus. The one begins the revival so to speak and the other carries it forward or on to a new place or entity. The helper adds his or

her share, but it is nevertheless still the original revival of the revivalist.

Our lines are fallen to us in pleasant places

Whoever carries on revival has either come into a revival started by someone else or we start our revival. When a revival hits any particular town and the town people start to function within that particular revival, then the revival line has indeed fallen to us in pleasant places. However, if we are in a place and we receive a revelation towards revival ourselves and we continue in it, extending it outwards, we then have our line, or lines if they are being extended to other places, also fallen to us in pleasant places. It is possible that our line can extend itself into the earth and wherever it lands, those who partake of our revival, can also say, our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places.

The everlasting revival

There have been many revivals throughout the centuries, and some of these have been recorded in the Scriptures. The Old Testament is full of examples of those who have been called of God to begin a revival. The individual revivalist has to have a theme centred on God. Whatever God has to say to any generation or group of people, He may choose a revivalist to take that message or vision further for Him. These all have an everlasting theme to them, based around the person who is called of God to point to that centre. We speak of Moses as being the giver of the Law, without imputing that it comes from Moses apart from God - the Law of Moses was from God and Moses the mere mouthpiece. This applies to everyone who has been called similarly. Each revivalist was called to accomplish a specific task for God. The apostle Peter had to help open Jesus way for the Jews. The apostle Paul had to help open Jesus way for the Gentiles. The apostle James was called to help the Jews in the dispersion. These are just a few examples; however, Jesus is the centre of the everlasting revival.

The revival that eclipses all other revivals

The greatest revival of all is that which Jesus declares will take place - "If I am lifted, I will draw all men to myself." What a magnificent revival line this is. By making this statement Jesus sets the parameters for all revivalists. If He is going to draw all men to Himself, then who is there that a revivalist can otherwise draw? The greatest revival was not through Moses or Joshua. Moses led the children of Israel out from the land of Egypt. Joshua and Caleb led the children of Israel into the promised land of Israel, yet neither of these two revivals can compare with the revival of Jesus. Jesus is leading us all into the promised land of heaven, with our end destination being the New Heavens and the New Earth. No matter what form the bits of help given through our revival may take, it is still part of the great Jesus revival that is destined to fill all the earth, fill paradise, and fill the New Heavens and the New Earth.

One revival or the many

The obvious reason that people give about the one revival that they would like to happen, is that it is very necessary. There is another side to the story, however. The ideal situation would dictate one revival at the end time, but this is not so, as the many revivals, breaking out all over, each within its context and joining to the others is the perfect answer to this revival complexity. The various types of revival, such as book, line, personal, church, national, regional, world evangelism, revival around famous believing personalities, institutional revivals, etc. but to name only a few, are not individually separated from the mainstream of revival but are all-inclusive and all-embracing in the revival of God at the end times. Provided of course, that their pre-revival strategies are orientated towards coming revival.

The revival view from the top of God's mountain

It is like standing on a mountain, but at first, starting at the bottom. Here the view is limited and we can only see so far, but as we climb up higher the view becomes more majestic and breathtakingly beautiful. Just so it is with the end-time revival to come. The five wise virgins' parable is the one that indicates a combination and a separation, both at the same time. One group is ready to go and the other is not ready and is left behind. Not only does this parable apply to individuals, but also in a church that is grouped, having many branches; the parable can apply equally as well. Taking the whole world scene of the believers, in whatever church group, denomination or faith, each could be represented by the symbolism of one person, a virgin, who is waiting for the Master, the Bridegroom. Some will no doubt be foolish and others will be wise.

The combined results of the revival

The result of each revival, whether separated from each other, linked together, crisscrossing with others, merging with others or even co-operating with others, is in the hand of God.

"All things work together for good."

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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13. True believers John 4:24

True believers are busy in two very closely-knit areas of responsibility. They fit into a peculiar group called the body of Jesus and they are busy with a particular task that is called working for God.

Understanding our responsibility in the peculiar group known as the body of Jesus

Jesus places within true believers the responsibility of the resurrected Jesus Christ. Each believer, individually as well as collectively, make up the spiritual term known as the body of Jesus. When believers talk of the body of Christ, they are generally referring to all believers collectively scattered throughout the world. There is another term that the Scriptures talk about. This is the actual body of Jesus. His body, however, is a raised body, raised in resurrection glory. His body is incorruptible and ever-enduring. Jesus spoke of his own body and it was qualified by the apostle as also referring to the actual temple in Jerusalem. This symbolism is rich with meaning and the person who can understand the difference between the actual and the symbolic has deep insight into the relationship between Jesus and His converts.

Jesus speaks of His body

He refers to His body that will be raised, which of course is His own Body that was raised by God through the resurrection, and which has since become immortal and heavenly. He ascended to God in Heaven, with this immortalised body. He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for the saints and waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool.

There are three applications that Jesus gave to His Body

- It is Himself - Apart from Jesus, there can be no true body.
- It is all His believers positioned in Himself - Apart from Jesus there can be no true believer.
- It is Himself manifested through His church - Apart from Jesus, there can be no true church.

Explanation

- His resurrected body is Jesus Himself.
- Jesus is His church.
- His church is His body.
- His church is His family.

The mystery of Himself and His Body

There are two aspects to this mystery:

Factually speaking, if there were no Jesus there would be nobody and contraindicated, if there were nobody there would be no Jesus.

Spiritually speaking, the church partnership with Jesus is the mystery of a marriage partnership and, contraindicated, the marriage partnership is the mystery of Jesus within the church.

His earthly body has three manifestations

Figuratively speaking (which is understanding spiritual things spiritually) the body of Jesus can be likened to the natural body that we all have. Our body is made up of three sections:

- Legs and thigh
- Stomach, torso and arms
- Neck and head

In the spiritual comparison of the body, concerning the believers, the parallel can be taken to mean something very important to the whole believing church leadership scattered throughout the world. Remember we are spiritually speaking now to understand the implication of what is being featured in this analogy.

The head and neck of the body

This portion of the body must encourage *His watchfulness* so that the whole body believes for one common purpose and achieves what Jesus is aiming for.

“Watch continually therefore being diligent to all prayer.”

The torso, shoulders, arms and hands of the body:

This portion of the body must encourage *His worthiness* so that the spiritual heart is strengthened within in the spiritual battles of life and God’s requirements of godliness.

“Strengthen your heart and minds in Christ Jesus.”

The legs, feet and waist of the body:

This portion of the body must encourage *His working* so that the feet do not stumble into set snares and covered pitfalls and will rather take the body where it is needed.

“Make straight paths for your feet and strengthen the feeble knees. Lift the hands and pray.”

Strangely enough, the apostle Paul uses many other wonderful analogies about the spiritual body, using the natural body as a sort of teaching reference that will help us to understand the parallel in spiritual matters. He tells us that we are members of the body. Individually we have a function in the spiritual body even as each member of the natural body has in the natural. He draws a parallel between:

- The mind of Christ (which all true believers have).
- The spirit of Christ (which the obedient believers have).
- The body of Christ (which the married believers have).

The lesson to be learned

Jesus took away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, bearing our sins upon Him, allowing Himself and His body to be crucified on the cross. The new body that He has obtained in the resurrection is free from sin and the effects of sin. Although He was sinless, He had to die to be raised by God with a body that is free from decay and corruption, an incorruptible body. It stands to say therefore that we as part of the body of Christ need to deal with our sins. We cannot take away our sin, but Jesus can. We cannot obtain God’s forgiveness, but Jesus can. He is our intercessor with the Father at all times. If we come to Him to be saved, we need to let go of our sins and take on His righteousness. This not only means to accept His righteousness, but it also means to ask Him to help us in our righteousness as well. The believers are spoken of as being righteous. This does not mean that they have righteousness in their own right, but it is acquired righteousness. Having being set free from our sins, we can serve God acceptably all the days of our lives. Deliverance is that experience of being set free from our sin through the act of salvation offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Not only have we been set free from our sin, but also, we are appointed to serve God and

work for Him.

Understanding our peculiar task known as working for God.

Group One

- The home care group
- The training care group

The home care group structures can therefore be likened to a beehive working together. The beehive moves around a common purpose and a common leader. It has no other leader and other leadership will not be tolerated. Its sole purpose is to bring young bees into the world to work for the hive.

Group Two

- The work care group
- The leadership care group

A pride of young lions taking care of their young cubs. The whole group has to be as a lion that keeps all intruders away from its areas of whole-hearted responsibility.

The work care group can therefore be likened to a pride of lions protecting revival.

- The financial care group
- The help care group
- The church care group

Group Three

An eagle has a lonely existence until other eagles are, hatched, trained and/or ready to accept responsibility. The church group can therefore be likened to an eagle keeping watch towards post-revival.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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Stage 8 - Your Full Surrender in His Perfect Peace

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.

Giving God you're all

Stage 8 - Your full surrender in His perfected peace

1. Opened ears, eyes and heart Isaiah 35:5

Acts 2:33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

Those who have been taught and have learned properly can teach those who are yet to learn. Just as the teachers have to have open ears, eyes and hearts to effectively receive study material for both learning and teaching, just so should all pupils do the same. Pray for quickened ears and quickened eyes to see that which cannot usually be seen, which is otherwise invisible, coming out of God's spiritual realm through the Holy Spirit with Christ Jesus as Lord.

Listening and seeing for receiving

Hebrews 12:25 "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not only the earth but also heaven.'"

Learning comes to us in our natural state if we have opened ears and eyes, with keen listening and seeing interest. In the Spirit likewise, our hearts have to be receptive, and our spirits have to be quickened to perceive spiritual things for they are to be spiritually discerned. *1 Corinthians 2:10-16.*

You can ask Jesus to quicken and increase your spiritual ability to both hear and see, do and speak or even to discern that which is spiritual as opposed to that which is natural.

Doing and speaking

Today there is a tendency to hear what is being spoken on a listening and learning basis, but the greater emphasis in this programme will be upon learning and doing, i.e., putting into practice what you hear. Many people will speak about these things but it will only be the one that applies him/her to these things that are stated here that will receive the full benefit. The tendency today is to be wiser than your teachers. It was Jesus who spoke of this principle of learning and teaching, but He spoke of a far superior way.

John 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me."

1 John 2:27 “But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teaches you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”

Here it is stating that God will teach us, but we need to hear His word and learn and then this will result in us coming to Jesus. The Holy Spirit anointing will live in you and teach you to abide in Him. This is the truest form of learning.

Calling of repentance to life and eternal life

God calls you to a specific place, spiritual vocation and church fellowship or group. You can ask for this type of guidance and it will be given to you. Be assured that the Head of the church, Jesus, is interested in His body, the church.

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

God will direct you and members of your family to the right place, at the right time, in the right spirit and to the right people for fellowship.

To change from one group to another because you are out of fellowship with someone is not profitable to you spiritually. It is always better to first make amends, where necessary, before shifting to another group, fellowship or church. Leaving one group to go to another because of some misdemeanour or indiscretion that one may have fallen into, is dishonest and be sure that a reputation will follow such persons and their sin will, sooner or later, find them out.

Election to eternal life for the Kingdom of Heaven

You can receive your calling and your election to eternal life from Jesus. Just ask for Him to give it to you and He will.

2 Peter 1:10-11 “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Yes! The Kingdom belongs to Him. He alone can open for us the gates of Hades.

Revelation 1:17-18 “... Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and Death.”

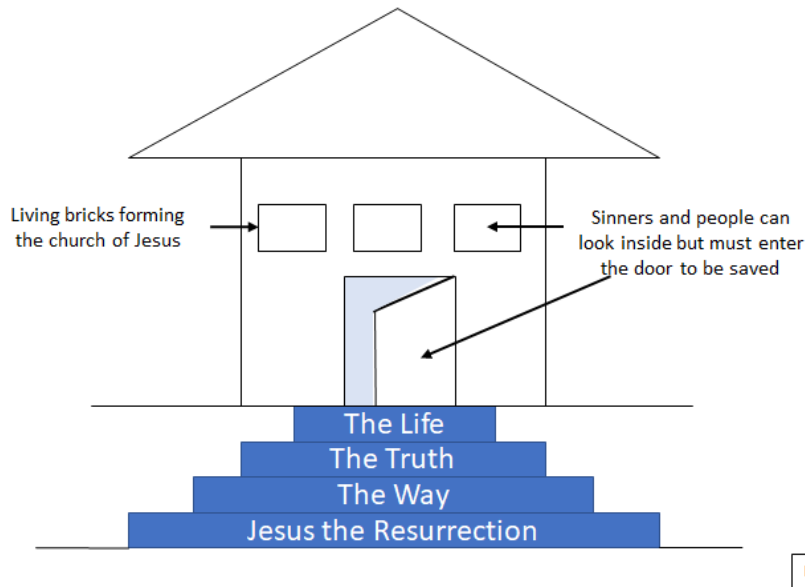
He also says in

Luke 12:32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

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. I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.’”

Your church

Jesus the Head Founder as the Rock of Salvation



Whichever part of His church that the Lord adds you to, you should stay there. By becoming rooted and grounded in your fellowship, the Lord can use you, and you will be able to bring forth much fruit for Him, or rather He through you. By continually moving to another group or another church, you will become unsettled with the resultant effect of forever seeking.

Those who move around, due to their calling, such as missionaries, and those whose work, or business takes them to other towns, cities and places, should also stay within the group that they are accustomed to, that they identify with until of course, God decides otherwise, but according to your calling and not through pure whim and fancy.

Submission to your church authority (assembly, group, cell etc.)

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 "We urge you, brethren, to recognise those who labour among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves."

Submitting ourselves to those over us, in the fear and nurture of God, has a wonderful effect on our spiritual growth, faith and obedience. Those in submission to their leader/s of the group have an excellent chance of learning to experience the workings of their spiritual gifts, through common experience in a spiritual environment, God always adding to that which we already have.

Once you have proved this for yourself you will not desire it any other way, enjoying your eternal life experience with Jesus Christ as your Lord.

Prayer is a means of talking to God

Jesus said

John 15:5 "... for without Me you can do nothing."

He also spoke about abiding in the vine, just as a branch abides. He also says that a withered branch needs to be cut off. So, prayer must always be made to the Father through the Son, by the Holy Spirit to be efficient and effective. Take time to pray if you do not understand something and Jesus will open it up for you. God will also meet your need as you approach Him, for He can give you more than you ask or even think. Remember He is the

one writing your programme for you on your heart and mind.

Hebrews 8:10-11 “... I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord, for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.’”

Ask God to do this work in your heart and then you will know the Lord for yourself.

Effective prayer is always mixed with faithful obedience to the Lord and His instrument that helps you.

Remember, your prayer must be mixed with your faith when you ask Jesus for help in these matters. He will not fail you, but you must believe and keep on believing.

Hebrews 4:2 “For indeed the gospel 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.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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2. The vine, branches, leaves and fruit John 15:4

John 15:5-6 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast-off as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."

The vine

Jesus says here, 'I am'. He is the one and only Saviour of men and women everywhere. No one else can help us as Jesus can. By saying, 'I am', Jesus lays claim to the title of Divinity, for God is known as the Great I Am. He then goes on to say, 'I am the vine, you are the branches.' There is no way a vine can be of different stock to the branches. As the vine is, so are the branches.

The branches

The vine bears the branches and not the branches of the vine. This shows that Jesus carries us as part of himself. The branches are made up of the same material as the vine. So, if we are to take this analogy literally, we are of the same stock as Jesus. There is no difference between Jesus and us. If we can remember that when Jesus spoke this, He was in his earthly body, then it is easy to identify ourselves with Him. It is only when we see Jesus as risen from the dead that we have a problem to identify ourselves with Him. Yet this saying is still true, and because He spoke it out, it will always remain true. By faith, we can believe that we are partakers with Him, whilst on earth. It is only by faith we can believe that we are partakers with Him, whilst in heaven. If we take away faith then we have no grounds on which to understand and believe this. Apart from life within Him, we have no life at all because, in verse 6, it clearly states that unless we abide in Him, we will become withered branches.

The fruit of the vine

We also realise that a withered branch cannot bear fruit, simply because the life energy flowing through vine and branch is cut off, and the branch cannot receive nourishment. The analogy of vine, branches and fruit is striking. The fruit is not the same material as the vine or branches. The fruit has to be part of the vine, and it has to partake in the nourishment of the vine. Without this nourishment, there can be no fruit and the lesser the nourishment the lesser the juiciness of the fruit. A sick vine has no chance of bearing healthy fruit. By continuing in the vine, Jesus says, there is the possibility of much fruit and the fruit will also be healthy and juicy. He clearly states that without Him we can do nothing. In other words, we cannot bear fruit.

Abiding in the vine

This means staying in Jesus. We can be part of Jesus only if we stay in the vine, (abides in Me), and the vine can only be part of us if, we the branches, allow Jesus to stay in us, as He also says, "I in him." The secret of abiding or staying in the vine is simply to become part of Him and let Him become part of us. By faith in the Lord, we continue daily with Him and He with us. Fellowship with Jesus daily gives us the necessary life to endure and to bear fruit with Him. People ask how can we be continually free from sin in its various manifestations? The answer is to partake of the life-giving energy of the vine, Jesus. We must bear fruit for Jesus, but the fruit only comes in its proper season, as it is borne by the branches.

The inter-relationship between the vine and its fruit

The vine itself, on its own, does not bear the grapes; it needs the branches to do that. The

daily circumstances in which the vine finds itself and continues to grow will bear the branches that will bear the fruit. Outside influences also have a great deal to do with the fruit-bearing process. Nourishment from the earth, water from the rain, sunshine, warm weather, all have favourable influences on the outcome of the fruit-bearing season. Jesus is the vine; we are the branches and the fruit is the result of our association with each other.

How to have tasty grapes from a healthy vine

- Separate to the Lord
- Receive answers to your prayers
- Become fruitful
- Testify to others
- Win souls
- Understand the Scriptures
- Learn how to help people spiritually
- Pray effectively
- Understand your gifting
- Wage warfare against the enemy
- Understand dreams, visions and prophecy
- Let inspiration work for you
- Learn the essentials of many Bible truths
- Believe for revival

The leaves of the vine

The leaves are the daily beauty of the vine. In winter, when there are no leaves, the vine looks stark and unattractive. In the same way, the Christian believer must have beauty for the world at large; otherwise, they will not want to become part of the vine themselves. Green leaves also show that the tree is in good health and that the fruit may be nearing the ripening stage. The dying leaves of the vine have deep colours of reds and mauve but are not nearly as beautiful as a vine with greenery and fruit. Can we remember when, as children, we used to look at the fruit of the vine daily in the backyard to see if the grapes were ripening? We noticed the leaves and fruit changing from their colours of green to the deep colour of the ripe grape. We would often try one just so see if it tasted anything near the ripe taste of the grape.

