

NOTES  
AND  
QUOTES

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# FORWARD

*Write down the revelation  
and make it plain on tablets  
so that a herald may run with it.*  
HABAKKUK 2:2

FOR YEARS AND YEARS I HAVE COPIED INTO MY JOURNALS FAVORITE QUOTES FROM BOOKS and messages as I have read them. I collected them in a computer file called *Wonderful Writings from Various Christian Authors*. Also as I've listened to conferences on the internet, I have often taken notes on what the speakers were saying.

I thought these were just for my private use. But one day the Lord told me to share these wonderful writings with others in a book He called *Notes and Quotes*. So I gathered many of these into this series of books to share with you.

It is my desire that these notes and quotes are a blessing to you as they have been to me. I have put the author or speaker's name at the beginning of each article, and have put a list of their names at the end (End Notes) of the book.

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## WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH

(Quotes from Derek Prince's book *Prophetic Guide to the End Times*, p. 102-104)

Then He [Jesus] says, "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus uses that phrase about five times in the New Testament for a certain category of people: those who have known all about Him, who have heard all the truth, who have been close to it perhaps all their lives, but never really committed themselves. And there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth because they will suddenly realize they were so close all their lives, they could have stepped in at any moment. But they never did, and now they are shut out forever.

1. Jesus' first use of this phrase, found in Matthew 8:12, refers to "the sons of the kingdom." Jesus is speaking to His fellow Jews and saying, "You are rejecting Me, but the Gentiles will come. They will enter the Kingdom, and you will be shut out. And there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." These are people who have known it all, who had every opportunity but never availed themselves.
2. In Matthew 13:42 this phrase is used of the people who are the tares in the wheat field, looking exactly like the wheat but never producing fruit. Jesus says the angels will come and root them up and "cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." All

their lives these people have been close to it, right in the middle of it, but they never entered into it.

3. In Matthew 22:12-13, in the parable of the wedding feast, there is one guest who comes in without a wedding garment. Actually, he did not even have to buy his wedding garment -- the host provided it. So it is sheer audacity and presumption to walk in without one. When the master of the feast sees him, he says, "How did you come in here without a wedding garment?" The man is speechless. The master says, "Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Again, we see that this is somebody who knew all about it. He had received an invitation to the feast but he did not bother to put on the appropriate garment, which is the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
4. In Matthew 25:30, we find the "one talent" servant, and again it involves weeping and gnashing of teeth.
5. Finally, in Luke 13:26-28, there are people who say to Jesus, "We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets." And Jesus says to them, "I do not know you...Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity." And outside there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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## THE TEN VIRGINS

(Quotes from Derek Prince's book *Prophetic Guide to the End Times*, p. 104-105)

In the Bible, ten is the representative number of a congregation...My thought here is that these virgins basically represent churchgoers.

Here are three points about those ten virgins that are common to them all:

- They all expect the bridegroom. They all know the bridegroom is coming. They are not unbelievers.
- They all have lamps and oil. Almost always, oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. They all have the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- All of them slumber, both the wise and the foolish.

There is only one difference: *the amount of oil they have*. The wise have oil enough and some to spare. The foolish do not have a reserve of oil. We need to note again that there is no middle category - either we are wise or we are foolish...

We have to be filled and refilled with the Holy Spirit continually. All of these ten virgins have the initial filling, but because they do not all have the continual refilling, some are not ready.

It is interesting to note that the wise virgins say to the foolish: "Go and buy oil" It has to be bought; it is not a gift. Initially, the Holy Spirit is a gift. But if we want to remain filled with the Holy Spirit, there is a price to pay.

## BUYING GOLD AND OIL

(Quotes from Derek Prince's book *Prophetic Guide to the End Times*, p. 106-7)

Jesus said to them: "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed."

But Jesus gives us some advice. "I'm not going to give the gold to you; you have to buy it from Me."...**Gold represents here faith that has stood the test of fire.** Jesus says, "You'll have to pay for it by endurance. You'll have to hold out under the test." Not everything in the Christian life is free. There are things we have to pay for.

The foolish virgins who have to go buy oil find that it is too late. When they return, the door is shut, and Jesus says, "I never knew you." I understand that to mean they were never among God's elect. They had come in, but God knew they would never pass the test.

How do we buy oil? By prayer, by Bible reading, by waiting on God. It takes time and it takes effort. It does not just happen. We have to make the decision. Have we bought our oil?

## FROM MY JOURNAL

(This is what the Holy Spirit spoke to me at this time:)

*You spend your time seeking Me, talking to Me, listening to Me, and doing just as I lead you. Remember I said once that it might be harder to "do nothing" if that is what I said to do, than "do something" like hand out tracts. I am training you to listen to Me and follow Me. You ARE one of God's elect. You ARE passing the tests being given you, since you are listening to Me and following Me. That's what I counseled you many years ago - to "follow Me." That is another way you "buy gold." You listen to Me and follow Me. That is another way to "store up oil" - to always listen to Me and follow Me. You are doing all three of the things Derek mentioned: prayer, Bible reading, and waiting on God. Be assured you are*

*among the elect, that you have extra oil, and that you have already bought gold from Me...you have paid the price and are still paying it every day.*

*Do not be afraid you are listening to the wrong voice and following it. I am your seal. I assure you that you have eternal salvation. I am the Holy Spirit. Why else would you have such a desire to follow the Lord, worship Him, read His Word, and seek after the Truth? Yes, there are many who are deceived, but you are not among them.*

Lord, I guess I sometimes question You about what I am doing because I love to do it so much: the Bible reading, the prayer, the waiting on You. It is the sincere desire of my heart. Therefore it is not a hardship for me to do it, but a great delight and blessing.

*Yes, it IS a hardship whenever it comes to worldly things - like having fun, having material things more money could buy, having fame, wealth, power, etc. These are things which you have voluntarily given up. These are things which are the price you have paid to follow Me. There are more "prices" you have paid than you realize (for instance, your marriage and the worldly comforts it held). Because You love Me so much, and desire to be with Me so much, these prices seem small and insignificant to you. But, to Me, they are not small and insignificant. You are like those disciples who gave up all to follow Me. You are receiving back 100-fold while on this earth in the delight and joy you are receiving in being in right relationship with Me and seeing this relationship grow day by day.*

*You will receive many treasures in heaven which are, even now, being stored up there for you. And realize that you are under great attack, even now, as you question over and over if what you are doing for Me is sufficient for buying gold and receiving extra oil. That attack is part of the price you are paying. Counter those attacks, whenever you have them, with the truth from My Word, and from what I tell you in our private conversations (which NEVER conflicts with My Word - if you think it does at any time, be sure to ask Me about that so I can explain it).*

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## THE CHOSEN

(Quote from Derek Prince *Prophetic Guide to the End Times*, p. 59, 70-71)

What does Jesus promise for those who remain faithful? "He who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13)...Thank God, we are saved now. But if we want to stay saved, we have to endure. There is really only one way to learn endurance: by enduring. Endurance is God's preparation for what lies ahead. We should not complain about it. Scripture says, **Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience [endurance, NASB]. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and**

**complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)** For us to be perfect and complete, we have to let endurance have its perfect work. That is the key to survival.

Jesus goes on to say: "**Unless those days were shortened, no flesh [human being] would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened**" (Matthew 24:22).

The word *elect*, which occurs in this passage three times, is an important word meaning "chosen." It may be hard to accept, but Scripture indicates that God has those whom He has chosen. People like you and me. We are saved not because we chose Jesus, but because Jesus chose us. Jesus said to His disciples, "**You did not choose Me, but I chose you**" (John 15:16). Ephesians 1:4 tells us that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

When God chooses us, we have to make the decision to respond to His choice. But we never initiate His choice. God knows every one whom He has chosen. We are not "afterthoughts." We are not accidents looking for a place to happen. We are part of an eternal plan, one that includes a whole lot of people who are not yet believers. God knows each one of them, and He will not rest until He has gathered in every single one...

Furthermore, the age will not close, Jesus tells us, until all the chosen ones have been gathered in: "**Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**" In other words, if God had not shortened the actual period of the Great Tribulation, no human being would remain alive.

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## EXCLUDED FROM THE KINGDOM

(Quote from Derek Prince *Prophetic Guide to the End Times*, p.126-7)

Paul uses a key phrase in all three letters; *will not inherit the Kingdom of God*. It is one thing to be born again and enter the Kingdom of God, but it is quite another thing to inherit the Kingdom of God. A lot of those who have entered the Kingdom will never inherit it because they are living the lives Paul describes. Here is the first passage:

**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals [passive homosexuals], nor sodomites [aggressive homosexuals], nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)**

These people can be born again into the Kingdom of God, but ultimately they cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. They are excluded. We cannot inherit the Kingdom of God unless we repent.

