



THE LAW OF FAITH AND THE ELEMENTS THEREOF

THE LAW OF FAITH

AND THE ELEMENTS THEREOF

Discover the Keys to the Kingdom of
Heaven and Unlock the Kingdom Within You

LOUIS PARKS

LOUIS PARKS

THE LAW
of
FAITH
— *and the* —
Elements Thereof

L O U I S P A R K S

ISBN 978-1-64492-998-8 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-64515-000-8 (hardcover)

ISBN 978-1-64492-999-5 (digital)

Copyright © 2019 by Louis Parks

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods without the prior written permission of the publisher. For permission requests, solicit the publisher via the address below.

Christian Faith Publishing, Inc.

832 Park Avenue

Meadville, PA 16335

www.christianfaithpublishing.com

Unless otherwise noted, italicized Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America

To the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I thank my Mother Victoria Carmichael, Stepfather Colon Carmichael, and Grandmother Thelma Parks for my upbringing. I also thank all the spiritual leaders who impacted my life.

Mission Statement

To inspire total prosperity pertaining to the spirit, soul, and body, as well as to encourage a strong sense of self-worth for the people of God everywhere.

Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1	The Law of Faith	12
Chapter 2	The Fall of Man.....	29
Chapter 3	The Value of Man.....	35
Chapter 4	The Law of Redemption.....	45
Chapter 5	The Law of the Spirit.....	54
Chapter 6	The Law of Righteousness.....	62
Chapter 7	The Law of Humility.....	67
Chapter 8	The Kingdom of God.....	73
Chapter 9	The Law of Covenant.....	88
Chapter 10	The Law of Mind.....	95
Chapter 11	The Law of Sanctification.....	108
Chapter 12	The Law of Love.....	117
Chapter 13	The Law of Prayer.....	123
Chapter 14	The Law of Unity.....	139
Chapter 15	The Law of Sowing and Reaping.....	148
Chapter 16	The Law of the Seed.....	157
Chapter 17	The Law of Desire.....	163
Chapter 18	The Law of Expectation.....	166
Chapter 19	The Law of Focus.....	172
Chapter 20	The Law of Vision.....	176
Chapter 21	The Law of Action.....	180
Chapter 22	The Law of Wisdom.....	185
Chapter 23	The Law of Creativity.....	190
Chapter 24	The Law of Wealth.....	196
Chapter 25	The Law of Obedience.....	202
Chapter 26	The Law of Persistence.....	210
Chapter 27	The Law of Peace.....	216
Chapter 28	The Law of Rest.....	220
Chapter 29	The Law of Sacrifice.....	228

Conclusion

The Hundred-Year Prophecy of the Millennium Power
Given by Bob Jones

Introduction

My son [son/daughter], if you receive my words, and **treasure my commands within you**, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and **apply your heart to understanding**, Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for **hidden treasures**; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.

—Proverbs 2:1–9

Iwant to preface this book by saying that I have accepted Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) as my Lord and Savior. I graduated from Charis Bible College in Atlanta, Georgia. God led me to write this book because many people are frustrated with life, bound by religious barriers, and upset with God. Some of this frustration is caused by the current conditions that exist in the world, but most of it stems from

a misunderstanding of how the kingdom of God operates by faith.

I used to be in this very same place in life. Back in my middle and late twenties, severe depression and anxiety diverted me from God's intended path. For many years, I felt my life was insignificant to God because of the hardships I experienced in life. This caused me to harbor a negative mindset and negative emotions. My life was stuck in a ditch as a result of my wrong thought patterns. I later found that my lack of spiritual understanding caused some of the problems I was experiencing in life. Therefore, I was partially responsible for creating my own mental and emotional prison.

As I continued to grow in my spiritual understanding, I started receiving visitations from the Lord through visions and dreams. He also spoke to me through other spiritual leaders. I later discovered that God had not been ignoring me all those years. In fact, His grace was covering me behind the scenes. The problem was my focus. I had been tuned into the wrong frequency, so I lacked spiritual understanding and direction for my life. God then began to show me glimpses of heaven, and reveal to me divine knowledge. Now, I believe that God wants me to share my revelation knowledge and personal experiences through my gift of writing to inspire and encourage others.

God spoke to me one day in a vision within a dream. He said that many people are upset with Him because of the current conditions that are happening in the world. He then said that He has given us, His born-again children, the gift of faith, and that it will work when we apply it. We must understand that the power God gives to every believer is subject to faith. Therefore, we must gain an understanding on learning how to apply faith. If we have a problem with using a gift, the problem isn't the gift itself. We find that the more we practice using a gift, the more it will develop,

and the more we will experience victory in every area of our lives.

In the natural, there are city, state, and national laws that govern our society. If we, as citizens, violate a law out of ignorance, it does not excuse us from receiving penalty for violating the law. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each citizen to learn and abide by the laws of the land in which we live. In the same manner, God's kingdom operates on the basis of spiritual law, which is necessary for maintaining order. God's laws are written throughout the entire Bible. Therefore, it would be beneficial for us to study how the kingdom of God operates. It is unfortunate that some people are perishing for a lack of the knowledge of God (Hosea 4:6).

This book has nothing to do with new age philosophy, which takes spiritual principles from the Bible and removes Christ as the centerpiece. Everything I write in this book is built on Jesus Christ as the foundation. I don't proclaim to know everything pertaining to spiritual knowledge and understanding because I'm still learning throughout my daily journey in life. My intention in writing this book is to shed light in the midst of darkness based on the revelation God has given me.

God has given me a gift of teaching revelation knowledge to help navigate others through the depths of His written Word. The Scriptures were given to help us understand God's kingdom laws and His process for reconciling us back to Himself. It's a miracle that this book finally made it to its publishing phase. I've had to resist a countless number of opposition in getting this message composed and distributed. However, I'm willing to lay aside a lifestyle of comfort in order to relay God's message to those who have open hearts to receive it.

In today's world, there are many vain philosophies mixed with *truth* and error, which only will lead to confusion. I remember a time in my life when I tried to

read every philosophical book that I could get my hands on. I was thirsty in my search for the *truth*. Trust me when I say that we can save ourselves years of frustration by studying the life of Jesus Christ in our thirst for enlightenment. The information that I am writing to you has freed my mind from a lot of confusion and frustration.

This book is not about traditions of man. A relationship with God the Father (Jehovah/Yahweh) far exceeds any tradition. Moreover, the Bible describes pure religion as visiting the orphans and widows in their affliction, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world (James 1:27). This book is designed to empower us, the sons and daughters of God, to walk in holiness and kingdom authority. Most importantly, I want to help to illuminate your understanding in the faith of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Savior of the world has paved the way for us to triumph over every trial we face in this fallen world system. He is our light in this present darkness. Therefore, we have been encouraged in the Holy Bible to contend earnestly for the faith that leads to everlasting life. The more we embrace the purity of God's Word, the more liberated and empowered we will become. I pray that this book will inspire us to draw closer to God through His divine grace. I encourage you to revisit this book as a powerful reference guide for spiritual growth.

Chapter 1

THE LAW OF FAITH

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

—Hebrews 11:3

In the beginning, all things were created by God on the basis of spiritual law and order. A law is a command or a system of regulation. Therefore, spiritual laws are designed to work together in one systematic order that has been set in place by God. The spiritual realm is made up of formless substance, which cannot be seen with our natural eyes. By faith God spoke the worlds into existence. Moreover, when God said, “Let there be light”, there was light (Genesis 1:3). So, based on this action, we can clearly see that God has a way of doing things. God in His infinite glory calls things which do not exist as though they did (Romans 4:17). God’s Word is supreme law, and He watches over His Word to perform it. Since we were made in His image and likeness, we can model after God by placing total trust in God’s Word and use the faith He placed on the inside of us.

Spiritual laws are always at work, yet they cannot be seen with our natural eyes. We can’t see radio waves, but we know they exist. What we see in the natural is materialized by what we can’t see in the spiritual realm.

There are many secular terms for the law of faith, such as “the law of attraction.” However, this secular term only scratches the surface of the divine law of faith. There are other important variables to consider in order for us to get the full picture. In addition, it doesn’t matter what we call them; they are still laws that God has established. Spiritual laws exist just like natural laws. Let’s say for example, the law of gravity. We all know the consequences of violating this law. Then there are laws that govern our solar system, which allows the sun to rise and set each day based on God’s established Word.

Another example of a natural law is demonstrated by a seed. Every seed will reproduce after its own kind. Since God blessed the seed, it will reproduce without Him needing to take further action. That being said, there are many of us who misunderstand the kingdom of God. To be blessed is to receive divine favor and enabling power. Therefore, it is left up to us to apply spiritual knowledge, wisdom, and understanding based on the parameters of God’s Word.

In my earlier stages of understanding how to grow stronger in faith, I found that believing God for small things gave me a place of reference to help build my faith upon. You must understand that your faith works for you and will manifest the things that you believe and speak out of the abundance of your heart. The more you embrace the *truth*, the more Christ in you will begin to take on form, and the sleeping giant within will become awakened.

Then He touched their eyes, saying, “**According to your faith let it be to you.**” (Matt. 9:29)

Salvation by Faith

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

—Ephesians 2:8–9

To boast means to talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements, possessions, or abilities. Since all have sinned and continually fall short of God's holy standards, and can only be justified (declared free of the guilt of sin, made acceptable to God, and granted eternal life) through faith in our Savior, then what becomes of our boasting? This question was addressed in Scripture because there are many who believe that their good works will get them into heaven, and some believe that because they are a good person, then surely, they will make it in. Unfortunately, they are looking through the lens of their own sense reasoning rather than by faith in God and His Word. Let's see how this is emphasized in Scripture again below.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by **the law of faith**. (Romans 3:27 KJV)

In order for us to receive salvation through grace by faith, we must repent of our sins and place our faith in Christ. Why Christ? It's because He is part of the Godhead who holds the office as the Mediator between God and man (Hebrews 12:23). His name alone means Savior. Salvation encompasses both physical and spiritual dimensions of life; having relevance for the whole person. It includes righteousness, deliverance, protection, provision, healing,

divine enablement, favor, and eternal life. To reiterate, these benefits of salvation are received only by God's grace. Grace is unmerited favor as well as divine enablement. Therefore, grace was given by God to enable gradual change towards holiness for those of us who follow Christ and have become born of the Spirit (2 Peter 3:18). The Spirit of *truth* bears witness to us concerning Christ as the Savior of mankind by resonating with our hearts.

Jesus Christ lived a perfect life by taking on human flesh, yet He lived without sin. We who have experienced victory understand that victory comes at a price, and Christ paid the price for our sins to be forgiven. Christ being who He is, had the capacity to endure death on the Cross as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world. Moreover, the Julian and Gregorian calendar, including the dates that are being recorded today even testify of the existence of our Lord and Savior. In fact, B.C stands for before Christ, and A.D stands for Anno Domini, which is Latin for "In the year of the Lord."

Righteousness by Faith

**For with the heart one believes unto
righteousness, and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.**

—Romans 10:10

Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:16). Based on the law of the New Covenant, faith in Christ will place us in right standing with God. This happens from the moment our "heart confession" is made unto God. Since Christ is the living Word, we must understand that true belief in Christ means to believe in His Word. Therefore, we must take time to renew our minds to the *truth*, as right believing will

produce right living by persistent meditation on the Word of God.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21)

Once we receive salvation, it enables us to live a lifestyle of walking in true holiness. This is why we go through the process of receiving water baptism followed by the washing with water from the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26). It is symbolic of the burial of the old man, and the rising of the new man after being washed from our old sin nature. Now, we can move forward to walk in the knowledge of God's righteousness. Let's look at this next key Scripture.

...through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so **through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men**, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (Rom. 5:18-19)

The previous Scripture says that by one man's (Adam's) act of disobedience all became sinners. However, the contrary is also true. By one Man's (Christ) act of obedience, many will be made righteous. How could one ignore such a precious gift?

The Substance of Faith

Now faith is **the substance of things hoped for**, the evidence of things not seen.

—Hebrews 11:1

Faith is living by what we cannot see with our natural eyes. It is vital that we understand that faith comes by hearing and by hearing of the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). When we understand how salvation works by faith, then we will be able to understand how faith works in every other area of our lives. So, let's break down the word substance. When we are hoping for something, we tap into a faculty of our heart and mind called our imagination. In our imagination, there is substance of things that we desire, which can't be seen "yet" with our physical eyes. However, once the desire has materialized in our lives, it will become undeniable tangible evidence.

The only way to receive the manifestation of things hoped for is to believe with all of our hearts. In addition, we must have patience for the expected end result. For those of us who have trained our hearts, Scripture is enough supporting evidence to believe for things hoped for without first seeing the physical outcome. The things hoped for are thoughts that we desire, which must be mixed with our beliefs.

The Gift of Faith

For I say, through the grace given unto me,
to every man that is among you, not to think
of himself more highly than he ought to
think; but to think soberly, according as **God**
has dealt to every man the measure of
faith.

—Romans 12:3, KJV

As we see in this Scripture, God has given every believer the gift of faith. However, it is the divine kind of faith, which only comes from God. Therefore, in Christ we receive the same measure of faith, which is the key to obtaining victory over this fallen world system. However, in order for us to operate in divine faith, we must grow in our understanding of how the kingdom of God operates. Heart knowledge must become the spiritual DNA of our souls; in the sense that we're living by what the Word of God says.

The heart is where the supernatural formation of the unseen takes place before it materializes into the reality of our world. God has given us many gifts; therefore, it is up to us to learn how to use them (1 Cor. 12:9). As we study the life of Christ, our lives will take on new meaning, and we'll discover that our new identity is in Him.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I
live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and
the life which I now live in the flesh **I live**
by the faith of the Son of God, who loved
me, and gave Himself for me.

—Galatians 2:20 KJV

The Spirit of Faith

And since **we have the same spirit of faith**,
according to what is written, “I believed,
and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and
therefore speak.

—2 Corinthians 4:13

After accepting Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, we will receive the inner attributes of the Spirit. One of Christ attributes is faith, and by faith, we will partake of His divine nature. However, the attributes of Christ begin in seed form, and must be watered with the Word of God in order to bring the seed to its complete maturity in our lives. Therefore, all things pertaining to life and godliness is possible for us because Christ, who has all power and authority, now lives in us by His Spirit. Once born of the Spirit, what we accomplish in Christ will be beyond our natural abilities.

Since God has given us His Spirit by grace, it is now up to us to receive the promises of God by faith in God’s Word. Our faith possesses what God’s grace has already provided for us. In Christ, we have a right to declare the blessings of God over our lives. The blessings of God consist of more than just finances as many people perceive them to be. What good is financial prosperity if we don’t have peace or good health to enjoy it? Blessings encompass peace, protection, provision, healing, favor, ability, deliverance, and most importantly, eternal life. These are the benefits of our salvation.

The Favor of Faith

Let not mercy and *truth* forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, **and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.**

—Proverbs 3:3-4

I give all honor to God for every good gift that comes from above. There are common blessings that we benefit from in the kingdom of God, and there are “commanded blessings” that God will bestow upon our lives according to our obedience to God (Deut. 28:8). The commanded blessings upon our lives will cause us to have favor with God and man. Scripture reveals that God is able to make all grace abound towards us (2 Cor. 9:8). In other words, God can induce spiritual laws to work in our favor. When God causes all grace to abound towards us, we will become a magnet for blessings! His favor will surround us like a shield (Ps. 5:12). Therefore, understand that God will cause us to prosper at whatever we put our hands to as we come into agreement with His Word.

The Spiritual Force of Faith

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, **whoever says** to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ **and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.**

—Mark 11:22-23

Here's a business illustration of how faith works. Someone who starts a business usually puts in a lot of work in the beginning of its growth and development stages. As the business grows, he eventually get to a point where he can delegate minute tasks. Then, after receiving a return on his investments, the business owner, most likely, will allow their money and people to begin working for him. When we begin investing our faith in the Word of God, our faith will begin to do the heavy lifting through the application of our faith declarations. Furthermore, our lives will begin to take on a supernatural dimension for God's plan to unfold for us.

Here's another illustration on how faith works. In the natural, we have computers and programmers who took time to study programming language. A programmer gives instructions for what each computer program should do. In activating our faith, we give commands by the use of our words (Job 22:28). However, our words, which are based on our beliefs, must be interpreted into the language that the universe understands. The only language that the universe responds to is faith, and the force of faith flows from our hearts. Therefore, we have been given a platform to exercise our faith.

Living by Faith

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed
from faith to faith; as it is written, **“The just
shall live by faith.”**

—Romans 1:17

We read in Scripture that the just shall live by faith. This tells us that faith must be applied on all levels in order to obtain victory in every area of our lives. God's will is for us to be made whole in spirit, soul, and body (1 Thess.

5:23). Although we may have faith in God, we should also have faith in what the Word of God says pertaining to the affairs of our everyday lives. God will not withhold from us any good thing. However, getting understanding is the key to applying our faith. We must understand that the Holy Spirit has restored our conscience with the innate knowledge of God, which resides in our hearts (Hebrews 9:14). Therefore, we must do our part by transforming our minds to align with our new nature from within. Whenever we do this, it's like spiritually connecting wires that will cause activation of the power (ability) that now works within us (Ephesians 3:20).

Scripture states that God has blessed us with all things pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). It's not all about material gain, although material gain can be a byproduct of spiritual gain. So if God has already blessed every believer, then why are there so many of us lacking faith, or falling away from faith in God? This is partly due to a lack of understanding on how faith works in the life of the believer as a new creation in Christ. Secondly, it has a lot to do with the current conditions of the world as the spiritual battle becomes more intense. Therefore, we must persevere and have a thorough understanding of how the grace of God applies to our faith. The way to receive blessings in the kingdom of God is to believe. Some of us are not doing our part by renewing our minds, which requires discipline in order to cultivate the wisdom needed to take the right actions.

Faith to Endure Hardships

In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

—John 16:33

We are living in a time when violence, wars, earthquakes, hurricanes, and economic depression are becoming the norm. These events were already foretold to us in scripture (Matt. 24:6). Therefore, we are not to live in fear. Fear is faith in the negative because it's allowing our hearts to meditate on a negative experience. Although the world is full of unforeseen challenges, God knows how to preserve us and get us back on track to fulfill our destiny.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him from them all. (Ps. 34:19)

We can gain valuable insight from the life of Joseph. The life of Joseph speaks to us today in the sense that he endured many trials as a child of God. The Bible reveals that the Lord was with Joseph, and prospered all that he did. Although he endured many trials, he didn't lose sight of the vision God placed in his heart (Gen. 37:18–36). If we study Joseph's life, we will see that he was used as a vessel of God to save the nation of Israel from famine. However, he was hated by his own siblings who were of the same household. This lets us know that Satan will try to use whomever he can, even those who are close to us, to get our hearts so discouraged that we self-willingly abort our destiny in God.

As the story unfolds, Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Although Joseph experienced what looked like a demotion in the natural, his spiritual position in God never

changed. In my own experiences in life, I've been laid off from jobs, but God would always replace it with something better. If we find ourselves in a position of being laid off, we can use that valuable time to grow closer to God!

Later in the story, we discover that Joseph found favor and was promoted again by being placed in charge of his master's household. Joseph was later put into prison over a crime that he didn't commit. However, after a series of calamities, Joseph's position in the natural eventually became elevated by being put into a position of authority over the entire land of Egypt. So, we see that God used Joseph to make provision for His chosen people; helping them to escape the famine that God had already foreseen. Therefore, we must realize that all things work together for the good of those who love God.

The Good Fight of Faith

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

—1 Timothy 6:12

We have been encouraged to fight the good fight of faith. In other words, we should strive for what is considered righteous by God no matter what opposition or temptation may come our way. Straight and narrow is the way that leads to everlasting life. Although we go through trials, we have hope in knowing that Christ came to destroy the works of Satan and has recovered all authority. Now the authority through Christ, has been delegated to the sons and daughters of God (1 John 3:8).

And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, **I give you the authority to trample** on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:18–19)

In Christ, we’ve been given authority to overcome sin, Satan, and the world. If we have the Spirit of Christ, then we have been given the keys of the kingdom. Keys are what grant us access, and now that authority has been restored back to the born-again believers, it is up to us to enforce our authority by faith. Therefore, we must grow in our understanding of the authority we’ve been given in Christ. In spite of opposition, declaring the Word of God would be an act of using the sword of the Spirit against the powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:17). Always remember that no matter how hard it may get, God is our refuge and strength!

The Shield of Faith

Above all, take the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts [arrows] of the wicked one.

—Ephesians 6:16-18

A shield is the first barrier against an enemy’s attack. Shields, often made of wood and covered in hide, when wet, could extinguish flaming arrows. Metaphorically speaking, flaming arrows can be anything from evil words, lies, or schemes. Although weapons may be formed against us, they will not prosper (Isaiah 54:17). So, notice the Scripture says above all, take the shield of faith. Why?

Because the shield is the most important piece of spiritual armor as an object of defense. To give an analogy, if a police officer is being shot at, he understands that he must first find cover before exchanging fire. Therefore, he will find anything he can get behind, such as a vehicle or building to shield himself from flying bullets. Spiritually, God is our shield, and by faith we lift up (exalt) our shield (God) by acknowledging Him and remaining grounded in the *truth* (Psalm 28:7). The result is that the fiery arrows from the enemy will lose their power (Psalm 91:4).

Through You we will push down our enemies;
Through Your name we will trample those who
rise up against us. (Psalm 44:5)

A shield was not just a weapon of defense, but it could also be used to push against opponents. When fighting as a group, soldiers could position their shields in such a way to form an enclosure around themselves in battle while gaining territory. Therefore, it's important for us to join together with other likeminded believers in this spiritual war between good and evil. Moreover, pastoral leaders can also provide a spiritual covering for us to counter the enemy's attacks through guidance, counsel, and prayer. Ultimately, when we show unwavering dedication to God in the face of trials or unforeseen circumstances, it is an act of using our shield of faith and an opportunity for God to show Himself mighty to save (Zephaniah 3:17).

Faith to Overcome the World

For whatever is born of God overcomes the
world. And **this is the victory that has
overcome the world-our faith.**

To be an overcomer implies that there will be challenges that we must face in this world. Moreover, what does it mean to overcome except that we must overcome all the various forms of opposition and deception that Satan has planted in the earth? The enemy's plot is to train our minds to sin and rebel against God's set order for mankind. The world in its current condition, is a system that has been turned upside down from God's original design.

Once we move past all the distractions of this fallen world, we'll discover that our lives are beyond the mundane because God has a greater purpose for us. However, there are conditions for obtaining complete victory over this fallen world system. God needs our faith elevated so that He can guide us to where He wants to take us in life. Our faith will cause us to rise and soar above the storms of life. In addition, He desires that our hearts will become sensitive enough to be able to perceive His voice. This will enable us to receive direction from God and succeed at what He created us to accomplish in the earth.

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; **they shall mount up with wings like eagles.** (Isa. 40:31)

As born-again children of the Most High, we will eventually develop wings like an eagle that will cause us to rise above the storms of life. However, just like an eagle learning how to fly out of its nest for the first time, our faith must be developed. Therefore, the wings of our faith must be used throughout life experiences in order to become strengthened. When we're flying in a higher atmosphere, we'll begin to see things differently from when we were operating at ground level. In other words, we'll have a

whole new perspective on life once we're being led by the Spirit.

Although we may experience challenges along the way, sometimes, it can be an opportunity for growth and development. Wind that opposes a plane is also needed to cause the wing to lift. The difference in pressure creates a force on the wing that lifts the wing up into the air. This is a powerful analogy because some people work better under pressure. In fact, some people never discover what's in them until they've experienced some level of pressure.

Let's trust God and not lose heart. Trust develops over time through establishing a relationship. God wants to guide us on our spiritual journey to deliver us from a place of separation and bondage, so that He may bring us into sonship and freedom. If our lives are in Christ, then we're no longer part of the world's fallen system that Satan is controlling (2 Cor. 4:4).

This present world is a type of ancient Egypt, and Satan is a type of Pharaoh (ruling authority who is opposed to serving God). In Christ, we have been given authority to rule over all the powers of darkness. Therefore, as we keep meditating on the *truth*, we will develop the mind of Christ. The darkness of this world is such a negative place, and it continues to grow worse. However, it was not always this way. It all started with the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

Key Highlights:

- **We walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)**
- **Faith is practical. (Mark 11:22-23)**
- **Faith is progressive. (Romans 1:17)**

Chapter 2

THE FALL OF MAN

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

—Genesis 3:6

In the beginning, God said, “Let us make man in our **image** and **likeness**” (Gen. 1:26). In other words, we were created to be like God. When we have a child, he or she is like us in many ways. The *truth* is that God wanted a family. We were created by Him for His Glory. Love seeks an outlet of expression beyond self-centeredness. However, the obedience of mankind first had to be tested. There were two specific trees planted in the Garden of Eden. One was called the tree of life, and the other was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree of life was God’s provision for mankind’s eternal life (Rev. 22:2). We can say that one tree represented God’s blessing for obedience, and the other tree represented God’s curse for disobedience.

God created the world, but He did not design this present fallen world system to be the way it is today. God is not responsible for a system that is opposed to His righteous laws. Understand that man was given a free will to choose,

but it was not God's desire for man to rebel against God's ordinances.

The Curse of Sin and Death

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

—Romans 6:23

When God created Adam and Eve, He created them spirit, soul, and body, just as we see the Godhead personified as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God never intended for humans to die. Spiritual death began after Adam and Eve's fall, which was the moment their spirits became disconnected from the Spirit of God. It was like having a house but losing access to all lighting. Although, their physical bodies were still alive after the fall, their minds became darkened. Sadly, Adam and Eve unleashed the curse of sin and death after disobeying God to follow the voice of Satan's deception. Understand that these were spiritual laws that had already been established by God from the beginning of creation. Therefore, the curse of sin and death was the result of violating a direct command.

The good news is that God implemented a plan for redeeming mankind by providing a righteous sacrifice. The sacrifice was Jesus Christ, and through faith in the Savior, our spirit man is regenerated and reunited to God by the power of the Holy Spirit. While the gift of salvation is free and available to all, some people have not yet become enlightened due to a lack of divine knowledge. Others blatantly deny the Spirit, which is given through faith in Jesus Christ, who is the light to our temples made of clay (John 1:4).

What Spiritual Law Did Adam and Eve Violate?

Adam and Eve violated the law of obedience. They disobeyed God's Word by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil even though they were given a direct command not to do so. Know that if God issues a command, then it becomes law, and every command from God is based on righteousness and justice (Psalm 89:14). Therefore, disobedience against God's Word is sin, and the consequence for sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

What Part of Adam Died After the Fall?

In biblical terms, death also means separation. Therefore, spiritual death occurred when Adam's spirit became separated from God, including his offspring. Then, natural death occurred when his soul separated from his physical body. So, we see what happened initially to change the course of mankind. In observance of the law of obedience, Adam and Eve died spiritually after they disobeyed God, but their physical bodies lived for over nine hundred years after the fall. We can see signs of their spiritual death by what was recorded in Genesis.