The gardener - God

Jesus also has pride in the fruit-bearing process, but it is the gardener who has the most pride if the vine, branches, leaves and grapes are healthy and sweet, not to mention the enjoyment of the persons who eat the ripe grapes.

Now let's talk about the fruit for God. Jesus died for us and he arose from the dead, ascending into heaven. We are to be partakers of this Heavenly Vine.

Romans 6:11 "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:13 "And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

Romans 7:4 "Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another - to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God."

Fruit-bearing is a natural process of the vine, but in the resurrection power of Christ, fruit-bearing is a spiritual process through faith in our association with Christ Jesus. No one can lay claim to being a true believer who has no fruit-bearing in his/her life. Paul put it this way:

Philippians 4:19 “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

There is no real excuse for not bearing fruit with Christ and His children. Can we imagine a vine that has many branches that are all barren except for one branch that is bearing fruit? What a disappointment, especially if the one branch is bearing the best and tastiest fruit among the other vines.

Now, what the Lord would like to see is many branches, all joined to the one true vine, all bearing the richest and juiciest fruit possible. This cannot be accomplished apart from the vine, for as the one branch, ours, bears fruit together with the other branches, and the vine serves its purpose in full and justifies its existence.

Our testimony

We used to work in the daytime at our secular jobs and then in the evenings, we also worked for Jesus over many years. Suddenly we became very tired of doing two lots of work and asked God to put us in His full-time ministry through our retirement. God did it for both my wife and me. Since we both left secular work years ago, we have been to many places in South Africa, and have ministered in several churches at the invitation of their pastors, counselling their flock. This fruit-bearing is only possible with the help of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The satisfaction that results from working for God is a deep-seated enjoyment and pleasure that comes from knowing Jesus personally. It is also a great privilege and one for which we are very grateful.

As we continue together with you, we will be able to share with you many secrets that we have been given by the Lord, to live a victorious, overcoming life in Jesus.

And this we will do, God, permitting.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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3. Conveying the message of the Gospel Romans 1:16

God's working towards this type of opening up within our spirit, using functional gifts (explained more fully in another section), is God's doing and is dependent on four overall happenings that are all vitally important. This is how the message of salvation, healing and deliverance can be imparted throughout the whole world to men, women and children who will truly believe in Jesus.



The first instance of conveyance - hearing

Speech is linked to hearing and hearing will be linked to seeing. We will not deal with seeing here, because it is a special part of revelation, which will be explained in a separate section.

The original message that God has for the world is given either by inspiration, revelation or illumination to His servants, who in turn have recorded these in the Scriptures, writing down what they have heard and/or experienced. As an example, it is stated in

Hebrews 1:1-2 "God ... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, ..."

This 'speaking' is known as the first instance of conveyance of such messages and comes from God.

These three methods facilitate the ability to pass on God's working to us through natural and/or spiritual levels. Whichever method God uses, either inspiration, revelation or illumination, singly or in combination, they also need, on the part of the one receiving the message, 'hearing' to receive such messages.

The Word of God, manifested as a 'speaking gift', on God's part is the instrument conveying the truth that, in turn, will open up the hearing gift' on man's part, which will also allow 'faith' to be opened up in the heart.

Romans 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Stated in another way, by hearing the word of God, faith can be opened up to an individual. Without God’s words being spoken there can be no opening up of any real Scriptural faith at all; and the enemy of our souls, the devil, will steal each of the words that come to the one that endeavours to hear. Once the work of this enemy is countered and faith is opened up, it becomes easier to hear the word(s) of God and/or of Jesus and to have increased faith.

The process that accomplishes this opening up in the hearts of those who hear, is called inspiration. The word of God is spoken, the receptive heart hears it and receives it, and by the process of inspiration, faith is born into such a heart.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Through further inspiration, these words, and corresponding thoughts or ideas that arise through receiving and believing them, can again be communicated to others for their edification.

The second instance of conveyance – preaching and teaching

Preaching and teaching is the next process that carries this inspirational/revelational/illumination work, whichever may apply, over to the hearers and is called preaching, whilst a further follow-up process is called teaching. These can only be undertaken by those who have either seen or heard the message or by a combination of both seeing and hearing.

1 John 1:3-4 “that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with ... the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

Mark 16:15 “... preach the gospel to every creature.”

Matthew 28:20 “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; ...”

Jesus added to His command to preach the command to teach. Those who do the preaching should also be responsible for or arrange suitable teaching. The ones who hear the teaching then become responsible to observe these things that have been commanded and of which they are being taught.

It is because of Christ’s finished work on Calvary that God’s speaking gift can be opened up to each individual through the hearing gift.

If Christ had not come, we would all still be forced to live under the law, as given to Moses, the servant of God. The Law is God’s revelation to the Hebrew people. Moses, as the prophet of God in olden times, spoke of a greater prophet to come.

Acts 7:37-39 “This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord your God will raise for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’ This is the (Moses) who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us (speaking of the Hebrews), whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. ...”

This greater prophet is none other than Jesus.

Acts 3:22, 26 “For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The Lord your God will raise for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things,

whatever He says to you.’ ... ‘To you first, God, having raised His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you.’ ...”

The Scriptures of the New Testament stresses this point, through the apostle Paul and other prophets, in both New and Old Testaments.

It is important to note that the Old Testament always pointed to a greater illumination than that which was presently being presented, always lighting up a future fulfilment.

Hebrews 7:22 “By so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.”

This latter illumination, the better covenant, being more perfect, would replace the inferior one previously given. The fulfilment of this surpassingly better covenant was obtained on Calvary when Jesus died, and even more so when Jesus was raised from the dead.

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?”

This working process is accomplished by invitation.

Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

The third instance of conveyance - Impartation

The opening of a two-way relationship, initiated by God and extended to everyone, can be effected through a turning of men and women towards God - this is necessary for any of us to receive this impartation. By the means of impartation, that which the message speaks of becomes a reality in our own lives.

This impartation is an act of either giving or receiving that which is needful - something precious given from God to man or received by individuals from God.

An example of impartation - The Law of Moses:

The Law of Moses was presented to the people of olden time, namely the Hebrew people, and because of its revealed presentation of God, the very people that received this law had to perform carefully, all of its requirements. Failure to carry out its perfect and laborious demands brought with it such serious punishment as the penalty of death or ex-communication from among the people.

In the past few thousand years before Jesus came, without turning towards God under the Law of Moses through obedience, no one could be rescued from the severe punishments inflicted for non-obedience of that law. Similarly, it is only by turning to God that the finished work of Jesus can be effective for your salvation from God's wrath for inherent personal disobedience and failure to keep these lawful requirements.

Jesus came to perfect not only this law but to bring a new and living way to fulfil the spiritual requirements of this law. For example,

Matthew 5:27-28 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

The wrongful act is replaced by a spiritual application that gets down, past the act, to the heart of the matter. By enlarging the application of the law, Jesus became the author of eternal salvation, to those who come to Him for this greater work of grace.

1 John 5:9-13 “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

This process of impartation using our turning towards God in regret for past sin, error or wrongdoing is accomplished through repentance.

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent’ ...”

Acts 11:17-18 “If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us (the Jewish apostles) when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’”

The fourth instance of conveyance – outreach or prayer inspiration?

Each believer that has received something special will be eager to impart the experience to others. This is called outreach. All it needs is an inspiration. If you are called to preach and/or teach, do it, but even if you lack this particular type of ability and do not feel a need to get it, you can also pray through inspiration.

Outreach inspiration is the extending of invitations to others to believe and prayer inspiration is the interceding for others. Utilizing these two inspirations the church grows/expands. Whether we labour in prayer intercession, go out and labour in outreach, or even labour by giving service within the church. These inspirations are called labouring.

Hebrews 6:10 “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

The labouring church grows when each member is sharing in the labouring efforts of their church and becomes actively involved in the various forms of ministry, not only to the saints in the church but, also to those who are outside the church.

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4. If God is for us who can be against us? Romans 8:31

A revival theme.

The Lord revealed to me that He wanted to inaugurate a 12-point revival in South Africa starting in the north. This came about through a wonderful vision, various interpretations and illuminations, given to me from time to time. I had no idea what this 12-point revival was all about.

Kept by His power

The Lord showed me the following whilst ministering in Germany.

There were four ideas presented to me, but they gave me an insight into the deeper revelation.

Here they are now for consideration:

- The revival that was started by Jesus had an all-time theme. Even though mankind had allowed God's wonderful truths to fall into misuse, disuse, and excesses, nevertheless, His Word stands sure for all time and is true for every God-fearing, seeking generation since that time.
- If we do not take up the commanded theme of what He requires then it will not help us to look for a new revelation.
- It will always be His revival, wherever revivals break out, as He is the one that is fully keeping trust around His Word.
- We have to come into God's way of doing things, for it is His design, purpose and plan and not man's.

Keeping faith

Revival is a theme as old as the Bible. It appears in different forms, different periods and different manifestations, but - revival is revival. There have been numerous examples in the Scriptures of men that have stood firm for revival. Here are only a few that are being mentioned:

- Men began to call on the Name of the Lord - revival of new beginnings.
- Joseph in Egypt - the known world came to Egypt for corn - the revival of sustenance.
- Moses and the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt - the revival of rescue.
- Nehemiah - returning to Jerusalem and building the walls - revival of restoration.
- Jesus had a revival to the poor, which has touched the whole world at various times and in various places - the revival of salvation and rebirth.
- The apostle Peter had a revival among the Jews - Holy Spirit revival of Messianic revelation and Jewish rebirth.
- The apostle Paul had a revival among the Gentiles - Holy Spirit revival of the Saviour and Gentile rebirth.
- Phillip had a revival to the Samaritans - Holy Spirit revival the prophet of deliverance and Samaritan rebirth.

There are many, many more. It is important to realise that God was always the one bringing the revival, but He always used someone He had specially chosen, together with other faithful people, adding others as it pleased Him.

Keeping the faith - endurance is the keeping factor

Matthew 24:13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

Now the revival theme, in the Lord that is being spoken of here, comes directly from the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, through the Holy Spirit. This is not man's revival theme but God's. God can do whatever He pleases, through whoever He will, wherever His Spirit is and in whatever church.

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5. A church with a name? A people within His name? Acts 2:47

These are two concepts that are different from each other. A church group with a name is not the same as a people within His name but can be the same if both ideas are properly understood. The idea that a group of believing people are a church is Scripturally correct. The New Testament speaks of this type of basis for believing. However, the Scripture also talks about people within His name. What does this mean?

The name of the church does not represent all the people

A group of believing people called by a particular name does not necessarily mean that they all believe the same things. Many church groups have people who believe the main themes, which all consider being important. There may be, however, many in the group who have divergent ideas and personal beliefs about other things. The name of a church, therefore, does not represent what all the people believe, individually, but rather what the church group, under that name, considers the right belief.

All the people are to represent the Name - His name

The Scripture exhorts us all, as believers, to represent the name of Jesus. We are to stand up for Jesus. We are to believe in Jesus. We are to uphold His name. We are to believe with one mind and one heart in Jesus.

The church without a name is nameless

On the other hand, a group of people without a name are nameless people and are usually identified by various informal titles, such as believers, invisible believers, promise keepers, etc. This is understandable as mankind, in general, like to give names to everything.

The church with a name is an identifiable people

The reason for giving a church a name is simply to identify a group of people as belonging to that group and not some other group. They usually register their group as a legal entity to make use of the rights that the laws of the land grant to such believing groups. The most common practice seems to be to register if the country of their registration has tolerance and helping policy towards their church group. Where persecution is rife it is a different matter. In such a case, believers remain incognito to prevent endangering the group or believers of the group. In either case, an official/unofficial name or no name policy will be adopted to suit the circumstances. This does not cancel out the church from being a church or a group from being a group.

The church without Christ is a Christless people

Whether a church has a registered name or not, whether officially recognised or not, the people without Christ in the heart of the believers is a Christless church. After all, the founder of Christianity is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. It is unthinkable to leave the Founder outside of His Church.

The only hope out of the dilemma is to believe and obey

We can call ourselves by any name, belong to any group, believe what we all believe, but without true obedience and allegiance to the One who is the Founder of the group, Jesus, we will not be part of Him.

A believing group can have a:

- Christ-centred structure

The believers, being the church, are to be taught that the group itself is a Christ-centred structure. This means that Christ is manifesting Himself in the middle of the group and that the group is structured around the Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of the Father.

- **Structured Christ centre**

The believers, being the church, are to be encouraged to attend the group's teaching and training centre for the necessary teaching and training presenting the Lord Jesus as the glory of the Father.

- **Christ-structured centre**

The believers, being the church, are to become aware that the Lord Jesus has ordained teaching, encouragement and training to allow Him to become the centre of the church structuring programmes for the believers.

The message - lost people are without Christ and maybe saved now

The lost do not believe in Jesus. The saved believers do.

Scriptures declare that those who are perishing are forever lost and need to be forever saved. The saving of the lost is one of the primary concerns of the believers, as stated by Jesus and the apostle Paul.

Opening up His truth to your group

Each believer should be taught the truths concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. The group as a whole should be taught the same thing otherwise a schism can come into the body causing a pulling apart into two groups or factions. The truth of the group should be the truth of all, even though there may be dissenters in the minority.

Opening up your group to His truth

Each new group that is being formed has the potential to become a church group, no matter how small the beginning and no matter what form the beginning group takes, whether home cell, church cell, home family group, etc. Each group should be taught the truth of the Scriptures because numerous believers do not know the Scriptures and what they teach. Each new group has to be sure that the truth that is taught is central to the theme of Jesus. Each group must be taught how to care for each other, the group and the main church group.

The working of His miracles in deliverance

There are wonderful manifestations that take place in some meetings and others hardly any at all. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself through the believers as a group, or a body, provided they are being taught about the Holy Spirit and His work on earth. Jesus can and still does perform miracles today, through the Holy Spirit in His believing body or believing group of believers. The criterion is to believe that these things are still possible and to encourage all to expect signs, wonders and miracles.

The church group that believes should be encouraged to pray for these manifestations to take place within their group, proving to the world that Jesus Christ is still the same today, yesterday and forever.

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6. Humbled promotion or exalted defeat? Luke 18:11-14

God is sovereign, holding sway over the whole universe. He has absolute fiat over the earth and its people. Not everyone knows this and those who do, are in a wonderful position to approach God on His terms, seeking His mighty help. The world at large does not realise what great potential there is in knowing God personally. God is a Being who is wonderfully exalted and therefore expects humility from His creation. On the other hand, it usually works the other way around and there are those of mankind who expect God to do what they ask and when they ask it. If this does not happen, they become upset and refuse to go on with Him in any sort of intimate relationship. If we promote ourselves God will abase us and if we humble ourselves God will exalt us. The humble get promoted and the proud defeated. This is God's way.

Open defiance against God leads to exalted defeat

God has given commandments to mankind and expects them to be obeyed. Mankind often enough, reject those commandments that are given to help them in life. Rebellion and defiance bring men and women into exaltation against God and this proud exaltation will ultimately lead to defeat. By obeying the commandments, we endorse God's way and declare His ways to be right. Obedience, therefore, promotes stability of faith. Faith enlarges through obedience and diminishes through disobedience.

Open obedience towards God's will leads to humbled promotion

Sometimes people have two standards. In secret they show humility with God, but when with other people they show defiance. God wants us to be the same before Him, when we are alone or when we are with others. The way to do this is to repent and begin to obey His commandments.

The truth is for us - why let the truth be against us?

Obedience to God's commandments, which is the true way for us who know how to keep them, will open up a wonderful relationship that grows and grows. Truth should be on our side as our friend rather than to be against us as our enemy. When we obey, we promote the commandments and the truth of the truth, i.e., the truth of why we obey the commandments will open to us the heart of God. If we know the truth of these things, but do not do them, then the truth of these things will be against us and not for us. Truth has a way of exposing the lie and the lie that is exposed is on the way to becoming truth. Remove the lie and the truth will be working for us.

The way back to truth is the defeat of the lie - take it

Every time we decide to follow a lie, whether it is small or big, we have to defend ourselves against the truth. The truth exposes the lie and the lie that is exposed becomes the release of the truth. If we keep the lie the truth is bound by us, but if we release the lie and hold fast to the truth, the truth will be our friend and not our enemy. Take the way of truth and decide to let go of the lie.

Open up the back door to God

We often face some particular situation where the correct outcome depends on the difference between the truth being told and the lie is believed. Every lie brings other lies to protect the first lie and every truth brings other truth to protect the first truth. It sounds a simple principle and it is, but when people are faced daily with telling the truth often a lie is chosen as an easy way out. This is like taking a back door. The front door is closed and we escape through the back door. Unfortunately for us God, who sees all things, knows the back

door. We cannot escape the lie, simply because God is watching. It is not easy to take the front door when confronted with a situation, the front door of being truthful, but in the long run, it is the only way to go.

Let the front door be opened as well

What we need to do is to open to God the backdoor of the lie, so to speak, and keep the front door of truth open to those we meet every day. The lie, usually known and done in secret, carries with it an awful punishment once found out. The reason for the lie is that we have not done the right thing in the first place and need to cover up that indiscretion. The devil chose this way long ago and we will attract him when we take this way as well. He hates the truth and that is also why he will never be able to repent. His lie is fixed in himself forever, and he will always tempt people to follow his way of the lie until God decides to remove him in the lake of fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. The devil always whispers that you can escape through the back door of the lie. God always whispers that you can escape through the front door of the truth. Who are you listening to?

Working with the truth to defeat the enemy's lies

The truth is always opposed to the enemy's lie. There is nothing in common between truth and lies. They are at opposite ends, opposing each other. What do God and the devil have in common? What has light in common with darkness? There is a saying in English, 'tell the truth and shame the devil.'