God does not admit any in this list without repentance. God does not make exceptions for those who reject His commandments willfully. Paul says that these people will not inherit His Kingdom.

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## THE PROMISE

(Quote from Derek Prince *Prophetic Guide to the End Times*, p. 157-8)

Now for the promise - a beautiful and familiar promise of blessing for those who align themselves with God's purposes for Jerusalem, for Israel and for God's people: **"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Psalm 122:6 KJV)....**

We cannot take a neutral attitude. We have to actively identify ourselves with what God is saying in His Word and what He is doing in history. The primary way we can do so is to identify with what God is doing through our prayers. We can pray for the peace of Jerusalem. For the restoration of Jerusalem. For Jerusalem to become all that God has declared in the Scriptures Jerusalem shall be. To those who pray and are concerned, this is the promise: **"They shall prosper that love thee."**

The Hebrew word translated "prosper" does not pertain primarily to financial prosperity. It means they shall be at ease, they shall have rest, they shall have peace. There is an inner rest and peace that comes to those who, in the midst of all the turmoil of this world, associate themselves actively with God's purposes of restoration for His people.

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## TAKING GOD'S WORD AS MEDICINE

(Quote from book *Atonement* by Derek Prince, p 25-30)

The work of the cross is "perfect in every respect, perfect in every aspect." It matters not from what point of view you look at the cross. It is perfect. Nothing has been omitted. "All things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3) --and that covers just about everything!--are provided for in the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. Everything you will ever need, in time and eternity, whether spiritual or physical, financial or material, emotional or relational, has been provided by that one sacrifice. "He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). Notice again that word *perfected*.

So I set myself to understand what God did for me through Jesus on the cross. I began to see that on the cross Jesus bore not only my sins but also my sicknesses and pains, so that by His wounds I was healed. The message of Isaiah 53:4-5 was inescapable:

Surely He has borne our griefs [literally, *sicknesses*] and carried our sorrows [literally, *pains*]; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes [or wounds] we are healed.

For some reason I had formed the conclusion that, as a Christian, you had to be prepared to be miserable for the rest of your life.

While I was arguing this way, the Lord spoke to me inaudibly but very clearly: *Tell Me, who is the teacher and who is the pupil?*

"Lord," I answered, "You're the teacher and I'm the pupil."

*Well, would you mind letting Me teach you?*

I got the message.

Then the Holy Spirit directed me to the Scripture that got me out of the hospital:

My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. (Proverbs 4:20-21)

"My son..." I realized God was talking to *me* as His child. This passage is not addressed to unbelievers; it is addressed to God's people. When I came to the phrase *all their flesh*, I said, "That settles it!" Not even a philosopher could make *flesh* mean anything but flesh! "All my flesh" means my whole physical body. God has provided through His Word that which will impart health to my whole physical body.

I looked at the margin translation for *health* and it was "medicine," so the Hebrew word can be rendered either *health* or *medicine*.

*This is wonderful!* I said to myself. *I am sick and I need medicine. God has provided the medicine that will bring health to my whole body.*

Now I said, "That's it. I'm going to take God's Word as medicine."

When I said this, God spoke to me again inaudibly but clearly: *When a doctor gives a person medicine, the directions for taking it are on the bottle. Proverbs 4:20-22 is My medicine bottle and the directions are on it. You had better study them.*

I went back and saw that there were four directions.

Number one: *Give attention to my words.* We must give undivided attention to what God is saying.

Number two: *Incline your ear.* We must bow those stiff necks of ours and become teachable. We do not know it all, and some of the traditions we have inherited from our church backgrounds are not biblical.

The third direction: *Do not let [my words] depart from your eyes.* We must keep our focus unwavering on the Word of God.

And finally: *Keep them in the midst of your heart.*

The next verse of Proverbs says this:

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



Whatever you keep in your heart, in other words, will determine the course of your life. You cannot hold the wrong attitude in your heart and live right, nor can you have the right attitude in your heart and live wrong. The course of your life is determined by what fills your heart. God was saying to me, *If you will receive My Word through your ear gate, through your eye gate and admit it to your heart, it will do everything I have claimed.*

I made up my mind that I would take God's Word as my medicine.

So I asked myself, *How do people take regular medicine?* Often the answer was, three times daily after meals. So after each main meal I went aside by myself, opened up my Bible, bowed my head in prayer and said, "God, You have promised that these words of Yours will be medicine to all my flesh. I'm taking them as my medicine now in the name of Jesus." I would then read the Bible with careful attention and listen to what God was saying to me.

Thank God, I was perfectly healed! I received not merely physical healing, but I became a totally different person. The Bible renewed my mind and changed my priorities, values and attitudes.

It is wonderful to be healed by a miracle, and I thank God I have seen many people healed miraculously and instantaneously. There is real benefit, however, in being healed by "taking the medicine" systematically over time. You obtain more than physical healing; you are changed in your inner being.

I did not receive healing immediately. It took three months before I was fully healed... Circumstances are not the decisive factor. God's promises do not depend on circumstances. They depend on *meeting the conditions.*

I could have sat in bed and said, "I believe," but nothing would have changed. I needed to *do* something to activate my faith. In His wisdom God showed me to take the Bible three times daily as my medicine.

The lesson is clear: Do not be passive, but enter by the appropriate action into the provisions of the cross.

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## BLESSINGS AND CURSES

(Quotes from the book *Atonement* by Derek Prince, pp 80-90)

Here are short summaries of the blessings and the curses in Deuteronomy 28:

The blessings:

1. *Personal exaltation.* By this I mean being lifted up, honored.
2. *Reproductiveness.* I use this word to describe a person who reproduces or is fruitful in every area of life, whether physical or financial or relational or creative.
3. *Health.* You probably do not appreciate how much a blessing health is until you are sick, and then you may wish you had thanked God more often for the blessing of being healthy.

4. *Prosperity or success.* Prosperity in the Bible does not mean what it does to modern Americans. It is not luxurious living or an abundance of physical pleasures, but accomplishing God's purpose and succeeding in doing His will.
5. *Victory.* Blessing brings victory in every conflict that we enter in the will of God.
6. *Being the head and not the tail.* Some years ago I asked the Lord to tell me the difference between the head and the tail. He gave me a simple answer: *The head makes the decisions and the tail gets dragged around.*
7. *Being above and not beneath.* This goes closely with being the head and not the tail.

The curses from Deuteronomy 28:

1. *Humiliation.*
2. *Failure to reproduce, or barrenness.*
3. *Sickness of every kind.*
4. *Poverty and failure.*
5. *Defeat*
6. *Being the tail and not the head.*
7. *Being beneath and not above.*

Seven indications of a curse:

1. *Mental or emotional breakdown.*
2. *Repeated or chronic sickness, especially if it is hereditary, which is the nature of a curse.*
3. *Female problems (barrenness, miscarriages, menstrual cramps and a whole host of others).*
4. *Breakdown of marriage, family alienation.*
5. *Financial insufficiency.*
6. *Being accident-prone.*
7. *A history of suicide or unnatural deaths in a family.*

Eight possible causes for a curse coming over a person.

1. Idolatry
2. False religion and secret societies
3. Wrong attitude toward parents
4. Injustice toward the weak
5. Anti-Semitism
6. Our own words
7. Words from authority figures
8. Witch doctors

How to be released:

1. Recognize
2. Repent
3. Renounce
4. Resist

A prayer that covers every condition necessary for release from a curse:

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God and the only way to God the Father. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. I believe that on the cross You were made sin with my sinfulness that I might be made righteous with Your righteousness. You were made a curse with any curse that might come upon me, that I might receive the blessing.

And now, Lord, I come to You for deliverance from any such curse. I repent of any sins that have caused it to come, whether committed by me or by my ancestors. I receive Your forgiveness.

I take my stand now against the devil and all his pressures and everything he wants to do against me. In the name of Jesus I resist him. I refuse to submit any longer to him. In the name of Jesus, I now release myself from any curse over my life. Because of what Jesus did for me on the cross, in His name I release myself, and I receive the release now by faith and thankfulness and praise.

Lord, I thank You now. I praise You now. I believe You are faithful. I believe You are doing what I have asked You to do. I commit my life to You, that from now on Your blessing may rest upon me. Thank You, Lord Jesus! Thank You!

This does not automatically solve all your problems...you must be prepared to continue to resist the devil and to tell him, "I have met the conditions. You have no more claims. Get out of my way--a child of God is coming down the road. Step aside!"