It is recorded in the book of Genesis that prior to sin, Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed. However, they covered themselves with fig leaves and hid themselves after the fall. People will oftentimes try to compensate in the natural, when there is a deeper issue that needs to be addressed spiritually. Adam and Eve's natural reaction to sin was a result of their fallen spiritual state. So their nature

became “shameful” and “fearful.” Fear is the first sign of spiritual death or separation from God. Moreover, man’s nature gradually became sinful as a result of losing the light that Adam and Eve once possessed in spirit.

Adam died spiritually first, then his physical body died hundreds of years later. The life in his spirit came from having a spiritual connection with God, which also gave him power and kingdom authority over the earth. Sin was a foreign concept to man until Adam and Eve fell. As a result of the fall, insecurity, inferiority, fear, condemnation, guilt, and shame entered the world. This is the state of consciousness that many people are blinded and held captive by today.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **whose minds the god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, unless the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Cor. 4:3–4)

Satan’s objective is to keep our sight away from knowing who we are in God. Why? Because Satan is an enemy of our souls. He knows that we will become like what we behold. To behold Christ is to become like Him. It will then enable us to walk in kingdom authority and set us free from the artificial boundaries imposed by Satan over the world’s corrupt system. In addition, we will receive eternal life if we continue in our faith to follow Christ and God’s righteous law through the power of His grace.

How Did Adam Forfeit His Authority?

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one's slaves whom you obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

—Romans 6:16

Creation was established based on spiritual laws that have consequences if violated. God's Word says that we will become a slave to whom we obey, whether it be of righteousness or sin (Rom. 6:16). Satan tempted Adam and Eve to sin by disobeying God's Word. Therefore, the authority Adam possessed prior to the fall no longer gave him dominion or rulership over the earth. He forfeited his authority over to Satan unknowingly. This made Satan the god or ruler over this world's fallen system. So, he is able to give temporary material gain and power to those who will follow him (Matthew 4:9).

Since God gave dominion to Adam who represented the human race, but lost his governing authority to Satan, it would take another Man to get the authority back. Therefore, we thank God for sending Jesus Christ! Christ came to destroy the works of Satan and has restored authority back to mankind. Hallelujah! Authority is given to those who have been redeemed in Christ. Understanding that this present world is ruled by a fallen archangel, along with his legion, and how he gained authority over the earth, brings the understanding of our need for the Savior of the world.

Key Highlights:

- **The fall unleashed the curse of death as a result of sin. (Romans 5:12)**
- **The fall not only affected man, but also all of creation on earth. (Romans 8:20)**
- **Satan usurped dominion over the earth. (Luke 4:6)**

Chapter 3

THE VALUE OF MAN

You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.

—Psalm 8:5-6

Man is the pinnacle of God’s creation. This statement may cause some women to feel less important. However, know that the use of the word “man” was originally known to be gender neutral. A woman is a man born with a womb for the purpose of childbearing, but she is still a man. I felt it necessary to explain this important *truth* because some women feel less valuable to God than men because of this common misunderstanding. However, God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

Man was created to reflect the glory of God. Before God created us, He made sure the foundation was laid so we would have everything we would need in the earth. Most people place very little value on the fact that we were made in the “image” and “likeness” of God. To say that mankind evolved from monkeys or apes would be degrading to the origin of mankind and robs us of our dignity of being created in the image of God. However, we know this to be false because it violates the law of the seed. Let’s look at these two fundamental *truths* in this next Scripture.

God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature **according to its kind** [seed]: cattle and creeping thing and **beast** [animals] **of the earth, each according to its kind;** and it was so. (Genesis 1:24)

We can see here in the Scripture above that God established a law for every living creature to reproduce after its own kind. Any teachings on evolution that contradict God’s existence and the biblical origin of mankind are evil thoughts that we must cast down (2 Cor. 10:5). Therefore, we must hold fast to the *truth*; knowing that God created man in His own image and likeness, in righteousness and true holiness.

Then God said, “Let Us [Father, Son, Holy Spirit] make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... (Genesis 1:26)

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

It’s disheartening to think of how far the human race has fallen from our spiritual awareness. People have become conditioned to believe that we are only creatures of this limited physical reality. However, natural things are only types and shadows of the heavenly things. The world’s system has weighed many people down to the point that they no longer want to live. It saddens my heart just to think about it because I used to be one of those people. However, the closer I step into the light, the more I understand God’s love. Through the redemption of Christ’s blood, we become the sons of light, which was our original

design. If we are continuing to draw in the light, our thoughts and actions will be a reflection of the light.

For with You is the fountain of life; **In Your light we see light.** (Psalm 36:9)

Our self-worth can be found in Christ demonstrating His love on the Cross. Therefore, we ought to begin seeing ourselves the way that God sees us—valuable. In the natural, if we lost a coin on the floor and later found it, although it may be dirty, it still has value. Let's look at Luke chapter 15:8–10 below, which is a parable that explains God's love for lost souls.

8) Or what woman, having ten silver coins, **if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?**

9) And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, **“Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!”**

10) Likewise, I say to you, **there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**

Arise, Shine, For Our Light Has Come

During the Lord's earthly ministry, He was steadily trying to raise the consciousness of humanity. Consciousness means the state of being awake and aware of one's surroundings. The Lord was completely aware of His mission in the earth, and He realized that the kingdom of God was within Him. Part of His mission was to awaken the minds of humanity who had lost their spiritual perception of being made in the image and likeness of God. The Lord wants us to know that God still loves His creation. However, He can't allow humanity to continue wallowing in sin. Therefore, Christ mission was to restore us back to the way God originally intended for us to live—holy. So, understand that there is a connection between kingdom authority and holiness.

The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's;
but **the earth He has given to the children of
men.** (Ps. 115:16)

But as He who called you is holy, you also be
holy in all your conduct, because it is
written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**" (1 Pet. 1:16)

In Jesus's time on earth, people valued religious systems and church buildings more than they valued human beings. It was so bad that the religious leaders thought our righteous Redeemer was wrong to heal people on the Sabbath day. Christ was attracting so many people during His earthly ministry that the religious leaders felt threatened. They thought that they were going to lose

political power and control over the masses. But the Lord's teachings revolutionized their entire way of thinking. They couldn't stand the fact that He identified Himself as being one with the Father/Creator.

Christ disciples watched Him perform many miracles right before their very eyes. However, we can see how doubt and fear would rise up again in their hearts later on in the story. They were so steeped in tradition and hardness of heart that the Lord had to keep reaffirming His identity and power over the heavens and earth. It's interesting to read how Christ disciples reacted during a storm. His disciples were afraid that they were about to perish, but the Lord was so calm that he was able to sleep during the commotion. The Lord was at peace because He knew He had power to calm the storm. The disciples said to Him, "Master, do you not care about us drowning?" And Jesus replied, "Why are you fearful? Oh ye of little faith" (Mark 4:35–40).

We also read how Peter was able to walk on water as long as He kept his eyes on Christ. When he looked down, he immediately began to doubt and started to sink. Jesus said to him, "Why did you doubt?" (Matt. 14:29–31). So we see here again that faith is a responsibility in the life of the believer, and without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).

Man's Disobedience and Satan's Rebellion

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground **you who weakened the nations!** For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.
(Isa. 14:12–13)

In the beginning of the creation of mankind, God prized us as His most precious creation. God's original plan was to create man in His own image and likeness. However, man's obedience to God's authority had to first be tested. So what happened? Satan interrupted God's plan for mankind by deceiving Adam and Eve through temptation. Since they disobeyed God's command, it made both parties responsible for the fall.

Satan was originally created as a holy archangel called Lucifer. The light that was dispelled from his inner being resulted in a downward spiral of spiritual darkness. Therefore, he became gradually evil as a result of losing the light he once possessed. We know that light that comes from God is love, and darkness is the absence of light. So from the time Satan was cast down to the earth, he has sought to destroy mankind through deception (Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:12). However, based the sacrifice of Christ, God gives aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, we were worth dying for. (Hebrews 2:16-18)

Who Are the Stars of God Recorded in Isaiah 14?

Let's first look at this scripture below, and hopefully it will resonate with your heart.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. (Ps. 19:1)

Allow me to establish the fact that the first heaven is the atmospheric heavens, which surround the earth. The second heaven is beyond the earth's atmosphere (outer space), and the third heaven that Paul was caught up to is where God and the saints of God dwell (2 Cor. 12:2). Scripture states that the firmament reveals knowledge. We can look up in the sky and see that the sun is symbolic of God as the Source of all life.

The moon is a reflection of the sun. Therefore, in the context of the Holy Trinity, the moon testifies of Christ in the sense that He dwelled among us and became our light in the midst of darkness. Lastly, the stars represent us as the children of God through the power and union with the Holy Spirit, as He ignites within us a holy flame (Matt. 3:11)!

And I will make your descendants **multiply as the stars of heaven.** (Gen. 26:4)

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and **the morning star rises in your hearts.** (1 Pet. 1:19)

I believe Satan was referring to us when he said in his heart that he would exalt his throne (position of authority) above the stars of God. Isn't this exactly what he did in the Garden of Eden through deception? If you thought the stars of God that Satan was referring to in Isaiah 14 were symbolic of angels, then why would Satan need to exalt himself above angels when he already was given authority over angels of lower rank?

In spite of everything that happened after the Fall, the good news is that we have redemption through Christ blood, the forgiveness of sins, and authority over the

enemy. Although victory has been won in Christ, Satan still makes every attempt to lead our hearts astray from God to serve the kingdom of darkness. It's an attack against God's kingdom because Satan knows that he can't be redeemed. It's the crabs in the bucket mentality, which says, "If I can't have it, neither can you." However, just as we have confidence in God, God also has confidence in us as His children, to overcome Satan through the blood of the Lamb, our testimony, and all that He has equipped us with by the power of His Spirit! Ultimately, this earth journey is a test of man's loyalty to embrace good and reject evil.

Crowned with Glory and Honor

You have made him a little lower than the angels, and **You have crowned him with glory and honor.**

—Psalm 8:5–6

Crowns are meant for kings! After our earthly journey is complete, the Bible says that the saints shall judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3). Now let that *truth* sink in for a moment! I personally believe that Satan became jealous of our position as sons and daughters of God. Let's first take a look at the deity of our Christ, and hopefully it will resonate with your heart to support the above statement. Let's take a look at this key Scripture below.

For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son, Today I have begotten You?”
(Heb. 1:5)

We see a powerful *truth* that angels don't have the same position of rank in God's kingdom as Jesus the Son of God; the Living Word of God. It doesn't make angels any less valuable or important. However, the deity of our Christ separates Him apart from angels as being the exact representation of who God is. The Scriptures reveal that Jesus Christ is the only begotten (unique) Son of God. Moreover, there's a distinction between angels and the only begotten Son of God emphasized again in the next Scripture.

But to **which of the angels has He ever said:**

“Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:13–14)

What Does this Mean for Us?

Christ, after eradicating the power of Satan, obtained eternal redemption for us. That being said, the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together (Rom. 8:16). Therefore, we must realize what's at stake! We have been given power to become the sons and daughters of God and live forever in the presence of God (John 1:12). In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, and authority over the enemy.

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:19)

Key Highlights:

- **We were created in the image and likeness of God to rule over the earth. (Genesis 1:26)**
- **God did not give aid to angels, but He did give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, we were worth dying for. (Hebrews 2:16-18)**
- **We have been delivered from the power of Satan, and reign in life through faith in Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:19)**

Chapter 4

THE LAW OF REDEMPTION

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not
all His benefits: Who forgives all your
iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **Who
redeems your life from destruction**, Who
crowns you with lovingkindness and tender
mercies.

—Psalm 103:2-4

Adam and Eve died spiritually as a result of the Fall.

The Fall greatly affected the nature of man, but he did not cease to be in God's image. The Bible reveals to us that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Death in biblical terms is also defined as separation. Therefore, the spirit of man became dead in the sense that it was separated from God because of the original sin (Isaiah 59:2). After the Fall, God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of human hearts were only evil continually (Genesis 6:5).

We don't have to search far in this fallen world to realize there's a deeper issue with the state of mankind's existence. No longer does mankind, who live according to the sinful course of the world, have perfect communion with the Creator, but is now under the curse of sin and death.

The Bondage of Sin

I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. You desire *truth* in the inward parts, and in the hidden part you will make me to know wisdom. (Psalm 51:5)

Paul mentions in the book of Romans that what he knew was right to do, he didn't practice, but did the complete opposite. He further went on to say that there was a law working against him in his physical body (Romans 7:15-23). In other words, this was the law of sin and death (the curse) that Paul was unable to control by his own human strength; making him a slave to sin prior to accepting Christ. Check out this Scripture.

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, **sold under sin.** (Romans 7:14)

All Have Fallen Short

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through **the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

—Romans 3:23-24

If we were traveling by air, and somehow missed our flight by one minute prior to the gate agents closing the door to the jet way, it wouldn't matter if we missed it by one hour or one minute. The point is that we still missed the cut off time. Telling the gate agents that we're good

people probably wouldn't get them to open back up the doors once it's been locked.

Since we all have sinned and fallen short of God's Holy standards, we can only enter into the Holy of Holies through the blood of the Lamb. No person has ever lived holy enough to deserve eternal life in the presence of God except Jesus Christ, who walked the earth as God in the likeness of man.

God's Mercy and Truth

In mercy and *truth*, Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

—Proverbs 16:6

Understand that redemption through Jesus Christ is God's divine lawful process for reconciling the fallen state of mankind back to Himself. In God's mercy and *truth*, atonement (payment) for iniquity (a lifestyle of lawless deeds) has been provided for all of mankind. God showed us mercy by providing a way for us to be redeemed from a fallen state, which is the condition of man's sinful nature. Therefore, God flipped the script by sending Jesus Christ to present us with the *truth* versus Satan's deception.

Although this world is filled with evil and calamity, God wants to deliver us from chaos and bondage. When we accept Him as our Lord and Savior, the same power He walked in resides in us. The more we become aware that the kingdom of God is within us, and that Holy angels are supporting us, the more our hearts will be strengthened to overcome the world.

Redemption through the Blood of Christ

...we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

—Colossians 1:13-15

In reference to the Scripture above, one may think... why redemption through blood? Well, the life of the flesh is in the blood, and it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul. Check out this powerful Scripture below to gain a little more clarity.

For **the life of the flesh is in the blood**, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for **it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul**. (Leviticus 17:11)

Under the Old Covenant, if we were to take the blood out of an animal, we would be taking the life out of it. However, in order for the sacrifice to be accepted by God, the animal had to be without blemish. Likewise, under the New Covenant of grace, Jesus Christ offered up His life as a sacrificial Lamb without blemish (sin). He entered the Most Holy Place once with His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption for all of mankind (Hebrews 9:12).

We must understand that every word that God speak becomes supreme law. Even the worlds were framed and are upheld by the integrity of God's Word (Hebrews 1:3). So God is not going to violate His own law. Therefore, Christ our Intercessor, was sent into the world for the purpose of upholding the integrity of God's divine law in order to redeem mankind. Let's look at one of the divine laws below.

And **according to the law** almost all things are purified with blood, **and without shedding of blood there is no remission.** (Hebrews 9:22)

Remission is defined as cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty; the forgiveness of sin. The penalty was death. The biblical term for death also mean separation, and sin is what separated us from God. Thus, we were all born with a sinful nature, and became subject to death after the fall (Psalm 51:5). At the point of Adam's Fall, God could have ended the human race. However, we never would have been born. Therefore, God sent the Messiah to redeem us from eternal separation from God. God accomplished His lawful process through Christ by dying a natural death in our place.

Hidden Treasure

Again, **the Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field**, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

—Matthew 13:44

What comes to your mind after reading this Scripture? This parable was given to explain a spiritual *truth* to us. It reveals the reason why the Messiah came. In this parable, the Lord is saying that we are the treasure hidden in the field (earth). Christ represents the man who sold everything He had to buy the whole field. In other words, Christ temporarily gave up all of heaven to redeem this treasure (mankind) with His own blood. Therefore, we have been purchased by Christ blood and sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). As the body of Christ, we have been redeemed, and have this treasure in earthen vessels. We can

now look forward to eternal life in the presence of God (2 Corinthians 4:7).

“They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “**on the day that I make them My jewels.** And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” (Malachi 3:17)

Traffic Violation Illustration

Allow me to give an illustration of a traffic law violation to further explain God’s plan of redemption for the world. There was a man who broke a traffic law speeding and had to appear in court on trial before a judge in his hometown. The judge so happened to know the man’s father. Because of this, he really didn’t want to charge him for the speeding ticket, which was the legal penalty for breaking the law. However, because the man had broken the law, justice still had to be served. So the judge decided to charge the man, but although he charged him, the judge gave him the money to pay the penalty charge for the ticket.

This illustration is a powerful *truth* because it relates to us in the same way that the Messiah paid the penalty for the sins of the world. Those of us who accept Christ have been redeemed with a price; Christ’s blood, which He shed for the sins of the world. Therefore, the sin debt has been dealt with through the sacrificial blood of Christ. Those of us who are in Christ have been transferred into the kingdom of God through grace by faith in the Son of God.

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have

redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13)

God's Righteous Judgment

Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.

—Revelation 14:7

There are many people who believe that because God is love, He will not execute judgment. However, God is the Supreme Judge over all creation (Psalm 75:7). The Scriptures reveal to us that God esteems His Word above His own name, and lives by His own set of rules (Psalm 138:2). Even the foundation of God's throne is "Righteousness" and "Justice" (Psalm 89:14). So hopefully a lot of our questions are being answered as we understand that the redemption of mankind had to be done lawfully; according to God's divine government.

God will give to each person according to what he or she has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger (Romans 2:6-8). According to divine law, the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ (Romans 6:23). Therefore, God will judge lawfully based on the integrity of His Word. The good news is that when the Holy Lamb of God died on the Cross, it was a judgment. So, God judged Christ in our place.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

In Christ, there's hope beyond the grave. When we accept the gift of salvation, it puts us in right standing with God, and the sin nature no longer has power over our bodies and souls. Moreover, Christ wasn't just any man. He came as God the Savior born of human flesh. The fact that He lived without sin and had the capacity to endure the Cross speaks of His Deity. Therefore, when we consider God's divine law and His process for reconciling us to Himself, we'll have a better understanding of His righteous judgment.

Key Highlights:

- **Jesus came to reestablish the relationship between God and man. (Romans 5:1)**
- **Jesus came to deliver us from the powers of darkness and convey us into the kingdom of God. (Colossians 1:13)**
- **Jesus came to redeem us from eternal death through His blood; the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:14)**

Prayer of Salvation

If you want to be sure of your salvation at this very moment, then allow me to lead you in a simple prayer. You don't have to wait until you enter a church building in order to make your confession to God. Jesus Christ is our High Priest under the New Covenant, and hears every prayer. He is the Savior of the world who was born in the likeness of man under the law in order to redeem us from the curse of the law. Just repeat the prayer below from your heart.



Prayer: “Heavenly Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus Christ name I pray, Amen.” Welcome to the Family of God!

Chapter 5

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT

For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ
Jesus has made me free from the law of sin
and death.

—Romans 8:2

There's a common misunderstanding that every person born into the earth is a son or daughter of God. The *truth* is that every person born of Adam is the offspring of God's creation from the time God told Adam to be fruitful and multiply. What we see in the natural, regarding mankind's existence, is the result of a natural law set in motion called the law of the seed or human reproduction. Sin is what separated man from God (Isaiah 59:2). Therefore, all must be transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light.

Although mankind is part of God's creation, those who practice iniquity do not have the right standing as sons or daughters of God (Hosea 2:23). Unfortunately, this is the fallen condition of mankind as a result of the fall. The good news is that each person can become joined to the LORD and made righteous through faith in the promised Messiah.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, **not of**

blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12–13)

According to divine order, receiving the Spirit is the divine means in which every child of God born of light can experience a personal relationship with our heavenly Father. Moreover, we must take on His divine nature in order to walk in the likeness of Christ and develop the desire to do His will. This is significant to us because the original design for the creation of man was to carry out the will of our heavenly Father. The Father of lights saw it good to give each of us specific attributes of Himself that's purposed to fit into His overall plans. And because of man's fallen nature, it takes a correction of the heart to get back to the place of true devotion.

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots? (Jer. 13:23)

In the context of this Scripture above, the leopard can't change its spots unless it's transformed into something other than a leopard. In Christ, we become a whole new species, and will experience life in the Spirit by maintaining our relationship with God. The truth is, God has restored to us His Holy Spirit which was lost as a result of man's original sin. This became possible for us based on the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior.

Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, **that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.** (James 1:18)

Born of the Spirit

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

—John 3:5–6

On our path to receive new life, our spirit must be made righteous. The only way to be made righteous at the core of our inner man is to receive the righteous Seed. This can be accomplished through our acceptance of the sacrificial atonement of Christ. Atone literally means “at one” with or in harmony with someone. Therefore, through the Spirit, we become one with the Spirit of Christ as a perfect bond of union. And just like a marriage joins two separate families together in the natural, this is the way to become joined to the family of God; according to divine law.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17)

Sonship through Christ is the divine legal process for establishing our kingdom citizenship. Once born of the Spirit, our spirit will become regenerated. At the time of spiritual conception, God imparts His Spirit within us, the believers, while giving us a new heart that’s enabled to receive and dispense the love of God. A new heart is a heart that is responsive to God that becomes in tune with the heartbeat of God; in essence, becoming an extension of God (John 15:5). Having been born of the Spirit, we

received the incorruptible Seed, through the Word of God, which lives and remains forever.

Walking in the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self-control. Nothing in the Torah stands against such things.

—Galatians 5:22-23 CJB

Entrance into the kingdom of God is about pursuing holiness. Moreover, learning how to walk in the Spirit is accomplished over time through discipline and submission to God's will for our lives. The old man that once walked according to the sin nature and course of this world will become transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:2). Although God plants within us the righteous seed through Christ, it is our responsibility to nourish the seed that resides on the inside of us (Proverbs 11:21). We nourish the seed by watering it with the Word of God and maintaining our faith in what the Word of God says. Hence, there will be evidence of fruit in our lives as we live according to the Spirit. This is the most efficient means of turning from old habits to foster spiritual growth and development.

Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, **being of one accord, of one mind.**

—Philippians 2:2

Establishing harmony with the Spirit of God is accomplished through worship and submission to His will for our lives. The more focused we are on the *truth*, the more sensitive we will become to the Spirit. The more sensitive we become to the Spirit, the more we will be of one mind with Christ. When the Lord told me to add something at the time of writing this book, I reflected on what I had written down several weeks prior but didn't act on it. Later, through a vision, He said that He wanted me to add it. At the time, I thought that those were just my own personal thoughts. I didn't realize until later that it was His thoughts impressed upon my mind to add it. Wow, our Lord is truly amazing in the way He communicates to us when we join our minds to His.

Rivers of the Spirit

And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that **I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh**; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

—Acts 2:17

There's a water well that exist within the depths of man's heart. However, the water well is empty until God pours out His Spirit. Hence, our wellspring becomes filled with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17). Christ is the One who removes the stone from our hearts so that new life can be poured in and drawn out from The Divine everlasting flow. Once we go deeper in our understanding by meditating on the Word of God for mind renewal, we'll eventually tap into living waters that will spring up from within our new hearts. Our mind acts like a

valve between our spirit and body. And renewing our minds will open the valve so that the rivers of living water can begin flowing. This is an ongoing process throughout the course of our lives.

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”
(John 7:38)

Since water contains life-giving minerals for growth, purification, and refreshment, it is used as a metaphor to describe salvation. In a much similar way, living waters that dwell within our hearts pertain to love, healing, joy, peace, satisfaction, direction, self-control, anointing, eternal life- on and on it goes (Galatians 5:22-23). In other words, it encompasses all things pertaining to life and godliness.

Drawing Life from the Spirit

Therefore with joy **you will draw water
from the wells of salvation**

—Isaiah 12:3

Although God can roll back the stone of our hearts for us to access living waters, we are the ones who must draw it out. We have a choice to begin drawing life from the Spirit who dwells in us. I say we have a choice because we still have a free will to make choices in life. We can partake of spiritual blessings by acting on God’s Word or continue to reflect on the negative experiences from our past.

Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water,
but a man of understanding will draw it out.
(Proverbs 20:5)

There is much wisdom to be drawn out from the deep waters of our hearts. To give an analogy, it's like finding a pearl inside of an oyster shell that's been driven in from the sea. Spiritual treasure consists of the wisdom and revelation from God that we obtain by His Spirit, including the experiences we learn throughout our spiritual journey (Colossians 1:9). Therefore, it's essential for us to understand that the terms spirit and heart are often used interchangeably throughout the Bible. And now that our hearts are connected with the Spirit of God, we have access to hidden treasures.

As we meditate on the Word of God, it will cause our hearts to begin stirring. Take notice of how peace, love, and inspiration begin to flood your state of mind. When this happens, have a pen and notepad handy to jot down any new ideas from the waves of inspiration that comes to your mind. Your heart is like a sea, and your mind is like a seashore. Therefore, take hold of the treasures that brush along the seashore from the inspirational waves of the Holy Spirit. There is no limitation to what you will continue to discover.

Whenever we draw water from the wells of salvation, emotional wounds will heal, bitterness will wash away over time, and His direction for our lives will become much clearer. In addition, we will become spiritually refreshed. If we're not drawing life from the Spirit, our souls can become dry just like our natural bodies can become dehydrated without maintaining enough water. Therefore, understand that our soul must draw water (life) from our spirit, which is connected to the eternal life source that flows from the Father's love.

Key Highlights:

- **The spirit is the non-physical part of man that connects with God; giving man the ability to have an intimate relationship with God. (John 4:24)**
- **Once a man is born of the flesh, his/her spirit must become regenerated through the power of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:1-21)**
- **The physical body of a man may die, but the soul/spirit does not. (Matthew 10:28)**

Chapter 6

THE LAW OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because **they did not seek it by faith**, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

—Romans 9:31–32

Jesus Christ is seated in majesty as the head of a heavenly kingdom governed by righteousness (John 18:36). This *truth* in its simplicity is that Christ fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law under the Old Testament Covenant. He was born a man and became a curse for us, which was the penalty for sin. God's plan since the beginning of the fall has been to redeem mankind from a fallen sinful state. Thus, under the Covenant of grace, we become righteous through faith in Christ.

The law that was handed down from God through Moses under the Old Covenant was God's righteous standards without Christ bridging in the gap for us. Its purpose was to show humanity the knowledge of sin, its consequences, and our need for a Savior (Rom. 3:20). In addition, it was given to restrain sin in order to preserve a generational lineage for the promised Messiah to be birthed through (Gen. 3:15).

God in His infinite wisdom established a righteous system; incorporating customs, ceremonies, and duties, which required a devoted people to carry out His divine plan. Therefore, whenever the people of Israel committed sin, they had to perform religious duties in order to make atonement for their sins. Sin is what separated man from God, and these types and shadows were to show us our need for a Savior.

What Is Self-Righteousness?