Let the past be true by truing the past

We make mistakes, we choose the pathway of self and we prefer to go the wrong way for it is much easier than the right way. It takes some special type of person to always go the right way. Now, what do we do with our past mistakes, once we come to know the truth of being true and telling the truth? Well, we simply fix it up. Can the thief carry on keeping the stolen goods? Will he not be accused of being a thief? However, as soon as he takes them back or makes restitution, although he may be known as a thief, he knows that he is no longer a thief. A young man stole from his boss even though his boss trusted him. One day he came to repentance and brought all the articles back that he had stolen. The boss was shocked. His other employees told the boss to get rid of the thief. The boss, however, decided to keep the converted thief and find out who else was stealing. Quite a few were later dismissed and the repentant thief continued to work for that firm for many years. The past becomes true as you let God true the past for you.

The way of confession opens up the victory of exaltation

The difference between the lie and the truth is exposed. Exposure is not an easy way, but it is the way that removes the guilty conscience. The early believers had power because they chose the way of exposure. *Acts 19:18-20*. That is the way to have power with God. Many took this way, but unfortunately not all. Nevertheless, those that did it, helped the word of the Lord to prevail mightily. Confession is the way of being cleansed from the wrong. Confession is one way of being purified. This is the truth.

The other is to keep quiet about your wrongdoing and let the lie simmer in your heart for years. This is a half-truth.

There is of course a third way and that is to walk away as if nothing has ever happened. This in itself is a lie. Truthful people will always be free people. No bondage will be able to bind them for their conscience is truly free.

Let the victory be yours now

Some people are keen to take the right way until they learn that they have to expose the crookedness of their dealings with others. The lie becomes a hindrance to the truth. It should be the other way around; the truth should be a hindrance to the lie. Those who have asked God to help them take the way of truth, are indeed free. This victory can be yours by repenting and giving your whole life over to Jesus who will lead you out of the darkness of the lie into the light of the truth.

Give it all to God in His appointed way

Forgiveness is one of the great teachings of the Scriptures. Everyone will readily be truthful to God, but not everyone agrees to be truthful to his fellow man. The thin line between the whole truth and part lie is very hard to discern, but with the help of God, we can do it. God loves truth because He is truth. He hates the deceit that mankind has towards one another. He loves those who speak the truth. We are exhorted to 'let every man speak truth to his neighbour.'

Your relief will be greater than you can imagine

Once you have decided to stand on the side of truth, the God of all truth will stand at your side. Speaking the truth to relieve a guilty conscience has an inherent therapy with it. It needs forgiveness from God first of all, which already is a magnificent relief.

The second part of sorting out the mess brought about by the lying mouth, with the mouth of truth, has its own set of problems, but God is there to help you through it all, provided you have chosen to repent and make good as far as it is possible within your power. Only those who have chosen this way will know the full and blessed relief of doing it. It is more than you can imagine.

There is a right time for the truth to be told

It is so easy to miss the right time for being truthful because the devil is there to keep you silent about any wrong that you may have done. He will never encourage you to tell the truth, but rather will endorse hiding behind the lie. The punishment that often goes with the misdeed is one of the reasons that the devil has such power over the one who hides behind the lie. God is hidden by the non-exposure of the lie and the devil is seen by the exposure of truth. Choose God first, then choose truth and God will be there to assist you, even though the man may despise you. God says, if we do not forgive others of their trespasses then neither will He forgive us of our trespasses. This is a valid truth and works its weight of righteousness as nothing else on earth can. You can prove it for yourself, but remember, it takes a man/woman to do what he/she has to do. If we were able to do it without God, we can now undo it with God. True repentance and the willingness to restore, no matter what the cost, are the vital key and the grace and favour of God will carry you over triumphantly.

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7. Using honourable men and women in prospering God's work Colossians 1:10

Men and woman all over the world are being called in the true service of God, instead of merely following leaders who are religious for what they can get out of it, either fame, fortune or after-life memorials.

I cannot be used if I do not want to and willingness is the price of my obedience. *You are only willing if you obey.*

The only way God can use us is to first of all change us completely. *Are you changed to work for God?*

Three things make us children of God. *You - love - Jesus.*

If we have been changed how can we become unchanged? *You ask, "Please, change me, Lord". Jesus asks, "Please, is it forever?"*

There are four principles to follow in serving Jesus. *Take Jesus - follow love - serve others - be yourself.*

The work of the Lord always takes us forward to becoming a better person. *If you are labouring for Jesus - Jesus knows you, and if Jesus knows you - He is labouring for you.*

There are two ways as you go forward. *Your choice for Him decides your blessings, but His choices for you decide your eternity.*

Turning back makes us dishonourable. *Your start with Jesus establishes your end with Jesus, i.e., if you do not start with Jesus, you will never be able to end your journey with Jesus, which is heaven.*

No one is good until Jesus has worked inside you and with you. *Are you a good tree that bears good fruit? Or are you a bad tree that bears bad fruit?*

If you constantly lie you are a cheat and if you cheat you are a constant liar.

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8. God says, 'Occupy' Luke 19:13

You cannot fully occupy a position if you have not conquered his position, as the enemy, first.

Occupying or forsaking? *You cannot conquer and keep a position if you are not prepared to occupy it continually.*

Working or helping? *You cannot hold a position if you have not first taken it away from the enemy.*

Labouring or sleeping? *You cannot sleep all the time. So, you need to wake up and labour.*

Are you defeated by satan or rescued by Jesus? *Your answer to this question is important to God because it is the only way for you to be rescued and saved by Jesus. Ignoring an answer puts you nowhere else but in the hands of satan.*

Answer well.

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9. God is your justifier Romans 5:18

God was offended from the beginning in the Garden of Eden by His creations; satan who took on the form of a serpent, Eve and Adam.

None of the other created animals could talk and so satan spoke to Eve, deceiving her to eat the forbidden fruit. So, God had no option but to punish all three of them. Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden but satan was left behind to stay to enjoy the abandoned garden for himself. This garden disappeared off the face of the earth, buried under generations of rubble. Satan was then destined to eat the dust of the earth. Snakes of our day eat dust as they consume the food that they have killed. God transferred paradise into heaven, where the idea of its creation was originated.

Now we became unjustified through our Edenic parents and God had to justify us Himself, otherwise, we could never find our way back to God. Even in Eden, God killed animals to make clothes of skin for them to hide their nakedness. This signified that the shedding of blood was the only thing that would appease God. It was a replacement, representing the shedding of their blood. Death was the way for forgiveness to be obtained. This whole matter foreshadowed the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, to save mankind from being alienated from God forever. The shedding of the blood of Jesus opened a new and living way for all of mankind, for those who want to be saved from death and sinfulness.

Matthew 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

This is why the Bible declares:

Galatians 3:8-9 "... God would justify the Gentiles ..."

The only way for anyone to be justified by God is for God to see His justice, through fairness dealings by that person. The word just means that we are not crooked in any way but that our dealings are just.

By contrasting just with unjust or injustice we derive the meaning. These are opposite poles and they cannot contain both truths at the same time, since truth is not a half-lie but the full truth. Justice implies what is right, true and fair.

Most people have the wrong idea of what God requires from us. They say God wants them to live by faith only. This is the truth but only half the truth. What they are saying is that, even if we are wrong, we can please God by having faith.

Scripture declares that "the just shall live by faith." It does not say, "the faith shall live by being just." Notice that just is mentioned before faith.

What does this mean? Well, we are justified by faith and not by works but rather by being justified by God, through faith.

In simple language, the whole world has the faith of some sort of kind. They have beliefs in which they can place their trust. This action of believing is the ground of our faith and as we add trust, we are in the wonderful position of having faith with God and faith in God. Faithful means to be full of faith.

Now justification by faith is one of the most important doctrines of the New Testament. The apostle James explains simply what faith is all about. He shows that faith is different from works and that faith can be proved by our works. We work first to show our faith, or we believe first to show our works. Once we understand this, we will realise that belief precedes works and not the other way around.

The important thing is that God justifies us and then being justified by God we live a life of faith that brings forth our good works with which God is well pleased. In other words, we bear fruit through our faith, for, we are trees of righteousness, bearing the fruit of faith, just as normal fruit trees also do.

The whole of heathendom needs to become justified through God's methods of justifying them in Christ Jesus. He is then our righteousness, for our righteousness does not satisfy God at all being contaminated with sin.

Come and let God justify you to believe in Jesus Christ for the redemption and saving of your soul.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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10.Go for it - it is precious Mark 16:5

The slacker will never get anything from God, for God wants us to labour while we can. If you have work, your boss will not be satisfied if you are a slacker. He will surely fire you. The same applies to you in the spiritual realm. Paul tells us that if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

Who do we belong to?

Everyone has an option to choose between options when they are presented. This choice makes us all independent and opens up the way for our individuality. When we surrender this option of making our own choice to someone else, we can lose our identity and our individuality. When a marriage comes along and we have to submit our wishes to another to make a success of the marriage, we in some way lose our individuality and join with the partner to obtain a corporate identity. This means that we no longer think as two people but join together to think as one, sharing our identities to form what can be called a marriage identity.

In the matter of God and myself, this is just as important to understand as in the marriage relationship. God desires me to be His and I desire myself to be his. When we get married, we bring the third person into this arrangement and try to prevent jealousy from forming in the other partner. This is what this is all about. How to let God be your portion and if you are married, how to let God also be the portion of your partner as well. Go for this for it is precious. If you are still single, then as you foster this type of relationship with God, you will yet be able to get married and continue with the preciousness of having a relationship with God.

God is your truth

The most important aspect of this matter of choice is to realise that God is your truth. No devil, human being, no, not even yourself, should come between your choice of having or not having God as your truth. By reading the Scriptures you will have truly opened up to yourself. The more you read, praying for guidance, the more the Scriptures will be opened up to you. Practice daily whatever is shown to you and you will progress beyond your wildest dreams.

God is your Protector

The truth of this statement is profound. We all are inclined to believe rather that God is our destroyer. This is due to our sinfulness. As soon as we begin to get rid of our sinfulness in the way that God is opening it up to us, we find that He helps us and protects us towards being righteous. Our guilt feelings are removed as we start to obey God, for our conscience goes into a state of rest through our obedience. As soon as we leave off following God, our conscience becomes alive with conviction and we start to feel guilty again. This is an amazing keeper and is to be treasured. If we lose this ability to discern between right and wrong, anything goes. Sin does not seem like sin anymore and righteousness does not seem like righteousness. This state is what we call being deceived. Keep conscience and God will bless you with a peace that passes understanding.

The whole world has lost its way for the good people are being killed by evil people, with satan egging them on.

The world needs protection from the enemies of our souls who want to place us with the devil in hell. They think that they are doing God a favour, especially the religionists, by destroying those who truly believe. The evil people are in power the world over.

Do you want to have what the world offers you or do you want that which God is offering us through His Son Jesus, employing his grace offered to the world for being saved from death the grave and hell?

Well, you can go for it is precious.

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11. Giving your testimony Psalm 119:88

Your testimony is your testimony, but it speaks of the invisible help given visibly, through miraculous intervention at a time when it is most necessary, with no other seemingly alternate solution possible. This encourages others to listen and grasp the truth of the impossibility of knowing how the solution will come about, except in the instance of something being revealed beforehand, either through a vision, dream, revelation or prophecy.

This makes a person's testimony valuable to others.

How must I tell it?

- It is heavenly news - tell it with inspiring joy.
- It is a heavenly blessing - tell it with anointed truth.
- It is heavenly insight - tell it with interpretational wisdom.
- It is a heavenly touch - tell it with revealing love.

The Lord Jesus Christ's testimony

Jesus was a wonderful believer who always trusted in God His Father. He says this of Himself. He encourages us to realise that:

- A believer's testimony reveals God as the One who answers prayer.
- A believer's testimony presents Jesus Christ as the Mediator who takes it directly to the Father.
- A believer's testimony highlights the active and present help of the Holy Spirit, who is always with us, to bring about the impossible.

Testimony tells what has now become yours

- You have heard about it from another source and have found that it works for you too.
- You have experienced it for yourself and want to tell others about it so that they can use it for themselves in their circumstances, or even to pray and believe in someone else's circumstances.
- It reveals God's miraculous care over you or another and glorifies God; proves the results of faith and reveals the methods/means/miracles that God has chosen to help you.

Each testimony has its motivation and merit

- Why tell it at all? Motivate listening and interest.
- What can the telling of it do for another? What benefit can I receive from listening?
- Why is it so wonderful to you? How has it benefitted you?
- What makes your experience worthwhile as opposed to mine? Sometimes we also have to listen to their testimony in return. This is mutually helpful in building up faith again.

Give your experience and not your assumption

- If testimony is true in my life, I can explain how it can also happen to you.
- We all have our assumptions and testimonies help to change our assumptions into a basis for belief towards a new reality.
- We all have our own experiences, but because I have been through this particular experience myself, I am thereby most qualified to speak of it.
- Mutual comfort is given and received when we testify of the manifold love of God towards us, identifying myself and, perhaps even the other person, as someone that is just as needy as anyone else.

When to tell your testimony to others

- When either God or Jesus is prompting you through the Holy Spirit to tell it.
- When the opportunity arises.
- When someone is willing to listen to it (or in some instances when the person has been put into such a position by God to listen to God).
- When you have to need to encourage someone else with it.

Important points needed to make each testimony pertinent and relevant to others

- Telling what God did for you.
- Telling what happened to you.
- Opening up the way for you to invite others to believe similarly for them.
- A testimony is a story and everyone loves to listen to short stories, but it should only contain truthful facts/happenings and be pointedly used to be effective.
- Telling how impossible your circumstances were before God stepped in.
- Miracles do happen today still and you present your testimony as proof that this is so.
- Telling the result and how it has blessed you.
- Your miracle is possible by believing for yourself as I did.
- Have I enough faith to pray for you also? Yes, I will stand with you in believing prayer.

No true testimony is lost

- God holds an account with us.
- Our testimony helps us to personally overcome.
- Our witness joins to God's witness and establishes agreement in the heavens.
- Our testimony is God's witness to others.
- Jokes are often told and passed on to many others, even so, can a testimony that is truly marvellous be passed on to others. Always keep it short and effective.
- God's witness joins our witness and establishes agreement on the earth.
- Our testimony is the witness of Jesus through the Holy Spirit to those who need it most and it will therefore not return to God void of its fruitfulness.

Glorify God through your testimony

- God will receive glory for bringing to pass miracles thought impossible.
- God is responsible for the results of your testimony that will come about after you have given your testimony to another.
- With God all things are possible and your testimony proves it.
- God will speak to each person who may hear the testimony differently, but He will nevertheless speak in His way and time.
- You can pray for it to enter in to accomplish what God intends to accomplish through it and you can pray for each person who has heard it.

The working value of faith is revealed

- Our faith brings us into a God experience.
- Faith pleases God and our testimony manifests and reaffirms our faith.
- Hope's expectation has turned into a joyous experience for us through our faith. Who can deny that? Even if it is denied it remains our possession.
- Those who hear have a responsibility to either believe it or doubt it, but, whichever course is taken; it nevertheless establishes our testimony as true to ourselves before God.

- No man or woman can deny our testimony without rejecting the display of our faith, and thereby, if rejecting, highlights their doubt or, if accepting, strengthens their faith.

Use your testimony as to the sword of the Spirit

- It is an instrument used for self-protection - your testimony can protect you from the unbelief of others, presenting faith in Jesus Christ as Lord as King of His Heavenly Kingdom.
- It is in a scabbard most of the time, but is only used when necessary - a testimony that is brought forth at the right time draws attention and focus to your willingness to use it for what it is intended, advancing the cause of God's Kingdom.
- A sword can be used for practising the skills that are necessary for sword fighting - use your testimony to parry with the opposition, engaging the enemies' sword of unbelieving/doubting attack.
- It is always carried by the person in case it is needed - have your testimony with you always ready for use when needed by the Holy Spirit to help souls.
- It must always be sharp and effective - sharpen your testimony and keep it always sharp for instant use for the advance of the Gospel.
- It must be used when necessary - lost opportunities never come back again and can mean the difference between success and failure in the battle of winning souls for Jesus.
- It should be kept sharp and shiny - look after your testimony as it is how we overcome the enemies' attacks.

The most wonderful things that God has given you is what you can give out to the world. Because you have been saved by the testimony of others, it is now your turn to save others by giving your testimony to as many as you can.

Jesus said:

Matthew 10:33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

Keep silent about Jesus and you will lose your blessing from God.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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12.His salvation 1 Thessalonians 5:9

To be saved, according to the New Testament, as preached and spoken of by Jesus and His Apostles, is to be rescued from the results of our sin, sinfulness and the sway of sin, as well being rescued from the power of sin's dire consequences.

The plan of Jesus comes with His gift package

1 Timothy 2:2-6, "... lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, ..."

Jesus asks us to come to Him for salvation. He desires to save every person. He came to do this for the whole of mankind. Mankind, however, needs to know about this wonderful work through the extension of the Gospel.

We need to be saved from satan

Satan is the archfiend of mankind. He was also the reason for the fall of Eve, and through Eve, the fall of Adam, in the Garden of Eden. Throughout the years since then, Satan has been tempting people to sin and letting go of God's work in their lives. Even to those who do not know God, satan is busy with his tricks, getting people to hate each other instead of loving one another. The very first part of salvation is to be saved from the clutches of satan.

We need to be saved from sin

We also need to be saved from sin. Sin is a universal malady, which affects everyone. It is impossible to stop sinning from day to day as well as during the whole period of a lifetime without supernatural help from God. Sin is such an integral part of the human lot, affecting all people, that apart from the work of God, sin will always abound.

We need to be saved from death

We need to be saved from death, which is the consequence of our sin. Even if we are good people, who try not to sin, we still all have to die sometime. Sin is universal and so is death. This is how God has declared it to be. We dare not say that we are not sinners, or that we never sin, or even that we have not sinned. The Scriptures declare this to be a real fact of life for everyone. The Scriptures declare this as a fact. Without the Scriptures to tell us what the definition of sin is, we will not know what it is. Sin is the disobedience of God's commandments.

We need to be saved from hell

We also need to be saved from hell. Death is the cessation of life, but hell is the cessation of our liberty after death. Hell is not reserved for all people but is the place reserved for Satan and all those who follow him. The angels that fell are reserved in everlasting chains of darkness and these will be judged with the rest of mankind who wander after satan and do not seek to follow the living God and His son, Jesus Christ. The salvation of Jesus saves us from spiritual death in this life by granting to us eternal life now, and rescue from the grave when the resurrection takes place at the return of Jesus who is to judge the world. After the 1000-year reign of Jesus upon the earth, there will be a final bodily resurrection for those who were not raised bodily in the first resurrection and these will be finally judged and rewarded according to their deeds.