If you sense a curse of death over you, begin to proclaim Psalm 118:17

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

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## THE CROSS

(Quotes from the book *Atonement* by Derek Prince, p. 183-4)

Nine aspects of the exchange that took place when Jesus died on the cross:

*Jesus was punished that I might be forgiven.  
Jesus was wounded that I might be healed.*

*Jesus was made sin with my sinfulness that I might be made righteous with His righteousness.*

*Jesus died my death that I might share His life.*

*Jesus was made a curse that I might receive the blessing.*

*Jesus endured my poverty that I might share His abundance.*

*Jesus bore my shame that I might share His glory.*

*Jesus endured my rejection that I might have His acceptance.*

*My old man was crucified in Him that the new man might come to life in me.*

Five different aspects of deliverance through the application of the cross in our lives:

1. *Deliverance from this present age*
2. *Deliverance from the law*
3. *Deliverance from self*
4. *Deliverance from the flesh*
5. *Deliverance from the world*

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## RHEMA WORD

(Quotes from the book *Atonement* by Derek Prince, p. 189-193)

Romans 10:17 *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

Some people say faith comes by hearing the Word of God, but that is not exactly what Paul says. He says that what comes from the Word of God is hearing, and what comes from hearing is faith. These are two stages. When you expose yourself to the Word of God with an open heart and mind, what first comes is hearing--the ability to hear what God is saying. It becomes real to you. And then out of hearing develops faith.

The problem is, many of us do not allow the time needed for hearing to produce faith. You have to expose yourself to the Word of God without setting time limits.

God does not offer instant faith...If you do not take time for hearing, all you will do is read the Bible. Faith does not come by reading the Bible; it comes by hearing from God *through* the Bible. Hearing first, then faith.

In Romans 10:17 the Greek for "word" is *rhema*. It refers not to the Word of God established forever in heaven (for which the Greek word is *logos*), but to the word God is speaking to you at any given moment. As Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

We do not live by a printed volume called the Bible, if I can put it that way; we live by the Word made real to us personally at any moment by the Holy Spirit. The Bible consists of white sheets of paper with black marks on them. Those black marks do us no good. What transforms them into something that produces faith is the Holy Spirit, who makes the Word of God a living word. It then becomes a *rhema*.

Whatever it takes, don't stop short of a relationship with God in which His Word speaks to you personally. First you need to cultivate hearing. Then out of that comes faith!

Matthew 6:33 "*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...*"

Give God and His Word priority in your life over everything else. Seek God and His Word first. Remember to spend enough time in the Word to really build your faith. Receive Scripture as God's personal Word to you. And receive His Word with meekness, duly obeying its commands.

Let these things take priority over everything else in your life. When your priorities are adjusted and you have the attitude toward God and His Word that permits faith to come in, you are on your way to receiving what God has provided for you. Then you can appropriate all that Jesus provided through His death on the cross.

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## ABUNDANCE

(Quote from book *Blessing or Curse: You Can Choose* by Derek Prince, pp.178-179)

Actually, throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus exactly exemplified "abundance," as defined in chapter 5. He always had all that He needed to do the will of God in His own life. Over and above this, He was continually giving out to others, and His supply was never exhausted.

So when did Jesus become poor for our sakes? The answer is: *on the cross*. In Deuteronomy 28:48 Moses summed up absolute poverty in four expressions: hunger, thirst, nakedness and need of all things. Jesus experienced all this in its fullness on the cross.

Very often our "abundance" will be like that of Jesus while He was on earth. We shall not carry large amounts of cash, or have large deposits in a bank. But from day to day we shall have enough for our own needs and something over for the needs of others.

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# THE EXCHANGE AT THE CROSS

(Quote from book *Blessing or Curse: You Can Choose* by Derek Prince, pp. 185-197)

There is one--and only one--all-sufficient basis for every provision of God's mercy: the exchange that took place on the cross...eight main aspects were summarized:

*Jesus was punished that we might be forgiven.*

*Jesus was wounded that we might be healed.*

*Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness that we might become righteous with His righteousness.*

*Jesus died our death that we might share His life.*

*Jesus became poor with our poverty that we might become rich with His riches.*

*Jesus bore our shame that we might share His glory.*

*Jesus endured our rejection that we might have His acceptance as children of God.*

*Jesus became a curse that we might receive a blessing.*

Seven steps to release:

1. *Confess your faith in Christ and in His sacrifice on your behalf.*
2. *Repent of all your rebellion and your sins.*
3. *Claim forgiveness of all sins.*
4. *Forgive all other people who have ever harmed you or wronged you.*
5. *Renounce all contact with anything occult or satanic.*
6. *You are now ready to pray the prayer for release from any curse (see below)*
7. *Now believe that you have received, and go on in God's blessing!*

Prayer for release:

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God and the only way to God; and that You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead.

I give up all my rebellion and all my sin, and I submit myself to You as my Lord.

I confess all my sins before You and ask for Your forgiveness--especially for any sins that exposed me to a curse. Release me also from the consequences of my ancestor's sins.

By a decision of my will, I forgive all who have harmed me or wronged me--just as I want God to forgive me. In particular, I forgive...

I renounce all contact with anything occult or satanic--if I have any "contact objects," I commit myself to destroy them. I cancel all Satan's claims against me.

Lord Jesus, I believe that on the cross You took on Yourself every curse that could ever come upon me. So I ask You now to release me from every curse over my life--in Your name, Lord Jesus Christ!

By faith I now receive my release and I thank You for it.

Lord, I now open myself to receive your blessing in every way You want to impart it to me.

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## BANNERS

(Quotes from book, *Blessing or Curse* by Derek Prince, p. 226-7)

The lesson of Jehoshaphet's army and of Paul and Silas in the jail is summed up by the Lord Himself in Psalm 50:23: **"He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."**

God's salvation is already complete through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Nothing we say or do can ever change that. But when we respond with sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise, we open the way for salvation's benefits to be manifested in our lives. Like Jehoshaphat, and like Paul and Silas we must learn to offer these sacrifices in faith, before we have actually experienced the benefits.

In Psalm 20:5 David said, **"In the name of our God we will set up our banners."** Again in Song of Solomon 6:10, the Bride of Christ is portrayed as **"awesome as an army with banners."** Three of the most effective "banners" God has given us are *proclamation*, *thanksgiving* and *praise*.

First, we raise the banner of *proclamation*. We speak out boldly, in faith, the promise or the provision of God's Word that applies to our particular situation or meets our particular need. Then we go on to thank God - still in faith - for the truth we have proclaimed. Finally, we move from *thanksgiving* to jubilant *praise*. All this we do *in pure faith*, without waiting for any visible change in our situation.

In His own way and time, God responds to our faith, just as He did to that of Abraham. The truth, which we have proclaimed and for which we have thanked and praised Him, becomes a reality in our experience.

By raising these three banners of proclamation, thanksgiving and praise, we achieve two purposes at one and the same time. First, we secure for ourselves the promised blessings of God that we have proclaimed. Second, we shut out the satanic forces that would resist us and seek to withhold the blessings from us. In this way, marching together into our inheritance, we fulfill Solomon's prophetic picture of an army awesome with banners.

## PROCLAMATIONS FOR CONTINUING VICTORY

(Quotes from book, *Blessing or Curse* by Derek Prince, p. 229-239)

God has led us to establish a central "bank" of Scriptures, which we have memorized and which we draw upon in our times of prayer, or whenever we become involved in spiritual conflict. Proclaiming these in faith invariably releases corresponding expressions of thanksgiving and praise.

We are speaking to a vast, invisible world of spirit beings.

1. *As a result of praying the prayer for release from curses*

**Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham, whom God blessed in all things. (based on Gal 3:13-14)**

2. *When becoming aware of negative forces directed against us, either from servants of Satan or from soulish utterances of Christians*

**No weapon formed against me shall prosper, and every tongue that rises against me in judgment I do not condemn. This is my heritage [my inheritance right] as a servant of the Lord, and my righteousness is from You, O Lord. (based on Isaiah 54:17)**

Lord, I forgive all who have spoken evil against me, and having forgiven them, I bless them in Your name.

3. *When pressures of sin or guilt or unworthiness pursue us from our past*

**I am in Christ, and therefore I am a new creation. All those old things have passed away. Everything in my life has become new, and everything is from God. (based on 2 Cor. 5:17-18)**

4. *When oppressed by hopelessness and gloomy forebodings of death.*

**I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. (Psalm 118:17)**

5. *When assailed by physical sickness or infirmity*

**Jesus Himself bore my sins in His own body on the tree, that I, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose wounds I was healed. (based on 1 Peter 2:24)**



My body is a temple for the Holy Spirit, redeemed, cleansed and sanctified by the blood of Jesus. My members - the parts of my body - are instruments of righteousness, presented to God for His service and for His glory. The devil has no place in me, no power over me, no unsettled claims against me. All has been settled by the blood of Jesus.