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.**

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

—Romans 10:3–4

Self-righteousness defines a person who tries to become righteous by their own human efforts without accepting Christ for salvation. Moreover, it is someone who tries to do enough good deeds in order to earn their way into heaven. The Bible says that we all have sinned and fallen short of God's Holy standards (Rom. 3:23).

Stand for Holiness

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness,
without which no one will see the Lord.

—Hebrews 12:14

The Savior died in our place and has risen from the dead and now reigns in all authority. Since we became born of the Spirit, we have been empowered to overcome sin after having taken on the attributes of Christ divine nature. Therefore, we are to rise from spiritual slumber to reign with Him in our authority in the earth.

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thess. 5:6)

According to the life and demonstration of Christ, we can see that there is a direct correlation between kingdom authority and holiness. Our kingdom authority is what we use to overcome sin, Satan, and the world. Whereas, holiness is the habit of being one mind with God in thought and deed (John 5:19). Moreover, living a Spirit-filled life is a daily process of spiritual progression. Hence, the more sustenance (bread of the Word) we feed our inner man with, the stronger we will develop spiritually.

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these you may be partakers of the**

divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Pet. 1:3–4)

By faith we become the righteousness of God in Christ. However, character still has to be developed through exercising our free will—the soul. We must understand that true devotion can never be divorced from morality. Our outward righteousness is a demonstration of faith in what we truly believe in heart, both to God and before the world. Moreover, our outward righteousness has to do with the choices we make in our moral conduct. Therefore, identifying with the righteousness we have in Christ, will cause our souls and bodies to line up accordingly.

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. (Titus 1:16)

We must work out what God has worked in, as we live accordingly to what we've already attained by grace (Phil. 3:16). When we work out what God has worked in, we will become pure vessels for God unto good works and become fit to inhabit the eternal kingdom. We are not saved by our good works, but by His grace. Good works are byproducts of who we are inwardly. Moreover, we must view God's Word in its entirety, which helps us understand that obedience is the true path of righteousness.

In the natural, there is an expectancy that children will make mistakes during earlier stages of growth. However, as they grow older, we expect them to mature and make less mistakes. Well, God has empowered us by grace through the power of His Spirit. Therefore, we respond to the counsel and guidance of the Holy Spirit by making gradual change towards holiness. As we mature spiritually, we will live a life that is led by the Spirit of God.

For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit. (1 Thess. 4:7)

The world and its lawlessness will soon pass away. Therefore, we must embrace the Word of God in all that we do because the kingdom of God is at hand. The focus is not on sin, but on our new righteous nature. If we sin under the New Covenant, we have Christ as our High Priest to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. However, we must confess our sins with true repentance of heart (1 John 1:9). Therefore, we must be quick to repent for any areas of our lives that doesn't align with God's Word.

God's Word is spiritual seed, and it is alive and will accomplish what it's purposed to do (Luke 8:11). We know that a seed is capable of reproducing. Therefore, it is up to us to plant the Word of God in the soil of our hearts, and let the seed do what it was created to do. That is, to bring forth a spiritual harvest. When we plant the Word of God in our hearts, it will bring our hearts and minds into alignment with divine order. This is the process of how we grow in the grace that God has freely given us.

Key Highlights:

- **Righteousness is based on God's standard of holiness, which is only found through faith in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21)**
- **Our spirits are made righteous by God through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Heb. 10:10-14)**
- **Our souls (mind, will, emotions) are purified by the Word of God as we renew our minds to walk in holiness. (John 17:17)**

Chapter 7

THE LAW OF HUMILITY

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

—2 Chronicles 7:14

By humility we acknowledge that God created us for

His purpose; not for our own self-glorification (Col. 1:16). Although God has given us a free will to make choices in life, our hearts should be inclined towards glorifying God. Throughout the Bible, we can find that the most repeated command is to “praise the Lord”. Therefore, we must give glory to God instead of living to glorify ourselves, which would be pride. Sin began with pride, as this was the fall of Satan followed by selfish ambition. Satan was created in beauty and wisdom but chose to forget that his wonderful powers and attributes were given to him only as a gift from God (Ezekiel 28:17).

We must understand that God wants to be glorified in both heaven and earth. As the Creator of all life, He is worthy of all praise. Furthermore, God knows us better than we know ourselves. So, it would benefit us all to seek His perfect plan for our lives, which is far greater than our own. When we turn to God through the acceptance of Jesus

Christ, repentance from sin, and a lifestyle of devotion, God sees this as an act of humility.

God Gives Grace to the Humble

...God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble

—James 4:6

Jesus taught a parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector to show us an illustration of how God looks at the proud and the humble. A Pharisee was considered a person who adhered to God's law. Whereas, tax collectors were considered the lowest of sinners. Let's take a look at the next key Scriptures.

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' (Luke 18:9–12)

Notice the difference in attitude between the Pharisee and the tax collector.

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a

sinner!’ **I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**”
(Luke 18:13–14)

A Humble Attitude

For I say, through the grace given unto me,
to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly,**
according as God has dealt to every man the
measure of faith.

—Romans 12:3

Humility is not thinking of ourselves any more or any less than the way God thinks of us. The Bible says that God resist the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). If we think too highly of ourselves, then we allow room for pride to settle into our hearts. On the other hand, if we think too lowly of ourselves, then we don’t allow God to showcase His strength in our weaknesses. In addition, we did not create ourselves. Therefore, we should acknowledge where our gifts come from. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father (James 1:17).

Examining Ourselves

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in
the faith...

—2 Corinthians 13:5

Humility causes us to examine ourselves. We examine ourselves not by looking at what someone else did or is not doing, but by searching our own hearts. Therefore, the focus is on correcting our own faults rather than criticizing others (Matt. 7:5). By doing this, each of us can make the necessary adjustments, and learn from our own mistakes. It takes humility to acknowledge our faults.

I remember a time when I was pointing the finger at what someone else did concerning a situation without acknowledging my own faults that contributed to the situation. The Lord dealt with me, not so much concerning my imperfections, but my failure to acknowledge my wrong. You see, it's the heart attitude behind our actions that God looks at, along with our decision to repent. God wants us to correct the condition of our hearts based on His Word. If we don't acknowledge our faults, then we are likely to repeat them again.

Humility in Relationships

If it is possible, as much as depends on you,
live peaceably with all men.

—Romans 12:18

Humility is exactly what's needed in order to live in peace and harmony with others in managing our relationships. Furthermore, we should acknowledge the dignity of all God's creation. It allows us to see the value of all people who were created in the image and likeness of God. If we embrace this mindset, it would leave no room for division, arrogance, racism, or an unwillingness to forgive others from past offenses. Humility does not deny our self-worth. Rather, it affirms our worth as the children of God. In addition, it affirms our respect toward God as we acknowledge Him as our Creator. Once we are secure in

Him, then we can show love and respect for all people. By doing this, we demonstrate that we are the children of God.

Blessed Are the Merciful

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
obtain mercy.

—Matthew 5:7

We all can acknowledge that in our daily lives when it can be challenging to act with understanding and empathy towards others. However, doing this would be a demonstration of the love of God. Holding a grudge can consume us with hatred and an unwillingness to forgive others. It can also cloud our judgment, and may lead to an act of revenge. However, if we want God to forgive us, then we must forgive others (Mark 11:26). Sometimes, our expectation of a person can be so high that we forget they have human imperfections just as we do. Therefore, God wants us to show mercy towards others.

A Teachable Heart

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

—Proverbs 1:7

Humility also means to be teachable. We can advance much quicker in life by learning from someone who is more advanced in years of experience and understanding. When I first began learning, I came to the realization of how much I didn't know. God has an order to the way His

kingdom operates, and has many things He would like to teach us. However, understanding is a gradual process that comes over time. It takes humility to acknowledge we don't know everything. It's no wonder why God says that we must become like a child in order to enter the kingdom of God (Matt. 18:3).

Key Highlights:

- **God resist the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**
(James 4:6)
- **Humility causes us to examine ourselves.**
(2 Corinthians 13:5)
- **Humility allows us to gain new perspectives from God's point of view.** (Matthew 6:22)

Chapter 8

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “**The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.**”

—Luke 17:20–21

A kingdom consists of a king, his subjects, laws, covenants, principles, promises, and proclamations. Although there are many nations occupying the earth, ultimately, we must understand that there are truly only two kingdoms: Light and darkness. The entrance into the kingdom of light is received only by faith in Jesus Christ, as He paid the price for all His subjects to enter. Therefore, God has appointed Jesus Christ as King of the kingdom (Isaiah 9:6). God’s kingdom is a divine government which is established on righteousness and justice. Once we become born of the Spirit, it’s not a matter of waiting to get to heaven because the kingdom of God is now within us. Through Christ, we live as citizens in the economy of God, and enjoy all of its blessings.

The kingdom of God is completely opposite from the world’s fallen system, in which we have been transferred out of (Colossians 1:13). Let’s say we decide that we want

to move to country. If so, we would need to learn the laws and customs of how that country operates. Otherwise, inadvertently, we most definitely would be setting ourselves up for failure and frustration. Likewise, God's kingdom has order which is governed on the basis of righteousness. Hence, when we refuse to submit to God's authority, we are not part of His kingdom. In Christ, we become born of the Spirit and put to death the old man (Rom. 8:7).

The Chosen Generation

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

—1 Peter 2:9

During early biblical history, a man by the name of Abraham was a servant of God who took God at His Word. Therefore, he was chosen by God to establish a bloodline in order to raise up a generation for the Messiah to be birthed through. In addition, God needed a chosen generation who would be faithful to proclaiming the Oracles of God throughout the earth from one generation to the next generation. What took place in the natural opened up the gates of heaven for all to enter God's kingdom through the sacrifice of Christ. God demonstrated His love through Christ, which paved the way for all to enter the kingdom of God. If you're in Christ, then you're part of the heavenly Israel.

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal. 3:29)

The Wedding Banquet Invitation

The kingdom of heaven is like a wedding banquet being prepared for a bride and groom (Matt. 22:2–14). Many are invited, but few choose to accept the invitation. In order to get accepted into the door of the wedding banquet, there is a dress code that all must follow. In the natural, clothes have a way of expressing our personality, security, and dignity. The prophet, Isaiah, understood his need to be clothed in spirit was of greater importance. The spiritual garments that must be worn are given to all who repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ into their hearts. Hence, we are called the bride of Christ. And just like a bride preparing for her wedding day, we should adorn our souls with the royal jewels of holiness.

...For He has clothed me with the **garments of salvation**, He has covered me with the **robe of righteousness**... (Isa. 61:10)

Plainly put, God the Father provided a way for all of us to live eternally in His presence. It had to be done this way because sin can't dwell in the presence of God. This is why we all need Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God, in order to clothe our nakedness of sin, guilt, and shame. Heaven is a real place preserved to keep all wickedness out! Upon entrance into the kingdom of God through faith in Christ our Savior, we receive all of the promises that salvation has to offer. Salvation encompasses both physical and spiritual dimensions of life; having relevance for the whole person.

It doesn't mean we won't make mistakes. However, our faith in Christ must be continual. We have been given God's grace to grow and overcome sin.

The Kingdom of God Must Be Revealed

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him. "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, **for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

—Matthew 16:15–17

Reveal means to uncover or make known. The religious leaders during the time of the Lord's earthly ministry didn't understand the kingdom of God as our Lord explained it. They thought Christ was trying to build an earthly kingdom. However, Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). The kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom, governed by righteousness and understood by revelation. It is hidden to those with unrepentant hearts, who reject the Son of God. To believe in the Son of God is to believe in righteous living. Thus, our earthly experience allows us an opportunity to abide by the Word of God and enter God's eternal kingdom.

Experiencing a close and personal relationship with God is not for church leaders only. Since we have the Spirit, then we have evidence that God lives in us. The best way for me to put it is that the more God shines His light on us through our worship and obedience to His Word, the more His kingdom will be revealed to us. During this final hour

before Christ Jesus return, He is appearing to people in dreams like never before. There's a great movement happening right now among the people of God before the end of this world age.

The Kingdom of God Operates in Power

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of words, but of power.

—1 Corinthians 4:20, CJB

There are many people of God searching for how to obtain power, not realizing that they already have it through the power of the Holy Spirit. Power is available, but it operates or is limited by our faith. If we were given a bulldozer to use as a construction worker, we wouldn't need to become stronger in order to make use of it. Instead, we would have to learn how to operate the machinery in order to leverage its power. As children of God, we release our faith by what we believe and speak. Therefore, things are done in the kingdom of God according to the power that works within us (Eph. 3:20). As we continue reading, we'll discover more in detail of what this power consists of.

The Power of the Holy Spirit and Anointing

'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

—Zechariah 4:6

The Messiah demonstrated the kingdom of God by walking in the power of the Spirit. Messiah means the Anointed One, and the same Spirit that raised our Messiah from the dead now lives in us. Under the Old Covenant, the anointing oil was poured out on men so that they may be consecrated (to make holy) for the work of the Lord (Lev. 8:12). This was a type and shadow of what was to come. Now that we're under the New Covenant, the anointing of the Holy Spirit is poured out in us to make us holy and to equip us for the work of the Lord.

It shall come to pass in that day that his
burden will be taken away from your
shoulder, and his yoke from your neck,
and **the yoke will be destroyed because of
the anointing oil.** (Isaiah 10:27)

The anointing is yoke (bondage) destroying power and divine ability. An impartation of the anointing means to be endowed with power from God. The anointing resides in pure vessels for those of us who dedicate ourselves to God. Moreover, there are levels of the anointing which comes with holiness, sacrifice, and service (2 Kings 2:9). The more we release the anointing through prayer or by operating in the gifts of the Spirit, the more it will increase. David released the anointing by playing his instrument, and the evil spirit that tormented Saul would leave him (1 Sam. 16:23).

The Power of Attorney

In my name they will cast out demons; they
will speak with new tongues; they will take
up serpents; and if they drink anything
deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they

will lay hands on the sick, and they will
recover.

—Mark 16:17–18

In the natural, a power of attorney is a written authorization to represent or act on another's behalf. God elevated Jesus Christ to the place of highest honor, and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus Christ every knee should bow. Therefore, we have been given authorized power to function as representatives of Christ in the earth. Whenever we speak authoritative commands in the name of Jesus, demons tremble and must submit to our authority.

Realize that demons also operate through people. How? When it comes to yielding our hearts, the law of harmony works in the positive as well as the negative through the power of agreement (Acts 5:3; Amos 3:3). So, it's not one single devil that is causing so much destruction as some may think. It's the multitude of devils that Satan has reproduced himself in. The Bible records how Satan has operated through different people that sat in high places throughout historical timelines (Ezekiel 28:12-15). This lets us know that Satan will use whomever he can deceive; with the intentions of executing his evil plans in the earth through bribery (Matthew 27:3-5). Therefore, we need to use discernment and wisdom when dealing with people who oppose us for no apparent reason.

The Power of the Keys

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,

and **whatever you loose** on earth will be
loosed in heaven.

—Matthew 16:19

The power to bind and loose has many connotations. In Christ, we have the power to bind whatever needs to be bound through the application of our prayers and faith confessions. That is, we have the authority to prohibit the activities of darkness or destruction from hindering our lives and others we love. And another application of what it means to bind, is to bind the Word of God to our hearts. Let's check out this next powerful Scripture!

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. (Proverbs 3:3)

As it pertains to the power to loose, we have the authority to loose ourselves from chains of bondage. This may include sickness, slothfulness, economic barriers, religious barriers, sin, addictions, depression, etc. In addition, we have the authority to loose (bring down) the power and treasures of heaven into an atmosphere through the application of our prayers and faith confessions.

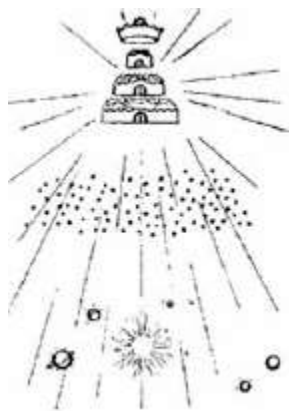
The Kingdom of God Is Eternal

Your Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom,
and Your dominion endures throughout all
generations.

—Psalm 145:13

All earthly kingdoms are temporary, but God's spiritual kingdom is eternal, and it includes created angels and humans. Our life on earth is not the end of our existence, but the beginning to eternity. Some people think they will be reincarnated back into the earth to take on another life form. However, the Scriptures reveal that it is appointed for man to die only once, and then the judgment (Heb. 9:27). When our souls leave our physical bodies, this life on earth will seem as if it was just a dream in comparison to eternal glory. If we have submitted our hearts to the lordship of Christ, angels will escort our souls to our eternal home when we transition from this life

However, **the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.** The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. (1 Cor. 45:46–47)



By God's grace, I had an out of body experience one night, in which I was taken up in the spirit by the Spirit of God to see a glimpse of heaven. During this specific visitation, I immediately felt a sense of absolute peace and serenity. It was as if time stopped, then I heard multiple

voices of what I perceived to be both saints and angels singing praises to God. I observed how the saints in heaven appeared to be doing something productive. And I observed that there are people in heaven from all different nationalities. In heaven, you can walk on heaven's ground just as we walk down here on earth, and you have all of your senses.

I saw the Messiah, in spirit, and His approach was full of love and compassion. The things He said to me were words of encouragement for things He has called me to do. I do not feel led to write those things since they were personal. However, I can assure you that our Savior is alive and reigns forever! During another visitation, I was guided by an angel. As we passed through the ceiling of my bedroom, I was taken to an area of heaven where I saw a group of men playing basketball. So, in case you were wondering about activities in heaven, there are sports activities to play in heaven for the sports enthusiast. The awesome thing about it is that you don't get tired. So, there will be times when we enjoy activities in heaven, and times when we join together in worship and giving praise to God.

Many of us have often wondered what heaven looks like. Well, from my perception, a lot of things we see here in the beauty of nature resembles heaven, except everything in heaven is amazingly more beautiful, as it's in its original perfect state. Heaven has many different sections and its distance cannot be measured. I was only allowed to see a glimpse of certain parts. So, from what I was allowed to see, the landscape was beautiful and immaculate. As I was observing, the angel said to me, "There are people who have been living here for a long time." I thought to myself wow... what an awesome God, who gives eternal life and rewards to those who love and obey Him. In addition, I even observed various animals in another part of heaven, and they appeared to be some of the most amazing and peaceful creatures.

There is another section of heaven where I saw many children laughing and playing on a field that looked like a huge playground. I believe this section is preserved for children that may have died a natural death prematurely. I was also guided into a magnificent building where it was set up like a huge banquet hall. Everyone was dressed in royal clothes, and some even had crowns on their heads. There were several long tables spread out with a variety of food delicacies which looked like something prepared before having the main course meal. Heaven is bigger than we can ever imagine. Wow! What an awesome God we serve.

The Kingdom of Heaven Suffers Violence

From the days of John the Baptist until
now **the Kingdom of heaven suffers
violence**, and the violent take it by force.

—Matthew 11:12

There are times when we, as the people of God, have to resist opposition from dark forces just as others who lived before us. From ancient times, the forces of hell have warred against the nation of Israel through different kingdoms that were considered to be super powers among the nations. It dates all the way back to the Pharaohs of Egypt, the armies of Babylon, the legions of Rome, the Nazis of Hitler, etc. Notice the pattern of how these earthly kingdoms eventually came to a fall. Therefore, we must understand that the war is more of a spiritual battle than what we can see taking place in the natural realm. Let's take a look at this next Scripture that speaks volumes.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers of the darkness of this
age, **against spiritual hosts of wickedness in**
the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)

The entrance into the kingdom of God has been made available to us through the shed blood of Christ. The only way to become a spiritual citizen of heaven is to become born of the Spirit through faith in Christ. Those who have not been born of the Spirit are limited to the bondage of their human flesh. Although we may experience hardship, know that the gates of hell will not prevail against Christ church.

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, **he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child** [Christ]. (Rev. 12:13)

Do you ever stop and ponder why people who follow Christ are being persecuted all over the world? And why are there so many people speaking against the Bible that testify of Christ our only Savior of the world? The answer lies in the fact that the spirit of the antichrist is at work, and Satan will influence whomever he can to deceive many (1 John 4:3). In addition, just as the days of Isaac, those who are operating according to the flesh are still persecuting those who are born of the Spirit (Gal. 4:29).

The Violent Take the Kingdom of Heaven by Force

Imagine a multitude of people pressing their way into a doorway with a strong sense of urgency. Given this analogy, the Messiah stated that He is the door to eternal life (John 10:9). Therefore, everywhere that Jesus walked, people were running to get to Him. They were eager to take possession of the kingdom that the Lord was demonstrating during His earthly ministry, as they pressed their way pass the crowd.

The Messiah demonstrated the kingdom of God in front of those who watched Him heal the sick, open blind eyes and deaf ears, cast out devils, and raise the dead. Therefore, those of us who operate in earnest faith, we are people who do not sit back and observe, but are zealous for God and take the kingdom by the force of our faith!

If we possess the kingdom, then we are in possession of the true riches. Everything else is secondary or counterfeit (Matt. 6:19). We must get past the things that are designed to blind and block us from receiving our eternal inheritance. We should be living a life with our heavenly sight locked in on the promises of God. This includes both natural and spiritual dimensions of life. Let's look at a Scripture below about the woman who pressed her way through the crowd to touch the hem of Christ garment to obtain her healing.

And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, if I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. (Matt. 9:20–21, KJV), Cross Reference (Luke 8:44–45)

After touching His garment, Jesus asked, “Who touched me?” The woman replied by admitting that it was her. Jesus replied back by saying, “Your faith has made you whole” (Matt. 9:22). The fact that she pressed her way through the crowd to get to Him means that she was taking the kingdom by force. Next, her attitude describes her eagerness. Let’s examine another Scripture demonstrating this same concept.

And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. (Mark 2:4)

Tearing off the roof was a violent act. However, it was not violent in a negative aspect. It was an earnest act to press towards the kingdom of God. In addition, lowering the stretcher from the roof top was a use of force. They didn’t go through the door by way of invitation. Instead, they climbed the roof and used force to get what they wanted.

We see how the violent who takes the kingdom by force is not referring to an unlawful force. In proper context, this type of violence would be an act of earnest faith. In another perspective, if someone was to enter your home unlawfully, and tried to bring harm to your family, then that would be a time for us to get violent. That kind of violence is called righteous indignation. Satan comes to kill, steal, and destroy. To resist the kingdom of darkness is to defend our rights.

Some think we should be passive in this spiritual warfare, but the Most High has been preparing us to war against the powers of darkness from the time we came out of our mother’s womb. This next key Scripture indicates

why Satan wants the majority of people to abort their babies.

From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise on account of Your adversaries, to silence the enemy and avenger. (Psalm 8:2 BSB)

We see in Scripture that God is pro-life and has a purpose for every person. Although children may not be fully formed in their mother's womb, God still has a plan for their lives from the time of conception.

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. (Psalm 139:16)

The *truth* is that we are more powerful in numbers if we would all unite and take our position of authority in Christ. There is exponential power in numbers (Deut. 32:30)! We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139:14).

Key Highlights:

- **We gain entrance into the kingdom of God through faith in Jesus Christ. (John 10:9-16)**
- **We operate in kingdom authority by the force of our faith. (Luke 10:19), (Matthew 11:12)**
- **The kingdom of God will ultimately and completely triumph over all evil. (Rev. 21)**

Chapter 9

THE LAW OF COVENANT

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: 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.

—Hebrews 8:10

The kingdom of God operates on the principle of covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Therefore, the New Testament of the Bible is an agreement between God and man, which consist of better conditions and promises based on the Messiah fulfilling the righteous requirements of the Old Testament law. The extraordinary life is for those of us who learn how to align with God to accomplish kingdom purpose. This is why it is important that we first become born of the Spirit through faith in the sacrificial Lamb of God.

Can two walk together, unless they agree? (Amos 3:3)

There is a joint effort between God and man. We have to come into agreement with what God wants to do through our obedience to Christ lordship. One of the closest illustrations of a covenant is a marriage. Marriage is two

people who agree to join their lives as one. When two people marry, they must state their vows and agree to a lifetime commitment; authorizing both parties to enter into a contract. It then becomes a legal binding agreement. Spiritually, it works the same way.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17)

The vow that we make to God is our confession to turn from our sinful past and to commit our lives to Him. The good news is that when we become one with God in spirit, we will receive divine benefits and will be given power to do things that are beyond our natural limited ability. However, God has righteous standards written in the Holy Bible for us to keep His Covenant. Therefore, our lives will be led by His Spirit if we will align our actions accordingly.

Letter of the Covenant

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

—2 Timothy 3:16

The Holy Bible is one complete spiritual legal document and love letter from God, which defines our marriage covenant with Christ. In addition, it is a map to our eternal home. There are many people who try to discredit the Holy Scriptures by saying that man wrote the Bible. Yes, man wrote the Bible. However, these were holy men who were inspired by God just as God can inspire the minds of men and women with new inventions that will benefit humanity.

God works in cooperation with man to will and to do for His good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13).

God confirmed the Bible through prophecy being fulfilled, which is evident by what we see today. In addition, He confirmed His Word by raising our Messiah from the dead, and He's still confirming His Word today by the power of the Holy Spirit operating through the Church body! There is no person smart enough to make up the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. If God can give people the knowledge of how to build houses, automobiles, and airplanes, then certainly He can also give us divine knowledge that pertains to the kingdom of God.

God's message to humanity was written and transcribed on ancient scrolls by holy men whose entire lives were committed to conveying God's message of salvation. Imagine God trying to verbally explain to us everything there is to know concerning the kingdom of God all at once! We wouldn't be able to retain it all throughout our life's span. In addition, *truth* must be taught line upon line, precept upon precept; a little here, a little there (Isa. 28:10). Therefore, the Bible was given to humanity in order to convey God's message of salvation, which allows us to read and grow in spiritual understanding at our own pace.

An atheist rejects the Word of God and believes there is no God because he or she is unaware that they are disconnected from their Creator. Unfortunately, God's Spirit does not reside in those who are unrepentant in heart and have not accepted Christ the Savior. We can understand the Word of God upon receiving the Holy Spirit, which God promised us through faith in the Son of God. When a man opens his heart to receive the Holy Spirit, it's like connecting a computer to Wi-Fi high-speed internet, and Christ paid the bill for us to enjoy service. Otherwise, the Word of God is foolishness to the natural mind because it is separated from the life of God (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Purpose of the Covenant

...Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David.

—Isa. 55:1–3

The Messiah came that we may have life (John 10:10). In addition, the New Covenant of grace was not given to the church body to become lukewarm or idle; waiting hopefully that one day we can make it into heaven. It was given to us so that we may accomplish kingdom purpose. God made an investment in us when He sent the Savior to die on a Cross so that our sins can be forgiven. Understand there's righteous fruit that God wants to produce in and through us.