We need to be saved from corruption

Corruption is manifested in two main forms. We can become corrupted in our inward heart and outward way and our bodies can become corrupted in the grave. The first type of corruption is experienced inwardly, which affects the spirit, soul and body. The other type is that which comes about when we die and our bodies are returned to the earth for burial to become corrupted and decayed. Salvation saves us from internal corruption first of all and then at the resurrection from bodily corruption.

We need to be saved from demons

We need to be saved from the working of demons and evil spirit powers, which all belong to the domain of satan. Demonic powers and evil spiritual forces plot to overthrow everything good concerning God. If they can bring about corruption in everything, they are very happy. Salvation from demons is one of the works that Jesus came to accomplish when He came to earth approximately two thousand years ago.

We need to be saved from lies

We need to be saved from lies. Satan, who is the devil, is a liar from the beginning and therefore the father of all lies. If we continue in lies, we are using part of satan's strategy that he has used to conquer the world and its inhabitants. Only the truth and its continual manifestation through the saving work and grace of God can save us. God, therefore, directs His truth towards those who believe to bring this to pass.

We need to be saved from the self

We need to be saved from the self; that inner part of men and women that is selfish, self-centred and self-motivated. This is a terrible burden to anyone who has tried to be free of this type of inner working. Try as we may, we will always somehow be ego-centred. The work of satan in this area has no bounds. If he cannot get us to be self-centred, he will most certainly try to have us to be selfish or self-motivated.

We need to be saved from God separation

The division brought about in the Garden of Eden, when Satan tempted Eve to sin, has dire consequences for us all. We inherit their separation from God, simply because we are all part of the fallen race of mankind. No nation is free from this consequence of sin, separation and self-will. God has to become, once again, revealed to us, becoming real to us in our innermost being.

We need to be saved from delusions

We need to be saved from delusions. These are ideas, complexes and confusions that we have about us, God and the evil forces of satan round about us. The real delusion that we all seem to have is that God has made us, if we do believe in a God at all, to live our own lives, doing everything we would like to do, even if we may hurt others in doing so. We all seem to think this way and soon find out that what we do to others may indeed come back to us in an even stronger measure.

We need to be saved from earth's bondages

Philippians 2:12-13 "... work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

We need to be saved from the bondages that somehow plague the earth. These are wars, insurrections, seditions, sicknesses, earthquakes, storms, plagues, and hurricanes, etc., which are all part of our common lot whilst here on earth. Disaster can strike at any time and often does so without warning. Planes crash out of the sky, ships sink, and vehicles collide,

sometimes with such devastating power that numerous lives are lost.

We need to be saved from evil people

We have all had something stolen from us at some time or another. There are muggings, murders and violent crimes of all sorts that men and women, even children, bring upon each other. The daily newspapers contain a fair list of these things, not only here, but also throughout the world. Prostitution, drugs, alcohol abuse, is on the streets, leaving behind in its wake devastation and destruction in young people and old people's lives.

No wonder we need a Saviour

Jesus has never promised us immunity from the ills that beset mankind, but He has given other valuable promises to us. These promises help us in times of deep trouble as well as in good times. There are promises for all sorts of eventualities and these bring us a great deal of relief once we place our deep abiding trust in them. They are not idle promises but are linked to God, who can do impossible things. The salvation Jesus has promised to all is part of the parcel of promised divine help and protection. He also gives us special comfort and relief from the distresses of sin and its dire consequences. We must not think that we can go on sinning and then use God's promises to remedy our sins. The promises are there for those who need them, should they find themselves facing a particular situation that seems to be threatening and looming, or to help us if sin either finds them facing a particular situation or to help us if sin should overtake us at any other time.

The claims of Jesus

He gave us many promises and assurances, even though He said He would go away and we cannot see Him personally now. He says that He will never leave us or forsake us. He is interceding for us while He sits next to His Father in Heaven. His help is all-embracing and all-powerful. He will even send angels to help us if need be. All He asks of us is to come to Him and trust Him fully. He asks us to pray to Him daily. He will come to our rescue when we are in real trouble. He will lead us and guide us continually. He has given His Spirit to be with us forever. He will speak to us and tell us what He requires from us, even if it is through His Word, for He is personally involved in opening up the Scriptures for us so that we can believe in Him more fully every day that we come to Him for help.

Is this type of salvation for all?

Anyone, anywhere, at any time, may approach Jesus through prayer to ask for His help and intervention. He will hear us and respond in His way as we find ourselves in trouble that assails us. This does not mean to say that we should continue in sin, for He is only too willing to help us get out of sin, take us out and put us into the way of the true believer who does not habitually practise sin.

Ask Him to save you

The greatest single fact that has been recorded in the New Testament is that Jesus cares about us. Everywhere He went He healed the sick and cast out demons. He, at times, raised people from the dead. He taught and preached to the people and they responded to His message from God by repenting and following Him. The great sinner's prayer will bring Jesus into your heart, life and circumstances. Only believe this as you pray it aloud for your salvation. He will grant it to you and His blessings will continually accompany that salvation.

Acts 4:12 "... for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

God rescued Jesus from the grip and power of Satan, even raising Jesus from the dead

after he had been crucified and his body entombed in a cave.

The good news is that Jesus is alive and in heaven seated at the right hand of God the Father, ever interceding for us, until the time of His judgment of the whole world before God in Armageddon and at the return of Jerusalem finally to the Jews, with the immortalised saints attending.

Isaiah 45:22 “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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13. “I am your peace” Isaiah 26:3

The world is looking for peace and cannot find it. There is so much against having peace that troubles the whole world, robbing us of our peace each day.

The powers that be, are trying to solve problems in their own countries, but this is very elusive. So how could they try to solve the peace of the whole world?

Homes, families and work situations are robbing us all of peace. Marriages are trying to find the peace of their children. The world is in such turmoil that it is only the grace of God that keeps us sane.

The children of the schools and their teachers are also looking for a formula that will keep the children from fighting with each other.

Politicians have been promising us peace for many years but the gangsters do not want peace at all.

The animals want peace in the woods, valleys and plains, but the progress of mankind into their habitat is causing havoc worldwide.

Rivers and seas and their pollutions are a headache and oil spills and slicks that happen in shipping accidents, or while drilling for oil.

The atomic warheads abound with bigger and greater destroying methods that threaten world peace. War supplies and sophisticated armaments abound, threatening nation rising against nation.

Now Jesus spoke of wars, rumours of wars, earthquakes, famine and pestilence and His words are being proven to be as true now as then.

The Jewish and Arab nations, especially the Muslims, are trying not only to maintain peace but are trying to eliminate the friction between their religion and places of worship, especially in Jerusalem, with flare-ups every so often.

In every area of the world, there are riots, insurrections and demonstrations, with angry outbursts of setting fire to vehicles and premises. The police have their hands full, while the criminals use to their advantage, these things that are happening.

The power of the drug lords and narcotic kings are destroying many young lives all over the world. Alcoholics and drug users are increasing despite the efforts of police to control its spreading.

Marriage takes place with divorces following hard on its heels. Same-sex marriages are increasing, and children are being born without fathers, who have gone off with other women, abandoning mothers and babies.

Troubles in nature, with storms, flooding and tsunamis are current weather phenomena.

Aeroplane and train disasters happen from time to time.

Mine accidents and mudslides or cave-ins occur in many countries. Fracking is causing the earth to split in various places. The tide patterns are changing and the seas are closing in on land areas with island disappearing overnight.

Drought and food shortages, with thousands upon thousands starving, are taking place in some parts of the world in strife-torn nations.

Disease or cancer and other wasting illnesses abound, even in young children.

Child prostitution, abortions and sex slavery are on the increase, with rapes of both men

and women taking place all over the world.

Need more be said?

We ask, where is the peace that we expect, disappeared to? No one can say what and where and how, except that it is many times due to the faults and failings of mankind.

In all this chaos Jesus made a wonderful statement, “In Me, you will find peace and rest for your soul.”

How is this accomplished? Well, He has promised to be with us to the end of the world. He has overcome the world and has all power given to Him in heaven and earth.

What more can we ask or expect than for Him to save our souls? Ask Him to become your peace in a disastrous, unstable and dangerous world.

If not before, come now. He will be true to His promise and you will find it so.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

4 December 1999

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Stage 9 - Making disciples for the Lord's the 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 lives.

Revival trained campaigning group

Stage 9 - Making disciples for the Lord's the Heavenly Kingdom

1. Everything works together for good Romans 8:28

Chosen people

Special people have in the past been chosen as instruments to write down what they had received from God using inspiration, who, in turn, have recorded that which they have heard, and which God uses, again, to extend an invitation to any who will receive it. This invitation is a clear call to repent.

Revelation 3:19-22 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. 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. To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Preaching the good news

Jesus gave a mission to His apostles and their successors:

Mark 16:15 "... Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

By understanding what this gospel is that has to be preached everywhere, we can also understand what the work of preaching is capable of doing.

The good news message is variously known as the:

- The Gospel (see the above Scripture)
- The Kingdom

Acts 1:6 "... Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

- The Kingdom of God,

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

- The Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 3:2 "... Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"

By preaching the kingdom message, which is its good news, the Gospel is taken out to anyone who wishes to hear it, accept it and by obedience to the spirit of its outreach message,

decides to do it.

The mission

The instruction was given to his close immediate followers to go out to the nations:

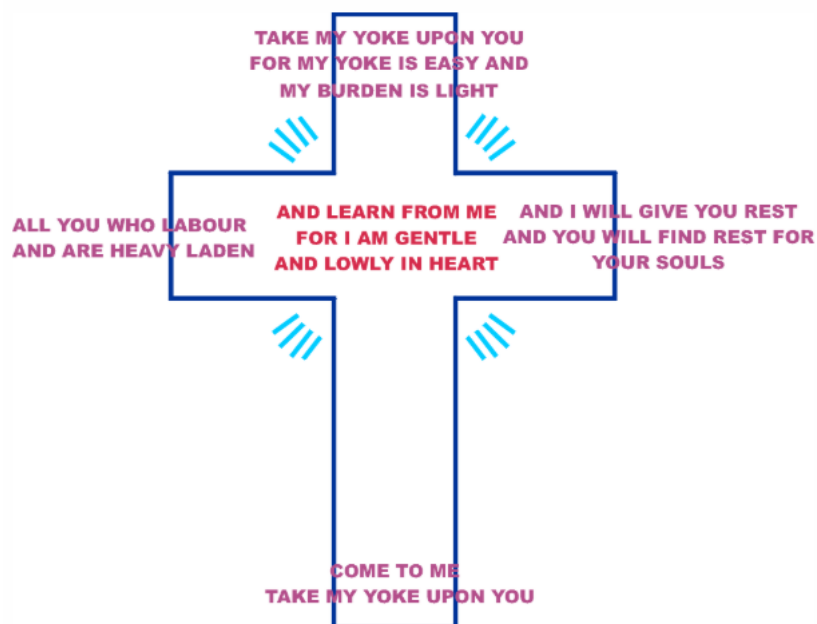
Matthew 28:18-19 “And then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.’”

The invitation

It was Jesus who gave the invitation:

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Once this rest has been received that only Jesus can give you, it becomes important that you join with those people who can assist you to keep this rest. Being like-minded they are especially able to help one another in this regard.



Observance

This is brought about by the teachers, who themselves fulfil the command of the Lord and are thereby qualified to help those who are converted to both learn, obey and receive God's blessings.

Matthew 28:20 “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen”

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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2. His forgiveness Ephesians 1:7

Obtaining God's forgiveness

The Lord wants to consolidate all the truth that is now necessary which He has been showing to you all along in so many-faceted details and strange working to bring about revival. The strange mixture of truth and error has to be sorted out in your heart and this is how God does it for you. Jesus is interested in your theories and has taken note of them, but now it is time to get down to the serious matter of truth in the inward parts rather than your man-made theories of life and things in general. God will do it now for you if you will let Him.

Three areas need to be consolidated because these are the mainspring of one's existence. These are:

The working of His Spirit within your soul and your spirit that belongs to Him now.

- The working of truth about the present scheme of things in the natural.
- The goings-on to get there in time before our life's energy is depleted.
- The time allotted to each one to fulfil that much work and no more is wasted on everything else that is seemingly unnecessary and yet radically important to us.
- The working brings about what God requires for each of us personally. These seem such a mystery as we go forward each day.
- The Word of God covers the working in it all.
- The church of the truth (us in Christ) and the truth of the church (His teachings to us) - that is a mystery still to be revealed.
- The opening up of the prison to those that are bound and how it is to be done.
- The will, the work and the way, all combined to give the better results of God's Spirit at work.
- Understanding the mystery of the will to live in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Discovering how to die to the flesh and to live in the Spirit. Overcoming this contradiction.
- Going forward perfectly with confidence in that which you understand and that which is required of you without wasting time in recriminations, confusion and indecision.

The working of God's life through His Spirit within yourself. Consider the following:

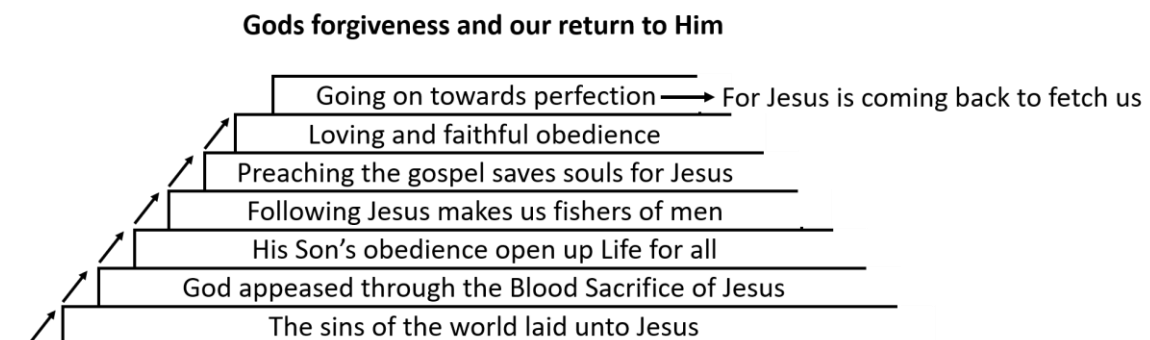
- The mystery of it in loving relationships where there is such confusion of faces, hearts and minds.
- The opening up of the prison for yourself first and then for others in love, faith, and hope.
- The working and the pain together give the gain, but the insane and the sorry bring lots of worries.
- The open confession of a closed life in Christ and yet an open life in the world's way brings frustration and anxious dread, pain and fear, sorrow and grief.
- The will to live and the ire to die at the same time yet in Christ and not in us.
- The hopelessness of hearing God when such confusion of wills abounds.
- The stubbornness of others and the wilfulness of ourselves bring division and discord.
- The will of each person and the way of God is contrary and do not agree, yet the will of the church and the way of man does agree - this is a pain for the one walking in the Spirit, endeavouring to perfect the fear of God in the love and life of Jesus.
- The willing and the obedient have to carry the unwilling and the disobedient.

- God's work and our will are contrary to God's will and His work when it is time for us to walk in agreement.

The working of God with your spouse, family and friends, should be touching the spiritual lives of many others with who we are in daily contact. Consider the following:

- The family follow a pattern of good works or an example of bad works.
- The open confession of Christ is the closed confession of sin's domain.
- Our example and the life we live make way for God to use His example, and His way, believing loving faith, to reach all and sundry around you.
- The willing will die for their faith, but the stubborn and fainthearted will live for their unbelief - this is contrary to the soul that is in bondage and wants to be free.
- Give it to Christ and Christ will give it back to you transformed into what He is wanting for yourself and others.
- Go for it blindly (that is not knowing what the future holds), but remove the blindfold of unbelief (that which we put on because we do not adhere to and follow obediently the commands of Christ). Go for it with open eyes, but first remove the blindfold of despairing doubt.
- The work of the Lord is not the Lord of the work and the way of the Lord is not the Lord of the way unless it is perfectly centred on Jesus, your loved ones and His people.
- Giving to others is returning to you and giving of yourself is returning to others - how can one expect to receive if we do not give?
- Open the way for loving and close the way for hate, close the way for dying and open up the way for living.
- Give to another and God will grant it back to you fourfold.

Receiving from God, from His brethren, from the sinners, you will benefit, but if you always take from others, God will take it back from you fourfold. In the measure that you give it will be given back to you in your bosoms, shaken together and running over.



The sinners are away from God – they need to turn back to Him

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Give love through forgiveness and blessings to:

- His brethren
- Sinners

Let curses and unforgiveness be upon those who preach a false Gospel

Those who do this receive the condemnation of God, for they are acting with the devil to hinder and destroy countless other souls.

Jude 1:4 “For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago marked out of this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Their condemnation is just. Jesus denounced the hypocrites and selfish leaders of the Jewish nation.

You?

Are you doing your pleasure or doing the will of God from the heart, for His pleasure?

Forgiveness

The world cannot do without forgiveness. We are all people that have different ideas, feelings, will, love, concepts, plans, longings, etc. No one is identical to another. We each need to express ourselves in our way, but this self-expression often hurts others. In turn, as others express themselves, we are also hurt. There is much trouble that comes unexpectedly upon us from some strange source and we find that we have become very troubled, hurt and confused. This stays there until we can work with it and forgive the person that has wronged us. Without forgiveness, there will always be grudge that we hold against someone. Forgiveness is the way that brings reconciliation. Forgiveness is cleaning the slate and allowing relationships to continue as before or even in a better manner than before, not holding the wrongs or the score of wrongs. Forgiveness is a gracious act that sets us free from the one who has wronged us. It is the only way of dealing with really lasting hurt. Forgiveness refuses to hold on to grudges but lets them freely go, without thoughts of revenge or repayment.

We need forgiveness from God

Likewise, we need forgiveness from God. We have wronged Him in so many ways and times without number. We have offended Him, sometimes all our lives. Without His forgiveness, we remain guilty and in our sin. Sin can never be wiped away by saying that it does not exist, it never happened or that I am not guilty. If we have stolen for instance, which is one type of sin, can we say we are not guilty of stealing? Does that which we have stolen belong to us or the other person? Only by admitting that we have stolen it and after taking it back can we say we are no longer guilty. Then we still need to be forgiven because the person we stole from can remember that theft unless they have forgiven me.