**I overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of my testimony, and I do not love my life to the death. My body is for the Lord, and the Lord is for my body. (based on 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 1:7; 1 John 1:7; Heb. 13:13; Rom. 6:13; 8:33-34; Rev. 12:11; 1 Cor. 6:13)**

6. *When Satan attacks an area for which God holds us responsible - our home, our family, our ministry, etc.*

**The bolts of our gates will be iron and bronze, and our strength will equal our days. There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help us and on the clouds in his majesty. The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out our enemy before us, saying, "Destroy him!" (based on Deut. 33:25-27)**

7. *When we awaken to the realization that the mind is a battlefield in which the lies of Satan are at war with the truths of God's Word*

**The weapons of my warfare are mighty in God. With them I pull down the strongholds that Satan has built in my mind. I bring all my thoughts into obedience to Christ. Three of my mightiest weapons are proclamation, thanksgiving and praise. (based on 2 Cor. 10:3-5)**

8. *When confronted by a task too big for me*

**I can do all things through the One who empowers me within. (based on Phil. 4:13)**

9. *When my own strength fails or is insufficient*

**God's strength is made perfect in my weakness, and so when I am weak, then I am strong. (based on 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)**

10. *When exercising faith for financial needs*

**God is able to make all grace abound toward us, that we, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. (based on 2 Corinthians 9:8)**

11. *When assailed by fear*

God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (based on 2 Timothy 1:7)

In the name of Jesus I submit to God and I resist the spirit of fear. Therefore it has to flee from me. (based on James 4:7)

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## NEW LIFE

(Quotes from *Rules of Engagement* by Derek Prince, pg. 30)

Concerning our souls, Jesus stated His requirement in Matthew 16:24-25:

**If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself [literally, his soul], and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life [soul] will lose it, but whoever loses his life [soul] for My sake will find it.**

Our cross is the place where we choose to die. God does not impose this upon us. We take it up only of our own free will. It is here that we must *deny our souls*. This means that we say no to the three demands of the soul: "I want," "I think," "I feel." Henceforth, we are no longer controlled by these three motives. Their place is taken by God's Word and God's will. As we obey the Word and the will of God, we find the new life that Jesus offers us. It is only through death that our souls can find this new life. As we fulfill the Lord's requirements for our bodies and our souls, our spirits are liberated to enter into a fellowship with God that is even more wonderful than that which was lost through the Fall.

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## THE SALT OF THE EARTH

(Quotes from the book *Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting* by Derek Prince, p. 13-22)

**"Ye are the salt of the earth..." (Matthew 5:13)** Jesus is speaking to His disciples--to all of us, that is, who acknowledge the authority of His teaching. He compares our function on the earth to that of salt. His meaning becomes clear when we consider two familiar uses of salt in relation to food.

First of all, salt gives flavor. Food which in itself is unappetizing becomes tasty and acceptable when seasoned with salt. In Job 6:6 this is put in the form of a rhetorical question: "**Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt?**" It is the presence of salt that makes the difference, causing us to enjoy food which we would otherwise have refused to eat.

As Christians, our function is to give flavor to the earth. The one who enjoys this flavor is God. Our presence makes the earth acceptable to God. Our presence commends the earth to God's mercy. Without us, there would be nothing to make the earth acceptable to God. But because we are here, God continues to deal with the earth in grace and mercy rather than in wrath and judgment. It is our presence that makes the difference.

This principle is vividly illustrated in the account of Abraham's intercession on behalf of Sodom, as recorded in Genesis 18:16-33. The Lord has told Abraham that He is on His way to Sodom to see if that city's wickedness has come to the point where judgment can no longer be withheld. Abraham then walks with the Lord on the way toward Sodom and reasons with Him about the principles of His judgment.

First, Abraham establishes one principle that is the basis for all that follows: *It is never the will of God that the judgment due to the wicked should come upon the righteous.* "**Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?**" (v. 23) Abraham asks. "**That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**" (v. 25)

The Lord makes clear in the ensuing conversation that He accepts the principle stated by Abraham. How important it is that all believers understand this! If we have been made righteous by faith in Christ, and if we are leading lives that truly express our faith, then it is never God's will that we be included in the judgments which He brings upon the wicked.

Christians should never be included in God's judgments upon the wicked. This principle is stated many times in Scripture. In 1 Corinthians 11:32 Paul writes to his fellow believers, and he says, "**But when we [Christians] are judged, we are chastened of the Lord that we should not be condemned with the world.**" This demonstrates that there is a difference between God's dealings with believers and His dealings with the world. As believers, we may expect to experience God's chastening. If we submit to the chastening and set our lives in order, then we are not subject to the judgments that come upon unbelievers, or the world in general. *The very purpose of God's chastening us as believers is to preserve us from undergoing His judgments upon unbelievers.*

In Psalm 91:7-8 the psalmist gives this promise to the believer: "**A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.**" Here again the principle is seen. Whatever judgment comes as "the reward of the wicked" (that which the wicked justly deserve) should never fall upon the righteous. No matter if God strikes the wicked on every side, the righteous in the midst of it all will not be harmed.

In Philippians 3:20 Paul specifies the government which, as Christians, we represent. He says, "**Our conversation [literally, our citizenship] is in heaven.**" Both Phillips and the New English

Bible render this, **"We are citizens of heaven."** Thus our position on earth is that of ambassadors representing heaven's government. We have no authority to act on our own, but as long as we carefully obey the directions of our government, the entire might and authority of heaven are behind every word that we speak and every move that we make.

Before one government declares war on another, its usual action of final warning is to withdraw its ambassadors. While we are left on earth as heaven's ambassadors, our presence guarantees a continuance of God's forbearance and mercy toward the earth. But when heaven's ambassadors are finally withdrawn, there will then be nothing left to hold back the full outpouring of divine wrath and judgment upon the earth.

The great ministry of the Holy Spirit within the church is to prepare a completed body for Christ. After completion, this body will in turn be presented to Christ as a bride is presented to a bridegroom. As soon as this ministry of the Holy Spirit within the church is finished, He will again be withdrawn from the earth, taking with Him the completed body of Christ. Thus we may fill out Paul's statement in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 as follows: **"He (the Holy Spirit) who now holds him (the antichrist) in check will continue to do so until he be withdrawn."**

The opposition between the Holy Spirit and the spirit of antichrist is described also in 1 John 4:3-4: **"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."**

In the world is the spirit of antichrist, working toward the emergence of antichrist himself. In the disciples of Christ is the Holy Spirit, holding back the emergence of antichrist. Therefore the disciples who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit act as a barrier, holding back the climax of lawlessness and the final emergence of antichrist. Only when the Holy Spirit, together with the completed body of Christ's disciples, is withdrawn from the earth, will the forces of lawlessness be able to proceed without restraint to the culmination of their purposes in antichrist. Meanwhile, it is both the privilege and the responsibility of Christ's disciples, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to "overcome" the forces of antichrist and to hold them in check.

As the salt of the earth, then we who are Christ's disciples have two primary responsibilities. First, by our presence we commend the earth to God's continuing grace mercy. Second, by the power of the Holy Spirit within us we hold in check the forces of corruption and lawlessness until God's appointed time.

(Quotes from *The Spirit-Filled Believer's Handbook* by Derek Prince, pp 125-127)

In the life of any Christian believer, there is no need which is outside the scope of God's promises.

**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)**

For every need that can arise in the life of any Christian, there is somewhere in God's Word a promise that meets that need and which may be claimed through faith in Christ.

Whenever a need arises in the life of a Christian, therefore, there are three steps that he should take.

1. He should ask the Holy Spirit to direct him to the particular promise or promises that apply to his situation and meet his need.
2. He should obediently fulfill in his life the particular conditions attached to those promises.
3. He should positively expect their outworking in his experience.

This is faith in action, and faith of this kind is "**the victory that has overcome the world**" (**1 John 5:4**). The secret of this victory is in knowing and applying the promises of God's Word.

Peter states this same truth very forcefully.

**His [God's] divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him [Christ] who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:3-4)**

Here Peter's message is in perfect agreement with that of Paul. He tells us that God has already provided us with all that we can ever need for life and godliness and that this provision is made available through Christ by the claiming of God's promises.

...This kind of active, appropriating faith is the key to victorious Christian living. It must be based on the promises of God's Word, and it must follow the three successive steps: 1) find the appropriate promise, 2) fulfill all the conditions attached, 3) claim the fulfillment of the promise. Subject to these conditions, the scope of the Christian's faith is as wide as the promises of God.