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:9)

Our best worship is to do the Father's will. We are building for eternity during our earthly life and should see co-laboring with God as an investment into our future while serving in God's kingdom. It's not forced labor, but a labor of love. Therefore, we have to be so busy accomplishing our God given purpose that we have no time for hatred, fear, or regrets. Whatever God does through us, we know that it's going to be beneficial for our lives and the lives of many others. In spite of many rebellious souls, there are many great works still waiting to be fulfilled in the earth today.

Sign of the Covenant

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

—Ezekiel 36:26

This Scripture gives us a metaphor to describe the spiritual heart surgery God performs whenever a person accepts salvation and comes into agreement with the New Covenant of Grace. Under the Old Testament, circumcision identified the people of God as Covenant people. It required cutting out the foreskin of a male at the most intimate physical part that joins a man and woman for the purpose of intimacy. Likewise, under the New Testament Covenant, circumcision requires cutting out the sin nature of the heart; which is the most intimate part between God and man for the purpose of worship. Our worship to God is the highest form of spiritual intimacy.

Renounce Evil Covenants

Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all.

—Acts 19:19

People who have not yet received salvation are void of the light that man lost as a result of the fall. This is one reason why many will go down the wrong path in life unknowingly. They are actually searching for God. Some people get lured into the occult through witchcraft because they feel in their hearts that they have potential to do great

things beyond the mundane. However, they are going about it the wrong way. There are many who mistake the demonic for the divine. What they're experiencing is God calling them to a higher place in Christ. Satan knows it and will try to get people to take the path that leads to destruction by worshipping satanic power.

Satan has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor. 4:4)

Some people seek satanic power to control others or for the purpose of obtaining monetary gain. Instead, we should be living by faith and walking in obedience to God's righteous commands. Although Satan can give temporary supernatural ability, through his hosts of demons, we must realize it comes with a high cost of our souls. Please understand there are no short cuts when it comes to our obedience to comply with the Word of God. We must not be so easily deceived.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God. (1 John 4:1-2)

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23), and there are consequences for walking its path. Just because fallen angels rebelled against God, it doesn't mean that we should follow in their footsteps. Scripture reveals to us where they are headed in God's final judgment (2 Peter

2:4-9). Therefore, we must repent of these evil practices and follow the way that leads to eternal life.

If God is speaking to your heart to repent and break free from any occult involvement, then you can begin to renounce every agreement you've made with any form of occultism at this very moment. Know that the blood of Jesus Christ has the power to set you free from the powers of darkness.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I ask that you forgive me for all my sins. I renounce all ungodly vows, oaths, and covenants made by me or my ancestors in the name of Jesus! I nullify every agreement that I've made with the powers of darkness knowingly or unknowingly in the name of Jesus! Lord, I ask that you guide me by your Holy Spirit for the rest of my life.

If you have prayed this prayer, then the next thing for you to do is destroy any books or material that you have which deals with the occult, witchcraft, sorcery, magic, and any form of false religion or worship of Satan. In addition, you must rid your home of demonic materials, including objects and trinkets imported from lands where demonization is rampant. Next, if you don't have a church home, then ask God to lead you to where you can be disciplined and strengthened in the company of other believers in Christ.

Key Highlights:

- **A covenant is a binding agreement between two or more parties, which may consist of promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities. (Deuteronomy 28)**
- **We become one with God by the power of His Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17)**
- **We must govern ourselves according to the Word of God. (1 Thessalonians 4:4)**

Chapter 10

THE LAW OF MIND

But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

—Romans 7:23

To progress spiritually, we must undergo a process of discipline by training our minds to align with our new righteous nature. Discipleship deals with changing the way we think. To change the way we think, we must allow time and continuity for this process to run its course. For many years, I struggled with renewing my mind from all the junk I was programmed with throughout earlier stages of my life. So, with much diligence, I had to overcome a poor mentality. In the earlier stages of my life, I could identify with Gideon, whose life we can find written about in the book of Judges (Judges 6:11-24).

God chose Gideon to free the people of Israel and to condemn their idolatry. Gideon doubted his call because he was from the lowliest of tribes—the tribe of Manasseh, but the angel of the LORD called him a mighty man of valor. Right here lies a great *truth* about the character of our God. That is, God will often raise up those whom the world considers to be insignificant and make them a showcase to reveal His glory and power (1 Cor. 1:26). Like that questioned his qualifications and background, I also raised

the question in my heart, as to why the Lord would call me for such a big assignment other than someone else much smarter than me? However, since God knows our end from the beginning, He doesn't look at our current circumstances as much as He's looking at our hearts. God is more concerned about a heart that is pliable to conform to His will as we begin to develop our faith in Him.

Becoming Spiritually Minded

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

—Romans 8:6

God wants us to experience life more abundantly in spirit, soul, and body. To experience the abundant life, we must develop a state of mind that is focused on the *truth* which encompasses all righteousness. Since our actions are a direct result of our thoughts, we must set our minds on things above in order to begin operating on a higher plane of existence (Colossians 3:2). God's Word says to let Christ mind be in us (Philippians 2:5). So how do we let a mindset be in us? We have to agree with pure thoughts by letting them take root in our hearts. For example, if we have been having thoughts of anxiety or rejection, then we must allow thoughts of the Father's peace and love to saturate our heart and mind. If our minds are negative, then we will have negative actions; which will produce misguidance. Therefore, we need to avoid toxic thoughts by all means.

Since God has wired our brains to always be thinking, our minds are always meditating on something. God is so awesome! In His infinite wisdom, He created our minds with dual functionality. Hence, we have a conscious and

subconscious mind, and they are designed to work in harmony. Our conscious minds act like a filter that prevents unwanted thoughts from contaminating our hearts. The solution to purifying our hearts lies in the power of God's Word. How? God's Word works like a purifier to cleanse the depths of our souls (mind, will, and emotions). The key is to be diligent concerning the things we allow our hearts to meditate on. Otherwise, we would be leaving our hearts vulnerable to sin or manipulation from those who are masters of deception.

Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be acceptable in
Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my
Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

I found that godly meditation helped me to speed up the process of mind renewal. Biblically speaking, meditation means to ponder on a thought until we know and embrace the *truth* in our hearts. Most of us have meditated for different reasons, whether for personal growth or studying to pass a school exam. The difference now, is that we study to pass a life exam before transitioning into eternity (2 Tim. 2:15). Therefore, meditating on the living Oracles of God will cause our minds to align with the *truth*. God's Word has quickening (to come to life) power, and will remove incorrect thought patterns; ultimately causing our souls to align with divine government order.

Casting Down Thoughts

Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.**

—2 Corinthians 10:5

In the book of Genesis, we find the reason for man's fall and we see how Satan's first attack is against the mind, to turn people's hearts away from the truth. In this day and age, we see this same strategy of Satan played out against the minds of those who have been persuaded to believe lies. Therefore, we must reject every wind of false teaching even if the lies have infiltrated our churches, universities, and social circles (Ephesians 4:14). Once I started gaining understanding of the power of God's Word, I began to acknowledge every good thing in me that I obtained through faith in Christ (Philemon 1:6).

There are times when we may pick up on thoughts that do not originate from us. We find this *truth* in Scripture where Peter who was one of the Lord's disciples, was rebuked by Jesus for trying to stop Him from suffering the Cross. Jesus spoke to Peter, saying "Get behind me, Satan! You are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." In other words, He was addressing the spirit that was influencing Peter's mind.

Opening the Valve of the Mind

We must understand that the mind acts like a valve which is connected perfectly as a conduit between the spirit and natural body. Once we begin meditating on the Word

of God for mind renewal, we'll eventually tap into living waters that will spring up from our inner man. As we direct our attention towards embracing the wisdom of God, it will open the valve so that rivers of living water can begin passing through our spiritual pipes, while permeating our soul and body. The water that flows is very much filled with joy, energy, ideas, creativity, wisdom— on and on it goes. This is an ongoing process throughout the course of our lives.

Faith Working According to the Heart and to the Mind

God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think, **“according to the power that works in us.”** (Ephesians 3:20)

When I started to get understanding on the power of God's Word, I began to acknowledge every good thing in me that I obtained through faith in Christ (Philemon 1:6). The Scripture above makes it very clear that the power that works in us, works according to our faith as our hearts become saturated with our thoughts and beliefs. It took me years to understand the dynamics of faith during my spiritual growth phases! In the natural, a pilot has to be trained to use and trust in his or her instruments. The heart and mind are one instrument designed to function according to faith, and our faith is what activates spiritual laws.

To give an illustration, before an airplane can take off, it first must reach a certain speed. However, the airplane can't take off until all the weight and balance calculations comply with safety regulations. In relation to an airplane

that is still on the ground, the ground represents gravity, which is where many people can feel like victims of external circumstances. The reason some of us struggle to make it off the runway is because we are carrying too much weight. What we need to do is start dumping our heavy baggage: stress, worry, fear, doubt, depression, anger, guilt, shame, offenses, and unforgiveness. Our faith works like an engine to create the flux, which keeps an airplane in the air, and the Holy Spirit provides the electricity that powers every system of the airplane.

The Mind is An Instrument

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 instruments of righteousness to God.

—Romans 6:13

The heart and mind are instruments designed to glorify God upwardly and to portray His attributes outwardly. Therefore, we must learn how to use it so that we may establish spiritual harmony with the heart of God. Like trained musicians, we learn to use our spiritual instrument by learning chords through diligent study of the Scriptures. Moreover, we learn “key chords” when we rightfully group the Scriptures together (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). The result is that our hearts will become synchronized to the heart of God, and our minds will be fortified with the *truth*. Next, we can move forward to worship God in spirit and in *truth* (John 4:24).

We can learn a lesson from David, who was a man after God’s own heart—in likeness (Acts 13:22). He was so in harmony with the heart of God, that during his time of

worship, he could prophesy things that our Messiah would have to endure through songs. David prophesied as if he was actually there in real time, even though the events hadn't happened in the natural yet during the time of his reign as king (Psalm 22:14-22).

The Rider and His Horse

Let me share a story about a rider and his horse. One day, the rider was trying to steer his horse in a certain direction, but the horse kept on resisting. The rider kicked and kicked, but the horse kept trying to go in the opposite direction. Finally, the rider was able to get the horse moving. As he kept riding, he saw a lake, and decided to stop to give his horse a drink. No longer was the horse resisting to follow his master's lead. There and then, he realized his horse was pulling in the opposite direction because he was thirsty!

Our minds and hearts function like that rider and horse: like the horse, there is a thirst in our hearts, as well, that needs to be satisfied. And our minds, which does the steering in our lives, tend to focus on so many things that cannot quench the thirst in our hearts. Therefore, like the rider and his horse, there is no harmony between our minds and hearts until the thirst in our hearts is satisfied. The lake of water represents the Word of God, which is the only thing that can satisfy the thirst in our hearts. So it is only when our minds shift its focus to, or stop at the Word of God to allow our hearts to drink of it, then our hearts are no longer thirsty.

The Road of the Faith Lifestyle

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

—Romans 12:2

On the road of the faith lifestyle, our natural body is our vehicle in the earth. The key is to get spiritual understanding by preparing our hearts for the journey of where God wants to take us. (Proverbs 4:7). As we get understanding, our faith begins to rise up, and our trust in God leading us will become secure. When we develop a heart that is sensitive to the voice of God, we will know when and where God is leading us as we allow the Lord to take full possession of the wheel.

Vehicle Illustration

Our minds work in conjunction with our hearts very similar in the way that an engine and transmission were designed to function together in a vehicle. We can have a brand-new engine, but if the transmission is inoperative, we will not be able to drive it, and vice versa. Applying this same analogy, our conscious minds work like an engine that determines our ability to make wise decisions in life. Whereas, our hearts work much like a transmission that enables us to shift gears; adjusting to life's steady changes and movement.

I remember a car I used to have that had a transmission problem. I would drive it for a short distance, and then it would just stop shifting gears; causing me to pull over. The engine was running, but I couldn't go anywhere. After sitting for about 20-30 minutes, I started the car back up

and I was able to begin driving it again. I couldn't figure out what the problem was until I took it to a mechanic. Come to find out, my transmission filter was clogged, which was blocking the flow of the transmission fluid from reaching the gears.

There are many people that fall into this same category in life. How? Many of us become charged with dreams and ambitions, and then all of a sudden, we lose momentum along the way. This usually happens because of discouragement or self-limiting beliefs. Furthermore, it's an example of how our conscious and subconscious minds may be out of harmony. One part of our thinking may be operating in faith principles, while the other part is in a state of doubt, worry, or fear (James 1:6-8). Any form of doubt or unbelief would be contrary to the law of faith, as the just shall live by faith.

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it
spring the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23)

The heart is a wellspring of life. The more we embrace the *truth*, the more we will be able to harness the power of faith. The power of faith always works, but there are times when we need to do a heart check. Naturally, the heart is the core of man that supplies blood throughout the physical body in order for every other organ to function properly. Therefore, we must take time to cleanse the junk that may still be lodged in our souls. God's Word tells us to purify our hearts (James 4:8). Otherwise, we will short circuit our faith and hinder spiritual growth.

The Heart is Like a Garden

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...

—Proverbs 23:7

The heart is synonymous with the depths of the soul and spirit. Man's heart is like a garden which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild. Whether it's cultivated or neglected it still will bring forth results. If no useful seeds are put into it, then an abundance of useless seeds will fall, and will continue to produce after their own kind.

Many of our problems can be rectified by our pulling up the weeds of wrong thought patterns. Self-hatred, refusal to accept God's forgiveness through the blood of Jesus, and all related problems only will keep us wandering in the wilderness (a state of chaos, uncertainty, and unrest). Willfully or unknowingly, these wrong thought patterns produce many of the problems we experience in our lives. Thoughts don't necessarily cause tragic events, but negative thought patterns can contribute to the cause of the tragic events.

Our lives attract the things that are within our hearts, including things we love and things we fear. Job said that the thing he feared most came upon him (Job 3:25). Every thought which we allow into our hearts take root, produce its own seed, and bear its own fruit of opportunity and circumstances. Good thoughts bear good fruit, and bad thoughts bad fruit.

Just as we cultivate our garden or flowerbed, so must we tend the garden of our hearts. This will produce the flowers or fruits of right, useful, and pure thoughts. In addition, we must weed out all the wrong, useless, and impure thoughts. By consciously pursuing this process, we will discover that

we are the gardener of our souls. So, our outer world shapes itself to the inner world of our thoughts, beliefs, and spoken words. Therefore, it is vital to understand how our thoughts and beliefs are shaping our character, circumstances, and destiny.

The Power of Believing

Jesus said to him, **“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”**

—Mark 9:23

We are called believers because we were born again spiritually as a result of our faith in Christ. It’s in our hearts where this belief takes place and our faith becomes effective when we practice walking in the *truth*—The Word of God. If we can get our hearts to become fertile ground, then nothing will be impossible for us. We know we have been given precious promises by God and we obtain them by faith (2 Peter 1-4). Therefore, it is now up to us to hold on to these promises of God by faith and run with them.

Therefore, I tell you, **whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it**, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24)

Believing that we have a right to live a blessed life is key to grabbing a hold of God’s blessings. Right believing produces right actions, and right actions will position us to receive the manifestation of many blessings. Not only should we believe God’s Word, but we must also believe in ourselves. There is nothing wrong with us believing in ourselves as long as we acknowledge God as our Source.

After all, it is He who will begin to manifest Himself through us, as we yield to His Spirit. This is why mind renewal is so key. Mind renewal must become habitual.

When we master control over our thoughts, we take back the power over our belief system. And our words are used like a propeller that steers us in the right direction. As I am writing this, I see a vision of a large ship that is moving along the ocean with ease. It appears to be moving slowly, but in reality, it's moving quickly. The ship only appears to be moving slowly in comparison to the huge ocean. Likewise, the things we're believing God for may appear to be moving slowly in comparison to everything going on in the world around us.

In reality, our words, which are based on our beliefs, are propelling us (the vessel) towards our goals much faster than we think. If we stop believing, then we'll never reach our destination. If a doubt comes to our minds, we must cast it aside. When we realize the *truth*, we lose all doubt, fear, and envy of what others have. Therefore, we must lay aside all vain philosophies and dwell upon the *truth*. All of these factors will have a major effect on our belief system. We must never stop believing!

Taking Off the limits

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, **all things are possible to him who believes.**"

—Mark 9:23

Many of us sabotage ourselves with respect to a victorious life in Christ, by focusing on the adversities in our lives instead of what the Word of God says. This limitation can be clearly seen, especially by the negative words we speak. As a result, we limit our reality of

experiencing God's best. Due to self-limiting doubts and a lack of the consistent confession of the Word of God, we fail to get victory in many areas of our lives. Then, we blame the devil for this limitation that we choose to put on ourselves. For instance, if all we can visualize for ourselves is a poverty-stricken life, then that's exactly the quality of lifestyle we will have.

We must understand that what we choose to believe in our hearts will become a self-fulfilled prophecy. Why? Because the law of faith works according to what we choose to believe. I've encountered people who have a really big heart in terms of their love for others, but they struggle to renew their minds. Therefore, they don't see themselves in the same way God sees them. As a result, they limit themselves and never tap into their full potential.

It's important that we don't limit ourselves because if we never reach our full potential, then there will be a gap in what God has purposed for each of us to accomplish in the earth. We could have been born at any time throughout history. However, we were born for such a time as this. Therefore, we must have a trained mind to think and say what God says concerning the matter even if we're surrounded by the appearances of poverty.

Key Highlights:

- **The mind is the forerunner of all actions. (Proverbs 23:7)**
- **Our souls (mind, will, and emotions) become transformed by renewing our minds. (Romans 12:2)**
- **All things are possible to him who believes. (Mark 9:23)**

Chapter 11

THE LAW OF SANCTIFICATION

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.

—1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Sanctification means to be holy and set apart. It has similar meaning to the word sanctuary (holy temple). Our bodies are temples, and our hearts are sanctuaries, which is the most sacred place of worship unto God (1 Pet. 3:15). The *truth* is that our body is the temple of God, and through the acceptance of Christ, the Spirit of God dwells within us (John 14:23). As the children of God, we are called to be set apart from sin to do God's will. This is why Christ gave the command to make disciples. The word, "disciple," is a variation of the word discipline. Discipline teaches us how to live and operate according to God's kingdom. Thus, disciples are those who have disciplined their minds and hearts to live according to God's Word.

In this day and age, there are many who believe in Christ, but have not submitted to the Lordship of Christ in their hearts. However, the Lord desires for us to move

beyond just believing in His existence, but also for us to become His disciples. Let's check out this next key Scripture.

But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: **He is like a man building a house**, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood rose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. (Luke 6:46)

Changing Old Thinking Habits

And do not be conformed to this world,
but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

—Romans 12:2

Once we make the confession to repent, and accept Christ into our lives, it means that we have made a heart decision to follow God's instructions for righteous living. The next step is to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Hence, we will never go beyond our state of mind. Some people think that accepting salvation causes immediate deliverance from old thinking habits. However, whenever God performs a great work, He first does it in the spiritual realm. Therefore, when we became born of God's Holy Spirit, we became a new creation in our spirit.

However, there is still work that must be done in our soul (mind, will, and emotions).

Metaphorically speaking, God has delivered us in the same way that He told the Israelites, “I have delivered your enemies into your hands, now go in and possess the land that I have given you” (Deuteronomy 1:8). Therefore, we must conquer the land of our hearts. This is why on our path of spiritual growth, we will find ourselves having to do a spiritual detox. The more we understand what God has given us by His grace, the more we will understand the necessity to align our lives with the Word of God through daily purification and devotion. In Christ, we have been given power and authority to overcome sin, the world, and Satan (Luke 10:19).

Establishing Our Hearts

Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. **For it is good that the heart be established by grace.**

—Hebrews 13:9

To cooperate with the kingdom of God, we must begin with an understanding of how the heart and mind works. Our hearts and minds are spiritual instruments designed to strengthen our inner man, and they must come into agreement with God’s Word (James 1:8). Therefore, we must allow the Word of God to take root in our hearts. Our hearts are the core of our belief system. The effort is not so much in trying to force ourselves to change. Change will come gradually as we meditate on the Word of God and yield to the Holy Spirit.

Since we were given a free will to make choices in life, we get to choose what we want to believe, and our beliefs will hinder us or empower us. Therefore, we have been

instructed by God to renew our minds in the truth, which will help us to establish our hearts in righteousness. It's like a construction worker adding beams to liquid cement for the purpose of reinforcement. Moreover, if we were prescribed medicine by a doctor, then it would be up to us to take the medicine based on the instructions given. The medicine would then perform a work within our physical bodies without much conscious effort.

Like learning good eating habits, the same principle works spiritually. God's Word says that mankind was not created to live by bread (natural food) alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Deut. 8:3). So, it doesn't take for us to become a preacher in order to meditate on the Word of God. We may not be a professional cook or baker, but we still take time to eat. Therefore, we must eat spiritually by meditating on the living Oracles of God, which reveals His love and will for our lives. The primary books of the Bible that I personally feed on are Proverbs, Psalms, and the entire books of the New Testament.

**Your words were found, and I ate them, and
Your words was to me the joy and rejoicing of
my heart.** (Jer. 15:16)

Training Our Hearts

And do not be conformed to this world,
but **be transformed by the renewing of
your mind**, that you may prove what is that
good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

—Romans 12:2

Prior to a person receiving divine knowledge, the condition of man's heart is wild and untamed. In the natural, a wild horse that has been allowed to run freely must be trained in order to become fit for use. In like manner, our acceptance of Christ is the initial step towards healing the wayward heart, and the Spirit of God is our instructor that we must choose to respond to. David declared to himself, "Bless the Lord oh my soul" (Ps. 103:1). What was he doing? He was training his heart and mind to come into agreement with the Spirit of God to worship and to obey His counsel.

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

In this day and age, it is hard for people to believe in something good or positive. The world's system conditions our minds to embrace negative mindsets. And not only that, but genealogical DNA is transferred from our parents. Attitudes, thoughts, and behavior patterns can be inherited. A wrong mindset that our parents had can become our mindsets if we don't become born of the Spirit and renew our minds with the Word of God. Why? Based on the law of the seed, every seed will reproduce after its own kind (Gen. 1:9–12). Therefore, learning how to grow in faith is a process. In the natural, we have to discipline our mind and body whenever we learn a new skill. It works the same way spiritually. Therefore, we must train our hearts like an athlete trains for sport. Why? The Bible reveals that we are running a race to receive everlasting crowns. However, we must also practice living by the rules (1 Cor. 9:27).

Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.** (Rev. 3:11)

Denying the Lust of the Flesh

Therefore, **do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.** 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 6:12-13

Denying ungodly desires of the flesh is a process of sanctification. This is why the apostle Paul instructs us to put to death the deeds of our sinful nature by the power of the Spirit (Romans 8:13). By the power of the Holy Spirit residing in us, we can begin to take self-control over our natural bodies. A practical application of this process includes renewing our minds, fasting, and abstaining from the desires of our old nature. By pursuing this process, darkness will continue to dissipate and the light in our hearts will continue to shine brighter (2 Peter 1:19).

In my own spiritual journey, I've noticed that the more I inclined my heart towards God, the more I began to lose the desires of my old sinful nature. Throughout this process, it still took some time for my mind and heart to catch up with my new righteous nature in Christ. Although I've made many mistakes along the way, God was faithful to forgive me after I repented of my sins. As I continued to walk closer towards the light, the more personal my relationship with the Lord became, and the more things He began to

show me, and the more I desired to walk in His likeness by the power of His Spirit.

I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: **adultery, sorcery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries;** and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.** (Gal. 5:19–21)

Guarding Our Hearts

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

—Proverbs 4:23

From ancient times, Satan knew that the most effective way to conquer a man was to capture his mind through gradualism. For example, television started out wholesome when it first became introduced to the public. In its earliest stages, movies and television shows respected family values. Currently, most of the content that is being broadcast is immoral, which gradually degraded over time. Therefore, the majority of people's thoughts are pre-programmed by default based on the world's system. There is so much bad news in the world that we must continue to counter it with *truth*. What we see is a system that's

designed to distract us from discovering what we can become by the power of the Spirit, and through the knowledge of God. Now that we are enlightened, we should practice guarding our hearts concerning what we allow to enter our eye and ear gates. Then, train our hearts to embrace good and reject evil.

Then He said to them, “**Take heed what you hear.** With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear more will be given.” (Mark 4:24)

We need to understand that God does not tolerate hypocrisy (Galatians 6:7). Part of the spiritual journey is to conquer our flesh by bringing it under subjection to the Word of God. If there is conviction in our hearts to turn away from something that is ungodly, then we must lay aside every weight of subtle sin that can destroy our souls. Sin is a terrible disease that affects us in every area of our lives. It’s no wonder why some people have been turned over to a reprobate (corrupt) mind and have no spiritual understanding (Romans 1:28). Therefore, we are encouraged to bring our way of thinking to align with the Word of God.

Many people say that they can’t understand the Bible, so they don’t take the necessary time to study it. However, in this day and age, we have modern translations that make the Bible a much easier read. I recommend reading any of the following Bible versions: New King James Version Bible (NKJV), the Berean Study Bible (BSB), The Message Bible (MSG), or the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB). I believe all of these can be downloaded online for free.

Key Highlights:

- **God's kingdom is governed by righteousness.**
(Hebrews 1:8)
- **We must keep ourselves unspotted from the world.**
(Ephesians 5:27)
- **As we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** (Galatians 5:19-21)

Chapter 12

THE LAW OF LOVE

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

—John 3:16

The kingdom of God operates on the principle of love.

We are under the New Covenant of grace, and grace is synonymous with the law of love. It is God's love that draws us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Moreover, love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). Is this not exactly what Christ demonstrated to mankind by shedding innocent blood for the sins of the world? Hence, His love offers us hope and a transformation of newness of life.

Many people have questions in regard to the true meaning of life. The true meaning of life is to operate in love and obedience to God. The Lord even summed up the New Covenant by stating that there is no greater commandment than to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. To love God is to obey His commandments. Therefore, love and obedience are inseparable in the kingdom of God. The second greatest commandment under the New Covenant of grace is to love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:29–31). If you don't love yourself, then here's what Christ has to say:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another; as I have loved you.**”
(John 13:34)

Rising to Nobler Heights

Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

—Romans 13:10

The law under the Old Testament places an emphasis on “what not to do.” However, the law under the New Testament—the law of love, places more of an emphasis on “what we must do.” Hence, we see that love involves action, and Christ demonstrated this *truth* to the highest degree. Scripture says, there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for his friends (John 15:13). So, we must put our focus on Christ and follow His example in the way of everlasting life.

When we love God with all our hearts, including our neighbors as we love ourselves, inadvertently, we will be fulfilling the law of love which makes us complete in Him. Moreover, we can learn a lesson from the rich young ruler who kept all the commandments from his youth, but still did not have love (Mark 10:17–22). Therefore, Christ taught us that it’s not only our actions that count, but what is in our hearts.

The Meaning of Love

In this day and age, love is oftentimes misunderstood. Based on our modern-day culture, most of us have been trained to think that love is based on an emotion. However, the word for love in the Hebrew language has a different meaning. The Hebrew word for love is Ahava. It comes from the root word Ahav, which means “to give.” Therefore, true love is more concerned about giving than receiving. Scripture says, for God so loved the world that He “gave” His only begotten son (John 3:16). So, we see in Scripture that love is not an emotion but an action.