Forgiveness is only complete when the matter is not held in the heart anymore. We need to ask God for His forgiveness and to thank Him when He does it for us. Forgiveness will bring instant relief in the innermost part of our being. We will know that we are forgiven. Forgiving ourselves is also a very difficult matter sometimes. If we have done a foolish thing on the stock exchange and have lost all our money, we need to forgive ourselves and go on, otherwise, the feelings of guilt and inadequacy will continue with us all our days. Forgiveness takes away the guilty feelings and helps us to start afresh.

We need forgiveness from our fellows

If we have wronged someone and are aware of it, it will always come back to haunt us when we least expect it. Get rid of the guilt in the proper way, by asking forgiveness and then we are relieved of the guilt. The feelings of relief are worthwhile as soon as we have made a matter right. Sleepless nights result from unforgiveness and, conversely the sleep of an innocent person, who was guilty and has made it right, is sweet. Receive the forgiveness of those you have wronged and you will be surprised at how pleasant it is to be alive and free of guilt. We also need forgiveness to maintain our health.

We are forgiven our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ

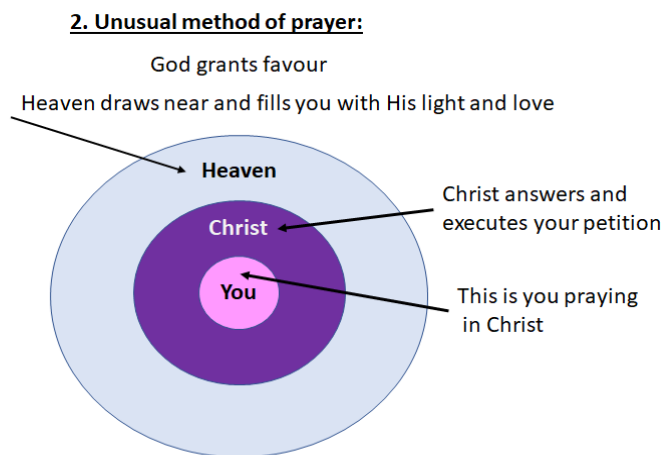
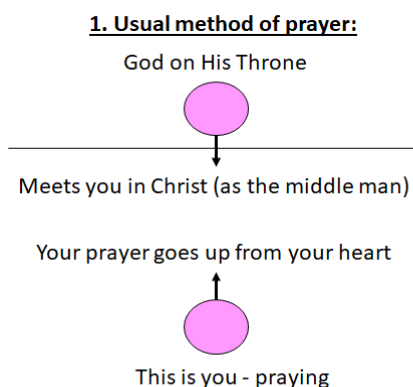
Jesus tells us that He can forgive sin. God tells us that He can forgive sin.

- The Holy Spirit can also forgive sin.
- We need forgiveness for our enemies.
- We need forgiveness for our brethren.
- We need forgiveness from our sins against others that are aware of our sin.
- We need forgiveness from those we have sinned against.
- We understand forgiveness as also forgetting the wrongs that are forgiven.
- We cannot forego forgiveness when asked to forgive.
- We get forgiveness from God as we forgive others.
- We need to forgive ourselves.
- We need to forgive from the heart seventy times seven.

Consolidation of His truth with ours through your prayer request

No consolidation can ever be done without the various forms of forgiveness being received from God and our fellowman. Forgiveness from God is only one-third of forgiveness. The second third of forgiveness is from those we have wronged and the last third is forgiving ourselves for doing the wrong in the first place.

Two methods of meeting God in prayer



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3. Giving God glory through His working Hebrews 13:12

There are twelve works that God sent Christ Jesus, His Son to accomplish. These works were and are being accomplished through Jesus. When talking about these works to others there are five different methods of presentation, preaching, teaching, exhortation, counselling and prophecy.

These methods are dealt with in this study. However, there seems to be some confusion about prophecy and its place in the whole working method of presenting the Gospel to others. To clarify this, the correct understanding concerning prophecy has to be presented first of all. Prophecy is part of the gifting that God gives to those who prophesy.

Prophecy

The whole Bible, both New and Old Testaments, have a revelational and prophetical character made up of books that contain, indeed are composed of, various forms of revelation and all Scripture has a revelational and prophetical character. We understand prophecy as being the words of God revealing the hidden future.

Many of the names given to people of the Bible are prophetical, pronouncing the progression of their future life, being a prophetic foretelling of what their lives would become, predicting details of what they would become or describe their future work. Two well-known usages are given here with examples. The whole of Scripture is full of other examples:

- Godly parents often named their children by names that expressed the hope, aspirations and longings of their own heart for their children – Benjamin, Jedidiah.
- God often declared the name of a person either before they were born or perhaps even at the time they come onto the scene of Scriptures. These are usually people that would greatly affect the lives of His children and their godly circumstances. Abram became Abraham. Cephas became Peter. Jesus and Cyrus were named before they were born.

Prophecy has a basis founded on an actual Godly happening to come

Myths, fictions, fancies and vain imaginings have nothing to do with the true gift of the prophetic utterance of a person who has been anointed by the Holy Spirit, or even upon whom the Spirit of God has settled, whether for a short time or permanently. The outward anointing of Samson is a very good example of the working of temporary power imparted through the anointing of the Spirit of God. Jesus, on the other hand, is the perfect example of one who received the outward anointing, without measure and permanently. Jesus told His disciples that they could receive the inward anointing, where rivers of living waters will flow out from deep within them and through them. The way the Holy Spirit takes is to settle over us, work within us and then flow out through us to others. Prophecy is not the anointing but is that which comes out of the anointing. The true prophecy presents Godly truth that establishes Godly order in a world of ungodly chaos, or in a Godly circumstance that promotes greater Godliness.

Prophecy and the prophet/prophetess

Every true prophet has a prophetic message that will always work for God that He wishes to accomplish. The true prophet is distinguished from the false prophet by three things:

- he lives his message and promotes it to others;
- he seeks the best for God and speaks God's message;
- he works towards and promotes righteousness for God's Kingdom.

Many a prophet today, who has the title of prophet or is regarded as a prophet, may fail to be classed as a prophet when these three rules are being applied. The correct way of dealing with this manner of prophecy is to rather weigh up the content of each prophecy, then wait for the outcome. It is always better to leave the prophets alone and give them honour, just as we are required to esteem everyone higher than ourselves.

It is firstly required of a true prophet that his own life be touched by the Saviour then he can help others. A prophet can also fail and fall by the wayside and miss the calling of Jesus in his life. King Saul, the first King of Israel, is an example of this truth. The prophecy that is given out by the one prophesying needs to perfect two results: It should turn people to God and it should bring a God result into existence that will:

- bless
- help
- enlighten
- guide
- warn
- correct
- chasten
- it must be directed towards accomplishing God's purpose, design or plan.

The four types of prophecy in their scope are:

- revelational
- exhortation
- directional
- correctional

Prophecy should be left to the prophets or those with a prophetic gift. Called prophets who are true to their calling, are quite often a hated people, but have the ability from God to bear the hatred directed towards them. They may have to suffer terrible persecution and ridicule for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Prophecy

Prophecy is not mentioned as being part of the great commission command of Jesus when He told His disciples, to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Rather it is preaching and teaching that is spoken of as being the method of reaching unsaved and lost sinners. The apostle Paul tells us that prophecy is not for the unbeliever, but the believer. Having dealt with prophecy in this way, it is possible to understand the four methods better. Prophecy is one of the methods of revelation and the others are dealt with elsewhere. The grouping shows the outreach that God is effectively accomplishing.

Preaching

Preaching effects salvation, new birth and deliverance

Preaching is the proclamation of the Gospel message. It focuses our attention on our need and presents God's solutions towards such need. Without preaching the soul cannot usually be reached effectively.

Salvation is the great theme of the Scriptures, especially accomplished in the work of Jesus. He is called the Saviour who came to save us. Salvation means that we can be rescued from sin and its grasp. Sin will no longer have dominion over us. We need to turn to Jesus so that He can take away our sins.

The new birth is the process of being born again that Jesus spoke about. He tells us that we must be born again. This means that the new birth, which is accomplished through the Holy Spirit, makes us new creatures in Christ Jesus.

“The old things have passed away and, behold, all things have become new.”

Deliverance means that we receive God’s deliverance from our sins and that we lose the desire to continue sinning for we are delivered from them. It also means that all bondages that would ensnare us are taken away, as we are loosed from their grip and power.

Jesus was a preacher. His disciples were preachers. Their converts became preachers. Effective preaching, used by the Holy Spirit, penetrates the heart and minds of those preached to and, through remorse, which the preaching awakens, turn us away from our self, selfishness and sinfulness, turning us towards God.

Teaching

Teaching effects rivers of living waters, healing and Godliness

Teaching is the means God uses to open up the understanding of daily consecration in living for Jesus. Teaching tells us what we ought to do once we are saved.

Rivers of living waters are the effects of teaching. Once we understand what Jesus requires of us daily, we can believe in Him, begin to follow Him and do what He requires of us through acts of loving obedience. Teaching opens up the commandments of Jesus and we can then follow obediently and lovingly their requirements. As we do this a river of life begins to flow out of us to others around us. As we continue to grow in grace and knowledge, our understanding is opened and we can thereby become more obedient to these commandments, even opening up rivers of blessing to those we come into contact with. One river can be helping our loved ones. Another can become a help in the church, or help in a hospital, wherever it is opened up to us and in whatever way, it is manifested in every believer’s life. It is a river of blessing to others. Our message and our blessing bring life to all those we meet.

Healing is that which God effects through the preaching of the work completed on the Cross of Calvary by Jesus. Healing includes body, soul and spirit and only as this happens, are we made completely whole.

Godliness is a result that comes about as we continue getting to know God and as we grow in love with Him. The more we love Him and are associated with Him and Him with us, the more we comprehend and understand what He requires of us. It is a work of the Spirit that changes us from the following man to following God to become more like Him. Godliness is the exact opposite of worldliness.

Jesus was a teacher. His disciples were teachers. Their converts became teachers of righteousness.

Effective teaching opens up the heart to receive the words of God and His Son for us to become that much better equipped to obey Him.

Exhortation

Exhortation effects righteousness, blessing and holiness

The exhortation is that, which we use, to encourage one another to works of righteousness. The new birth takes place through the Holy Spirit, but even so, we need the teachings and exhortations of one another to keep us reminded of what our obligations are to Jesus. The exhortation call always brings us back to what Jesus expects of us. His commandments are the backbone of exhortation. It is as if the Spirit of God is reminding us, “what did Jesus say

about this matter?” or asks of us “what does He expect of us in that matter?”

Righteousness is doing right, as God is showing us to do, through the work of His Holy Spirit. Right doing and right living is obeying the commandments of Jesus. The Holy Spirit work will always open up the working within us that leads us closer to the way God would have us live and not as the world would have us live.

Blessing is that which God is to us and that which He extends to us. We become blessed by God and are no longer affected by the devil. We become a blessing to God and others. We become a blessing to our home and family. We are a blessing to the church and the family of God. Blessings come from God and as we receive them, acknowledging them and thanking God for them, they increase and abound. We cannot do without the blessing of God, especially when the daily circumstances of our lives become intricate and difficult to handle. He keeps a watchful eye over us and blesses us in everything we do, despite the opposition of the devil.

Holiness is what God expects of us, especially from us who believe in Him. His holiness is proverbial and we can never expect to become like Him. Nevertheless, He expects us to be holy. Holiness is to be like Jesus. As we follow in His footsteps He will, through the Holy Spirit, help us to become holy. We are told to suffer the exhortation so that we can become partakers of His holiness.

Jesus was an exhorter. His disciples were exhorters. Their converts become exhorters.

Effective exhortation helps one believer to help another believer, or a pastor to help the flock that is in his care.

Counselling

Counselling effects justice, worship, glory

Counselling is a form of teaching and exhortation, including personal preaching and prophecy, but it specifically directs the person being counselled to follow Jesus and His commandments, focusing on and pointing out solutions towards any of the abovementioned, whether it's salvation, rivers of living waters, blessing etc., and especially that God is a constant source of all that we need.

Justice is the working of God's righteousness, whether it is now in this life, or the afterlife, taking place at the appointed day of reckoning of all things. God requires justice, and His prerogative is being ignored. Mankind prefers to follow its own set of values in righteousness and therefore has its standards of justice. One of the requirements of a believer is to be just before God. Justified means to be made just, or to be just. Believers are specially exhorted to have just dealings towards each other and also towards the sinners and unbelievers.

Worship is the act of ascribing honour, glory and majesty to God and His Son, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. God desires everyone, especially believers, to worship Him. Worship belongs to God and His Son. If the heavenly angels worship God, being eternal and far more excellent in status and power than mere human beings, how much more should mere man not worship God?

Glory is that which alone belongs to God. God even gave Jesus Christ His glory. Jesus Christ says to God that He has given it to us. Experiencing the glory of God is one of the most wonderful experiences that human beings can have.

Jesus was a counsellor. His disciples were counsellors. Their converts become counsellors.

Effective counselling helps those who are being counselled to come to Jesus, the Author

and Finisher of their faith and to remain with Him, following Him and obeying His commands.

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4. His blessing Proverbs 10:21

No one knows the extent of God's blessing.

Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."

Have we experienced all that God has given to us in His blessing? No. It is higher than the heavens and deeper than the deepest sea; it reaches beyond space, time, and extends into eternity. No one has ever experienced His complete blessing on this side of the grave. We can receive what God intends for us here and all the other is in His hand afterwards. By making the right choice here it will set in motion what is His best for us, here and there.

No one can ever experience His blessing in full without two things happening first.

The actual crossing over from spiritual death into spiritual life.

1 Corinthians 15:19-20 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, ..."

1 John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren."

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth:

Revelation 19:16 "And He has on His robe and His thigh a name written: King of King and Lord of Lords."

1 Thessalonians 4:17 "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord."

The blessing does not end in this life

What does this mean? It means, simply, that no matter how blessed we are in this life there has to be a completion that takes place in the hereafter. Abraham was blessed by God during his lifetime, but he still had to receive the other part of his blessing, even though he had gone before us through death's dark valley.

Hebrews 11:39-40 "And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect (complete) apart from us."

The blessing of being blessed

The blessing that has come to us in the person of Jesus Christ and His finished work on Calvary, extended to us as an urgent invitation, is limited by two essential happenings that still have to take place.

The blessing of the blessed is mentioned in the Scriptures over and over again. The blessing of being blessed is therefore the experience of the blessed. The working of this blessing is personal, first of all, and then the blessing that flows through us will flow through to others as well.

There are many forerunners in God's blessing

Many are recorded in the Scriptures such as Joseph, Abraham, King David, Elijah, Elisha, Job, the apostle Paul, the apostle Peter, etc. Jesus was indeed blessed by God, as He was the man-made strong by God. In the instance of king David, we agree that he was blessed and he was a man after God's own heart, and through what has been recorded of him, he still blesses

us today with his beautiful psalms. Read *Psalms 23* and see what this means, for there he has spoken of his blessedness and leaves us with the distinct impression that we can also be so blessed. He knew his blessings for the blessing of being blessed was part of his own experience. His blessings are recorded in the historical records of the annals of the Scriptures. (David's declaration of being blessed).

The blessing that makes rich

Our greatest blessing is the gift of life, but our greatest curse can also be our gift of life. The life we have can be constructively used to bless many or it can be destructively used to curse many. The true blessing that makes rich is not the one that leads to destruction, but the one that leads to blessings, of ourselves first and then the others a close second. The blessing of obedience to God's commandments is a great blessing that makes us rich in this life. The curse of God's anger, if this were incurred, can be a destructive force that will ultimately end in the punishment of those who fall under its shadow. Nevertheless, despite all this that has been said, there is a blessing that is a blessing indeed and will be focused and find its centre in Jesus.

The blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

There is a three-fold blessing to be obtained by obedience to the three-fold manifestation of the Godhead, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each of these three is a mystery to the average human but known by the believer who has been born again. Three Scriptures prove this point:

- Jesus - *1 John 5:6a*
- The Spirit - *1 John 5:6b*
- God - *1 John 5:7*

The working of each to the other is paramount in the blessing that has been promised, in all its aspects. The way opened up by Jesus Christ to the Father has also been provided by the Holy Spirit and whether we come via the Son through the Holy Spirit to the Father (the charismatic understanding), or via the Holy Spirit through the Son to the Father (the Pentecostal way of understanding) is not important, just as long as we come to the Father. He is the blessed One and can bless all those who come to Him in His appointed way.

The blessings of a blessing

The blessing that God pronounces upon a person is incumbent upon us through the new covenant blessing instituted by God and ratified by Jesus. Open up the blessing of the new covenant by taking hold of, not our promises, but God's promises. These are given to us to take away the corruption that is in the world through lust. These will bless the world in every aspect, not only now, which may be in a relatively limited way, but certainly without measure at the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. We can have the blessings promised by Jesus, summarised in two great declarations that He made when on earth and one after He ascended to heaven.

The blessed Saviour

No one understands more clearly the blessings that the Saviour can give to us than one who has been born again, not by the will or seed of man, but by the will and the Word of God. The opening up of this blessing has eternal consequences in our lives and these seeds that are planted by the Holy Spirit in the working of God, take root and flourish under the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit and His daily care. The Saviour, Jesus Christ is blessed and as Lord of our lives can bless us also.

Bless and curse not

To receive the blessing that God wants to give to us, we need to stop cursing others. Jesus told us to stop cursing others and bless them instead. The only true way to this meaningful behavioural change is through true repentance. The repentance that effects change will open up the way for the curse to be removed from us and to be replaced with an eternal blessing given by God through Jesus Christ and the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

The causeless curse and the undeserved blessing

It is important to know that a curse without a reason, as stated in the Old Testament, will not alight. Under the New Testament, we are told to curse not. The old way is to curse, provided God pronounced the command to curse, based on the writings and laws given to Moses. Under the New Testament, we are told to bless rather than to curse.

Blessings are ascribed to God

The fountain of all blessing is God. The fountain of each born again believer is the overflowing heart through the mouth that pronounces blessings. The fountain of the blessing for all the earth is the fountain of life that flows from God. The blessing of His blessings takes away the sorrow of the curses of His curses. To understand this, we need to refer to the most important Bible verses, which opens up the way to all of God's blessings

Philippians 2:3-16 "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his interests but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, ... work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault amid a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, ..."