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## FOUR BASIC FACTS OF THE GOSPEL

(Quotes from *The Spirit-Filled Believer's Handbook* by Derek Prince, p. 135-136)

Here are the four basic facts of the gospel and the response:

1. Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins
2. Christ was buried
3. God raised Him from the dead on the third day
4. Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts

In order to receive salvation, each individual soul must make a direct, personal response to Christ.

Response, pray:

- Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You died for my sins; that You were buried; that You rose again the third day.
- I now repent of my sins and come to You for mercy and forgiveness
- By faith in Your promise, I receive You personally as my Savior and confess You as my Lord.
- Come into my heart, give me eternal life and make me a child of God.
- Amen!

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## CONTINUAL FEEDING AND DRINKING

(Quote from *The Spirit-Filled Believers Handbook* by Derek Prince p. 272)

Continual feeding on God's Word and drinking of God's Spirit are essential for a life of victory and fruitfulness. Israel would have perished in the wilderness without their daily portion of manna from heaven and living water from the rock. The believer today is no less dependent upon the daily manna of God's Word and the daily filling, and refilling, of God's Spirit.

Let us now apply the complete pattern to the experience of the Christian in this dispensation.

God has ordained for each believer today five experiences, each typified by an experience of Israel in the Old Testament:

1. salvation through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ;
2. baptism in the Holy Spirit;
3. baptism in water;
4. daily feeding upon God's Word;
5. daily drinking of God's Spirit from within.

Of these five experiences, the first three - salvation, baptism in water and baptism in the Spirit - occur only once and need not be repeated. The last two - feeding upon God's Word and drinking of

God's Spirit - are experiences which the believer must continue to practice regularly each day throughout his earthly pilgrimage.

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## THE PURPOSE OF SUBMISSIVE DEPENDENCE

(Quotes from Wade E. Taylor, Wade Taylor Ministries, [www.wadetaylor.org](http://www.wadetaylor.org))

***"Who is this that comes up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?" -Song of Solomon 8:5***

There is a particular quality about this "one" who is coming up from the wilderness that attracts special attention. She is "leaning" upon her Beloved. This position of leaning demonstrates the fact that she has become completely "dependent" upon Him. Something has taken place within her during this experience of the wilderness, resulting in her becoming "submissively dependent" upon the Lord.

Throughout Biblical history, the Lord often used the wilderness to *test* His servants in order to *perfect* His purposes within them. The wilderness speaks of a barren and desolate area. It is a place where inner needs become intensified in their desire to receive satisfaction but where there is no availability of the things that are necessary to meet those needs or to satisfy those desires. In the wilderness, needs can only be met through an external source.

In contrast to this barren wilderness, the Lord had planted a garden in Eden, supplying everything that could be desired. It provided an environment of both beauty and provision--complete beyond imagination.

***"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." -Genesis 2:8-9***

Adam and Eve were placed in this garden and commanded:

***"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die." -Genesis 2:16b-17***

This made them dependent, as they were required to obey the word that the Lord had spoken to them. There were two specific things that were required:

**1. Adam and Eve were to eat of the tree of Life in order to maintain eternal life (Genesis 3:22).**

**2. They were to abstain from eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

**Through their act of disobedience, they forfeited their position of "willing dependence" upon the Lord.**

The only restraint to their eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the "word" that the Lord had spoken to them, telling them that they were not to partake. This tree was in the midst of the garden. It was very desirable and easily available to them. Eve had observed that the fruit of this tree was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired (**Genesis 3:6**). Herein was Eve's problem: the fruit of this tree was very appealing. However, she knew that God had said "no."

Therefore, when Satan approached Eve, he came against the Word that the Lord had spoken by raising doubt: "Has God said. . . ?" In effect, he was saying, "Would God tell you to give up something that is really good, something that you like and want?" Even though the Lord had said, "You shall not eat," the attraction was so enticing, and the fruit seemingly so desirable, that Eve disobeyed and partook.

Through this act of disobedience, Adam and Eve forfeited their position of "willing dependence" upon the Lord. They failed to "overcome" their fleshly desire in the test that had been placed in their pattern of life and became spiritually separated from God. As a result of this, the process of death entered their being, and they no longer "leaned" upon Him. Along with this, they lost all that would have developed on their behalf had they been obedient and had they overcome in this testing.

**An overcomer is one who submits to the Lord. . .**

The Word of God is silent concerning what might have taken place in their relationship to the Lord had they chosen to remain submissive and obedient to Him. The only clue that we have as to what might have been is to consider the outcome in the testing of the "Last Adam." Jesus took upon Himself, in human form, the identity of a new Adam and then faced a test that was similar to the one that the first Adam had faced.

***"And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward hungry. And when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" -Matthew 4:2-4***

Jesus, as the Last Adam, overcame in every situation where the first Adam failed. As a result of this, after paying the penalty for our sin on the cross, He was resurrected and then ascended to sit with His Father on His throne.

***"Even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His Throne." -Revelation 3:21b***



An *overcomer* is one who submits to the Lord and then abides in a leaning position upon his Beloved. This is an indication of their complete trust in and dependence upon the Lord. It is the result of having become obedient and submissive to the will of the Lord. Being an overcomer means rising above all that is less than the Lord's revealed or known best. It involves our facing the test of the wilderness and remaining dependent upon the Lord for provision.

Adam and Eve were tested concerning the possibility of their becoming overcomers. Because of the desirability and the attraction of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they chose for their own seeming good and failed to overcome.

All spiritual gain must be tested if it is to abide and become productive. Adam and Eve failed their test while abiding in a perfect environment, and they entered death as a result. Jesus, as the Last Adam, had to face a similar test in order to qualify for the place in life that the first Adam had forfeited.

### **Dependency Upon the Father for Our Needs**

In contrast to the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden, Jesus faced Satan in the barren environment of a wilderness that provided nothing.

***"And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward hungry." -Matthew 4:2***

There was nothing available that could satisfy the intense hunger that Jesus felt. Then, Satan appeared to Jesus and suggested that He turn stones into bread in order to satisfy this gnawing hunger.

There was nothing inherently wrong with turning these stones into bread, except that God had not said to do so. Jesus refused to act on a word from Satan and waited for supply from His Father. Had Jesus exercised His Deity in order to provide for His own need, He would have become independent. He qualified by remaining in a place of total dependence upon His Father for provision. This was exactly where Adam and Eve failed, for Satan had said to them:

***"For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." - Genesis 3:5***

Satan told Adam and Eve that they could be independent from God and do as they felt best. They could decide for themselves what was right or wrong. Now, Satan was telling Jesus that He could act on His own to provide for Himself, just as he had told Eve to do. Jesus confirmed His complete dependence upon God when He said:

***"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." -Matthew 4:4***

He refused to act apart from a Word from the Lord, and He came forth from the wilderness in the "power of the Spirit" (**Luke 4:14**).

## **Be Patient During Your Times of Being Tested. . .**

As a result of His willing obedience by which He remained dependent upon His Father, He is qualified to say to us:

***"To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." - Revelation 3:21***

We also will be tested, as Jesus was, "if" we desire to come into this relationship of "submissive dependence" upon Jesus. Those who choose to abide in this position of "leaning upon Him" will then be led by the Holy Spirit into a specially prepared wilderness, (a place of spiritual barrenness) where we will develop a deep inner hunger (dissatisfaction), along with an intense desire (frustration), in some area of our being.

Then at a critical moment--when it apparently seems to us that the Lord is no longer interested in our problem and that He is delaying His answer--the enemy will be "allowed" to come and tempt us. He will try to provoke us to act in some way to produce, or to bring about, the satisfaction that we desperately long for--which is presently apart from the Lord's provision for us. If we will steadfastly refuse this temptation and stand fast, in due time, the Lord will feed (satisfy) us.

***"But He knows the way that I take: when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." -Job 23:10***

If we will be patient during our times of being tested and "wait" for the Lord's provision for us, then it can truly be said:

***"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him." -1 Corinthians 2:9***

The first Adam failed and lost his place or position as an overcomer. This was regained by Jesus, who overcame as the Last Adam. He was faithful in maintaining His place of dependence. As a result, He is seated with His Father on His Throne. Now, Jesus is offering to all who overcome, a place with Him on His Throne. These overcomers are the ones who were seen coming up from the wilderness, "leaning upon their Beloved."

There is no greater joy than that which comes from making a determined choice to become dependent upon Him and then to faithfully abide in this newfound place of "submissive dependence," until the greater day comes.

# SANCTIFYING THE IMAGINATION

(By Craig Kinsley, an associate of Fresh Fire Ministries)

In this week's teaching Craig discusses why it is so vital to God's heart that our imaginations be wholly sanctified. You'll discover how a sanctified imagination is a main key to prophetic revelation.