Our Love is perfected in God

But whoever keeps His word, **truly the love of God is perfected in Him**. By this we know that we are in Him.

—1 John 2:5

In the natural, we understand that rules without relationship often leads to rebellion. Therefore, a person can't intimately love someone unless they intimately know them. We learn to know God through His Word. And according to His Word, God showed His love towards us first through Christ. In return, we respond back to God by conforming our thoughts, words, and, deeds to His commands. The outcome is this... When we direct our love back to God, then a house is built to sustain His presence (John 14:23).

Faith Works By Love

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision
avails anything, nor uncircumcision; but
faith which working through love.

—Galatians 5:6

Once we understand that God's nature is Love, and that He cares for us, it will build trust in what God's Word says concerning us. God is relating to us through His Spirit in a much similar way good parents would raise up their very own children—in a loving manner. Hence, we are the children of God. However, He still allows us the free will to choose whether to obey Him or not. Otherwise, His expression towards us would not be based on love. On the other end of the spectrum, we respond back to God based on our love for Him; evidenced by our stance of faith in what He says.

The *truth* is that mankind is God's most precious creation, and God wants for all to turn our hearts back to Him. How? Our hearts turn back to God as we conform to His righteous way of living. Once our hearts are established in grace, we can then apply our faith in the lifestyle God wants us to live.

Love is Our New Nature

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; **and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

—1 John 4:7–8

In Christ, the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5). His love for us will energize us to complete everything we set our minds to accomplish, and it should be the motivating factor for everything we do in life. It gives us purpose that is beyond ourselves. Therefore, we are to imitate our Lord and Savior by demonstrating our love for God and all people (Ephesians 5:1).

The more time we spend in our individual relationship with God through divine intimacy, the more we will love God, love ourselves, and our capacity to love others will grow as a result. Moreover, love will set us free from the mental and emotional bondage of our past if we will embrace its power. We can't change the past, but we can change the way we think about it. Therefore, we must abide in Christ because He is Love. It's like jumping in the ocean; we will definitely get wet!

Know that a heart of love holds the greatest power. The greater we walk in love, the more fertile our hearts will become in producing fruit that will reflect the likeness of Christ. This is how we experience the abundant life that Christ demonstrated for us to walk in. However, we must be diligent and have patience in order to grow. Even the Lord Himself grew in wisdom and in stature (Luke 2:52). So, as we go through the process of maturing in Christ, our hearts will be brought into alignment with the kingdom of God.

Generosity to the Poor

For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, **“You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.”**

—Deuteronomy 15:11

Charity is law in God’s economy. God setup laws to make sure the most vulnerable people get the support they need. Although there are some people who take advantage of people’s generosity, there are still many that have a genuine need. We may not know everyone’s situation, but God does. He knows the thoughts and intents of every heart (Jeremiah 17:10). Our part is to be obedient to God, and as we give of our time and resources to support God’s work, He promises to bless the work of our hands (Deuteronomy 15:10).

Key Highlights:

- **Love involves making sacrifices for the benefit of others. (John 3:16)**
- **Love is our new nature. (1 John 4:7-8)**
- **Faith without love profits us nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)**

Chapter 13

THE LAW OF PRAYER

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

—Jeremiah 29:12–13

In my opinion, this is the most important principle that every Spirit-filled believer must get understanding on. The spiritual path starts with prayer, which is simply communion with God. It is the sharing and exchanging of intimate thoughts. This is an act of our reverence and worship to God. God wants us to worship Him with sincerity of heart, and He wants to be given first place in our lives. Furthermore, God wants a relationship with us so that He can give us counsel and guidance through prayer. When we commune with God from a pure heart, He will hear our prayers.

We Must Forgive Others

And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your

trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

—Mark 11:25-26

For our prayers to be heard and be acceptable to God, we must cleanse our hearts by forgiving others for offenses against us. Since we have been forgiven by God for the greatest of offenses, we must forgive others for smaller offenses.

Be Still and Pray

Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

—Psalm 46:10

It is beneficial for us to be still at times in order to perceive what God wants to communicate to our hearts. Have you ever heard people say they can't hear themselves think because of the noise level in a room? It's the same way when it comes to hearing the voice of God. The voices of this world are often too loud. Therefore, we should take time away from the noise for solitude, so we can listen more clearly and write down what God is speaking to our hearts. This is the most common way that God communicates to His children directly.

How Do We Know When God Speaks to Our Hearts?

I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

—Psalm 16:7

It's important we train our hearts to receive counsel from God. I found that journaling was a way for me to train my heart to hear the voice of God. God communicates to us more frequently than we think, but most of the time it is not through an audible voice. God will often speak to our hearts. Why? Because God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and in *truth* (John 4:24). Once we become born of the Spirit, there is a sense of knowing in our hearts as we begin to grow in our relationship with God. Our heart is the communication center for God to lead us through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Language of the Heart

How do small children know what we communicate to them when they have not yet learned their native language? Since children are more in tune with God, and have not been tainted by the world's system, they are more sensitive to the language of the heart and soul. Over time, children learn how to translate heart language into verbal language. In the same manner, we will be able to interpret what God is saying to us in our own native language. It's no wonder why God says that we must become like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven. God speaks in various ways. He will

Speak through spiritual leaders, including visions and dreams.

For God may speak in one way, or in another,
yet man does not perceive it. **In a dream, in a
vision of the night,** When deep sleep falls upon
men... (Job 33:14–15)

The more we become attentive; the more God will speak. Moreover, we must understand that the language of the heart is driven and understood by walking in love, humility, and forgiveness. This allows our spiritual circuits to flow without hinderance out of a pureness of heart.

Prayer and Fasting

Do not deprive one another except with
consent for a time, that you may give
yourselves to fasting [abstinence] and
prayer; and come together again so that
Satan does not tempt you because of your
lack of self-control.

—1 Corinthians 7:5

We have been trained by the world to overindulge the flesh while our spirit man remains asleep. However, the flesh is only the temporary part of us that's made up of the earth's dust (Genesis 2:7). Fasting is a spiritual discipline that will quiet the desires of our flesh and train our spirit man to hear God's voice more clearly. This practice was designed by God to help us tune out all the other voices that compete for our attention. Furthermore, fasting helps to add discipline to our lives, which prevents us from being so easily tempted by things that appeal to the flesh (1 John

2:16). Therefore, we give ourselves to prayer and fasting for a time, that we may attend solely to the Lord.

The destructive patterns of the world are designed to take our attention away from God. However, God's intention from the beginning was to have a relationship with His creation because He is a relational God. Unfortunately, many are off course from God's plan for their lives due to a lack of direction and focus. We must understand that direction comes with obedience to God. Therefore, prayer and fasting are essential because we are all in different places of our lives and in need of God's direction. God said, "My sheep hear My voice" (John 10:27).

God has a prepared plan for a prepared people. The lack of preparation is simply a lack of prayer, which can desensitize our spiritual perception. When we pray, we are aligning ourselves with God's purpose. He is a God of order and excellence. Those of us who are the sons and daughters of God are led by the Spirit of God. To give an analogy, the Holy Spirit is like a binder, and we are like individual pages that are cohesively attached. Therefore, it is up to us to follow the instructions of what God writes on the tablet of our hearts as we enter different chapters of our lives. If the communication becomes distorted, it could mean that our hearts need to become more sensitized to the voice of God, which is enhanced through worship.

Thanksgiving and Praise

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and into
His courts with praise.

—Psalm 100:4

We should honor God by giving Him the respect He is due. An attitude of gratitude is one that acknowledges God's goodness in both good and challenging times. The

way to approach God is through thanksgiving and praise. Thanking God for what He has already done shows our appreciation for who God is and that He is worthy of high praise. We can learn a lesson from the story of the ten lepers who were healed from leprosy.

While the Lord was traveling on the way to Jerusalem, ten men who stood afar off met with Him and cried out for God's mercy to heal them of their disease. Jesus said to these lepers, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." As they went, they were healed of their leprosy, but only one came back to thank God (Luke 17:11–19). Let's look at how the Lord responded in the next Scripture.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:17–19)

In addition to thanksgiving, praise given to God is actually a spiritual weapon against the powers of darkness. When we praise God, it will render our problems and enemies powerless. I believe that the ministry of worship, which used to be a blessing to Satan prior to his fall, has been transferred to the body of Christ. What used to be a blessing to Satan, has now become a curse towards him and the entire kingdom of darkness.

From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise on account of Your adversaries, to silence the enemy and avenger. (Psalm 8:2 BSB)

You may be wondering how this applies to our faith. There are times when we may experience challenging situations in life, and we will need to make use of our spiritual weapons. When we send up praise, it paralyzes the kingdom of darkness. So, we are to make use of it in every aspect of its application. To give a biblical illustration from the Old Testament, when it was time for the people of Israel to fight the Canaanites, God said to send Judah first. Judah means praise. Therefore, by acknowledging God through praise, God had already delivered the land into their hands in the spiritual realm (Judges 1:1–2).

Prayer of Petition

...Yet **you do not have because you do not ask.**

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

—James 4:2–3

This Scripture says that the reason we do not have is because we do not ask. So, we must understand that divine law was established in a way that even God submits to His on law. Therefore, God doesn't intervene in the affairs of man until we ask Him to through prayer. A man who does not pray robs himself of God's help and places God where He cannot help him, unless there's an intercessor (one who is in right standing with God and intervenes on behalf of another) willing to stand in the gap for him through prayer. Therefore, we must ask God for His assistance whenever we need divine intervention. God's eyes are on the righteous and His ears are inclined to our prayers (Psalm 34:15).

God Often Meets Our Needs Through People

**For it is God who works in you both to
will and to do** for His good pleasure.

—Philippians 2:13

There may be times when we're waiting for an answer to prayer, and it is often through another person that God will meet our needs. That being said, this may involve additional time for God to work on the hearts of other people. Many people raise the question, where is God in the midst of tragedy? If tragedy is to be prevented, then immediate steps must be taken which starts with us. Since God gave us dominion over the earth, He uses our prayers according to our faith; to legally manifest His power in the realm of the earth (Psalm 8:6; Psalm 115:16). Moreover, those of us whose hearts are united to God show our commitment to serve others and go wherever He instruct our hearts to go (Psalm 86:11). This is one of the most common ways that God's economic system works for meeting our needs in the natural.

To give an illustration, there's a story about a man waiting on his rooftop during a flood; praying God will save him. Soon people in a rowboat offered to rescue him, but he refused, saying, "I'm waiting for God to save me." After the same scenario repeats itself with a motorboat and a helicopter, the man drowns and goes to heaven, where he meets God and complains, "I had faith in you, and you didn't save me." God replies, "I sent you a rowboat, a motorboat and a helicopter. What more did you want?"

Faith Declarations

You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.

—Job 22:28

At this point, let's examine where do we draw a line between making our prayer request known to God and speaking faith-filled words. Like many people, this was a little confusing to me during the early stages of my spiritual walk with God. We must understand that there are different forms of prayer. There is prayer to God based on our relationship with the Father, and there is prayer that involves our faith declarations. Simply put, words bring things to pass. The words that we confess will determine whether they bring to pass things that work for us or against us. That's why it is so important for us to believe and say exactly that which God says on every given subject.

Our faith-filled words can put the law of the Spirit of life into operation. It is simply our agreeing with God's Word because the force of faith is released by our words. Simply put, what we would be doing is releasing power that becomes set in motion to accomplish a task; provided it falls within the parameters of God's set order. Moreover, speaking biblical declarations over ourselves is a spiritual practice for planting God's Word in our hearts as we establish roots for building up our spirit man (Colossians 2:7). This is an ancient practice that's been lost amongst the Church. During the times of the early Church, people often spoke the Scriptures out loud.

Speaking to Our Mountain

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

—Mark 11:23

In this Scripture verse, the mountain is symbolic of a problem that we want removed from our lives. Whatever challenge that we may face in life, we know that we have been given power to overcome it! God’s Word is alive and goes forth to accomplish what He pleases. And we are supposed to be imitating our heavenly Father (Ephesians 5:1-2, Isaiah 55:11). Therefore, if God said it in His Word, all we have to do is come into agreement with Him. Inadvertently, we activate spiritual laws when we operate in harmony with the kingdom of God. The spiritual realm is invisible to the natural eye, but it’s filled with unseen forces. Moreover, we don’t understand everything concerning electricity, but we know it works.

Take the Sword of the Spirit and Fight

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

—Ephesians 6:17

Through Christ victory, we have been given delegated authority over the powers of darkness. For us to be fit for duty, we must remove sin and put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). As representatives of God's kingdom, we have been commissioned by Christ to enforce divine law in the earth. We enforce divine law by declaring God's Word concerning any problems we face in this life. Therefore, experiencing victory is contingent upon whether we know the Word of God. We then must choose to take our position of authority in Christ and fight the fight of faith! Why must we fight? We fight because God called and equipped us to do so (2 Timothy 2:4).

We must understand that this is a spiritual battle we're fighting, as we contend against the enemies of Christ (Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 1:13-14). Christ enemies are the fallen angels and those who willfully follow Satan. Therefore, we have been instructed in Scripture to resist the powers of darkness (James 4:7). Resist means to stand against! We stand against the kingdom of darkness every time we declare the Word of God against any form of opposition! Therefore, we use every verse in the Holy Bible that war against the demonic forces. Many can be found in the book of Psalms. However, before we engage the enemy, we must forgive, repent, and renounce as appropriate. As we resist the kingdom of darkness, we put pressure on our spiritual enemies.

Intercessory Prayer

He saw that there was no man, and
wondered that there was no intercessor...

—Isaiah 59:16

Intercessory prayer is one of the most heavenly functions of the Spirit-filled life. Although some of us may have a stronger desire to pray more than others, understand that the entire body of Christ is called to the ministry of intercessory prayer (James 5:13-16). Therefore, God is calling for us to rise to the call of duty to pray for the spiritual and natural wellbeing of others. Whenever we pray, we give God's hands something to work with. And we are to give Him no rest when it comes to the ministry of intercessory prayer (Isaiah 62:7). Therefore, God's intervention in the affairs of mankind and His ultimate plan of salvation for all are dependent on the prayers of the saints.

I remember one morning I was praying, and then casually drifted back off to sleep. Christ spoke to me, and said "Why are you just lying there? This role is serious down here on the earth." I immediately woke back up from my sleep and repented to the Lord. Instead of sleeping, I should have been praying for my family, region, and country. The more I developed a discipline to pray, the more God began to show me through visions how my prayers were affecting positive change in the natural realm for myself and those I was praying for. Let's look at some quotes from other authors on this topic below:

"When the Church is in the condition of prayer God's cause always flourishes and His kingdom on earth always triumphs. When the Church fails to pray, God's cause decays and evil of every kind prevails. In other words, God works through the prayers of His people, and when they

fail Him at this point, decline and deadness ensue. It is according to the divine plans that spiritual prosperity comes through the prayer-channel. Praying saints are God's agents for carrying on His saving and providential work on earth. If His agents fail Him, neglecting to pray, then His work fails. Praying agents of the Most High are always forerunners of spiritual prosperity. (E.M. bounds, The Weapon of Prayer)"

If we will but believe in God and His faithfulness, intercession will become to us the very first thing we take refuge in when we seek blessing for others, and the very last thing for which we cannot find time. And it will become a thing of joy and hope, because, all the time we pray, we know that we are sowing seed that will bring forth fruit a hundredfold. Disappointment is impossible: "I say unto you, He will rise and give him as much as he needs. "Let all lovers of souls, and all workers in the service of the gospel, take courage. Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work, as God's messengers, be intercession: in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us. (Andrew Murray, The Ministry of Intercession)"

He will deliver one who is not innocent; Yes, he
will be delivered by the purity of your hands.
(Job 22:30)

The Power of Agreement in Prayer

Again I say to you that if two of you agree
on earth concerning anything that they ask,
it will be done for them by My Father in
heaven.

—Matthew 18:19

First, when we agree with God's Word, the power of agreement will be activated. Secondly, when we agree with God's Word and other believers are joined in mind, amplified power is released! I'll give you an analogy of a pianist. When the pianist hits a key that is harmonious with another, it creates a powerful sound that can be felt among people in the room. When we hear a sweet sound of rhythm, it will cause movement in our bodies and souls. Likewise, when we pray in harmony with God's Word, and join together with like-minded believers on one accord, it's like playing a powerful melody, which can be heard and felt by God and the angels of heaven in the Upper Room. It will activate movement among holy angels in the realm of the Spirit!

The Ministry of Angels

Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in
strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of
His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, you
ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

—Psalm 103:20

God has a kingdom order concerning the spiritual administration of how things are done. God limited Himself concerning the human affairs of the earth. Why? Because God gave man dominion (authority) over the earth (Genesis 1:28). Therefore, we must pray to God when we need Heavenly assistance. When we pray and petition God, Holy angels are sent forth by God to help us in our times of need.

Angels are authorized to move on our behalf at the Father's command, which is subject to our prayers. And prayer is based on the Word of God. Therefore, angels cannot move on our behalf without our prayers according to divine law. Moreover, God's Holy angels outnumber the fallen angels. They constantly ascend and descend from heaven and the spiritual realm of the earth.

...Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:13-14)

Minister means servant of God, and His angels are serving us at the Father's command; to help us along our spiritual journey. Knowing this, we can rest assured that the kingdom of God is on our side. Therefore, we must direct our prayers to the Father, which is an act of our faith. Scripture tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Although we don't always perceive when angels are around us, we do know they exist. And since the spiritual realm is naked to our natural eyes, we operate by what we know instead of what we can see.

Key Highlights:

- **When we commune with God from a pure heart, He will hear our prayers. (1 John 5:15)**
- **We should pray according to the will of God. (Matthew 26:39)**

- **Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**

Chapter 14

THE LAW OF UNITY

**Till we all come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,**

to a perfect man, to the measure of the
stature of the fullness of Christ.

—Ephesians 4:13

God's desire is that we all come to the unity of the faith as we develop the mind of Christ. God does not want us to be divided among the various organizations that exist within His church body. We can learn from the early church regarding the way they came together by sharing talents and resources. Everyone is not called to church leadership, but everyone is called to help serve in some form of charity. Therefore, as sons and daughters of God, we labor collectively out of love.

...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)

God exhorts us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves since we make up the body of Christ in the earth. For us to function effectively, we must come together as one and lock in place where sees each of us perfectly designed to fit. When we have every joint supplying the

need within the body, then we will be much healthier and stronger (Ephesians 4:16). And when we assemble on one accord and create an atmosphere of faith and praise to our God, the miraculous will take place. An ordained church that is born of God is a spiritual covering where we can be disciplined, encouraged, and prayed for regularly. As we grow in spiritual wisdom and revelation knowledge, we give back by offering our gifts and talents to help support the work of the ministry; to honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, it's critical that we seek the Lord's direction regarding where He wants us to attend church associations.

The Power of Association

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but **in the multitude of counselors there is safety.**

—Proverbs 11:14

One of the key factors for us to grab a hold of is to remain in the right atmosphere; in the company of those who can assist us with reaching our next level of destiny. Association brings assimilation which brings about an impartation. We can read in Scripture how Hannah took Samuel to the house of the LORD at an early age and left him in the company of Eli who was a high priest (1 Samuel 1:24). Eli instructed and brought up Samuel in the true fear of God which prepared him for his ministry role as a prophet. Samuel's life speaks to us as an example of how people we surround ourselves with will have a major impact on influencing our destiny. So, we can see how people we have in our lives can either help or hinder us in fulfilling our destiny.

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise
counsels. (Proverbs 1:5)

Building Healthy Relationships

**...that their hearts may be encouraged,
being knit together in love,** and attaining to
all riches of the full assurance of
understanding, to the knowledge of the
mystery of God, both the Father and of
Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures
of wisdom and knowledge.

—Colossians 2:2-3

Those of us who are obedient to God not only turn from evil, but also build our lives around healthy relationships. Many of us underestimate the power of relationships because we don't fully understand the value in diversity and locking arms with others that complement our gifts, talents, and personalities. When we expand our associations and build relationships, God can begin to work on the hearts of people in ways that will benefit all of us (1 Samuel 18:1). Healthy relationships can provide us with encouragement, wise counsel, or simple acts of kindness. Furthermore, whenever we establish unity through relationships, we establish spiritual avenues for God's power and will to operate through. These avenues are used by God to help route each of us along in reaching our place of destiny. Moreover, it is by relationships that men attain a good reputation (Proverbs 22:1).

And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of
God and man. (Proverbs 3:4-6)

There is a spiritual currency which operates by love and flows through the power of prayer and relationships. As part of the body, we operate as spiritual conduits within the kingdom of God to advance His kingdom. Therefore, we must get past holding other people's blessings due to fear, greed, or insecurity. If God impresses upon our hearts to sow finances into a person's life or an organization, then we need to obey God so that financial blessings may continue to circulate into the lives of others whom God wants to bless. To give an analogy, a body cannot function most effectively where there is poor blood circulation. Hence, blood was not designed by God to supply only one part of the body. Blood was designed to circulate throughout the entire body for the purpose of delivering nutrients and oxygen to every cell and transport metabolic waste products away from those same cells. Therefore, whenever we allow financial blessings to continue circulating, we are delivering life to that individual or organization, and in a sense, we are helping ourselves. Whenever we follow God's system of economics, He will ensure that what we give will circulate back around to us.

The Power of Teamwork

For where two or three are gathered together
in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

—Matthew 18:20

Life is setup in a way that makes each of us interdependent. God did not create us to live or work alone; He created us to work together. We can accomplish more collectively as a unit because many hands make light work.

God accomplishes His work in the earth through the body of Christ, and this involves teamwork. Since we all have different gifts, talents, and resources, God gives us opportunities to network with people in many different circles of life to create or join teams. Teams are the foundational building unit in any effective organization.

Given the illustration of a sports team, all members of the team first must show up for training. As the coach learns the quality of each person's strengths, he then places them into the position where they're most productive. However, it is still the responsibility of each team member to execute each play once the coach gives the command. In like manner, Christ is our head Coach in life, and He gets to call every play. It is up to us to show up for training, function together as a unit, and execute the play that He chooses to call.

We work in partnership for the purpose of honoring God. This can relate to family, ministry, or business. Therefore, we should surround ourselves with competent and faithful people. The Word of God says that in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Prov. 11:14). Why? Because of the diversity of natural and spiritual gifts! God created us with different personalities, gifts, and talents.

The highest calling of any leader is to help other leaders reach their potential. Everyone should have a team to lead or work together with. The larger the team, the greater the impact we can have in accomplishing the vision God has placed in our hearts. Nehemiah won the hearts of the builders prior to winning their hands (Neh. 2:17–18). Nehemiah wisely used his resources by placing builders in specific stations according to their natural gifts and interest. If we are willing to support another person's vision, we will position ourselves for many blessings in life. When it's our time to accomplish something that is greater than ourselves, God will charge other people's hearts to help push our vision.

Understanding Pure Religion and Relationship

The true meaning of pure religion is to feed the orphans, visit the sick, help the widows, and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world (James 1:27). Moreover, it means to be devoted to God. False religion denies Christ while placing more of a focus on the traditions of man, material gain, and diminishing a call to holiness. This is not what God intended for His church body. Satan's strategy was designed to disrupt the implementation of God's plan to setup up His church organizations throughout the entire earth. Satan tries to pollute the pure Word of God through his agents in the earth by mixing *truth* with error.

The Bible was given to us for prophecy and understanding of righteous living. It has the power to save and convert our souls to righteousness. Furthermore, it is our map that guides us on the path that leads to eternal life. However, just like with anything, we can use a tool for which it was designed to be used, while other people can misuse the same tool, if we are given a hammer, we can use it in a constructive manner or a destructive one... it depends on our choice. Anytime we have human factors involved in anything there is room for error. However, we all have the ability to recognize the *truth* in our hearts when we hear it, and to study the Word of God for ourselves.

If we are seeking the way that leads to everlasting life, then our hearts will resonate with the *truth* when we read or hear it. Moreover, God reveals Himself to those of us who sincerely desire to know Him and walk in His ways. The *truth* is that some of us want to continue practicing lawlessness more than we want to abide by God's righteous law (John 3:19). As a result, those of us who make such a choice, our spiritual eyes remain closed to the *truth* that

leads to everlasting life; while our natural eyes remain open to sin and destruction.

Why Are Church Organizations Still Relevant Today?

Although our physical bodies make up the temple of God, the local church assemblies are still relevant for leading others into the kingdom of God and raising them up in their faith. If a church is not releasing people into their pre-ordained destiny, identity, and calling, they're failing to produce soldiers who are prepared for their missions. The church is how Christ gives direction to His organization in the earth as the head of God's kingdom government. Therefore, a church organization was never meant to be a place where people casually attend in hopes of one day making it into heaven. The goal is to carry out our kingdom assignment while on earth.

We uphold the truth to a world that is perishing because of sin. Sin is what separated man from God. Since the world is separated from God, He sends His elect as His kingdom messengers. And just as God sent the Messiah, the Messiah is also sending us as His representatives throughout the earth. Therefore, the church is commissioned to be an assembly of God's people to the point that we become His hands and feet in the world. The world is the field, and the garden represents the people of God. So, just as citizens work together to function as a city, state, or nation, God has citizens of heaven called ambassadors in the earth to help carry out the Father's divine plan as His kingdom carriers.

Incidentally, the church does not realize how much work is being left uncovered for such a time as this. The work is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Hence, the advancement

of God's kingdom on earth is contingent upon the amount of available servants who are willing to cooperate with God. We have been commissioned to feed the poor, take care of the widows and orphans, visit and pray for the sick, etc. The *truth* is that if we don't help one another, then many will suffer. Let's look at Matthew 25:34–40 to see what Christ has to say concerning this matter:

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?" Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.

Key Highlights:

- **A body cannot function effectively without every joint doing its part. (Ephesians 4:16)**
- **Even Jesus Christ needed a team of people during His earthly ministry. Therefore, He chose His disciples. (Mark 3:13-19)**

- **The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
(Matthew 9:35-38)**

Chapter 15

THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING

Do not be deceived. God is not mocked.
That whatever a man sows, that will he also
reap.

—Galatians 6:7

The kingdom of God is based on seed, time, and harvest. Everything begins in seed form, whether it's good or corrupt. Whenever we sow to our hearts by meditating on the Word of God, it enables us to bear the fruit of righteousness. Thus, as we keep planting the Word of God in our hearts, we will receive a harvest. Our lives are byproducts of what we've been sowing. We're either sowing to the spirit or sowing to the flesh. Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character and reap a destiny. This change doesn't happen overnight. But by the power of the Holy Spirit, our words, thoughts, and actions are changing us to look more like Christ. Life becomes fulfilling when we sow good seeds of thoughts, words, and actions that align with our destiny.

The Heart of Stone

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take out the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes.