A fountain of blessing

Become a fountain of a blessing having the fountain of blessing that flows from the heart of God. No man or woman, boy or girl, old or young, in fact, no one, can say that we do not need the blessings of God. These are proverbial in the Scriptures. They become sweet waters in the mouth of true worshippers of God. They become sweet waters in our ministry, whether we are ministering to our household, our family, our church, our fellowship group, or our friends and acquaintances.

Blessing overcomes cursing

For every curse spoken, there is a counter blessing. If we take the Word of God literally then we can understand that Jesus took our curses upon Himself. God laid on Him, Jesus Christ, the sins of us all. Sin is a curse that came into being in the Garden of Eden and is still

with us today, even though Jesus took it all away in the finished work at Calvary. The generations since then, and those who have come afterwards, even up to the current generations, are all included in this finished work of Jesus accomplished on the cross.

The secret of being blessed

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles says, “I am crucified to the world and the world is crucified to me.” He also says, “I am crucified with Christ.” Further, he says, “I die daily.” This can be explained in this way: before meeting Jesus he was under a curse proclaimed by the Law of Moses for being disobedient. Then Paul met the risen Jesus who changed him drastically so that He could exclaim, “nothing has power, but a new creature in Christ Jesus.” From the curse of being born under the law of God as given to Moses, he came under the law of Christ as given by Jesus Christ, being affected through the work of the cross of Jesus. This can be and should be our own experience as well. Bless God for this and God will bless you in this through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed generations

The way of the world ends at the cross of Jesus. Generational curses end at the cross of Jesus. The sin of the soul ends at the cross of Jesus. Eternal death, which is the second death, ends at the cross of Jesus. The worldly throng changes into the Godly throng at the cross of Jesus. They destroyed life in an eternal fire ends at the cross of Jesus and the start of eternal life begins at the cross of Jesus. You need Him and once you have taken Him to yourself and receive His eternal invitation to “come to Me,” you will begin to be eternally blessed. The generation that follows you will also be blessed, and the blessing can continue to a thousand generations as in the case of Abraham.

The blessing that cannot be contained - the anointing

Open up the family blessing by taking Jesus at His word and come to Him, as you are, weak, weary, worn and sad, and let Him change you into what you are presently not, strong, vigorous and happy, having an abundant life. “If only for this life....” Obtain the blessings of the blessing by receiving them now, through the Holy Spirit’s work and indwelling life - the anointing.

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5. His fellowship 1 John 1:3

There are three good forms of fellowship, with ourselves, with others and with God.

Fellowship within ourselves

To have true fellowship within oneself we have to be walking in the right way with God. Our spirits are in tune with whatever we fellowship with and if our fellowship is in tune with the right thing then we will always have true fellowship. We all can commune with ourselves and this is called reasoning. We all reason with ourselves daily. However, when we talk to ourselves aloud, this is called having fellowship within ourselves. We are, after all, with ourselves all day long, each day and the fellowship within depends on who we are communicating with. If we continually talk to ourselves, as some people like to do, then we become introvert and anti-socially inclined.

Fellowship with others

Everyone can be lonely at times. We all need others to talk to, reason with and communicate our ideas to. Conversation, when it is beneficial to both parties, leads to fellowshiping. Friends fellowship with one another. One of the prerequisites of true fellowship is agreeing. Disagreement can occur from time to time, but in the main, there is a consensus of agreement and fellowship becomes very pleasant.

Fellowship with God

When we talk to God it is not the same as talking to one's self. God is in heaven and as you talk to Him, He hears and opens up a dialogue with you, provided of course that you are listening to His side of the dialogue as well. Many people pray and commune with God, not waiting for an answer, but expect a reply in the change of their circumstances. This works very well for those who have faith in this type of answer. There is, however, a more direct reply, if we will only take time to learn and listen. Listening means to keep very quiet, with all your attention focused on the reply. God works with each person differently, depending on what we are prepared to release to God and how much faith we have. Very important is how we expect God to answer us, the method we would prefer. Once the rebellious spirit has been changed from pleasing ourselves to pleasing God, God can open up any method He chooses to fellowship with us. Growing faith comes with a daily experience of God and our fellowship with Him and His word. As we pray His word becomes alive and opens up our understanding.

Fellowship with the Father

No one can have fellowship with the Father in heaven without first of all desiring to have it. The Father is always seeking fellowship with us, but it is not always reciprocal from our side. He is continually calling us to Him. We choose not to listen to that call. As soon as faith starts to work, we begin to have fellowship with the Father. He draws us to Himself and we respond to that drawing and begin a walk of fellowship together, into the future.

Fellowship with the Son

There is much to say about this for Jesus spoke about it. His apostles spoke about it too because they had first-hand experience of fellowship with Jesus. Their fellowship with Jesus was always personal, but often others were also included. Two examples will suffice. Even though Jesus was crucified, He nevertheless is alive today, seated at the right hand of God. Their fellowship in heaven is wonderful and they desire to fellowship with the believers on earth, of which you can also become a part.

Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

The fellowship of the Holy Spirit is a very present reality in every true believer's heart. The means of that fellowship is varied and there are so many ways of experiencing the joy of this type of fellowship. As we learn to accept Jesus and His words that He speaks to us in the Scriptures, He will direct our faith to the Holy Spirit and the help that the Holy Spirit gives. The Holy Spirit in His turn will direct our thoughts to Jesus and the teachings of Jesus, for there is harmony at work between these two. Fellowship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit is just as sweet as the fellowship with the Holy Spirit through Jesus, for they both have the same purpose at heart and that is to turn us to our Heavenly Father.

Fellowship with one another as believers

Every believer has fellowship with other believers unless bitterness and ill feelings have crept in between that fellowship. We need each other. We are all the same and need the comfort of others. The self-centred person and selfish person will not need others, but there will come a time when that is no longer true. Even the derelict person who walks the streets need each other and the fellowship of each other's company from time to time. Believers, as they struggle to find their faith in the way that their faith is leading them, need other fellow believers for advice and encouragement. This is how we are made.

Have no fellowship with darkness

Fellowshipping can be of two kinds. The one is known as the fellowship of darkness and the other is known as the fellowship of light. The fellowship of darkness is the way of sinfulness and sin. The fellowship of light is the way of righteousness and right. There is no real half measure between these two, even if we tend to believe it to be so. The one is far removed from the other, even as heaven is removed from the earth.

Fellowship in the light

God is light. His fellowship is light. Fellowship with Him is light. Fellowship in the light with God needs some kind of two-way communication, for without communication and understanding each other, the fellowship will indeed be scant. The importance of hearing God speak, whether through His Word, His voice or His way of dreams and visions, even speaking through prophecy etc., is paramount.

The following testimony serves as an illustration:

When I first started learning to listen, I found that my thoughts kept getting in the way. I did not know how to be still in my spirit. For this reason, God started talking to me in my sleep. I would fall asleep whilst praying and at first, this annoyed me immensely, but when I woke up, I was refreshed and soon realised that this was God's way of getting me to become silent within my spirit. The darkness in my soul was the hindrance. I had to come to the light. First of all, Jesus answered me with dreams and then more directly through Scriptures that would very strangely and mysteriously open up to me as I read the Bible. Then followed a time of visions in the day and finally through the inner voice of His Holy Spirit within myself. This was not all accomplished straight away, but over a while, with much waiting on God for interpretation of the dreams, visions and Scriptures. When finally, I could hear His voice, because my spirit had been trained to be still, the inner voice opened up many of God's mysteries to my understanding. Continual prayer and seeking the will of God, finally, with His help through the Spirit of God, brought about that which was impossible to me at the beginning.

Have no fellowship with demons

The fact of the matter is that there are such things as demons, just as there is a devil. The Scriptures, especially the New Testament, reveals the activity of these powerful evil forces

that move and work in the unseen world, the world of the spirit. The importance is not to know all about their working, but to be filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God which will cancel the spirit of the devil. Men and women everywhere are influenced, either to a greater or lesser degree, by demonic forces. Some are possessed by them. We are, however, exhorted to have no fellowship with these forces and their darkness, all actively working against God and His purpose towards salvation, healing and deliverance from them and their powers and influences. Godly fellowship leads to Godliness and demonic and devilish fellowship leads us away from godliness to all types of evil, selfishness and sin.

Fellowship and forgiveness

Fellowship and forgiveness walk hand in hand. Unforgiveness causes a breach in fellowshiping benefits. When two people do not trust each other then fellowship is also hindered. Mutual trust, friendship and the ability to forego grudges are most necessary to continue in fellowship with another.

Fellowship with family in natural love

There is a spiritual family and there is a natural family. The natural family works through the parents towards the children, grandchildren, etc. Uncles, aunts, grandfathers and grandmothers, cousins, nephews and nieces all make up this natural family. The relatives, added by marriage, are not usually as close as the bloodline families, although this is not always the case. In the case of spiritual families, the believers together make up this family, even though they may belong to different church groups, differing faiths or doctrinal beliefs. The families, whether natural or spiritual, need to fellowship with one another, but it seems at times that there is shyness or unwillingness for the spiritual family and the natural family to fellowship with each other, the natural family gravitating towards the natural side and the spiritual family gravitating towards the spiritual side. This is a tragedy, for members of both families die, having never met some of the other members. God can change this and we need to pray for it to happen.

Fellowship with the truth

The difference between what is called the truth and the lie is often the very reason why these two family groups do not mix. The conversion of one person to become a believer in Jesus Christ often brings unhappiness to other members of the natural family and vice versa. The truth that Jesus brings in our lives when we turn to Him is usually so different from the family values, that this truth causes a rift. Jesus said it would be so. However, as we fellowship with the truth and learn to lay aside the darkness of the lie, even the lies of darkness, we are brought to the conclusion that we need our natural families and that they also need us. We, as believers, then start to pray for them to become believers. This can at first cause a further division through fear of the unknown, but eventually, the light of God's way will breakthrough, with the repentance of family members following.

Fellowship in liberty

Fellowship always has deep and wonderful liberty in itself. People that love, trust and believe in each other have this experience to a very marked degree, even trusting each other with secrets that no else could. Praying for each other is the most wonderful part of fellowshiping, for at times of desperate need and lack we turn to those we fellowship with and ask for their guidance, help, spiritual support and prayers. No believer can ever do without this type of support in fellowship. The liberty that people have with each other as believers is invaluable to their experience and spiritual health. They that pray together stay together is a very true maxim, for when division comes it becomes more and more difficult to pray together. Keep your liberty with your brothers and sisters as believers, and wherever you

can, with your natural family as well.

Fellowship and communion

The difference between fellowship and communion is not very great, but the expression of both is so intimately interwoven with each other that it is impossible to see where communion begins and fellowship ends. Communion is a much deeper form of fellowship. We can have fellowship with our brothers and sisters of the faith, but we have communion without friends. Husband and wife can have fellowship with each other and yet not have communion with each other. Communion is the experience of deep inner sharing of intimate thoughts and feelings. Fellowship is sharing times, but not in the deep intensity of communion.

Whom can we trust most of all?

We commune with God and have fellowship with our brethren because we trust God personally and intimately with all our thoughts whilst in fellowship we join with others and share experiences, having happy times together. The intimacy of conversation differs between fellowship and communion. We tell all our thoughts in communion, all our actions, all our deeds, but we only tell some of our thoughts, actions and deeds during times of fellowship. True fellowship with man and communion with God is the best way of worshipping God with your brothers and sisters. Communion is something between those who love each other and fellowship is something between those who respect each other. The intensity of respect and the mixture of love will determine the intensity of our fellowship and communion with each other - this is called being as one, oneness, closeness, intimacy. Our relationship will determine the degree of this type of communion.

Relationship

Above all else, we need to develop true relationships with one another. The greatest relationships come out of knowing God personally. Obeying the commandments of His Son Jesus and of having the communion of the Holy Spirit. This is the highest possible relationship that we can have when we love the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and they can commune with us and we with them. *John 17*. Here true loving fellowship and communion are shown to be between Father and Son and us through the Holy Spirit.

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6. The seven commandments of love Romans 13:9

Love God with all your heart, all your mind and with all your strength

God is supreme and requires our love for He does so much for us daily. He is God in it all with us.

Love your neighbour

If we have neighbours that we do not love, we find that life becomes very difficult, especially if they do not love us in return. Our lovelessness will cause great actions to ensue between us, which will end up rather to our detriment than our good.

Love yourself

If you hate yourself you are unable to love other people. The more you hate yourself the more difficult it is to get on with people for they may begin to hate you also. Love brings forth love, and hate brings forth hate. It is better to show love than hate.

Love your brothers and sisters in the Lord

By not loving your spiritual brethren and instead hate them or by ignoring them, you will be the one to suffer. The best way to grow in the Lord is for love to flourish and spring up between believers.

Love your enemies

Jesus told us to love our enemies and left behind a perfect pattern of what He means when He died on the cross for a lost world. He prayed for their forgiveness.

Love God's Kingdom

Jesus tells us to pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth, where God's will be done even as it is being done in heaven.

Love the work of God

To love God is also to love His work. The work of God needs to continue so that others can be saved.

If you follow after these things you will do well, grow and prosper, for God is love and they that love, are of God.

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7. The world scene for believers 1 Timothy 4:12

The total world scene is changing rapidly due to the communication gap having been effectively closed via the internet and the multiplicity of websites. As knowledge increases countless ideas are rapidly interchanging and are becoming more related to, and involved with, each other. Useful comparisons are being made with corresponding adjustments in every sphere and walk of life. The concept of revival is also changing for the very same reason. How do we as believers adjust to the rapidly changing situation? Where do we fit in as young believers?

What is the worth of any new religious concept that we are hearing about? These and many more questions arise in our hearts in the rapidly changing world scene.

Where is the right church? Where is it found?

The right church is the one that is placed in our heart by the Lord. It does not matter which church is exclusively right. There are so many that have numerous aspects of the truth, but who may not have the whole truth. As long as you can identify yourself with that church, ministry or doctrinal group, it is right for you. As long as you and yours can personally be happy, can grow and be contented at whichever church, ministry or group situation you and your family are submitting to, it is the right church for you. As long as your church is a help to you and not a hindrance to getting you to the Lord Jesus Christ, it will be sufficient for your growth. He is the One who will lead and guide you to that very church, group or ministry in which you need to be, if only you ask and trust Him to do it for you.

The New Testament is the spiritual road map

Reading the Bible, both Old and New Testaments will help to open up what is right for the believer. As each believer prays earnestly and asks daily for God's help it will be given in all aspects of our lives. Jesus often uses both the Old and New Testaments, through one or more Scripture to speak to. I was saved out of the Old Testament and then brought to the New Testament much later on.

Learning out of the spiritual instruction booklet

Willingness to read and learn by asking questions helps to bring matters home to the understanding. You will also soon become acutely aware if something is wrong, as you grow and compare Scripture with Scripture, affecting your believing practice. It is not the hearer that is blessed but the doer. Allowing the road map of the Lord to guide you, you will receive instruction, direction and spiritual help, enough to keep you on the right road in the right way. When all else seems to be failing, go to the spiritual road map, the Scriptures and just follow the instructions.

All churches are as perfect as the people that are in them, make them

The perfect church, ministry or believing group has still to be found.

I have never discovered or found an instance, in the 60 years of my own believing life, where I can truthfully say that this one or that one is the nearest to biblical truth. Even if we could find such an instance, the moment we join it, it will have become imperfect through our imperfections and lack of personal knowledge. Rather the motivation that we need to seek for is the expression of love, faith and hope in the Lord that will assist us in becoming more and more like Jesus each day.

Tapping the assistance given by this modular study helps

As you study these modules and begin to see the value of having a correct understanding,

you will begin to discover the real purpose of God for your life and then He will be in a position to begin helping you. You can be assured that He has already started this good work in you, simply because you have come to this programme that opens up this type of help. Even those who do not come to this programme are being helped by the Lord in countless ways and through countless other groups. Wherever people are found, God is in control of your destiny, but He wants you to come to a personal knowledge of His wonderful saving grace for your life and circumstances.

There is a place out there for you

There is a well-known saying, 'there is no place like home.' Every person is entitled to a home, but not every person has a home. The homeless are a fact of this life. If this is true in the natural it certainly can also be true in the spiritual. There is of course the full assurance of heaven being our home - one day, but the fact of the matter is we need a home on earth to provide the necessary shelter.

Ask Jesus to put you into His covering and spiritual home keep

This applies to our church home as well. This is called a covering. The covering is something like a roof over the head. It is based on the authority that gives it and under which you are to submit. It is also called a keep. It's like a place of keeping or a place of shelter in which we can be secure from all the elemental changes, etc. that take place every day.

Go right to it with God's help

'The shortest route is the shortest distance between two given points is a very apt saying. Why take the long way around when there is a shorter route. Trial and error are always the second-best routes to follow and it is usually how we all learn. Personal experience comes through our trial and erroneous efforts, where we are always trying and end up in a failing/losing situation. This is universal. There is, however, a better method. Jesus showed us that better way. Ask for the help that is promised and receive the result that is guaranteed.

Open the way so that the way will open up

If a person decides to stay close to the Gospel then their right is to be respected. They have the say over their own lives and whatever the result is that comes about through exercising their choice, is their responsibility. We have to live our lives for ourselves and we also have to experience death by ourselves. The advice and help that is given to us, whether by pastors or other believers, is given in good faith, but only by using it for ourselves will we receive any benefit. This applies also to the help that Jesus is prepared to give anyone who comes to Him. We all know of believers who continued with Jesus for a time and then simply gave up.

The spiritual way that is permanent

The way will stay open for you, but you must also keep it open by doing what is right. By allowing Jesus to come and open up His way for you, you will allow Him to take over your life and lead you in that way. Resisting His help or going on stubbornly, will make matters harder for you in the long run, but by surrendering fully as soon as possible and by continuing in that surrender, you assist Jesus to work in your life. Your ability to surrender comes from Him in any case and your surrender is possible through His drawing you to Himself. His redirection to a believing body is for your good and He will make sure that you meet people that are in a position to assist you in the very way that they are going. It is simply a matter of trusting Jesus to do the right thing for you.