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What do you think of when you hear the word "imagination"? Most of us think of our childhood. Maybe you had an imaginary friend, or you might remember imagining situations while playing. My wife, for instance, can tell me about detailed imaginary instances that she remembers from her childhood.

Although children love the whole imagination realm and are easily engaged there, I want us to begin to appreciate that imagination isn't just for children. Actually, it is a powerful path to prophetic revelation and meditation.

## OUR IMAGINATION IS GOD'S IDEA

Whether you realize it or not, you use your imagination every day. Let's look at it this way. Scripture speaks of **"the thoughts and intents of the heart"** (Heb. 4:12b). This would be what your heart thinks and meditates on. This is the imagination.

In God's infinite wisdom, He created the imagination and He desires us to use it. However, many times when God wants to speak to us through our imagination we have either regarded it as foolishness or our imagination has been so clouded with unholy images and experiences that we have been hindered from hearing God properly.

In fact, those unholy images in our mind must be dismissed and we need to surrender our minds to Jesus Christ. That's essentially what *sanctify* means. In the dictionary, sanctify is: *to set apart as holy; consecrate; to make free from sin* (Webster's New World Dictionary).

With this in mind, I actually heard the Lord say to me: "Son, I want to root up and pull out the evil in the hearts of My people." Therefore, through this teaching series we are going to learn how to sanctify the imagination for God's purposes.

## WE'RE MADE TO BE LIKE HIM

The Lord has specific plans and definite purposes for our lives. After all, we aren't a haphazard creation! It ravishes my heart with the love of God to think about how we are created in His image. God said:

**"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Gen.1:26).**

Also, God's thoughts toward us cannot be numbered! He thinks about you all the time. In the same way that we have an imagination, God has an imagination, and it's fixed on you! The Father uses His imagination to meditate on His love for you. David had a revelation about this and so he wrote:

**"Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered" (Psalm 40:5).**

One particular day when I was praying, the Holy Spirit used this particular verse to heighten my sensitivity to the prophetic realm. Here's what I heard the Holy Spirit say: "If My thoughts towards my people are innumerable, all you have to do is align your thoughts with mine. If you do this you will come into a river of prophetic revelation."

So in the same way that God has thoughts fixed on us, when we have our thoughts fixed on God it opens our spirits to increasing knowledge of Him and prophetic knowledge for ourselves and others.

As well, since we are created in the image of God, we are made to be creative, as He is. Our creative nature and imagination sets us apart from the rest of creation. This is where true worship comes from—the creative imagination. When our imagination is sanctified and holy, we can choose to set our thoughts on God and use the creative process of our thoughts in worship.

Our creative nature, when used with our imagination, actually has power to transform our lives and bring the reality of God's will into our present circumstances.

There is a saying among Christian teachers, "what you behold, you become." I believe this to be biblically accurate because when we set our thoughts on the Lord, we become more like Him. Paul the apostle spoke to the Corinthian church about this. Here's what he said, "**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord**" (2 Cor. 3:18).

In fact, as we use our imaginations to meditate on the will of God and what His Word says, it brings the power of His will into our lives. This revelation was on the heart of King Solomon when he wrote: "**Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established**" (Prov. 16:3).

Consequently, as we become committed to the Lord, the desires of our heart, out of a sanctified imagination, actually become a reality. The Father is interested in what is on our heart. Most of us have prayed a prayer like this before: "Father, make my will Your will." Actually, God's heart is that out of a sanctified imagination we would share our heart desires with him. He has always desired to preserve our will as "co-laborers with Christ."

When we commit ourselves to God, our thoughts will be established. This point is illustrated through King Solomon's statement: "**But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart'**" (2 Chron. 6:8).

It was in David's heart to build a temple for the Lord and he received the pattern, or plans, in writing when God's hand came upon him (1 Chron. 28:19). I believe God inspired David's sanctified imagination and he received the temple model in his heart before it became a reality. (Solomon actually built God's temple.)

## **A HEART FIXED ON GOD**

David's heart was fixed on God and I believe that deep in the heart of every person is a desire to know God. Let's read the words of God that Paul repeated to the Israelites: "**I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart...**" (Acts 13:22).

The Bible promises that if we seek Him, He will be found (Matt. 7:7). People often ask me why it is that some seem to hear the voice of God and encounter Him more often than most people. I believe a key answer is that we need to have a loyal heart, a willing mind, and be like David— a man or woman after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14).

A loyal heart requires an imagination, or "thoughts of the heart" that are totally fixed on God. When our heart is loyally fixed on God alone, we can be sure that we will not only encounter heaven, but the priorities of our life will fall into place.

However, I've noticed that many believers have a hard time encountering God because their heart is pulled in so many directions. So I have made it a spiritual discipline to use my imagination to fix my thoughts on God instead of allowing my thoughts to be pulled here and there. Every night while I wait to fall asleep I discipline myself to fix my thoughts on God instead of worrying about the day and about what tomorrow will bring.

Unfortunately, many Christians think about the problems surrounding their day. When this happens, they actually use their imagination to empower fear and anxiety. Instead of focusing on the problems with a kingdom mindset that says, "God can fix that; He's a big God," they focus on the problem and actually make it out to be bigger than God. But let's resist that temptation and remember that what we behold we become.

## WHAT WE BEHOLD WE BECOME

I remember at 19 years of age, when God first exploded into my life, I began to behold some great and awesome revelations about my destiny. Without any effort on my part I began to receive visions and revelations about what He was going to do with my life. I would receive revelation about coming moves of God before I had even read prophetic words surrounding these events.

I was amazed because when this was happening, all I had from past experience was a Southern Baptist upbringing with a cold devotion to God. But my past didn't stop God. During that time I would lie on my bed and imagine all that God would do with my life. I would think about thousands of souls rushing to an altar and falling on their faces. I would see people jumping out of wheelchairs and women screaming that they could now see for the first time. I would imagine angels of God descending into meetings and bringing revelations and the presence of God.

I received these revelations before I had experienced anything even remotely like this! It's also a wonder to me to think that I imagined that all this would come to pass when I was about 40 years old. But instead, these meditations and thoughts at 19 years of age have already begun to happen in my life now. Today, I am dreaming bigger!

However, back then, if I had wanted to simply dwell on my present circumstances and all the problems, I could have easily done that. I was living with my parents. I had just been delivered from a life of drugs and alcohol, leaving all of my friends behind. I had all but dropped out of college and I didn't have a single dime of income to my name. But none of that seemed to matter when I fixed my gaze on Jesus with great inner devotion.

Perhaps some of you are facing temporary circumstances that are painful and hard, but if you will just set your heart on God you will always be full of God. Remember, what you behold you become. So what is your heart set on?

David advised his son Solomon to know God; in other words to behold his God, "**and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind...**" (1 Chron. 28:9a). We discussed the importance of having a loyal heart and a willing mind earlier, and this bears repeating. A willing mind is a mind, or imagination, that is totally open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is a crucial key to the prophetic ministry because being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit is integral to possessing an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit and walking in prophetic ministry.

Since the Holy Spirit will use our thoughts to express His will for a given situation, we need to seek God. Moses told the people: "**But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul**" (Deut. 4:29).

Seeking God with all our heart and soul certainly catches God's eye. When Samuel came to Jesse to anoint the next king of Israel, which would turn out to be David, God reminded Samuel of that principle. "**For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart**" (1 Samuel 16:7b). Seeking and following God begins in the heart and leads to actions.

## HOW GOD USES AND INSPIRES THE IMAGINATION

When we set our sanctified imagination on God, His will is made known to us because the imagination is the place where God most often speaks to us. We often call our sanctified imagination "the eyes of our understanding," or "the eyes of our heart." Paul spoke about this to the Ephesians when he said: "**I pray**

**that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” (Eph. 1:18 NAS).** And when the eyes of our heart are enlightened it leads to other realms of prophetic revelation.

Did you know that “the eyes of your understanding” (the eyes of your heart) actually means the mind, will, intellect and imagination? Our spiritual eye, the place where we begin to see into the realm of the Spirit, is our imagination! This is the same place that we daydream. So we need to learn to quiet our minds and let God speak to us in our imagination. But much of the time Christians seem to have trouble coming into visions of God because they do not know where their spiritual eye is. They simply close their eyes and wait for a vision to appear. All the while they are just staring at the closed eyelids.

But it works in this way: I can ask you to picture a red fire truck right now. Go ahead and picture it. Now, in your mind you saw a red fire truck. This is how God brings images to your spirit, except it isn't you just thinking of the image, but it is God who initiates it. We can quiet our minds and focus our heart on Jesus and expect him to use and to inspire our imagination or “the eyes of our heart.”