—Ezek.36:26–27

At the point of salvation, God gives us, the believers, a new heart. This is a powerful Scripture to grasp! God wants to do a work in us because He is full of love and mercy. Therefore, we are not left alone to accomplish this process in our own human strength. His divine providence enables our hearts to bear much fruit. Hence, there will be evidence of fruit in our lives, as we live according to the Spirit. Fruit is determined by the nature of the seed, and through the Seed of Christ, our lives begin to take on new meaning.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self-control. Nothing in the Torah stands against such things. (Galatians 5:22-23 CJB)

Tilling the Ground

For the word of God is **living and powerful**, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. —Hebrews 4:12

From this Scripture, we see that the Word of God is living, and it is very sharp. Therefore, the Word of God can be used like a sharp tool or piece of machinery to break up the hard soil (condition) of our hearts based on our individual life experiences. There are some of us who hear the Word of God, but the seeds fall by the wayside because of the hardness of our hearts (Mark 4:4-5). Although some of us may have not grown up on a farm, we may have an idea of what it's like to plant a garden. A gardener knows that once the soil is plowed, the stones must be removed. Otherwise, the seed will not be able to take root. In relation to our hearts, the stones can represent doubt, unbelief, lack of understanding, offenses, etc. Know that God has equipped us with the ability to remove every stone by the power of His Spirit and Word.

Fertilizing the Soil

My mouth shall speak wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.

—Psalm 49:3

Once the stones of our hearts have been completely removed, we must fertilize the soil. How do we accomplish this task? As we meditate on the Word of God, our hearts gain more understanding, and to him who has understanding, more understanding shall be given. Understanding provides the necessary nutrients for fertilizing the soil of our hearts. Therefore, the more we embrace the *truth*, the more our minds become fully persuaded concerning the promises of God. Based on this *truth*, we can have confidence in knowing that we are connected to the True Vine (John 15:5). It's amazing how

things will begin to unfold when we know the *truth* and begin to apply our faith in the knowledge and wisdom of God's Word!

Planting the Seeds

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and **in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season**, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

—Psalm 1:2-3

The Word of God is alive and powerful which consists of powerful seeds. If we take a natural seed and plant it in the ground, the seed will automatically do what it is supposed to do. Likewise, when we plant the Word of God in our hearts, it will produce a harvest. And this brings our hearts and minds into alignment with divine order. This is a spiritual principle, which applies to how God causes us to prosper (Psalm 1:2–3). Furthermore, this is how our spirit man maintains dominance over our flesh. If a man does not sow the seed of the Word into his heart and water it, his heart is subject to producing weeds and thorns. Knowing this, it's not hard for us to see how the world is in the condition that it's in.

We must understand that a seed was not designed to remain a seed. Hence, the more seeds we intentionally sow, the more desired results we will harvest. Moreover, every seed will produce after its own kind. If we need friends, the Word of God says to show ourselves friendly. If we need encouragement, then we should start encouraging others. If we need money, then we should practice sowing into the

kingdom of God, including those that God will sometimes impress upon our hearts to give of our resources to.

Tending the Garden

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness spring up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

—Hebrews 12:14–15

In applying the principle of sowing, we must also tend the garden of our own hearts. Otherwise, our hearts can gradually become hardened all over again from things, such as offenses. God warns us that the enemy comes so that the Word (good seed) will not be able to take root and bear fruit. Moreover, sometimes the biggest offenders are found among us who have been offended. Satan's plan is for the victim to become the abuser. When someone is carrying an offense, they are unknowingly nourishing the very thing that is causing emotional turmoil in the depths of their soul. How? By meditating on unpleasant thoughts. Biblically speaking, meditation means to ponder on a thought. Once we meditate on something long enough, it will find its way into our hearts, and the soil of our hearts is designed to bring us a harvest.

The heart is where the supernatural formation of the unseen takes place before it materializes into the reality of our world. Therefore, once the seed of a negative thought reaches the soil of our hearts, we will eventually experience more of what offended us in the first place. In other words, it will become a self-fulfilled prophecy. If there are weeds

in the garden of our hearts, then we must find the root cause of the weeds and uproot them. Otherwise, the weeds can choke out the Word so that it can't produce a crop.

Sunshine and Rain

**For He makes His sun rise on the evil and
on the good, and sends rain on the just
and the unjust.**

—Matthew 5:45

We all know the importance of sunlight. The sun is symbolic of God. When we spend time with God, we draw light and strength from the Father, and this nourishes the righteous seed within our hearts. In His presence, there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). Periodically, we all need rain in our lives to foster natural and spiritual growth. Rain is used as a metaphor of God's grace. The rain refers to God's provision and grace in meeting our needs. On that note, there is a common misunderstanding within the body of Christ when it comes to our perception of material gain in the life of an unbeliever. We seem to forget that God sends His rain on the just as well as the unjust. However, just because we see unsaved people with material gain, it doesn't mean they are in right standing with God. Some unsaved people have a better understanding on how to apply biblical principles. Therefore, they are reaping a harvest, while some us believers sit around waiting for God to do everything for us. God will bless whatever we give birth to if it is in alignment with His Word. A farmer doesn't wait on God to plant seeds in his field. He knows that if he doesn't get to work, he will not reap a harvest. So, the farmer plants the seeds, the soil does the work, and God will send the rain!

Sowing into the Kingdom

He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

—2 Corinthians 9:6–7

We should be sowing into God’s kingdom by honoring God with our first fruits, which is ten percent of our increase or earnings (Prov. 3:9–10). The offering of first fruits is a way of honoring and giving thanks to God. It sets a pattern of giving back to Him the first and best of what He has already given to us. In earlier stages of my spiritual journey, I felt like I didn’t have sufficient resources to give. I was thinking, what about my needs that had to be met? This was my mentality until I grew in my understanding. It required faith for me to believe that I would receive a harvest upon sowing ten percent of my earnings. Most importantly, I had to develop a heart of love that wanted to give willingly. I am a living witness that the principle of tithing works, and God continues to bless my life.

God showed me a vision regarding the principle of tithing as if I was watching a movie. In this vision, an angel of the Lord was sent to deliver a message to a man who was part of the body of Christ but was not a tither. After greeting him, the angel of the Lord began explaining how God was grieved because he was found unfaithful in giving his tithes to God. The man got very emotional and started arguing by replying, “How can I give ten percent of my earnings when I have all these other expenses I have to pay?” The angel responded back in a gentle but stern voice saying, “God is only requiring ten percent from you.

You're telling me you can't give ten percent of your earnings when God is the one blessing you with everything you have?" The man responded, "I just don't have it to give." The angel's final response was, "ok, but this is the last time I'll be sent to talk with you about this."

Now, I know this is a sensitive topic when it comes to tithing, and I'm not sure what the ramifications were for the man in the vision who refused to tithe. However, God gave me the vision because He wants the principle of tithing to be addressed. We must understand that money is a vital necessity to carry out God's plan of salvation in the earth for all mankind. When we do not tithe, it hinders the flow of God's operation in the earth. How can the kingdom of God advance if we are not financially supporting its cause? And how can we truly believe in something that we don't help support? It all boils down to the condition of our hearts.

Jesus never cancelled the tithe under the New Testament. So, the law of first fruits is still in effect. If tithing was of no concern to our Lord, then why did He watch those in the temple who were putting money into the treasury? After observing, He pointed out a poor widow woman who gave two mites (worth a fraction of a penny); explaining that she gave more than the rich men who gave out of their abundance (Mark 12:41-44). Understand that even though we give our tithes down here to support the work of the Lord's ministry, He receives them up there as an act of our obedience (Hebrews 7:8).

God's system is perfect, and setup in a way that no one would lack. When we follow God's design, He is faithful to prosper those of us who are obedient to His Word. As God prospers us, we are to give back to further support the ongoing work of God's plan of salvation. In turn, when the house of God is prosperous, then church leaders can help meet the natural and spiritual needs of the poor and those who are suffering. As the poor learn of God and become

restored, their souls will also become prosperous. Therefore, what God promised to do for us is contingent upon our obedience to follow what is required of us in His Word. Ultimately, when we sow into God's kingdom work, we will reap a harvest. If we don't have money to give, then we can also give of our time by serving in our local church or community.

Key Highlights:

- **We sow with our thoughts-For as he thinks in his heart so is he. (Proverbs 23:7)**
- **We sow with our words-Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (Proverbs 18:21)**
- **We sow with our actions-Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them. (Matthew 7:12)**

Chapter 16

THE LAW OF THE SEED

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and **the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself**, on the earth; and it was so.

—Genesis 1:11

Based on the law of the seed, every seed will reproduce after its own kind. In the natural, growing fruit from seeds is all about reproduction. Hence, God uses the metaphor of fruit to describe the nature and growth of our character. In fact, Scripture tells us that a tree is known by the fruit it bears. Therefore, the will of the Father is that every believer will reproduce the character of Christ. This is how God draws a distinction between the righteous and the wicked in the ongoing conflict between the seeds.

Conflict Between the Seeds

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and **between your seed and her Seed**; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

—Genesis 3:15

We can see in the Scripture how God revealed the end from the beginning. And from the very moment Satan heard those words, we can see throughout the ages of time how he has tried to do to the righteous what was determined upon him. That is, to bruise the head of the promised Seed before his own head was bruised. The promised Seed in Genesis chapter 3 was a prophecy of Christ; who would become born of a woman, and would bruise the head (rulership) of the Serpent.

Although Satan's ruling authority has been defeated by Christ, there is still an ongoing conflict between the people who live according to God's righteous law, and those who follow Satan in his rebellion. That being said, man still has a free will to choose.

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. (Heb. 11:4)

Cain and Able were the first offspring of Adam and Eve born after the fall. Because of their sin nature, they were both capable of yielding to either the good or evil desires within their hearts. We can see the effects of their fallen nature by what was demonstrated in the heart of Cain who killed his brother Able. Able was a keeper of sheep and was considered righteous before God because of his obedience to honor God with a sacrificial blood offering. This was a type and shadow of Christ who would later offer up His life for the sins of the world, as the sacrificial Lamb of God.

It should be noted that although Cain and Abel were both born from the same lineage, one chose to obey God, and the other chose to rebel against God. Cain was considered wicked because of his disobedience, and his choice to give

in to the sinful desires of his heart. Check out this next Scripture below.

So the LORD said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. **And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.** (Gen. 4:5–7)

So after the fall, we can see the conflict between good and evil at work in the heart of man. Furthermore, the conflict between the seed of the righteous and the wicked brought division between families, tribes, and ultimately nations.

The Pure Seed of Promise

Of this man's [David's] seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Savior, Jesus.

—Acts 13:23, KJV

Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Therefore, he was chosen by God, and given a promise that he would be a father of many nations, and that his seed would be too innumerable to count. Abraham is a key historical figure because he represents the father of faith, and the lineage in which Christ (the promised Seed) was to be birthed through. Abraham bore Isaac, Isaac bore Jacob, and Jacob bore the twelve patriarchs of Israel. Next, from the lineage of Israel came King David, and from the lineage of David came Jesus Christ.

As it is written, Abraham and Sarah had to believe God for a miracle by waiting for the promised son Isaac. Isaac

was the child of promise, who was born of the free woman (Sarah). Isaac represents all generations who would become born of the Spirit, based on the promised Seed, through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 9:6-7). Whereas, Ishmael was the other son of Abraham, born of the slave woman (Hagar) according to the flesh; representing all who live in bondage to the sinful desires of the flesh (Gal. 4:21–31). Therefore, Satan’s seed represents those who operate in the likeness of his rebellion; for those who embrace their corrupt nature.

Now that Christ has already come, we can receive the pure (righteous) seed by grace through faith. And having received the incorruptible seed by faith, we operate in the “likeness” of Christ.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21)

The Wheat and the Tares

The Kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

—Matthew 13:24–26

The parable of the wheat and the tares is a vivid description of the ongoing conflict between the purposes of God and the designs of the adversary. A farmer knows that when the wheat and tares (weeds) grow together, it is extremely difficult for the novice to notice the difference between the two, especially when they are young and

immature. If one were to uproot the tares, he could not help but uproot the wheat as well because the tares tend to grow in the midst of the wheat. However, at harvest time, it will be simple to distinguish between the two.

As the wheat grows and the fruit begins to appear on the heads of the wheat stalk, the maturing grain becomes heavy. The result is that, by the time of harvest, the weight of the mature fruit causes the wheat stalk to bow, and in a manner of speaking, humble itself before its maker. On the other hand, the tare has no weighty fruit to bear, and does not bow but remains proud and erect. When harvest comes, those (the angels of God) who reap have only to discern between the humble and the proud—the good fruit and the wicked fruit.

Weeds/Thorns of the Corrupt Seed

1. Jealousy, Gossip, Hate
2. Worry, Sorrow, Sadness
3. Anger, Fighting, Unhappy
4. Impatient, Compulsive, Intolerant
5. Greed, Bitterness, Heartless
6. Evil, Mean, Vile
7. Dishonest, Flaky, Inconsistent
8. Unforgiving, Prideful, Argumentative
9. Impulsive, Careless, Violent

Fruit of the Righteousness Seed

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience (forbearance)
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness (humility)
9. Self-Control

Key Highlights:

- **There is natural seed, and there is spiritual seed. (1 Corinthians 15:46)**
- **Every seed will reproduce after its own kind. (Genesis 1:11)**
- **Every type of seed will be determined by the fruit it bears over time. (Luke 6:43-45)**

Chapter 17

THE LAW OF DESIRE

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and **He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

—Psalm 37:4

There will be a blending of hearts, through divine intimacy, whenever we delight ourselves in the Lord. His desires for us will become our desires. This is God's process for placing His desires in our hearts. In addition, God will lead us along our spiritual journey by giving instructions to our hearts through spending time in prayer. Having a desire to do the Father's will, through His divine grace, is how God accomplishes His will through us in the earth (2 Cor. 9:8). God often will guide us by turning our hearts in the direction that He will have us to go (Prov. 20:1). However, it does require for us to yield to the Spirit of God. In Christ, it's no longer about fulfilling carnal desires, but it's about what God desires to do in and through us (Rom. 7:5).

Desires of a Pure Heart

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)

God's Word says that He will give us the desires of our hearts. He's not referring to sinful desires, but the desires that align with our new nature through the process of sanctification. Since we have received a new nature in Christ, God gives us the desires of a pure heart. By the power of the Holy Spirit residing in us, we can now take self-control over our old sinful desires. This is why we must allow our hearts to go through a process of refinement. By pursuing this process, darkness will continue to dissipate and the light in our hearts will continue to shine brighter (2 Peter 1:19). The Scriptures place a heavy emphasis on the heart. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Therefore, God is looking for His candles (the heart of man) to be lit in all parts of the earth (Proverbs 20:27)!

Passion to Pursue Purpose

Our divine purpose can only be accomplished by submission to the will of God, discipline, and godly counsel. Otherwise, we will be striving through this life without divine purpose or aim. Once we establish our relationship with God and understand how it relates to our new identity in Christ, we will discover that everything we need to succeed in this life is already within us. Moreover, God created us with different personalities filled with godly passions and desires. A musician loves to play his instrument, a singer loves to sing, and a writer loves to

write. Hence, the things we are passionate about will cause us to experience inner joy and fulfillment in life, and the less our work will feel like work.

Many of us don't maintain our desires because we don't want disappointment to settle into our hearts. However, this is where our faith comes in. Having a desire will activate spiritual conception within our hearts as we believe. Our spiritual conception gives birth to manifestation. How? Our heart is like a spiritual womb that is interwoven with the spiritual realm. Therefore, we are advised to be careful of what we give birth to, regardless of what people or the world will try to impose on us. Ungodly desires can take root in our hearts and become manifested in our lives; causing us to experience things that we may later regret (Isaiah 59:4). Desire burns from within the candle of our hearts whether it's good or evil. Being cognizant of this *truth*, God desires that we overcome the desires of our flesh and the world. This is how we live in harmony with God based on His Word (Romans 1:26-27). Regardless of what's happening in the natural realm, we must align ourselves with the *truth*. God promises that the journey will be worth it (Jeremiah. 29:11).

Key Highlights:

- **What Do We Have A Passion For?**
- **What Is Our Ultimate Aim In Life?**
- **What Is God Saying to Us?**

Chapter 18

THE LAW OF EXPECTATION

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, **to give you an expected end.**

—Jeremiah 29:11, KJV

Expectation applies to receiving God’s provision and direction for our lives. If we’re not in expectation, a blessing can be right in front of us without us ever recognizing it. In addition, we would probably never prepare for what God wants to do in our lives. Therefore, expectation is built on our level of trust in God. It takes trust to believe that God will do what He promised in His Word to do. The key is to discover the promises of God, which will give hope in spite of the negative things that are happening in the world around us.

We Must Set Our Sights

Then He brought him outside and said, “**Look now toward heaven**, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

—Genesis 15:5

God has a specific purpose for us in the earth before we make our transition into eternity. And it is up to us to come into alignment with Him. Therefore, once we set our sights on the vision that God has for us, we should be in high expectation. When we're in expectation, it will cause us to think differently. Then, we will be more alert to new opportunities. Therefore, we must set our minds and hearts to look outside of the artificial boundaries imposed by the world. Where some people see lack, others see abundance. And where some people see problems, others see opportunities. Therefore, our spiritual eyes must be trained to see opportunities. Moreover, when we keep our minds fixed on the *truth*, we will have a greater awareness of a spiritual kingdom that coexist within and beyond this natural world.

Throughout our life journey, we usually experience what we're searching for in our hearts. I suppose this is why we're inspired by God in Scripture to keep seeking, and we shall find (Matthew 7:7). Those of us who know what we want usually get it. It may take some time, but eventually we will see the manifestation if we don't lose heart. Some of us become angry with God because things don't manifest within our expected time frame. If we are not getting results based on our time clock, it's because God wants us to be patient. In addition, we may need to do something different in order to get different results. Maybe something is lacking because we are the ones God wants to use to bring change to our sphere of influence.

Expect a Miracle

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, **for your prayer is heard**; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”—Luke 1:13

We can find *truth* in this spiritual law in the story of Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth. The angel of the Lord told Zacharias that his prayers had been heard. Therefore, his prayer started with a desire. Although Zacharias had a desire like most of us when we pray, he was looking at his current condition. Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. However, the angel, Gabriel, said to Zacharias that his wife would bear a son. This could have been a physical encounter, or the angel of the Lord could have appeared to him in a dream, as with Joseph (Matt. 1:20). He also said God would mightily use the child to prepare people for the Lord. So we know that Zacharias and his wife desired a child, but what was his response?

And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.” (Luke 1:18–19)

Gabriel had to reassure Zacharias belief by emphasizing that he stood in the presence of God. Gabriel then tells him that because he didn’t believe his words, he would be unable to speak until the prophecy was fulfilled (Luke 1:20). Zacharias prayed for a child, but he didn’t have the faith to believe and remain in expectation. Once his wife began “expecting,” it was crucial to avoid aborting the child (miracle) due to unbelief. Therefore, God had to make him mute. Why? Speaking doubt will diminish our expectation and sabotage our faith; causing us to abort the promises of God. God demonstrated certain things in the lives of His chosen people to be written in Scripture, so that we would understand spiritual *truth*, and maintain our hope in the promises of God.

The Power of Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that **by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

—Romans 15:13

Hope is earnest expectation, which is a stepping stone to faith. By faith we have confidence in God's Word even when we experience temporary loss or suffering. Without hope there would be nothing for us to look forward to in this life and in the life to come. Once we understand the elements of faith, and how they cohesively work together, our hearts will be established so that we may abound in faith, hope, and love (1 Cor. 13:13).

I believe the sun itself is a beacon of hope; reminding us of God's love, and that His mercy is renewed each day (Lam. 3:22-23). Once our hearts experience the love of God, it's like pouring out water on a dry and thirsty plant. It won't be long before the plant stands just as erect as before it was deprived of water and sunlight. Likewise, God will pour out his love on dry and thirsty hearts if we are open to receive it. He then will begin to shine His light on us even in the midst of our darkest moments.

Now hope does not disappoint; because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Rom. 5:5)

Hope in Calamity

God is our refuge and strength, a very
present help in trouble.

—Psalm 46:1

We must understand that we are in a spiritual war. Satan, along with the other rebel angels are upset with God and are waging war against mankind. Why? Because Fallen angels, after their sin and rebellion, were not shown the same mercy as us in terms of being redeemed from a fallen state (Jude 1:6); (Hebrews 2:16-18). As a result, they were kicked out of heaven and cast down to the earth (Rev. 12:7-9). That being said, they can influence man's decisions. However, the fallen angels who rebelled against God have no hope in God's final judgment as the clock winds down. Hopefully this is becoming clearer to you why Satan, along with the other rebel angels are upset with God, and are waging war against all humanity.

After much prayer and fasting, the angel Gabriel revealed to Daniel the intensity of this spiritual war; explaining how he and the Archangel Michael had to resist the forces of darkness before delivering a message to Daniel from God (Daniel 10:13). This reminds me of a time when God showed me a vision of angels, both good and evil, raging in battle for the souls of mankind. I believe God wanted to reveal to me, and now you, the intensity of the spiritual war.

In the midst of tragedy happening in the world, we can still have hope in knowing that our ultimate victory is in Jesus Christ! Although Satan may oppose us, prophecy foretells us of what is to come, and in the end, the forces of darkness will lose. Therefore, we should have confidence in knowing that God has holy angels who are militant that fight for us, the heirs of salvation, and for those who will

become heirs. However, their intervention in the affairs of man is contingent upon our prayers!

Key Highlights:

- **Expectation applies to receiving God's provision and direction for our lives. (Jeremiah 29:11)**
- **Tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character, and character, hope. (Romans 5:3-4)**
- **We have confidence knowing there will be a new heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21:1)**

Chapter 19

THE LAW OF FOCUS

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. **Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life,** and there are few who find it.

—Matthew 7:13–14

This Scripture says, “Difficult is the way which leads to life.” This is why we have been given instructions to meditate on the Word of God and to get understanding. We were born with the ability to think what we want to think, but it requires effort and diligence to take control of our thoughts. Therefore, we must guard our hearts with all diligence. Moreover, the Scripture says, “Narrow is the gate which leads to life.” Our living by the *truth* of God’s Word and remaining focused is a narrow path. Why? Because the world is so full of distractions, but we need to take the time to fully focus our minds to embrace the *truth*.

The world suggests all kinds of thoughts to us. Hence, it is easy for us to think according to appearances, but to think the *truth* regardless of appearances requires our focusing on the Word of God. This is the key element to our experiencing total prosperity in the kingdom of God and receiving everlasting life. We have to choose to not fix our attention on self-limiting beliefs; since we never will

rise in our kingdom authority if our focus is on our past sins and failures. God doesn't want us to remain in a state of condemnation because we walk according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1). If we walk around beating ourselves up over past failures, then we are likely to repeat it. Why? Because whatever we magnify in our hearts, we're likely to experience more of it. Therefore, we must discipline ourselves by renewing our minds to align with our new righteous nature. The good news is that we have access to the kingdom of God, which operates within us.

But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones. (Jer.20:9)

Like sunrays through a magnifying glass, whatever we magnify in our hearts will kindle a fire to that very thing. It is vital that we allow the Word of God to be like fire in our hearts, which is fueled by our convictions. There always will be room for growth, and this principle will work in every area of our lives. If we put more of a focus on our new identity in Christ, then our souls and bodies will fall right into alignment with our righteous spirits.

Meditation for Spiritual Growth and Development

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things.** —Philippians 4:8

Meditation means to ponder on a thought, and this will produce focused energy. As children of God, we must meditate on thoughts that are pure and of a good report. Moreover, meditation is a method used to transfer information from our heads to our hearts. Once this happens, we will find ourselves making new decisions, and with new decisions come new results. Meditating on positive thoughts only, no matter what the circumstances, can be challenging but rewarding. When our hearts are established to do the will of God, it makes the process much easier. Therefore, it is up to us to become alert to whatever resources that God places within our paths. Know that God will provide for us bread to eat and seed to sow.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, **and in His law he meditates day and night.** He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and **whatever he does shall prosper.** (Ps. 1:2–3)

The life we receive from God pertains to growth, vitality, purpose, and ability. Once we learn how to train our hearts, we will become more effective in drawing life from the kingdom of God that operates from within us. The transformation process is like a caterpillar that transforms into a butterfly. Hence, we experience change from the inside out. Therefore, our experiences in life are dependent upon our level of focus whether it's positive or negative.

Whatever we magnify in our hearts, our lives will begin to move in that direction. Therefore, we must take time to reevaluate our lives, and put things in priority. Having the wrong focus or a lack of focus has caused many of us to experience many frustrations in life. Moreover, we can be focused on doing good things but miss the mark when it

comes time for accomplishing things that are of greater importance. Therefore, we must allow our minds to be free from things that tend to slow down our progression.

Placing Our Focus on Christ

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

—Hebrews 12:2

We are to gaze (focus) on Christ as we exalt Him above every trial or circumstance in life. If we all will discipline our minds to obey the instructions that the Lord has given us, then we can experience God's power and victory on a much wider scale. Scripture let us know that God operates in partnership with men and women in the earth.

Our lack of finances tends to be the greatest hinderance that affect our ability to focus on Jesus. If we choose to keep our focus on what we can't do, then it will prevent us from discovering what Christ can do for us and through us. In our choosing to focus on the Word of God, inadvertently, we are focusing on Jesus. And we know that Philippians 4:19 tells us that, most definitely, Jesus will supply all our needs!

Key Highlights:

- **Our hearts become sensitive to whatever we give the most attention to. (Colossians 3:2)**
- **Prosperity comes by our choosing to meditate on the Word of God. (Joshua 1:8)**
- **We must commit our way to the Lord. (Psalm 37:5)**

Chapter 20

THE LAW OF VISION

**Where there is no vision, the people cast
off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps
the law.**

—Proverbs 29:18 BSB

We have spiritual eyes just as we have physical eyes. Once we get ahold of God's vision for our lives, He prepares us to make adjustments along the way. When God is leading us to accomplish His plans for our lives, we should trust what God is leading us to do. God always will make provision for the vision He has purposed for our lives. However, we have to trust God that the vision will come to pass at His appointed time. Oftentimes, we try to move ahead of God because we want things to happen immediately, but there's a process, which we must go through in order to prepare us for what's ahead. The key is for us to learn the critical lesson of trusting God along the way as the vision unfolds.

Our faith in who God is moves us to align with God's plan for our lives. As a result, we become more aware of new creative ideas which God places in our hearts throughout our spiritual journey. It helps to keep a pen and pad handy to write out those innovative thoughts, for God said, "To write the vision and make it plain (Habakkuk 2:2)." Why? It will keep us encouraged by reminding us to stay the course. Like an engineer who relies on a blueprint,

applying our faith will set in motion a spiritual law to begin materializing the blueprint of our hearts as we align ourselves with God's plan for our lives. Next, we need to stay alert to opportunities and resources that will begin to flow in our direction.

Remove the Scales

Whose minds **the god of this age** has
blinded, who do not believe.