Arriving alive (spiritually) in Christ

Everyone who starts on a long journey would like to arrive alive. The road is often

hazardous and can be a snare against you arriving alive. There are so many variables for travelling long distances. You have to stay awake and be alert all the way if you have to drive. This is self-evident and goes without saying. Yet some believers feel they can take chances with their lives when it comes to obeying or disobeying the Lord Jesus Christ whilst travelling on the journey to eternity. Many a believer will not arrive alive at the end of his/her journey, simply because they take things for granted. The road is long and the journey is tough. Jesus will, however, be there with you all the way, but you must not lose Him. The way that He leads will always be fraught with dangers, but as long as you stay with Him, you will arrive alive safely, for He knows the way that you need to go.

Opening a network of helpers

Introduce this programme to your homegroup. Whatever your circumstance you can help spread this programme by introducing it to those who are around you. Using it for your study will be beneficial to you and your family. This programme has one of its primary objectives to help you as a believer to continue with your Lord and also help others, to continue with you.

These studies are backed by three things

They open up a known way before the Lord, a known way in the Lord and a known way of the Lord. They need the guidance of the Lord. This will come as you pray, believe and learn. The Lord is the inspiration for this programme and will inspire those who use it conscientiously. It does not and cannot replace the Scriptures, but it helps as a supplementary aid to Bible studies.

The whole modular structure of these studies is designed to open up the thinking of the believer, not to move away from structures that have endured, but rather to have a certain type of understanding that will help you to stay with Jesus.

The lessons to be learned are worthwhile, and by giving your attention to the various studies you will begin to obtain a broader understanding of the Christian way and the faith life. The studies are based on years of knowing, hearing and seeing Jesus and present a sound basis for believing. You will do well to spend time with these studies, but with the Bible on one hand and the open lessons on the other, comparing the thoughts, ideas and principles for yourself as you develop and grow in your own believing spiritual experience.

Believing prayer and a searching heart

Pray as you ponder these truths and Jesus will assist you to grow and experience Him for yourself. The most precious asset a new believer has is a searching heart. At all costs, this should be nurtured and kept as a precious possession. The saying goes 'we are never too old to learn and another, 'if you do not know it you must know where to find it.' Joining yourself to others who will study with you in your homegroup will bless you all to get to know the Scriptures, Jesus and His ways for yourselves. The possibility of a network of helpers being raised employing the use of this programme is one that we are praying and believing for. May Jesus grant it to be so, using these studies to the glory of His name, the glory of His work and the glory of His people in the quickening of His revival.

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8. God is your Fire Hebrews 12:29

There are many motivations and inspirations for us in life. Some are good for us and others can cause us great harm. These motivations and/or inspirations are like a fire that burns or as a passion that flames us forward to obtain our aspirations and goals.

Politicians burn with fervour to get into the highest positions they can obtain. Lovers go to any lengths to get their partners to marry them, etc.

But the Scriptures talks about the person who asks God that the fire of God must burn within his/her heart.

Now God is declared to be a consuming fire. He has charge of consuming fires. He walks into the fire. His angels are spoken of as being ministers of fire, etc.

The question to ask ourselves - is He our passion, our consuming fire?

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9. Personal counselling sessions Revelation 3:18

Usually undertaken by a counsellor with helpers in church, group or fellowship sessions.

There are 12 possible workings in the implementation of this helping ministry:

- Requires a willing counsellor.
- The counsellor will do personal counselling.
- The Pastor gives invitations to people for those people to invite others to come and be counselled.
- The pastoral couple or personal workers need the counsellor to counsel themselves, first of all, preparing them to help the counsellor in the counselling process if necessary.
- The counselling sessions reach out to other leaders in the group.
- These then take the invitation to others to come in and be counselled.
- Those that come for counselling in turn invite family, friends or acquaintances who need special help.
- The witness goes out testifying and further people come in for counselling.
- A second person or more come in to help the counsellor if too many people arrive at one time.
- Through the people that are counselled, other pastoral couples or personal workers invite the counsellor to come to them as a helper.
- Invitations come in from other places through this working.
- Interrelated church workings are necessary for follow-ups through an inner group that has been counselled within the church.

If a team of counsellors can be raised, and these rules followed, then this process will be repeated over and over again here and elsewhere.

There are a few important things to take into account in this type of helping ministry:

- There has to be a counsellor who controls the helpers.
- The helpers must follow the rules laid down by the counsellor.
- Those that come in must be volunteers and in no way coaxed or coerced and this must be checked before each counselling session.
- The counsellee that may need extra help after counselling must be given that help by the supporting pastor or some other suitable and capable person who keeps contact with the people concerned, both helper or counsellor and counsellee.
- Each personal counselling should be allocated an equal amount of time for the counselling session. If it goes over the time allowed, the pastor should be called in to continue the counselling session.
- If counselling groups are used, each counsellor or helper must have their counselling room to avoid problems of shyness and reluctance to open up before the counsellor.
- Go to the Lord for helpers and when extra help is needed, consult with the senior counsellor.

This type of help counselling has the best results when secrecy is maintained. If the matter has to be opened in any way, such as murder, robbery, child abuse, rape, drugs, fraud or theft, the person being counselled should be encouraged to agree for matters revealed, for conscience sake and to help them get additional help and support.

Best results are obtained when the main counsellor, appointed by the pastor, has previously counselled these counsellors and/or counselling helps.

If any problem is encountered that can cause trouble between families, friends, married partners or members, then it is best to bring the pastor in, as he will help the families after the counselling sessions in the normal course of his duties.

The helpers that shine out can be encouraged to become counsellors themselves by taking courses and/or further their studies.

When the counsellor leaves the church or group, he has to hand over his authority to the pastor, who will take the responsibility of the sheep under his care.

The counsellor can leave his telephone number with the pastor who can forward it to any person needing specific help at a later stage, or the pastor can phone on that person's behalf and seek advice.

The counselling session is only used to open up the counsellee to sin confession and repentance.

The pastor himself must supervise the follow-up that has to be done by the helpers that are assigned to such a person even if another counselling leader controls the counsellors or helpers that attend to such matters.

This notice can be pinned up in a convenient place well before the time.

<p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL NOTICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COUNSELLING SESSIONS AND MEETINGS</p> <p>Meetings each evening during the counselling period. Members are advised that a personal counsellor will be available daily</p> <p>Venue: _____</p> <p>Date: ____/____/____ to ____/____/____</p> <p>From: ____ h ____ to ____ h ____</p> <p>The pastor will be in attendance for special advice and help. Church matters will be dealt with through the pastor and together advice can be sought from the counsellor attending.</p> <p>Personal matters will be sensitively dealt with.</p> <p>Problems will be prayed for – Advice given.</p> <p>Difficult scriptures will be dealt with upon request.</p> <p>Confidences will be treated as such and help will be given towards solutions.</p> <p>Agreement over matters that confound will be obtained from God through revelation, inspiration or spiritual discernment.</p> <p>This is your chance to have:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A listening ear that cares A helping hand that blesses A caring heart that shares your burden</p> <p>For a suitable appointment contact:</p> <p>Mr/Mrs/Miss _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Between ____ h ____ and ____ h ____</p>
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10.Best helps Luke 12:37

Working with God's best help

There are two ways in which we can work with God. The one is to let Him be in charge of our lives, this is called total surrender. The other is to be, what is termed gift conscious. This means in effect that we are using the gifts that God has given us to work for Him. In the first instance, it is like a tree and its owner with the glory focusing on the owner and the foreman who attends to the tree and its fruit-bearing. In the second instance, the gift conscious person is like a tree and its owner with the glory focusing on the tree rather than on the owner of the tree. The emphasis that we place on either of these two thoughts will colour our understanding and result in two extremes of action.

God in charge - Christ consciousness

The tree that has total surrender can be compared to a tree that stands in a place and grows fruit exclusively for the owner. The people that the owner allows to pick the fruit for further distribution all work for the owner. There may also be other people who are allowed to eat the fruit themselves. This can be compared by analogy to the person who is in a church group or believing group and is working (bringing forth blessings) for the owner (who is none other than God Himself) and His Foreman (Jesus). Those who do not work for the owner (other believers), but who are allowed to eat the fruit, are those who the tree is feeding, who are being ministered to by the tree (the active believer). The trees stand there and give of their fruit. The tree's main function is fruit-bearing for God.

Us in charge - gift consciousness

In this second analogy, the tree is the same (the believer). The owner is the same (God). Foreman is the same (Jesus). The fruit is the same (the blessings). However, in this case, there is a difference with the tree itself. It is standing alone separate from the rest of the orchard (the church). It is bringing forth fruit (fruit-bearing) on its own (an independent) that is useful for passers-by (other believers that are not interested in the church) and the Foreman is only allowed to deal with this tree on occasions. The Owner wants to see what is going on with this tree first. He does not prune it. He does not take care of its fruit production. It is left to itself. The tree will sooner or later, if left unattended, become wild (bearing wild fruit), which is not as tasty as the trees that receive regular attention. The Owner is just waiting to see what shall be done with the tree at some time or other. He can transplant it or He can pull it up.

Rebellion and willingness - two extremes

Many people do not have any sort of ambition in life and just drift along each day. Those that do have ambition choose a work that will best suit their talents. The ministry of the Lord is no exception. There are often hindrances and blockages to our ambitions that stop us. If these can be surmounted, we carry on, but sometimes these have to be overcome by ourselves through our prevailing against them. The greater the obstacle the more difficult is it to overcome. Sometimes in the process, we tend to become very rebellious against these obstacles. The answer to overcoming them lies in one of two extremes - rebellion or willingness to learn. The only way for real productive fruit-bearing is the latter.

God's work is His glory

The whole matter of God is a mystery. We can see His handiwork all around us. His wonderful and infinite wisdom and understanding are apparent in the whole mystery of life, in all of its innumerable manifestations that we observe around us. Humans and all forms of living creatures are of such variety that their beauty and glory astound us. Yet everything has

a specific purpose and place in the workings of life itself. Everything is dependent upon everything else. How is this all possible? God knows and has done it by Himself. We are only the observers of this miraculous blueprint, unable to comprehend it all and we certainly are unable to reproduce it. Even the microscope and the telescope with its new worlds become more and more visible to human eyes. The work of God clearly shows the glory of Him who made it all.

Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, God's Word and the angels

In the Scripture narrative, we are given glimpses of another startling world. The world of angels, the invisible beings of heaven that from time to time appear to selected individuals. We are told of Jesus experiencing the wonderful miracles that God was showing Him and doing through Him, recorded for our wonder. We see the miracles that people such as Moses and Elijah performed, all in the name of God. These manifestations of heavenly visitations give us a small glimpse into the great power of God working through His instruments, men and women. He controls the wind, the rain, the hail, the whirlwind, earthquakes with devastating power, just as He pleases. We understand these things by His Spirit through the written word and comprehend these miracles by the display of His power. Men and women everywhere wonder how this affects us all, the invisible world of God shown in the visible world of man.

Your work is His glory

God has ordained that we all should work. Work brings in money and money help us buy the necessities of life. As we grow up, we begin to choose for ourselves what type of work we want to do. Our study is usually in the direction that we intend to take in establishing our work. We are told that God wants us all to work to live. It is wonderful when your work, besides bringing in an income, takes the form of ministry. Not everyone is called to ministry and each person that is called needs to rise to the challenge and do it for their Creator - God.

Your best effort is not good enough

We have to often learn specific lessons to progress further. Rebellion against the teaching process and unwillingness to learn causes tremendous frustrations. We fret and get angry. We complain and grumble. Sometimes we refuse to go on with the matter and give up. In this matter of serving God and overcoming obstacles that hinder our work, we do not always realise that there could be higher powers at work - either God or satan. Rebellion stops us from really getting answers. When we have the patience to learn and wait for the answers to come, we usually get to know what is what, even if it takes time. We get to realise in this type of situation that our best efforts are often just not good enough and we need help from a higher power. Blessed is the person that draws this power from God, rather than satan.

Find joy in pleasing God

"God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform," this was a saying of the yester-year generation of believers. Modern times have changed things and ideas in many, many ways. Our younger generation is inclined to say God is not working in mysterious ways anymore and scientists and the medical profession has taken over.

However, by letting God prune you, use you, use your fruitfulness, you will become a good tree that rejoices in God's handiwork and bear good fruit. The greatest joy that a human being is capable of experiencing, is through loving, caring, sharing for others.

In pleasing God, the joy abounding is promised to us in the Scriptures and is said to be joy unspeakable and full of glory. It is worthwhile to seek this for it is acceptable to both God and man.

Your best efforts can become His joy

We all have to work for ourselves and it is a wonderful thing when we can also work for God, either part-time or full time. God wants you to provide for your family, but He also wants you to work for Him in any way that you can. When you take time to work for God, whether in the church group or outside the group, but loyal to your group, you are a joy to God.

Solving the apparent riddles - patience needed

It is not easy for us to serve God if we do not know how to do it and what pleases Him. This is one of the most important reasons for reading the Word of God. Without prayer, when you are reading the Scriptures, you will not receive the most benefit. God's word is a mystery that is being unfolded to you every day. The understanding of this mystery has to be unravelled through the help of the Holy Spirit and the continual inspiration by Jesus. He will help you as you pray and ask for help and the Holy Spirit is standing by to reveal whatever Jesus wants to show you. Patience is necessary. Remember, we as human beings who are earthly, are trying to understand God, who is heavenly. As we continue in the way with Jesus, learning all we can, God will come through wonderfully and we will begin to understand more and more the mystery of the Kingdom of God and His wonderful ways.

No lasting answer except God

The world is looking for answers. Many of these answers are to be found in the Word of God. Others that are not specifically found there can be opened up to us by the Holy Spirit through any of His numerous channels. Once you have the answer from God, you will help others by passing these answers on to them, and they will then pass them on to others again. God's answers are permanent. God will work this out for us. This is His doing and is a marvellous thing when it starts working for us. The cycle is:

Pray + Trust + Believe + Wait = Receive

Give it up? or Hand it over?

If we feel that we have all the answers without the help of God we are being deceived. No human can understand the will of God properly until He has interpreted it for us through His Holy Spirit. The most wonderful insight can be obtained as we wait on God for His answers. Answers that we are seeking will surely come to us as we continue to seek them from God Himself. God has a way of using His channels, whether they are people, circumstances or events, which will open up the meaning of God's intent towards us. We only have to have the heart that wants to receive and the will to comprehend the wonderful ways of God. While we hold on to our way and ideas, we will struggle to understand and will eventually give up trying. This is not what God wants for us. We need to come as little children to our Heavenly Father and humbly say:

“Father, I do not understand what it is you are trying to say to me through your Word. Please open it up to me in a clear way that I can truly comprehend and understand your answers. Help me not to become discouraged, but rather to hand over to you all problems that I have, for you to solve for me. For Jesus sake and in His Name, I ask this. Amen.”

Let God do it His way

Our will and God's will often seem to be in contradiction, moving in opposing directions. This is not only true but has to be overcome if we are to have fellowship with God. However, we are promised that He will help us and Jesus said that if we are willing to do the will of

God, we shall begin to know the right teaching. Our biggest battle is to let go and let God have his way. The purpose of surrender is to make everything that much easier, for in surrender our will gives way to the superior will of God. Surrender or yielding, by letting go of our preconceived ideas and personal wishes helps to bring the will of God and its understanding that much is closer to our understanding. By holding back our will the very converse is true, we struggle to comprehend what is required of us. Prayer opens up the heart, through the Spirit of God and the Spirit of God opens up the Word of God to our hearts.

Confrontation? Runaway or stand?

Satan is a confronter. He will always take the stand between you and God. The only way to overcome this is to let Jesus come and stand between you and God, banishing satan through the working together of Himself and your consenting co-operation. With Jesus, we can face up to satan. Without Jesus, we will be losers every time. Stand your ground with Jesus when satan confronts you. Jesus will always be the more powerful and with the Holy Spirit's constant help and the angels attending God's commands, you will be a conqueror. When you run away, satan will always follow after you. By facing him the way Jesus did - both Jesus and you - satan will be conquered.

“God I am standing before You. Get behind me satan”

Satan never leaves us alone while we are in our natural state. He is ever constant to see that we are tempted and, if possible, be led away as his captive. He is not satisfied to have us away from God through the sin of our forefather Adam, but will also insist that we continue to recognise and serve him today and tomorrow. He did the same to Jesus in the wilderness and who are we that he should leave us alone? He hates to lose us and will do everything in his power to confuse issues and keep us as far away from God as possible. He will never be satisfied to leave us alone to ourselves, but will also send demonic powers and influences towards us to cause us to stumble and lose our way forever.

The battle is two-fold. We have the battle of our fallen natures to contend with and we also have the constant influence of satanic forces opposing us. Jesus handled the matter when He ordered Satan to get behind Him, while continually looking up to His heavenly Father's guidance and help. We need to realise the importance of getting satan to get behind us as we also go forward toward God's blessings. It has to be a finalised victory otherwise the battle of struggling against satan's wiles will continually wear us out. The best way for this to happen is to make sure that God is in front of you and that He will give you the help that will place satan behind you. With His help, you can also command satan to get behind you.

Have you released your enemy? Is he inside you or is he outside?

We all have two choices as far as the enemy is concerned. He can be inside us or he can be outside of us. His strategies can be inside or outside of us. His work can be inside or outside of us. The secret of victory is to release him from ourselves, banishing him from trying to live inside us. On the other hand, if he is living in us and we allow Him to use us, we will be instruments in his hand.

You may ask yourself do I have satan living in me? This may or may not be true. However, ask yourself this question: has satan a door or a window of access in your life, allowing him to pass through from time to time. Leaving behind his havoc when you have listened to and given into, his temptations? How many times has such a thing happened? Daily? Weekly? Monthly? Perhaps, just once in a while? Continually? We, alone, know the answer to this.

We can also take a stand and say that we are in charge of our own life and satan is not our

boss! Then you have to account for your sins and take full responsibility for your sin. Either way, where sin is, satan is also there. Conversely, where there is righteousness, there God is too. What we need to do is get rid of this mixture of good and evil. This can be done with the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

If he is inside of us, have we let him in?

Satan is only as powerful as we choose to let him be. If he is inside of us, he can affect us. What we need to do is get him outside of ourselves. This can be done in the name of Jesus and with the help of Jesus.

If he is outside of us, have we cast him out?

Satan only has power over us if we let him have this power. If he is outside, he can affect us. What we need to do is to get him to leave us alone. This can be done in the name of Jesus and with the help of Jesus.

Let your moderation be known to all

The New Testament speaks about moderation. Moderation is the antithesis to extremity. We can go overboard to the extreme and sin compulsively and in greater measure. We can also sin in moderation and can regard ourselves as moderate sinners. Is this what is meant by moderation? No! It means that we are not to be extreme believers that want to kill every sinner or seek to punish every sin.