### **WE HAVE NATURAL SENSES AND SPIRITUAL SENSES**

Did you know that in the same way we have natural senses, we have spiritual senses? The imagination is part of our spiritual senses. The more we learn to exercise this sense, through soaking and contemplative prayer, the more we learn to access that realm at will. God always desires to speak to us. Remember, His thoughts toward us are innumerable. If we will sanctify our imagination and quiet our own thoughts, God can insert His!

When we get this revelation it opens the doors of revelation in our imagination. I learned this principle, that God would give me His thoughts, through those times lying on my bed before sleep. I would allow God to insert images and pictures into my mind. Soon I found myself having internal visions and eventually I would fall into a trance and actually have heavenly encounters.

Dreams work in the same way. God has always spoken to His children through dreams and He continues to do so today. We've had countless testimonies recently of dramatic changes in people's lives because of dream interpretation. I have actually had times when I encountered angels and even the Lord Himself through dreams.

But having said that I am also aware that the Lord wants to alert us to the danger of entertaining a carnal imagination because carnality will not only defile and tarnish our dreams, it will affect our ability to maintain a pure stream of God's prophetic revelation.

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## WAITING

(From the book *Understanding Financial Prosperity*, by David Oyedepo, pp 279-284)

**"For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, 'Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.' And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." Hebrews 6:13-15**

This is the eagle's secret. God swore to Abraham, yet he needed patience to obtain that promise. The Bible said, "after he had patiently endured" not after he had subjected himself to rigorous senseless fasting, not after he had struggled and sweated it out; but after he had patiently endured.

Abraham needed to have endured. Indeed, every man, every "eagle Christian," requires a degree of covenant patience. The covenant of prosperity is not a magic wand; it's an adventure of faith. "After he had patiently endured...." not after he had wept aloud. We are not called to weep, but to wait.

In Habakkuk 2:3, God said that every vision is for an appointed time, so though it tarries, wait for it. Did He say weep for it? Did He say run around for it? No! Wait! "Wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry."

The reason we are wasting is because we don't like to wait. In 1981, God spoke to me, saying, "The hour has come to liberate the world from all the oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the Word of Faith."

That was a revelation for a world-wide ministry, but the mandate to go into Africa never came until 1994! Can you see the waiting period? "But at the end it shall speak." When you run with it, it will speak at the end. Very many people miss that end, so it looks as if the vision or revelation is not true.

Please understand this: quick prosperity will always end in grievous austerity, because it lacks the required foundation for lasting results.

Why Wait? Your lifting with God is for appointed times and due seasons, and He's the only One who knows when your due season has come. If you strive to lay a hold of something before you're due, you'll be doomed.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Galatians 6:9

Don't be tired in covenant walk because there is a due season. If you're on your feet when that season comes, you will reap your harvest, but if you faint, you fall.

"If it will work, it ought to have worked by now." That's murmuring. When you murmur, you destroy your seed down, and then you will have to begin all over again. God runs a due season calendar on each one of us. When you are due, He will not deny you. But if you faint before you are due, you lose it all. It's better to wait or you waste. Abraham heard from God directly, yet he needed patience to obtain the promise. If you will not be patient, you may end up a patient in the hospital.

I caught the revelation that I cannot be poor in 1981, but that was not equal to automatic prosperity. But because I know what it takes, I never had occasion to beg, nor was I ever tempted to borrow.

"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." Luke 8:15

Though the seed fell on good ground, it could only bring forth fruit with patience. In a society that's ever in a hurry as we live in today, we need an understanding of God that will keep us above the system. God said, "I know you're honest, but you need patience. The day you are due, I will not deny you. Wait! Wait! Wait! The day you are due, you will see Me at work. Wait!"

God cannot deny Himself. Haven't you heard what He said in Psalm 89:34? "My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips."

So we can count on Him in the morning, we can count on Him in the afternoon, and we can count on Him in the night. Everyone in this covenant has a future, but that future is continually being contested by the enemy. It takes covenant intelligence to beat him hollow. Waiting without staggering--that's the secret of all high flying Christians.

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## DELAYED ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS

(Bob Sorge: *The Fire of Delayed Answers*, pg. Intro)

Sometimes God delays the answers to our prayers in order to produce a greater maturity and fruitfulness in us.

If you are ever to mature into greater dimensions of fruitfulness in the kingdom of God, then you must commit yourself to understanding how God uses delay to refine His chosen ones.

It's a beautiful thing when we invoke this refining fire in our lives, but it's also a very serious thing. If you're willing to embrace His fire, then prepare yourself for some pain. Christ calls us to the cross because we'll never become like Him apart from pain.

God's first priority in our lives is to make us fruitful - it is not first and foremost to make us comfortable.

In His infinite grace, God personalizes some troubles with our name on them, in order to help us toward His design for our lives.

The focus of this book is to explore the reasons *why* He sometimes delays His answers.



When God begins to reveal His purposes to our searching hearts, and we begin to understand His ways, it helps to keep us from crawling off the altar. We find grace to persevere in tribulation because we understand that the present pain will produce a future harvest (see Heb. 12:10).

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## GOD'S FIRE

(Bob Sorge: *The Fire of Delayed Answers*, Chapter 1 Refiner's Fire, p. 13-18)

Nothing sinful can survive the fire of God's immediate presence.

God is a holy fire, and He burns away impurities from our lives so that we might stand completely purified in His presence.

Jesus is both a Refiner and an Assayer. We see Jesus functioning as Assayer when He confronted the Pharisees. He weighed and judged their hearts and then dealt with them accordingly. Jesus still does the same thing with us today. He examines our hearts, evaluates our true spiritual condition, and then brings His fire to effect a greater purity and usefulness.

God's fire resides among His people...God is intensely passionate over Zion (His Church), so He has placed His fiery residence in the midst of His chosen ones. Which means if you live in Zion, you will get away with nothing. God's fire will burn in your life. [It] accomplishes three things among God's people: 1. It forces the hypocrite to a decision (Isa. 33:14); 2. It purges the sincere from sin (Isa. 6:6-7); 3. And it inflames the heart with fresh passions for the Son of God (Acts 2:3-4). The Lord will never remove this fire from Zion. We live in a furnace of holy fire.

God intends for His fire to so envelop the local church that hypocrites will not be able to stay, and the devout will not be able to remain unchanged.

When the heat is first turned up in our lives, initially we feel like the Lord has abandoned us. But as we persevere in faithfulness, we'll begin to see more and more how close Jesus has been to us all along.

When Jesus visits us, His face is always preceded by His fire. He knows we won't be prepared for His face until we've been purified by His fire.

The fire is His assurance that you are being drawn into a place of greater intimacy and knowledge of God!

There are two ways we receive from God. Some things are **given** to us, and some things are **bought**. Given: eternal life, Holy Spirit, peace, joy, etc.

There are certain things in the Kingdom, however, that are not given; they must be bought. (Rev. 3:18)

Gold refined in the fire (Rev. 3:18) = purified faith and refined character (Christlikeness)

Notice this gold is bought. We do not earn or deserve it, but we do pay a price for it. - great personal pain. This gold is bought in the fire and is attained only as we persevere and endure through the fiery trials that God sends us...when the crisis explodes, God wants us to

- fix our focus on Him,
- find Him in the adversity, and
- discover the Spirit's pathway to renewed victory.

God is the one who must give us the opportunity to have our faith tested. It is all of His initiative...He alone knows when we are ready.

When the time of testing comes, you have a choice:

- You can give up
- You can go for the gold (press into the Lord more than ever)

Yes, God delivers us from all affliction, but sometimes He **delays** His provision in order to try us by fire. The delay itself is a fire ordained by God to produce a deep work in our hearts. God has a design for our deliverance, but He also has a purpose for the fiery delay. Make no mistake, delayed answers are a fire. When you're in crisis and have His promise of deliverance, but there's no change in sight, the heat can become very hot indeed! His purpose in the delay is to strengthen our faith, kindle our love to new depths of passion and maturity, and impart the heart and character of Christ to us - all in order to make us a more useful vessel.

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## THE MERCY OF GOD

(Quotes from *The Fire of Delayed Answers* by Bob Sorge, p. 19-30)

**In His mercy**, He allows other fires to put the heat on our lives: financial distress; physical distress (sickness, infirmity); family distress. Without the heat, so often our love grows cold. You say, "Those things can't be from God because He has given us specific promises in His word that He would deliver us from those things." He does deliver us, but He uses the delay period (while we're waiting for the deliverance) as a purifying fire in our lives.

The fiery distress you face is the mercy of God to you.