—2 Corinthians 4:4

The kingdom of darkness will try to keep our sight away from knowing who we are in God. Satan has systems set in place to distract us from understanding the *truth*. However, Christ came to give sight to the blind both naturally and spiritually. The Lord will enable us to see with our spiritual eyes; causing spiritual direction for our lives. The way we see things in life is a matter of perception. It may have a lot to do with the way we were raised by our natural parents or the area of where we grew up in.

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.
(Matt. 6:22)

Our view of God will shape how we view ourselves, and our view of life will shape how we live it. God wants to give us a new perspective regarding the way we see things. Sometimes, it's not the problem that weighs us down so much, but it's the way we view the problem. The Word of God says that in this world we will have problems, but to be of good cheer because our Messiah has overcome the world (John 16:33). When we look at things in light of

eternity and what we have been given in Christ, we can experience peace in spite of life's temporary challenges. Therefore, we must allow God to remove the blinders so we can see this world for what it really is.

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, **open his eyes that he may see.**" Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. (2 Kings 6:16–17)

Fear and unbelief will cause scales to grow over our spiritual eyes. Elisha had an established heart, so he was able to see the protection and provision God manifested all around him. However, his servant became fearful when they faced an army that stood against them. Even though Elisha's servant believed in God, the scales that were over his spiritual eyes were as a result of his own hardened heart.

God has not given us the spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). Fear leads to insecurity; insecurity leads to anger; anger leads to hatred. When our spiritual eyes are opened, we will see that all of heaven is on our side supporting us along our spiritual journey. Now, we must release our faith to see the vision comes to fruition.

Key Highlights:

- **Once we receive vision from God, we must write the vision, and make it plain. (Habakkuk 2:2)**
- **Vision gives us purpose that places us in the right direction in life. (Proverbs 29:18)**

- **Vision gives us confidence to step out in faith. (1 John 5:14)**

Chapter 21

THE LAW OF ACTION

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

—James 2:17-18

There are certain things that God requires for us to do on our part. If we truly have faith in God’s Word, then our actions will be a result of our beliefs. As we continue to follow Christ, the Holy Spirit enables us to live a lifestyle that reflects our new nature. However, we will only grow to the degree that we yield our hearts to the Holy Spirit. God’s desire is for us to mature in all spiritual knowledge and understanding, so that He can lead us where His ultimate plan for our lives can be fulfilled. Some of us are experiencing frustration because we have set up camp spiritually and naturally in an area for far too long. Let’s see what God has to say concerning the principle of progression in this next key Scripture below.

The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: **‘You have dwelt long enough at this mountain. Turn and take your journey,** and go to the mountains...’ (Deuteronomy 1:6-7)

Going on to Perfection

Therefore, **leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

—2 Peter 3:17–18

God’s plans for our lives begin with preparation, and patience is required to perfect our faith. When we first committed our lives to God, He understood that all of us would have to go through a process of spiritual growth as we mature in Christ. So, the Father gave us grace to grow in holiness. Christ didn’t die on the cross for our sins so we could just keep on living the same lifestyle. He died on the cross so that we could have new life, new identity, and new purpose!

You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. (2 Peter 3:17–18)

By grace through faith, we experience gradual change that will enable us to become more like Christ. Hence, our actions are motivated by our love for God and His Word. As we renew our minds through the cleansing of the Word of God, we lose the desire to continue in sin. As the Word

of God exposes our hearts motives, we can identify, and correct wrong thought patterns based on the knowledge of the *truth*.

Developing A Plan of Action

A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord
directs his steps.

—Proverbs 16:9

There are some things in the natural that we must follow through with in order to complete every task the Lord has placed within our hearts. Furthermore, God will give us wisdom on how to complete every task, as well as order our steps to get from one place to the next. As we take every step of action in fulfilling our destiny, God will give us more direction along the way. This may come through godly visions, prophetic dreams, or strong impressions on the mind in the form of reoccurring thoughts. Moreover, God often speaks through other people to give a word of encouragement, which can be a confirmation for something we need to hear at the right time.

Launching Out into the Deep

When He had stopped speaking, He said to
Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let
down your nets for a catch"

—Luke 5:4

If we were to be handed a map of where the treasure is, it still would be required for us to take the journey. Life involves a series of movement. Therefore, once we learn

how to conduct ourselves; we should step out into what God is leading us to accomplish. Otherwise, we will hinder the flow of what God desires to do in our lives. God works in us to will and to do His purpose (Philippians 2:13).

A lot of times we think that we are waiting on God to move. However, the *truth* in many cases is that God has already moved on our hearts. In addition, He has given us everything we need that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Therefore, we must not be afraid to step out and embrace change. Some of us are frustrated because we see a better way in which things should be done, and we're waiting for someone else to come along to change it. Perhaps something is lacking because we are the ones whom God wants to work through to bring change in an area. Therefore, we must be willing to leave the land of the familiar.

Spiritual Navigator

For as many as are led by the Spirit of
God, **these are sons of God**

—Romans 8:14

In pursuit of our destiny, we find that the journey of life is much like being a captain of a sea vessel. The sea represents the vastness of everyday life, and the constant movement that comes along with it. Once we get moving in the right direction, God's provision will begin to unfold. We just have to get started somewhere. A rudder used to steer a ship is of no use until the ship gets moving.

For every sea captain to perform his or her duties successfully, they must have knowledge of how to sail the seas and should be firm in knowing their destination. God will give us the vision, and the Holy Spirit will be our navigator in life. The Spirit of God may tell us to go in a

specific direction and our hearts act like a compass. Therefore, we need to keep our focus on God in what He is doing in our lives in order to remain the course.

When we miss an opportunity, God knows how to get us back on track. There is a greater purpose to what God wants to do through us. For He always wants us to step out in greater confidence and boldness! Things will not always be perfect in the beginning stages. Oftentimes, we will have to make adjustments along the way. Throughout this process, God will open up doors of tremendous favor for us, the upright in heart. Hence, we are to seek God's will in all that we do, and He will direct our paths. However, we must be alert to opportunities and then seize the moment!

God may be calling each of us to influence a specific kingdom territory in the world. It could be in the area of media, business, education, or even government. We need light workers covering all bases, in all corners of the earth. If we don't have light workers in media, then how can we trust what our kids are watching and listening to that's influencing the way they think? If we don't have light workers in business, then who's going to finance the work of God's kingdom in the earth? If we don't have light workers in law, then how can we trust our legal system?

See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land... (Deuteronomy 1:8)

Key Highlights:

- **We must prepare for the journey ahead of us. (Proverbs 16:9)**
- **We must step out of the boat. (Matthew 14:22-33)**
- **We must move with the Spirit. (Romans 8:14)**

Chapter 22

THE LAW OF WISDOM

**The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to
depart from the snares of death.**

—Proverbs 13:14

The Bible is the knowledge of God, and wisdom is knowing how and when to apply the knowledge that we have obtained. Every action begins with a thought. If a thought is meditated on long enough, then it will find its way to our hearts. The heart is where ideas are conceived. Meditating on the Word of God will lead to spiritual conception in our hearts, which eventually will give birth to wisdom that is applicable to everyday life.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. (Prov. 4:7–8)

We should be seeking God for wisdom in order to get a strategy for whatever it is that He wants to accomplish through us. With wisdom comes a strategy that will energize our actions. Moreover, it enables us to know what to do in any given situation. Oftentimes, we need wisdom concerning a plan of action, including the timing for its implementation. Many of us go through life in misery and

poverty unnecessarily because we lack a sound plan to accomplish our goals. As a result, we may become frustrated or experience burn out.

Seek Wise Counsel

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.

—Proverbs 19:20

Solomon asked God for wisdom above worldly riches, and he ended up getting both. The wisdom of Solomon was highly spoken of throughout the world during his reign as king. So much so that even Queen Sheba of Egypt traveled all the way from Egypt to the holy land to test Solomon with hard questions (1 Kings 10:1). The valuable lesson we can learn from this story is that it can be beneficial to seek the counsel of other wise and godly people. There is wisdom in the multitude of counselors.

Establishing the Right Mindset

Everyone who hears my words, and does them, is like a wise man who built his house on a rock

—Matt. 7:24-27

Like a master builder, we are responsible for building our lives on the foundation of Christ. As we embrace the knowledge of God, our minds can be properly constructed with the brick and mortar that comes from the wisdom of God. Understand when we first begin to embrace the *truth*,

it's like pouring liquid cement into the mold of our minds. However, we must meditate on the truth until it becomes solid concrete. We then will have a mind that is set, hence the word, "mind-set." This enables us to make concrete decisions because the wisdom of God is able to make wise the simple (Psalm 19:7). And when we have wisdom, we will understand how to be successful in any endeavor.

Wisdom to Prosper

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and
in His law he meditates day and night. He
shall be like a tree planted by **the rivers of
water**, that brings forth its fruit in its season,
whose leaf also shall not wither;
and **whatever he does shall prosper**.

—Psalm 1:2-3

We see a metaphor in this Scripture: having access to an ample water supply is key. Throughout history, cities have been built where people could access a reliable water supply. However, simply having access to the *truth* is not enough. We must take time to drink. The living waters that God wants us to partake of will sustain us spiritually. His living waters will purify our hearts, and out of our hearts will flow the abundant life (Prov. 4:23). Reading and listening to inspiration, daily, also will help us to remain strong in faith, along with our meditating on the wisdom books of the Bible, such as Proverbs.

As it relates to economic conditions, understand that God initially provided us with everything we would need by what He placed in the abundance of the earth. The fertility of the earth is full of resources. However, the earth's resources were compromised as a result of the fall.

Therefore, it's not so much a resource problem as much as it is a control or distribution problem.

Due to the monetary system that has been set in place by the world's system, God is working through both natural and supernatural channels of releasing His blessings. And not only that, God has called us to be extensions of Himself as a means to help advance His kingdom (Deut. 8:18). The Bible says that he who wins souls is "wise" (Prov. 11:30). Why? Because the souls of people who were made in the image of God are the *real* eternal treasures (Mal. 3:17)!

God is able to work through us in the earth according to our level of faith (Eph.3:20). God prospers His elect to further expand His kingdom in the earth and to help preserve the righteous (Deut. 8:18). God used Joseph to preserve the entire nation of Israel (Gen. 37:2–50). This is why it is vital for God's people to thrive in the area of business and to get into position. Everyone is not called to church leadership. Understand we need kingdom financiers like never before! How else are we going to effectively be the hands and feet of Christ in the earth?

Wisdom in Everyday Life

Another dynamic to embracing wisdom is the experiences that we go through in life. Life is a continuous learning experience, and every soul must develop in character. Although some experiences in life are unpleasant, we often find lessons through these experiences that can help us along in our spiritual growth process. Understand God is not causing unpleasant experiences. However, He can turn them around and use them for our good; causing things to work in our favor.

In the midst of an evil world system, it is one thing that the forces of darkness can't control unless we allow them to. That is, they can't control our hearts and minds. Their

intentions are to break our spirit to the point that we give in to the designs of the enemy (Daniel 3:16-19). However, God can work miracles beyond natural constraints with the cooperation of our faith. Therefore, we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, and are called by His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Key Highlights:

- **Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. (Proverbs 4:7-8)**
- **Without wisdom, we can be easily deceived. (2 Corinthians 11:3)**
- **He that walks with wise men shall be wise. (Proverbs 12:20)**

Chapter 23

THE LAW OF CREATIVITY

As it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations” in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead, and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did.**

—Romans 4:17

Everything that exists in the natural realm is an expression of thought. The Scripture says that God calls things that are not as though they are. Since God calls things verbally, it stands to reason that He also calls those things to His mind first. We usually think before we speak. Therefore, on our path of enlightenment, we must first develop the mind of Christ through the process of sanctification.

A person’s way of doing things is the direct result of the way they think about things. To experience the things we desire, according to the parameters of God’s Word, we will have to develop the mind of Christ. In the natural, if we don’t change the thermostat settings in our home, the temperature will always default back to where we last set it. Without having the mind of Christ, our hearts are void of divine light, and our tongues are untamed and misdirected (James 3:8). The psalmist gives us a metaphor that the tongue is like a pen of a ready writer (Psalm 45:1). However, our beliefs must first be written on the tablet of

our hearts. Therefore, to see change in our external world, there must first be change internally. Know that every decision we make is shaping our reality.

The Power of Confession

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

—Proverbs 18:21

In order to experience the fruit of our words, we must begin speaking life that pertains to the things we want to see manifest in our lives and over those we love. Fruit is something that is produced over a period of time from sowing seeds. In the same manner, words are sown over the course of our lives. Our words have the power to speak life or death. So, it will benefit us to confess words that produce life! Life can be considered anything that causes growth, prosperity, or healing. Therefore, it's up to us to decide whether the seed of our words will produce pleasant or unpleasant fruit. On the other hand, speaking words of death can cause a destructive lifestyle. Therefore, words are not to be taken carelessly (Matt.12:36).

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matt. 15:18–19)

When we begin to see things from God's perspective, it will cause us to think and speak differently. As we begin to speak differently, we become aware that our words have

the power to create change. This is not hard to believe when we set our eyes on the miracles that Jesus Christ performed during His earthly ministry. The Lord did what He saw His Father doing. Therefore, operating in kingdom authority deals with releasing our faith as we align with God's Word.

Now faith is **the substance of things hoped for**,
the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)

We are aware that there are substances from which material things are made, and in their original state, they permeate, penetrate, and fill the universe. The Bible says that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34). Instead of self-sabotaging the blessings, we can begin to speak blessings into every area of our lives. If we declare a thing and do not doubt in our hearts, we can set in motion the creative energy or formation of the thing we desire to manifest (Mark 11:23).

The Power of Imagination

And the LORD said, "Behold, **the people is one**, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and **now nothing will be restrained from them**, which they have **imagined** to do."

—Genesis 11:6, KJV

After I understood the importance of abiding in God's love, it helped to restore my joy, and I started to dream again. My heart needed an image, and I had to use my imagination to give it one. In this particular passage of Scripture, the people had wicked imaginations. Therefore,

God confused their language. This is why we have many different languages today. This spiritual law works in the negative as well as the positive. To imagine is to expand our current state of minds. Our imagination is where things are conceived in our hearts. We may not receive the manifestation as quickly as we want, but the key is to not lose heart (Gal. 6:9).

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, **all things are possible to him who believes.**” (Mark 9:23)

As with every child, we all have had big dreams and imaginations. Most of us had no problem using our imaginations as kids, but somehow, we have allowed life and the media to “tell-a-vision” that is contrary to God’s design for our lives. Our hearts need an image in the same way construction engineers need blueprints before they begin building. When we start to believe the things that we’ve imagined, our faith moves forward in the stages of spiritual conception. As we expand our state of minds, our faith makes what appeared to be impossible now possible.

God said to Abraham in Genesis 15:5, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” What was God doing? He was demonstrating a spiritual law. In short, Abraham was concerned about having no offspring, but God wanted to assure him that an heir would come from his own loins. However, God had to help Abraham take his focus off of his current situation. Only then could Abraham begin to operate in faith principles. In the same way, we must see our future with the eyes of our hearts. Just as God spoke to Abraham, He is still speaking to us today. He’s trying to get us to see what He sees for our lives. However, God needs our cooperation.

Creativity for Innovation

I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out
knowledge of witty inventions.

—Proverbs 8:12 KJV

As children of God, we are called to be innovators. What we believe in our hearts give birth to unlimited possibilities. Every great idea that became a physical reality first began with the power of thought. It is no mystery that we, the children of God, accomplish things of great significance and succeed by allowing our creative ability to flow in the direction which God leads us. Some of the most profound literature and successful inventions came from great minds of people who understood how to unlock their creative flow. I personally plug in my earphones, and listen to music that helps to stimulate the mind and heart. I then let my hand and pen dance the night away on the floor of my notepad.

In unlocking our creativity, we must move beyond any form of negativity. Negativity will inhibit creativity, ability, and transformation. Instead, we must replace negativity with the everlasting love that we experience from our Heavenly Father. Experiencing His love towards us produces joy and creativity from within our hearts; as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions. Let's allow our creativity in God to flow like a river!

Key Highlights:

- **Without having the mind of Christ, our hearts are void of divine light, and our tongues are untamed and misdirected. (James 3:8)**
- **Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (Proverbs 18:21)**

- **As children of God, we are called to be innovators.**
(Proverbs 8:12)

Chapter 24

THE LAW OF WEALTH

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

—Phil. 4:19

Wealth means to be abundantly supplied. During the earlier stages of biblical times, wealth was determined by the value of natural resources, which mainly came by possessing ownership of land, and from growing natural produce on the land. Animals were also considered to be resources of wealth. For example, cattle were used for ploughing and threshing, which have been replaced by modern day machinery in this day and age. Other animals like sheep, provided wool for clothing; while horses, donkeys, and camels were used for transportation.

Natural resources were not the only symbols of wealth during biblical times. Married couples who bore strong healthy children were also considered wealthy. Children were considered to be great assets to their family, and grew up to carry on their family legacy. The bigger the family, the more workers they had. And when they grew up, the more security the parents had in their old age. Moreover, their children were blessings from God because they possessed many gifts to help support their family, as well as helping to advance economic growth and development. The intelligence and creative abilities of properly nurtured

children, as they mature into adulthood, can clearly be seen throughout our artwork and technological advancements today.

In this modern day and age, what we see is a world that has been turned upside down from God's original design. Unfortunately, crime and corrupt leadership robs a nation. Moreover, resources are often controlled, and may be limited depending on the country or area of the country people live in. The solution to poverty and economic conditions is found in righteous living.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. (Proverbs 14:34)

Money is Seed

In this modern day and age, we must look at money as seed. We all know that a seed is capable of reproducing a harvest return. Since wealth mainly flows through paper and electronic means today, we will need wisdom on how to possess its monetary equivalence. Obtaining wisdom will enable us to know how and where to plant (invest) our seed (money). In addition, we must learn how to manage wealth. Otherwise, when we get a measure of wealth, it won't be too long before it's gone (Proverbs 21:20).

Prosperity in the Kingdom

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: **"I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.**

—Isaiah 48:17

Prosperity in Hebrew language is translated Shalom. Shalom means peace, completeness, and well-being, which is everything that Jesus paid for us to have. Before I understood the true meaning of prosperity, obtaining riches was my main goal in life. I thought money was the key to success and happiness. However, when I didn't experience the abundant life, according to my level of understanding at that time, I got frustrated and felt like my life was insignificant to God. I believe this is a common misunderstanding within the body of Christ. Many of us measure God's love based on how well things are going financially in our lives. However, God's love is not determined by how many material possessions we have (Luke 12:15).

As I grew in my spiritual understanding, I discovered that we can be rich according to the mindset of the world but be spiritually poor (Luke 16:19-31). I believe this is one of the reasons that God instructs us not to covet. Coveting means to have an ungodly desire of what someone else has. However, what God has for us is specifically for us. Some people obtained their riches by ungodly means. And some people received riches that were handed down through their family generation, but it doesn't make them any more loved by God than us.

The Purpose for Wealth

And you shall remember the LORD your God, for **it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant** which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

—Deuteronomy 8:18

Wealth is ultimately for the purpose of establishing God's kingdom in the earth. In regard to fulfilling our purpose, wealth is necessary in order to supply us with everything needed to support the vision that God has placed in our hearts (2 Corinthians 9:8). So I believe wealth is proportionate to our purpose in life. Therefore, we should avoid focusing on the lack of finances, and place more of a focus on our God-designed purpose. God's Word says that He gives us power to get wealth, and our pursuing kingdom purpose will lead us to the rivers of wealth.

Turning Wisdom and Creativity into Wealth

I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out
knowledge of witty inventions.

—Proverbs 8:12 KJV

Most of us were not born wealthy. Those of us who are within this category must understand that it's going to take wisdom, creativity, and faith to possess wealth. There are giants (large corporations) in the land, so understand that the playing field is not leveled. Since there is no one way to create wealth, we will need to be creative in our approach; based on our gifts, talents, and current available resources. As we spend time in the presence of God, our hearts will produce new ideas, which must be mined out. Then, it's going to require a fight of faith on our part.

Putting Our Hands to Something

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

—Proverbs 10:4

Obtaining wealth requires hard work, patience, and diligence. Therefore, it's going to require for us to take action. In this day and age, obtaining natural wealth has a lot to do with meeting the needs of people whether we're providing a service or product. In putting our wealth to work, we all can identify a problem and develop a solution that can benefit the lives of many people.

The Love of Money

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

—1 Timothy 6:10-12

This Scripture says that the “love” of money is the root of all evil. Understand that God doesn't want money to rule our hearts. He wants to be first place in our hearts above anyone or anything else (Exodus 20:3). I found it interesting that the Bible draws a distinction between wealth and riches (Psalm 112:3). Perhaps because wealth is the inner substance that develops from within before we see it materialize in the natural. Although we may obtain natural wealth, our true riches are not in external things. Scripture tells us that the blessings of the Lord make us rich. In other words, it's a supernatural anointing pertaining

to the joy of the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). Therefore, the real wealth resides in us as we go from faith to faith, and glory to glory in receiving the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19)

Key Highlights:

- **There is a process to obtaining wealth— Our souls must first prosper. (3 John 1:2)**
- **Wisdom and creativity are prerequisites for obtaining wealth. (Proverbs 8:12)**
- **We must put our hands to something. (Proverbs 10:4)**

Chapter 25

THE LAW OF OBEDIENCE

So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burn offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

—1 Samuel 15:22

God’s kingdom is designed to govern all of His creation through willful submission, obedience, and recognition of His goodness. The Scripture above says that obedience is better than sacrifice. We can avoid many hardships by simply obeying instructions from the written Word of God and through the leading of the Holy Spirit. If we are not heeding the voice of God, we are only setting ourselves up to become frustrated in life.

We can learn a lesson from Adam and Eve who both experienced unnecessary hardship as a result of obeying the voice of Satan. And still to this day, Satan has deceived the whole world into rebelling against God (Rev. 12:9). As the people of God, the way we can show honor to Him is through our obedience. So, in order to fulfill the will of God for our lives, we must seek Him for direction. This means that we place a greater priority upon the Lord and His Word.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matt. 6:33)

Making Ourselves Available to God

Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him,
and He shall bring it to pass.

— Psalm 37:5

Since God knows our past, present, and future, we should not be reluctant to commit our lives to God. Once I got this revelation, I stopped trying to figure everything out on my own. God is not going to have us do something that He hasn't given us the passion and ability to do. So, I began to rest in God as I learned how to hear the small still voice of God that was prompting me to a specific place or for a special assignment. This principle was key for me because this is when I began learning how God operates through me as a willing vessel. I still had some challenges, but the Lord delivered me from all my troubles.

While Satan is working through the people of disobedience (Eph. 2:2), God is working through the people of obedience. So, whatever God prompts us to do may consist of our time, talents, or resources. At any given moment, the Lord may speak to our hearts to have us carry out an assignment. Therefore, we should keep our hearts available to God concerning whatever He may have us to accomplish.

If you are not sure what God is leading you to do, then do the last thing that He put in your heart to do. When you do this, you are honoring God. God will then unfold the

next steps for you to take. There are some things that God does not have to instruct us to do, while at other times, God will impress upon our hearts to carry out a specific assignment. We may be called to a specific place or area for an assignment in our lives that is only temporary for the journey. We should avoid clinging to a person or place if God is impressing upon our hearts to move on. Know that with obedience comes more direction from God, and whatever God is prompting us to do will be rewarding. Having a heart of reluctance to obey God's voice can delay what God desires to do for us and others.

Faithfulness to God

His lord said to him, “**Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.** Enter into the joy of your lord.”

—Matthew 25:21

True belief in Christ involves commitment in heart. The Lord is looking for a faithful bride that is truly committed to helping carry out the Father's plans, which will last for eternity. We were created by God for Him (Col. 1:16). Our acceptance of Christ does place us in right standing with God. However, this position of right standing is not to be taken for granted. We have been instructed by God to move forward in our spiritual journey to pursue holiness, which is our reasonable service. Therefore, character must be worked in us through obedience. And we can't learn obedience until we have been instructed in the way of the Lord. For His knowledge comes “precept upon precept;

line upon line... here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10).

There's a misunderstanding among many today who believe that once a person become saved, they are always saved. That form of teaching is misleading and comes from a doctrine of demons. If I am married to a person who continues to be unfaithful to me, that would give me legal grounds for a divorce. Well, the wisdom of God is wiser than man. Claiming covenant rights while simultaneously violating God's ordinances, without true repentance of heart, would be a contradiction to God's Word. The church is the bride of Christ, and just as wedding vows should not be taken lightly, neither should our devotion to Christ.

Our Hearts Will Be Tested

I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the
mind, even to give every man according to
his ways, according to the fruit of his
doings.

—Jeremiah 17:10

Life on earth is a trial period to test man's loyalty and commitment to God through willful obedience. This is a key element in gaining spiritual understanding according to divine government. It answers why we must pass through this earth before going up to eternal glory! It is common knowledge that we never truly know what's in a person's heart until they've been tested. A person's actions are a reflection of what's truly in their heart.

The Israelites were tested in the wilderness by God in order to prove their commitment, obedience, and love to the Lord. Without question, they failed; however, Christ took their place and succeeded. The way I see it, this whole earth experience is a type of wilderness in comparison to

heaven. Christ was the forerunner, and we are inspired by God to follow after His examples.

Resist Temptation

Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil
and he will flee from you.**

—James 4:7

Temptation is another form of testing. However, temptation through deception is the nature of the snake (Satan). God's design for testing man's heart is through the willful act of obedience which is guided by His love. Moreover, Satan is not the main problem as many believe him to be. The main problem is people's unfaithfulness in heart to obey God. To give an illustration, let's say a man is tempted with adultery, and he chooses to give in to the temptation. The main problem was not the woman he was tempted to commit sin with. It was the temptation that revealed what was already in his heart. Hence, those of us who love God will remain faithful no matter what temptations Satan will try to present us with. If a just man falls, and is truly repentant, God is faithful to forgive him (Proverbs 24:16; 1 John 1:9). However, there are still consequences for the decisions we choose to make in this life. David's sin with Bathsheba affected him and his entire household. Therefore, God warns us to resist Satan, and he will flee from us. When we can say, with the apostle Paul, that we have already died, then we will have reached the place where God can really use us for His glory (Gal. 2:20). Only in that position do we find complete freedom from all temptations, threats, bribes, sins, or enticements.

A Free will to Choose

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today
against you, that I have set before you life
and death, blessing and cursing; therefore
choose life.

—Deuteronomy 30:19–20

Once we reach the age of accountability after childhood, we are given free will to choose between eternal life with God or eternal separation from God. God having given us a free will means that we have the ability to choose. Therefore, we must choose life or death, light or darkness, blessings or curses. We know that there are rules to the kingdom, and each person is given a free will to obey or reject God's law during this earth probationary phase (Josh. 24:15). Therefore, God is allowing us to choose whomever we want to serve.