We can be immoderate in the use of our gifts. Some believers are so busy with the manifestation of their gifts that they tend to become unbalanced. The exhortation to moderation also applies in such a case and believers are encouraged to leave this form of extremity and to become more moderate. Satan will not get a foothold if this is being done. There is, however, no moderation needed against satan. Provided that he is cast out, we do not have to contend with his onslaughts because we then have space for Jesus to come in to help us contend against the wiles of the devil and to do God's commandments.

Together with moderation, we have to have forgiveness, forbearance, patience, understanding, compassion and friendliness towards sinners and believers alike. Without these seven things, we will have a continual war against sinners and not against their sin. The devil, alias that old serpent, Satan, the deceiver, needs to be recognised as being behind the sinner and his sin. The sinner has to turn from his/her way to deal effectively with the strategies of Satan and even satan himself. We are to help those who do not understand to come to this realisation of their enemy and his strategies. Once this is seen we can then seek full deliverance, to be free from the devil, extremity and the problems that attend such instances.

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11. Calling women Proverbs 33

God created a woman to fulfil specific roles during the extent of her existence. She is different from the man in so many ways. God made marriage an institution so that the woman and the man can link together in making a family.

Genesis 3:20 "And Adam called his wife's name Eve because she was the mother of all living."

Child - As a child is born into the marriage, she needs to learn obedience to her father and mother, helping with the chores as she grows older.

Sister - She can become a sister to sisters or a sister to brothers, as these are born to the parents.

Pupil - She attends school to learn for many years until she passes her grades.

Friend - At school and with the neighbours she becomes a friend to them.

Sister-in-law - When her sibling gets married, she becomes a sister-in-law to the family of the brother/sister.

Aunty - If a sibling has children, she becomes the aunt to the children and they become a niece or nephew to her.

Graduate - Attending college or university to improve herself and prepare her for a career.

Worker - She finds work that earns her a living for herself. Her career is uppermost in her thinking and she continues to climb the ladder through the opportunities presented to her, with her income rising as she is placed in responsible positions.

Lover - A woman was made to fall in love with a man. Men and women fall in love with each other when they meet and start to date.

Fiancé - An engagement period follows; if love persists the woman becomes engaged to the man of her choosing. This is a time when the man asks the woman to become engaged to him and gives her a ring that backs up his promise to marry her. This is the time that a woman gets acquainted with the man's family and friends and work circumstances.

Wife - When both have decided to marry after the proposal by the man, they arrange a wedding date for this to happen.

Homemaker - The married couple set up a home and work together to make the home comfortable for them to live together.

Parent - When a child and other children are born, she supervises their schooling and home training.

Grandmother - When her son or daughter is married and have children, she is a grandmother to them.

Great Grandmother - As her grandchildren grow up and are married and have their children, she becomes a Great Grandmother to them.

Child of God - The one thing that has not been identified in this list is her conversion, which can take place at any time. If she accepts Jesus as her Saviour and is born again, she becomes a child of God and usually attends church services. She can become a missionary or a pastor's wife. She can become a helper in the service of the church.

Now that these roles a woman can play have been identified, how do you, as a woman, measure up?

In many countries, these roles are being thwarted by sin, war, death, accidents, murders and upheavals in natural disasters.

Count yourself blessed if you have survived these tragedies up to your retirement age and beyond. God has protected you.

The power of living a life of love comes about by avoiding sinfulness and strife and is a special gift of God that is granted to you.

Thankfulness

Thankfulness is a wonderful thing. Thankful women are happy women.

Taking God for granted, others for granted and even life for granted, without being thankful daily for what is our portion given to us by God, is a very sorry state.

Millions are without food and die of starvation. Countless other people have sicknesses and diseases that threaten life and limb. Some so many people do not have constant work. Others live in war-torn zones.

Instead of complaining and grumbling, be grateful for every small blessing that comes your way and is the woman that you should be. Learn to pray and believe for this is the way for us to continue being blessed.

Women can sometimes be very unhappy with their families and their spouses. They seek divorce instead of trying harder to keep their marriages intact from outsiders.

As a woman, you need to measure up to the status of each one of these positions that are part of your lot.

You can do this with the constant help and mercies of God.

In conclusion

Your calling as a woman needs to be part of your safe blessing extending to others. They may not be the same to you, but you will be a better person for doing this.

Your reason for being born will have been justified, and your calling as a woman will have been satisfied.

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12. Abounding victories 1 Corinthians 15:57

The enemy of our souls has a continual struggle to overcome and defeat us. There is never any let-up in this battle. The struggle for our souls goes on night and day, with Jesus on one side of the battle zone and satan on the other side. The struggle takes place between angels and demonic forces. Continual war is being waged for the souls of men, women and children. Nevertheless, despite this eternal struggle, victories can abound in your life as you let go and let God have His way in your circumstances and through your believing prayers. Circumstances will change and your life will take a new turn for the better as you apply positive faith within the principle of being victorious. It is not difficult. As you ask for God's help you will be helped. God will allow Jesus to fill the weakness of your request through the strength of His power, employing His Holy Spirit.

A sound unity at work

The interrelationship between the Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit is a perfect combination for helping us in all our needs. Sometimes you may have to do certain things that are impressed on your heart first, to remove the blocks, stumbling stones or walls. These will block our prayers. Yet, thankfully, the very prayer that we begin to pray is the start that removes all such obstacles. God sees our desire to come through and will help us. It is worth it to pay the price for removing these things to receive God's greater prize, His price having been paid for us.

It is never too late to believe - begin now

The amazing part of human nature is the capacity to rise to the challenges that are presented to it daily. Even if we are defeated, we still somehow manage to carry on until fully defeated. The resilience of the human heart is amazing, but when the Holy Spirit of God fortifies the believing heart, we become unconquerable. The difference between victory and defeat, the start and the finish, is the running in between. An athlete starts the race. He continues in the race. He ends the race. Some people never even start the race and declare defeat even before starting. The longer you leave matters the harder it becomes to find the solution. Decide to start, now!

Defeat usually comes unexpectedly

If the athlete says I cannot do it, he will not be able to have the will, the mindset or heart power to start. Many a race is defeated at the start. The believing life will never become yours with a negative attitude of I cannot make it. There is truth in the statement, 'if the I is only you.' On the other hand, if it is and the Lord Jesus,' you will have a head start over satan. The greatest defeat is not one of your makings but comes from satan. As soon as you understand the truth of this, and you ask God to help you through Jesus, you are standing in the ranks of the winners.

Defeating defeats

Defeat can, however, come to visit us in the middle of our victory. For some reason or other, when we are in victory, we begin to get discouraged through possibly some obstacle that stands in our way. The choice is ours, remain in victory or give over to defeat. By refusing to allow defeat to stay, we keep our victory. Our positive attitude will overcome our negative attitude. Victory, with Christ Jesus helping us all the way, is the solution to all of our defeats. By letting God take full control of your life, the negative will be overcome with the positive assertion of your faith in God, who will always help you. By keeping faith within your heart, God asserts His ability and power towards the solution of any new problems, no matter what they are, no matter how serious they are and no matter how large.

The victory is not yours alone

Every victory that we receive has others that play a part in that victory. We never live alone neither do we die alone. Even the hermit, who seeks to become a recluse, does not die alone, for God is there with him, through the Spirit of God. During his life, even though he was mostly alone, he had God over Him. God is aware of everyone. He is everywhere present at the same time, through His Spirit. Take the lesson from the sparrows. Apply this lesson to yourself and you will never be alone again. Each victory that the husband obtains affects his wife beneficially and of course, vice versa. The same applies to the children, the family and friends. Somehow or other we affect one another either negatively or positively. It is therefore imperative for us as believers to be positive in our believing.

Continuing in victory

Our lives can be either important or insignificant, yet either way, we daily affect others around us. Our defeat speaks to others just as much as our victories. Rather let the victory of our spokesman, the Lord, together with the victory He gives us, be presented towards those we daily come into contact with. Happy is the man, woman and child that has God rejoicing with them over their victories. Even more blessed is the state of being in that position where God has accomplished our victory for us and is the Victor with us.

The war is not lost if the final battle ends well

In every battle, there are minor defects and major victories, or major defects and minor victories. The outcomes of these are not always in our own hands. Our attitudes and our circumstances, facing the enemy's onslaughts, often vie with each other for supremacy over the outcome. Who has not found that the death of a loved one can so devastate us that if we do not arise above that devastation, we will ourselves be destroyed?

It is no dishonour to lose a battle, but it is certain dishonour for us not to have risen to the threat over us.

Surrender? Defeat? Lose? Win?

None of these can apply in our battle against satan. This is one war we cannot afford to lose. We must not compromise whatsoever. For us to do this we need a Champion who will fight with us and for us. The only possible surrender in the case of a believer is the surrender to God. By surrendering in this way, we will receive help from Jesus who is the only One with the settled answers to our spiritual battles against the enemy of our souls. It does not matter how battle-torn we are at the end as long as the battle is eventually won. Our condition, in the end, will be determined by how much we have tried to overcome by ourselves and how much we have let Jesus help us in doing it for us, wonderfully rescuing us from defeat.

A winner?

In every battle, there are winners and losers, but the outcome will decide who is the overall victor. Stalemate is also an outcome and comes about through equal power or strategies being applied to the end, without anyone surrendering, not God, not satan, not ourselves. In this case, it becomes an unsettled truce and we fit nowhere, neither in heaven or hell. There is a special place reserved for those who have taken their way in this type of truce - the place of outer darkness.

A successful conclusion, after crushing defeat, is glorious fulfilment

An army bogged down in a final stand waits for that final push that will overcome the enemy. The enemy has to be thinned out first for that final rush into their strongholds. Whilst

this is progressing, the onslaught of the enemy gets fiercer and the outcome is uncertain. Who will finally win at the end of the battle? Victory seems to be ours at times and at other times theirs. This depends on the strength and determination, ammunition and strategies as well as the will and trust of those who will eventually overcome. How difficult is it to continue? What are the odds? What about our previous defeats? Victory will prove these things for us and we will forever enjoy the results of our victory. The eternal victory will make every battle worthwhile.

The defeat of satan's power - promised victory

The word salvation, in the biblical sense, is the act of saving, the means of preservation from any serious evil, the saving of man from the power and penalty of sin, the conferring of eternal happiness, the deliverance from enemies, redemption. These acts are a continual process going on as we walk with Jesus, our Saviour. He does much more than this; He wins the battle for us, over sin, death, the grave, hell, the second death, God's eternal fire of judgment. Jesus stands alone in doing this. His victory over us, for us, in us and through us, is salvation.

Jesus (and ourselves) will be pleased as satan retreats

The Middleman in the battle is Jesus, who is above all and in the believers. As the battle turns against His people, who have to do their share, Jesus comes in with His angels to do the greater part. The victory is assured by greater force and strength of power. It pleases Jesus to help His children, but it does not always please His children to ask for help. This is why we often lose major spiritual battles. Jesus is not invited into the fray and if He is, it is often the last resort. Blessed is the man, woman and child that has made the final decision to let Jesus do His greater share for them and win this war.

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13.Types of revival Romans 14:9

Welcoming revival using pre-revival preparation

Pre-revival preparation has nothing to do with the work of man. Rather it is God at work in man and through man towards mankind. The working is from God and His Spirit has the secret of pre-revival effort in the whole scheme of things. He knows what He knows and will only reveal it to those who are in tune with that pre-revival act to be instituted on God's part.

We can, however, welcome this pre-revival phase or we can reject it. Those who look for revival only and do not take account of the pre-revival phase, are going to miss two things that are beneficial to revival:

- Their perspective on revival, which will either promote revival or retard it for themselves first and then secondly, for others.
- We might even miss the revival ourselves, due to pride (in disobedience), haughtiness (through frustrating anger) and unbelief (by rebellion).

This is, however, such a deep secret that no one can predict revival. Using words such as, 'surely revival will star' is not a prediction. It is guesswork. We can, however, all judge the climate, we can all discern the time and we can all expect it at any time.

The day, hour and minute when revival will come is a mystery in the hand of God.

We all know of those who have predicted revival's minute, second, hour, week, month, year, decade and century. We also know how wrong they were.

The revivalist does not even know when revival will start.

The instant revival starts we will all know of it, but those who understand pre-revival with its type of actions will be ready to go with revival when it comes.

The beginning of revival is important

Each revival has a direction that it will eventually be following. This direction is usually set by the method that revival is being sought. A prayer revival will press people to pray. A preaching revival will press people to preach. A teaching revival will press people to teach, etc. This is called the tone of the revival. A revival can change course in mid-stream, but this is usually a reason for the revival to eventually fade away and die. The changed course can come about through a difference of opinion in the leadership or the group's members. This is unfortunate in one way but usually takes the revival into another area that the first one is not reaching.

The beginning revival is none other than the hand of God

God has a way of showing that a revival is coming. He has a method of bringing revival to our attention. It usually starts slowly, as a rippling brook or a flowing stream. Then it starts to gush in torrents. We need to be sensitive to a revival that is starting. This seems to appear as drops of rain that fall slowly or as a trickle that appears in a rock split.

The most amazing thing about revival is that it can also come suddenly, like a down-pouring rain that catches us unawares at times.

Revival, whichever way it comes, is nothing short of being the manifestation of the hand of God.

The revival starts and runs to its predetermined end

Every revival has a beginning but does not necessarily have an end. Take the phenomenon

of the early apostolic revivals. They eventually died out, but through the writings of the various apostles of Jesus, 'they being dead, yet speak.' Every time the apostle Paul is quoted in the real intensity of preaching, there is the possibility of a revival springing up. The words of Jesus, if preached intensively and with conviction can also bring forth a new touch of the Jesus revival. The end of these revivals has never really come, for one does not know when a fresh revival wind will start blowing and bring with it a new touch of revival.

Removing the hindrances to revival

When we discern or spiritually sense, that revival is about to happen, we need to be careful that we do not stop it. Revival themes often bring with it an air of great expectancy. This can either be encouraged or stopped by those who are in charge. Anxious fear can be the motivation for stopping the early stirrings of revival. Trust is a far superior way of believing that will cancel out all negative thoughts and anxieties. A stream that starts as an eye in the rock is easily stopped at the source, but the further we go and the more the water begins gushing out of the hole in the rock, the harder it is to stop, especially if there is more than one hole appearing in the rock. Each revival hole needs to be kept open so that the full flowing of the water can meet into making a mighty stream. This is one of the reasons that revivalists need to keep on praying for revival and to keep on believing in it.

Types of revival

- Seed Revival - The Word of God goes out for spiritual planting.
- Wind Revival - The Holy Spirit quickens new birthing and growth.
- Rain Revival - The Spirit of Christ brings spiritual life-giving nourishment and refreshing.
- Fire Revival - The judgment of God eliminates the growth of weeds and through His convicting spiritual fire causes flowers to be preserved.

God knows the end from the beginning

God is the author of revival and knows exactly how the revival is to go and to which areas it will eventually be extended. He knows all things and He is directing revival towards a pre-determined end or result. His planning is perfect and the more it is allowed to go on unhindered, the more it will reach that desired end.

The Jesus 'complexity' and the Holy Spirit 'syndrome'

Revival is either Jesus orientated or Holy Spirit orientated. It can of course also be God orientated. This means that the emphasis is placed on God as the first source, Jesus as the one around whom it centres and the Holy Spirit as the One who is extending the revival. This is noticeable from the beginning and those who are in the know will soon see what the great theme of the revival is. As the revival progresses the normal man in the street will also begin to realise that something is happening. Some revivals have an angelic presence. Others have a key pastor in them. Others are group orientated.

The danger of the revival becoming a Jesus 'complexity' or a Holy Spirit 'syndrome' will always be there. The leaders will need to know what is what and what they should be doing about it if any such thing starts to develop. This comes either through experience, direct revelation from God or having read about other revivals and taking out the necessary teachings and instructions that came out from that revival. Revival can appear to be an unruly giant or a great blessing depending on how the revival manifestation affects us.

Continuing revival

The difference between true revival outpouring and just a touch of revival blessing is the

intensity and duration of the touch or outpouring.

Your revival can direct others to their revival challenge

Your revival can affect others to join you or even to branch off into their revival. The difference between a good branch-off and a bad branch-off in revival is that there is no enmity between brethren. The inspiration of your revival can stir up others to become revival orientated and start seeking their own experience of revival. The independence of the Holy Spirit to perform whatever God is presenting to the heart of man is sufficient for such events. This, however, must be a God-thing and not a man-thing. The man-thing will always bring a division that leads to disillusionment or resentment. This is never good for any revival. The leading of God's Spirit will open up the right thing and therefore should be followed in all ways and at all times.

Watchfulness unto prayer

Revivals die simply because people so enjoy the blessings that the need for continuing in watchfulness and prayer starts to wane. Prayer starts revival and prayer keeps it going.

The extent of your revival

The greater the revival the more one needs to be watchful and keep praying, despite all the blessings that may come out of revival.

The outreaching extension has already been determined

The scope, power and outreaching have already been determined. The prayers of the saints either limit God or give Him the scope that He needs. We need therefore to pray circumspectly and believe positively in the right direction at all times. As our faith is, so it shall be unto us. Whatever we believe that shall we receive. The limits or expanse of revival are best left to God, who can do more than we can believe or expect. Once we put a tag on revival and say only so far and no further, we limit its expression. Rather, we need to let go and let God have His way. If we say revival can come but there should be no outburst of tongues, we are limiting God and the Holy Spirit. There are many ways to hinder a revival. These hindrances need to be dealt with to the best of our ability before revival comes.

Thwarting revival

It may be said by some that no one can thwart God. This is true in a certain sense, but also untrue in another sense. The apostles were persecuted in one town and fled to another, so their fleeing took revival everywhere they went. We cannot understand this strange contradiction that comes with every revival. It only proves the sovereignty of God more wonderfully. Yet, individually the apostles had a personal responsibility to take it everywhere they went.

Revival responsibility lays heavy on the heart of every true revivalist and every would-be revivalist. It takes something to start a revival and it takes something to keep it going.

Are you responsible enough to have a revival or to be part of the revival of another? Search out your motives for it could make the difference between you being in the midst of the revival or merely being on the outside.

Sydney Weber assisted by Lynette van Rooyen and Mary Weber

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