It's interesting how the Bible uses the metaphor of a tree to describe a person (Matt. 7:16). That being said, the Son of God represents our modern-day Tree of Life, while Satan represents the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (sinful pleasures). Sin will leave us wide open for Satan to destroy our lives without true repentance. In the midst of all that's happening in the field of the world today, we are still left with a decision to choose which tree we want to eat from. Therefore, if we are to have and enjoy eternal life, we ought to eat from the Tree of Life. It is from that Tree that we can "taste" and see that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8).

The Great Fall Away

Beware, brethren [brothers and sisters] lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

—Hebrews 3:12–13

There are so many people today who doubt the Bible and God’s existence like never before. However, internal evidence of God’s existence and presence is a greater witness than the need for external evidence. For those of us who have lost faith in God, we need to commit our lives back to Him and seek His plan for our lives. Although people’s hearts may be getting colder by the second, God’s plan for us is greater than the destructive course of this world.

“Today, if you will hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.**” (Heb. 3:12–15)

Based on the current economic conditions, and climate changes happening in the world, there may be times when we will have to endure hardship. It doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love us! Sometimes, it requires patience in order to allow time for God to begin shifting things around in our lives. Moreover, we ought to be firm in knowing that the sufferings of this world do not compare to the glory that will be revealed in us (Rom. 8:18). Therefore, we must remain steadfast in our faith all the way to the end. As we see in the next Scripture, the great fall away was

prophesied many centuries ago regarding the end times we're living in right now.

Now the Spirit expressly says **that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.** (1 Tim. 4:1)

We are fully aware there is an endless kingdom to be inhabited; an everlasting life to be given to us, that we may inhabit that kingdom forever. However, it is not a place where flesh and blood dwells. It is a spiritual kingdom. The early churches that ran this race before us were aware of this, and were fully convinced that nothing could separate them from the love of God. Therefore, they did not allow poverty or the deceitfulness of riches to deter their faith in God. Moreover, God will never abandon His children simply because we fail to please Him perfectly. However, God's patience and forgiveness must not be taken for granted by acts of willful disobedience and rebellion.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Rom. 8:35)

Key Highlights:

- **Obedience is better than sacrifice. (1 Samuel 15:22)**
- **True belief in Christ involves commitment from the heart. (Psalm 37:5)**
- **Our faith must be continual. (Colossians 1:23)**

Chapter 26

THE LAW OF PERSISTENCE

To them who by **patient continuance in well doing** seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.

—Romans 2:7

The more we work at something, the better we will become at it, and the more our destiny will continue to unfold. A lack of persistence stands between our desires and aspirations. Although we do have an enemy, we, as believers, must take the necessary time to develop our own state of mind in order to see the desired results. This is why maintaining our faith is so critical. We may be on the verge of a major breakthrough, which is why the battle may seem so intense at times. This is the time to really amp up our prayer lives. We also need to avoid putting so much emphasis on what the devil is doing. The devil has no power to stop the blessings of God for those of us who are faithfully following after God!

The Greater One Lives in Us

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

—1 John 4:4

There's a story in the book of Numbers about a man named Balak. He was the leader over a nation that was an enemy of Israel. Balak tried to pay Balaam the prophet to curse the people of Israel. However, Balaam told Balak that whom God blessed, he could not curse. After Balak's many failed attempts to curse Israel, Balaam sinned by teaching Balak how to get Israel to bring a curse upon themselves (Num. 22–25); (Rev. 2:14). I brought up this story because there are many people in the body of Christ who feel stuck in life. If they have listened to misguided teachings, they may think Satan is blocking their blessings. Although we may experience opposition from the powers of darkness, however, as we continue doing the right thing, our breakthrough eventually will come.

A Positive Attitude Helps Us Overcome Life's Challenges

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

—James 1:2–3

As believers, we should be optimistic about everything in life. The fact that we're alive at this very moment, means that we have been given a present. It is up to us to decide what to do with it. Oftentimes, things will not be perfect in the beginning. We just have to keep going and make small adjustments along the way. Our goal is not perfection, but progression. Every day is a day to progress. If our first plan does not work successfully, then we can replace it with a new plan. It is at this point where the majority of us meet with failure.

Sometimes we tend to lack persistence in creating new plans to replace those which have failed, but our persistence in life based on these adverse experiences will build our endurance. Our patience and persistence will bring forth desired results.

Timing and Patience

But **let patience have its perfect work**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

—James 1:4

There may be times when it seems like God is not there. However, when we take into consideration that we're in a spiritual war, it will help us gain a better perspective of what could be taking place in the spiritual realm (Dan. 10:13). You may be experiencing what seems like a delay after making your prayer request known to God. However, you must be patient in order to allow God to shift some things around in both the spiritual and natural realm that will work in your favor.

It seems like the more our technology advances, the more people are becoming impatient in life. I'm amazed at the technology we have available to us. However, too many of us have become conditioned to look for instant gratification or results. Timing and patience are key elements that most of us overlook in life when it comes to waiting on the promises of God. God uses patience to build us up and mold us for His ultimate purpose in our lives. Additionally, we understand that we must allow time for things to begin shifting in both the natural and spiritual realm.

There's a process of seed, time, and harvest to everything in life. If we were to plant a tomato seed in the

ground, it wouldn't develop immediately overnight. It would take time for that seed to produce a harvest. Nature lets us know that to everything there is a season, and new seasons reveal that there's a change taking place. Therefore, we can have confidence in knowing that everything will come together in God's timing.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** (2 Pet. 3:8)

For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, **at the set time** of which God had spoken to him. (Gen. 21:2)

If we don't allow patience to have its perfect work, then we may end up quitting just before we reach our breakthrough. In addition, it can cause us to make a decision that we may later on regret. We can learn a lesson from Abraham and Sarah who both got impatient while waiting on God to bless the barrenness of Sarah's womb with a son called Isaac; who was the child of promise. Their lack of patience resulted in giving birth to Ishmael; a son who was born of a slave woman, as opposed to waiting on God for a miracle. Both children represented two nations that were divided against each other (Galatians 4:21–28).

Process of Development

I remember being frustrated in one critical phase of my life when I felt out of place. During that time, I didn't understand the life challenges that I was up against were actually preparing me for where God was taking me in the long run. I later discovered that there were critical lessons in each phase of my life that needed to become part of my inner being. Therefore, certain things in life will come to shape and mold us.

On the path of spiritual maturity, there's a process that takes place at the time of our spiritual conception. Whatever God wants to birth through us may take some time to fully develop before it comes to fruition. Just like in the natural, a baby needs to develop all of their organs before coming out of their mother's womb. Therefore, we must allow time for growth and development.

Worth the Wait

If we get everything we want instantaneously, most of us never will learn to value or appreciate what we have. Oftentimes, we take things for granted. Let's examine a business illustration: the less time it takes to make a product for the goal of just maximizing sales, often will result in a poorer quality and value it has in the marketplace. However, we who understand quality don't mind paying a higher price for what took time and detailed effort to make.

Scripture says that He who began a good work in us is faithful to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6). This lets us know that God is patiently molding us to be extensions of Himself, and Christ paid a high price for our sins to be forgiven. Therefore, we are to

be anxious for nothing (Philippians 4:6-7). Let's keep our hearts steadfast in faith because there is an entire army of heaven assisting us on our spiritual journey!

Key Highlights:

- **Patience and persistence will bring forth desired results. (Romans 2:7)**
- **One day is like a thousand years to God. (2 Peter 3:8)**
- **The creative process takes time. (Genesis 21:2)**

Chapter 27

THE LAW OF PEACE

And **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

—Phil. 4:7

There is peace that comes from God, which passes all human understanding. Prior to redemption, we were all once alienated from God (Col. 1:21). However, our hearts were never designed to function alone without being connected to our Creator. Until we connect with our Creator, our hearts are in a state of unrest. The solution to this problem is found in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who established peace between God and man. Therefore, God gives us, the born-again believers, His divine peace through Christ, so that we may walk in total assurance, trust, and confidence in His promises. Hence, peace comes from being cognizant of God's provision.

Peace is an emotion that is linked to the way we think. When we are in Christ, our peace is not predicated on a circumstance or person, but it comes from our minds being fixed on God. On the other hand, when we allow our minds to be dominated by what we can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel, we are robbed of our peace.

Mental and Emotional Stability

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

—Colossians 3:15

God will keep us in perfect peace when we are mindful of His love for us. Peace stabilizes our spiritual walk to finish the course that God has set before us. Therefore, doubt, worry, or fear would be contrary to releasing our faith. Fear and doubt are a violation of God's law. In addition, a life with no peace is like walking on unstable ground; not knowing if or when the ground will sink in. That type of heart is unstable and operates on uncertainty. The good news is that Christ is the solid ground on which we stand. All other ground is sinking sand. Therefore, we can stand and rest on the promises of God by faith.

Peace in times of Distress

The Lord will give strength to His people;
The Lord will bless His people with peace.

—Psalm 29:11

During times of distress, I began to pray the prayers dealing with afflictions found in the book of Psalms. I learned through personal experience, that there is something supernatural that takes place in the spiritual realm whenever I directed my prayer and attention to God during my weakest moments. Beloved, whenever we shift the focus on God who is all-powerful, we place a demand on His strength, which is drawn out by faith (Luke 8:46).

The outcome is that our hearts will be strengthened, and mountains will be moved as we continue forward in fulfilling our purpose and destiny.

But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble.
(Psalm 37:39)

Perfect Peace Is in Christ

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

—John 14:27

A heart ruled by peace will help us to use good judgment when making critical decisions. Therefore, it is necessary for us to be in the place where God designed our hearts to function; so we can maintain the continuous flow of our communicating with Him. If we are not experiencing peace, then it will be hard for us to perceive the voice of God. Although our physical bodies are in this world, we no longer live according to the destructive course of this world. Therefore, we have peace in knowing that we have passed from death to life through the atonement of Christ. Moreover, there's peace in knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall

**be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:38)**

Key Highlights:

- **Peace comes when we esteem the Word of God.
(Psalm 119:165)**
- **Peace comes when we walk according to the Spirit.
(Romans 8:6)**
- **Peace comes when our minds are fixed on Christ.
(Isaiah 26:3)**

Chapter 28

THE LAW OF REST

Come to Me, all you who labor 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.

—Matthew 11:28

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years because of their unbelief. God guided them out of bondage from under the rulership of Egypt, and into the land of promise. However, the majority of the generation who escaped Egypt, which was a type of the world's ruling power we live in today, never entered into their land of promise due to unbelief. Unfortunately, they struggled with renewing their minds to believe God's promise because they were so caught up with things that were happening in the wilderness. Many of us are struggling with this same issue in our modern world today.

Therefore, since **a promise remains of entering His rest**, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 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. **For we**

who have believed do enter that rest. (Heb. 4:1–3)

In the natural, there's rest that our bodies need in order to function properly. However, there is another type of rest that goes beyond the natural order of things. In the previous Scripture listed, we see there's a different form of rest. Rest for believers refers to an inward rest that requires total reliance and trust in God. According to biblical prophecy, God wants to take us on a spiritual journey just as He demonstrated with the children of Israel. God wanted to give them natural rest after journeying through the wilderness, but God first wanted them to learn how to rest in Him by faith before arriving at their promised land.

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. (Hebr. 4:10)

So, what does it mean to cease from works? Do we sit in our homes, quit our jobs, and do nothing? That would be a contradiction to the Scripture that says, "If a man doesn't work, then he doesn't eat" (2 Thess. 3:10). The rest that we are to enter into requires for us to cease from our own selfish ambitions, seek God's will for our lives, and trust that God is going to work things out in our favor. However, it is hard to trust someone that we don't know. We learn to know God through divine intimacy and the revelation knowledge of His Holy Word. In addition, we can understand the character of God by what was demonstrated through the Messiah, the Savior of all nations.

Laboring into God's Rest

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest,
lest any man fall after the same example of
unbelief.

—Hebrews 4:11 KJV

Scripture says for us to labor into God's rest. We labor by training our minds, assuring our hearts, and taming our tongues. It is in this place of rest that we learn to trust God and find provision for everything we need in this life. We must understand that our spiritual contract is a living binding document, and power is released by faith when we agree with God's Word. So, the way to access God's provision is by believing and declaring the written Word of God (Isaiah 59:21). The Word of the Lord has been tried and proven (Psalms 18:30). Hence, when we study to show ourselves approved of God, inadvertently, we'll discover the provision and will of God for our lives. Having this in mind, we rest in knowing that as we speak the Word of God, He is faithful to perform it!

The condition of the world is in a current state of chaos that's spinning out of control. However, that doesn't mean it has to become our reality. Just as Christ calmed the storm during His earthly ministry, He will also calm the storm of our lives when we have faith and place our focus on Him. For if our faith is not anchored in God's rest, then our minds may drift to the point where we begin to walk in doubt or fear. Walking in doubt or fear would cause disharmony with the law of the Spirit of life and would only give strength to the storm. Sometimes our minds get over worked by trying to figure everything out. This is where we need to begin casting our cares on Christ. How? By releasing over to Him the things that that we cannot control.

Assuring Our Hearts

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, **if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion**, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore, I was angry with that generation, and said, “**They always go astray in their heart**, and they have not known My ways.

—Hebrews 3:7-10

It’s possible for us to know about God, but still allow our hearts go astray. This usually happens when the voices of the world have become louder than the voice of God in our hearts and minds. As a result, we can become doubtful and feel that God does not care about what we are going through. However, God is mindful of us and loves us with an everlasting love (Romans 8:4). Sometimes we just need to regain our focus of what the Lord has called us to do.

Jesus answered and said to them, “**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**”

—John 6:29

Replenishing Our Oil

Our faith must be continual so that our hearts do not become hardened to the point of unbelief. There are some of us who used to be strong in God but have allowed our hearts to slowly become spiritually numb. This usually happens when a person runs out of oil. Scripture uses oil as

a metaphor to give us spiritual understanding. In ancient times, oil was used in oil lamps to maintain candle lights during the times when light bulbs were not yet invented. The oil is symbolic of the anointing we receive from God, as well as maintaining our faith in God even in our darkest moments. This *truth* is explained in the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. Therefore, it's critical for us to spend time in the presence of God to replenish our oil. If we're experiencing burnout, we should pray that our holy flame will be reignited!

Here Physically but Somewhere Else Spiritually

Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

—Ephesians 2:6-7

Scripture says that we are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. This lets us know that our physical position which may be temporary, does not always parallel with our spiritual position. Some of us need to get back in our seats spiritually and avoid getting so worked up, that it causes internal unrest. Therefore, we must take the shield of faith and quench every fiery dart that the enemy throws at us. Whenever we place more value on the Word of God, everything else will pale in comparison.

I remember working a job that was causing me a lot of stress. Once enlightened, I realized that I was internalizing every work-related problem, which was causing me a lot of stress at the time. So, I began making the adjustment by proactively internalizing the Word of God. We must understand that whenever we internalize the Word of God, we activate the power of the anointing. And it is the anointing that will begin to destroy every internal yoke of bondage. After having endured many challenges in the workplace and throughout life in general, I discovered that we can be somewhere physically while spiritually in another place.

A Deserted Place for Natural Rest

Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, **“Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”** For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

—Mark 6:30–31

It is also necessary for us to take time to rest in the natural. Even Jesus our Lord, took time off from ministry. Some of us are over working ourselves unnecessarily, and it may be time to take a vacation. If we don't take time to rest, we'll eventually suffer burnout. Unless our work is our play, we should also allow ourselves time to do the things that bring us inner joy and peace. Taking time away for leisure and natural rest will help minimize the common stresses of life. Stress can cause spiritual distortion and may block our ability to hear God clearly. Taking time away

from a work-related task doesn't have to be expensive. It is vital that we allow our minds to be in a state of joy and peace.

The Sabbath Rest

Rest and worship are so critical to our faith that God placed it in the Ten Commandments, so that we may establish a discipline to acknowledge Him as our Creator. Hence, the Sabbath is a day set aside for worship (Exod. 20:8). There are some people who are very legalistic when it comes to deciding what day to observe the Sabbath. Some become so focused on a religious system that they fail to grasp the true meaning of the Sabbath. In the Old Covenant, the Sabbath pointed people to Christ. In the New Covenant of grace, we rest in Christ. These religious customs were considered types and shadows under the Old Testament law. For us who are still not convinced, let's allow Scripture to be our authority.

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. (Col. 2:16–17)

It doesn't get any plainer than that. Now that we're under the New Covenant of Grace, we still take at least one day of the week to devote time to God and abstain from work. However, the emphasis is to worship God in spirit and in *truth* (John 4:24). Moreover, we are exhorted to cast our cares on Christ. Therefore, our rest in God should be continual. And since our bodies make up the temple of God, we rest in God, and the Spirit of God rest in us.

Ultimately, we will find rest from the trials that we face throughout this earthly experience. Therefore, we look forward to resting in the beauty of God's holiness for all who live according to God's Word. We no longer will have to earn wages just to live. All glory and honor to God Almighty!

Key Highlights:

- **Rest allows us to take the pressure off of ourselves, and trust that God will work things out. (1 Peter 5:7)**
- **Rest allows us to renew our strength. (Mark 6:31)**
- **Ultimately we will rest from the labors of this world to enjoy eternity with God. (Rev. 14:13)**

Chapter 29

THE LAW OF SACRIFICE

Gather My saints together to Me, those who
have made a covenant with Me **by sacrifice**.

—Psalm 50:5

The law of sacrifice allows something or someone to suffer in the place of another. This is why innocent rams and bulls were killed as a sacrificial ritual under the Old Testament. God was revealing to us a spiritual *truth* (Lev. 17:11). That is, God could not allow sin to go unchecked. Therefore, His plan was to exemplify His love for us by asking His Son to take on human flesh and dying a natural death in our place. It had to be done this way in order to redeem us from the curse of sin and eternal death.

God established a system of religious customs to reveal His plan for us to follow until the Holy Messiah came and sacrificed Himself for the sins of the world. If we sin today under the New Covenant, then the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. However, we must confess our sins to the Lord, and have true repentance of heart (1 John 1:9).

The Greatest Sacrifice

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit. (Rom. 6:10)

Jesus is the Son of God, who was incarnated as a physical man for the purpose of shedding His innocent blood for the sins of the world. This was necessary, according to divine law, to make atonement for the penalty of sin. Our Savior sacrificed greatly for the sins of the world, and before His imminent return, His desire is to restore the value of God's gift of salvation for mankind back into our hearts. Moreover, His will is for us to increase in spiritual understanding of God's law in key areas such as justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23). However, God doesn't force us to accept His salvation. He gave us a free will to choose. And when we choose to join our lives to God, we receive the gift of righteousness through Christ which we never could have earned on our own merit. In other words, God is saying, "I did for you what you were not capable of doing in your own human strength. When you join your life to Mine, you will receive all of My benefits."

Does this Mean We Can Live Like a Devil?

No, we have been given grace to grow and overcome sin. God cautions us to avoid sin in order to warn us of its potential danger and consequences. If you haven't committed your life to God by repenting of your sins and placing your faith in Jesus Christ, please understand that tomorrow is not promised to any of us. If you've given your life to Christ, but you're living a lifestyle of sin, please understand that you must repent.

Once we obtain the root of righteousness through the power of the Holy Spirit, we now can move forward to walk in the Spirit. God's expectation for us is to grow in our level of spiritual understanding and moral conduct (2

Pet. 3:18). This is the whole basis of the New Covenant. The Old Testament law imposed the “fruit” without the “root,” before the promised Messiah came, but now, we have His Spirit.

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.** (Eph. 3:16–17)

Becoming a Living Sacrifice

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

—Romans 12:1

God demonstrated His love for fallen humanity by what Christ our Savior did for us on the Cross. As it relates to our sacrifice to follow Christ, it requires devotion to God. True devotion requires giving up a past sinful lifestyle and committing our works to the Lord. Therefore, we should lay down our lives (self-will) for the One who laid down His life for us.

He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39)

Our sacrifice to God should be a humble and contrite heart (Ps. 51:17). A contrite heart does not take the forgiveness of God for granted. We must sacrifice our flesh

by bringing it under subjection to our righteous spirits. The flesh is brought under subjection through the process of sanctification, which will cause our bodies and souls to align with our righteous spirits.

Our Sacrifice to Work God's field

Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For **we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field**, you are God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:8-9)

The movement of God's kingdom on earth is also contingent upon the number of available servants who are willing to cooperate with God. The work is plentiful, but the laborers are few. God established a pattern for us to follow when He sent His son to die for our sins. Therefore, we have been given instructions to imitate Christ by laboring in God's field to produce an end time harvest. Our sacrifices consist of our time, gifts, and natural resources to advance the kingdom of God.

A wise person understands that there are eternal treasures to be sought after that the material possessions of this world cannot compare to (Revelation 22:12). Not everyone of us is a preacher or teacher of the gospel of Christ. However, as the children of God, we should be participating in some form of charity. Charity is considered law in God's kingdom. In spite our differences, Jesus unites us as one family in our work on earth to support the will of the Father.

Sacrifices of the Divine Exchange

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin
for us, that we might become the
righteousness of God in Him.

—2 Corinthians 5:21

- **Jesus was punished so we could be forgiven.**
- **Jesus was wounded so we could be healed.**
- **Jesus did not know sin, but He was made to be sin for us, so we could become the righteousness of God in Him.**
- **Jesus tasted death so we could share His life.**
- **Jesus was made a curse so we could receive the blessing.**
- **Jesus endured poverty so we could share His abundance.**
- **Jesus endured shame so we could share His glory.**
- **Jesus endured rejection so we could have acceptance with the Father.**
- **Jesus gave us beauty for ashes.**
- **Jesus was cut off so we could be joined to God.**

Key Highlights:

- **The law without the New Covenant found in Christ, requires a righteousness that's equal to God's righteousness. (Romans 8:4)**
- **The penalty of the law could only be prevented by providing a sacrifice. (Hebrews 10:10)**
- **The sacrifice had to come from another human (God in the person of Christ) in order to stand in the place of the first human (Adam) who broke the divine law. Secondly, the person performing the sacrifice had to fulfill all of the righteous**

requirements that the law demanded. (Romans 5:12), (Matthew 3:13-15)

Conclusion

The revelation God has given me started with accepting Christ and becoming born of the Holy Spirit. I then took time to meditate on the *truth* of His written Word. Those of us who have the Holy Spirit, our hearts bear witness to the *truth*. Those who have not been regenerated can't see what only the Spirit of God reveals once a person has become redeemed in Christ. Christ is the *way* to everlasting life! Therefore, the treasures to the kingdom are hidden in Christ. Why? God wants us to first seek His kingdom and His righteousness in order to receive our salvation. The Lord made the following statement, "What good is it to gain the whole world, but lose your soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Jesus Christ is the One who holds the key that unlocks our hearts; leading us to fulfill our destiny. However, it is a process of growing in our spiritual understanding. The life that God gives through Christ doesn't start when we die and go to heaven. It starts from the moment that we become born of the Spirit. From this point, our hearts must go through a process of refinement. I couldn't have written this book without allowing my heart to go through this process of purification. Therefore, we must bring our thoughts into alignment with the *truth*. The Bible reveals that where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also (Matthew 6:21). Once our hearts are established in grace, we'll then be enabled to access eternal treasures.

We are assured that God is not holding anything back from us. Everything that God gave to us, He gave freely. Satan's strategy is to control the economy so we will begin

to live in fear, but when we possess the kingdom of God, we have access to kingdom resources. However, the manifestations of blessings are not always automatic. It requires faith, prayer, and action. And just as we draw money from a bank automated teller machine, we must put a draw on the kingdom of God that operates from within us as we submit to God. When we understand how to apply our faith, we will be empowered to overcome the fallen conditions of the world.

The path to the kingdom of God is a path of new beginnings that will last for an eternity. Although some have used the Bible to manipulate and exploit people and nations, the Word of God is still *truth*. In its proper context, the *truth* has liberated many souls for generations.

God showed me a vision of a clock on the wall. The short hand was close to twelve, and the long hand was between ten and eleven. The message on the wall indicated that time is running out. What you see happening in the world today is a result of the spiritual battle becoming more intense as the culmination of foretold events reaches its closure. However, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. God placed this message on the tablet of my heart in order to sound the alarm. Satan's reign as the ruler over this present evil age and author of all evil is coming to an end. Both angels and humans must go before God in the final judgment. Judgment is founded on righteousness (Ps. 94:15).

I was hesitant to add this part, but I must be obedient. God showed me in the spirit, a vision of hell. Hell is a real place of torment. I saw and heard many souls screaming in agony while engulfed in fire, which I could not bear to watch or listen. But heaven is also real and can become your eternal home. The Lord doesn't desire for anyone to go to hell. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). He made you for His own joy and for

everlasting fellowship. You are His creation, and He loves you.

For those who love darkness more than the light, God is allowing them to exercise their free will to choose between life or death. Eternity is a very long time...there's no end to it! If you are unsaved, please repent of your sins, and accept Christ into your heart today. Allow me to lead you in this simple prayer below. Just repeat the following words below from your heart.

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus name I pray, Amen." Welcome to the family of God!

The Hundred-Year Prophecy of the Millennium Power Given by Bob Jones

- **1950s—Reveals the power of God.**
- **1960s—Reveals the Holy Spirit invading the churches/ denominations.**
- **1970s—Reveals the raising up of the great teachers.**
- **1980s—Reveals the raising up of the great prophets.**
- **1990s—Reveals the raising up of church governments.**
- **2000s—Reveals the glory of God.**
- **2010s—Reveals not just having faith in God, but making the decision that the faith of God is going to move through you.**
- **2020s—Reveals the rest of God.**
- **2030s—Reveals the family of God.**
- **2040s—Reveals the kingdom of God.**
- **2050s—Reveals the sons and daughters of God.**

The information above is prophecy given by God through man, which may be subject to change according to the condition of man's heart. Therefore, no man knows the day or hour of when Jesus Christ will return (Matt. 24:36). For best results, you should read this book along with your Bible and balance what is written here with the Holy Scriptures.

About the Author



Louis Parks was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan USA. Louis was brought up in the church at a young age. However, like many, Louis left the church and lost his way for a season. But, the Spirit of the Lord would not give up on him, he soon returned back to church and rededicated his life to Christ, whom he still serves faithfully. Louis is a US veteran who served in the Army and received an honorable discharge. He continues his civilian life in ministry through inspirational writing, outreach ministry, and evangelism.

In 2005, the Lord began appearing to him in dreams, visions, and revelations. During those visits, the Lord began to show him how many people are suffering and falling away from God, due to a lack of understanding on how faith works in the role of the believer. In 2006, the

Lord presented the opportunity for him and his family to relocate to Atlanta, GA. He soon joined Victory World Church in Norcross, GA, for a season, where he served in both inner city and international missionary work for Christ. Soon after, Louis attended and graduated from Charis Bible College. Upon graduating, he joined The Solid Rock of Atlanta in Atlanta Georgia, where he led discipleship classes, served as an associate youth pastor, and was chosen to be a part of the leadership team. Louis is truly dedicated to his calling which is in the area of prophetic teaching and the ministry of a watchman on the wall.

**Please visit the author's website
at www.keylifeministries.org.**