Jesus doesn't lead you into theological crisis until He's first given you His voice. Then it's your choice: stay with the safety net of the verses you've always believed, or go with the voice that's leading you forward. Go with His voice, and you'll discover with the disciples that they are words of life!

Those disciples who stayed with Jesus through the theological crisis were led into a dimension of maturity and fruitfulness in Christ that others forfeited.

Like Job, when calamity hit my life, I found myself with my own set of theological struggles and questions. Here are some of the issues that I have personally had to work through in recent years:

- I used to believe that God didn't use physical infirmity to bring His saints to greater maturity. Then, when infirmity hit my own life, I had to wrestle through to a new understanding of God's ways.
- I used to think that God intended that we always have joy...And then, I took a knockout punch. Suddenly I found myself with absolutely no joy....All I had was depression. I hadn't done anything to bring the depression on, and I couldn't do anything to get out of it. I had no kingdom joy, and yet I knew I was still in the kingdom. This forced me to wrestle with God and to adjust my "joy theology." Now I can see that a pruned vine doesn't feel any joy.
- I've always believed that when God calls He enables, and that when He calls you to a ministry He doesn't later change His mind and revoke that calling...Why would God call and enable me with giftings and then remove my ability to function in that calling? It took me many months to come to the conviction that my present inability is only for a season and that He will restore me to full function in His time.
- After I have been faithful to teach and train my children in the word of God, why would He severely limit my ability to continue to do so?
- "And nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19). How do I reconcile that promise of Jesus with the fact that Satan was given permission to injure me at a time when I was coming against Satan's kingdom with high praise? How can Satan take a shot at a saint when he's walking in obedience and living in the presence of God?

The purpose of the theological crisis is not to change your theology (although that will happen) but to change you. Instead of viewing the Christian life through your lens of selected Bible verses (God's **acts**), you will begin to view the kingdom with a fresh appreciation for and understanding of God's **ways**. In the end we discover that His voice does not contradict His written word, even though for a time we couldn't reconcile them. The problem wasn't in His word but in our boxed-in understanding.

(Quotes from *The Fire of Delayed Answers* by Bob Sorge, p. 85-94)

I've discovered that the key to being single-minded in the face of great anxieties is this: to stay focused on God alone. Just don't turn from His face, which is unbelief. Our anxieties want us to divert our eyes and expectations to some human source of help or relief. At that point we're double-minded. As long as you look to Jesus as your complete source, you're single-minded in faith.

Give yourself to prayer and the word until God speaks to you. The thing we long for, breathe for, pant for, wait for, is a word that proceeds from the mouth of God. When a word proceeds from God's mouth, it will always accomplish the purpose for which God sends it (Isaiah 55:10-11) because it is the most powerful entity in and beyond the entire universe. It created the universe. When God speaks, your faith or cooperation or resistance are irrelevant. When God speaks, everything changes. It is impossible for a word to come from God's mouth and then be inhibited by any other factor, be it demonic resistance, human carnality or unbelief, the laws of nature, etc. This word is unstoppable.

When they told Jairus of his daughter's passing, they spoke the word of doubt...immediately Jesus spoke to Jairus's heart with the word of faith: "Do not be afraid; only believe." Those are two extremely challenging words: "Only believe." The Lord commands us to do nothing else but believe. True faith doesn't have a contingency plan. Faith only does one thing: It only believes.

Why did Jesus allow only three of His disciples to enjoy the glory of that moment? (raising Jairus's daughter) The answer is to be found in His teaching that to those who have, more will be given. Of the Twelve, Peter, James, and John were the most diligent to follow hard after the Lord Jesus. Their diligence qualified them for this fantastic experience. God doesn't show favoritism, but He has His favorites - He reserves the highest encounters for those who diligently seek Him and walk in abandoned obedience.

Peter didn't understand why Jesus wanted to wash His feet. When Peter asked him why He was doing this, Jesus simply answered, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Well, that wasn't enough of an answer for Peter. Since he didn't understand it right now, he wasn't going to cooperate with the thing.

This is so typical of what happens during delayed answers. We're saying, "What's going on here, Lord? You've got to explain this to me. Why haven't You answered my prayer yet?" And the Lord is simply saying, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

Unless we choose to walk with the Lord in the thing, we will miss His purposes. Jesus is basically saying, "If you don't allow me to work in dimensions you presently don't understand, then you have no part with Me."

God's hand represents His provisions and blessings...Seek His face. This is not simply the seeking of relief but the seeking of a living relationship with Him.

Knock: A door in the New Testament usually refers to the opening of God's will for the individual. Knock until you discover God's will. Knock until the next step opens up before you.

He (Jesus) is affirming that there are times when God designs a delay in order to produce a specific work in us through the pain of unresolved suffering. His purpose is that we maintain our persistence and intensity of cry until His work is complete in us. It's the crying out to God day and night that qualifies God's elect to enter into His fuller purposes. To quit is to forfeit. (Luke 11:5-8)

Even though God delays His answers at times, He never waits too long. He waits as long as is necessary, but when the season of delay is complete and the intended work in our hearts is perfected, He acts most swiftly and send His answer "speedily." (suddenly)

In the face of delayed answers, it takes great faith to persevere in seeking only the face of God - to "cry out day and night to Him." Because your mind will imagine all kinds of other possible sources of relief you could conceivably pursue. Your creativity will spring to life, and it will in fact militate against your faith. There are many who give up the pursuit of God at this point, their faith collapses, and they seek out another source of help. It is in the context of addressing that kind of discouragement that Jesus asks, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" The question is not, will He find saving faith, but will He find the kind of faith that insists on seeking only God in the face of delayed answers?

During the crisis period of waiting, when everything screams at you, "You must do something **now!**" It takes great faith to keep your expectation on God alone.

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## THE SECRET PLACE

(Quotes from *Secrets of the Secret Place* by Bob Sorge, p. 78, 80-83, 117, 119)

When I come to the second section, Psalms to Song of Solomon, my pace of reading slows way down. These books contain the language of love, so most of my prayer time is spent here as I slowly and luxuriantly wend my way through the prayers and praises of the psalmists. Here is where I give the Lord the unabashed and open affections of my heart.

The Bible is one massive Prayer Book. Virtually every page contains prayer prompts. As you take time to soak in His word, not only is your meditation sweet, but you find yourself spontaneously expressing your heart back to God in response to the text.

Praying God's word back to Him is powerful for several reasons:

- God's word itself "is living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12) so when we pray with God's word on our lips, we know we are praying prayers that are living and powerful.

- When the language of our prayers is shaped by the Scriptures, we gain confidence in knowing that we are praying according to the will of God - a confidence that means "we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:15).
- As we pray God's word back to Him, the language of His word becomes the working language of our daily dialogue with Him. A powerful transformation begins in your soul with your everyday conversation starts to reflect God-language.
- We are equipped to pray according to the will of God in ways we would not have considered on our own. The word will tip us off to things we can pray, profoundly widening the breadth and diversity of our prayer life.
- Praying the Scriptures adds a dimension of creativity and surprise to our prayer life, which in turn makes prayer much more fascinating and enjoyable.

We need to have a proper definition of prayer. Prayer, in the true biblical sense, is the full spectrum of human expressions to God. Prayer is the all-encompassing title to describe the entire gamut of expressions we offer up to God. Therefore, prayer includes praise, thanksgiving, adoration, intercession, worship, supplication, shouts of joy, lifting of hands, bowing, honor, exaltation, intimate affection, repentance, surrender, dancing, mourning, contemplation, spiritual warfare, prophesying, etc.

One of the primary functions of the secret place is to be fed afresh each day in His Word.

**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)**

As we meditate and feed in the Word of God, we are like trees that produce fruit because we have nutrients flowing into us.

**Jesus said, "But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14)**

The Holy Spirit is like the water that helps us swallow the manna of the word. Feeding in the Word must always be complemented with drinking of the Spirit.

**None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, "Know the Lord," for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. (Hebrews 8:11)**

God wants to lead you into a hidden place in Him where you develop your own unique connection with Him, and you come to know Him totally independently of everyone else. He wants you to develop your own secret history of communing with Him and knowing Him. No man is to teach you how to find this knowing relationship with God; the Holy Spirit Himself will be your teacher.

## LIKE A TIME MACHINE

(Quotes from *Secrets of the Secrets Place* by Bob Sorge, p. 128-131, )

The secret place is a time machine, transporting us from our time zone to His. Here we step into the eternal and begin to view all of life from the perspective of the Ageless One who is without beginning or ending of days...

The closer you get to God, the more you realize He's in no hurry...

Once we press through and cross the boredom threshold, we open to the joys and adventures of waiting on God...

To wait successfully, we must come to derive more fulfillment by being with Him than by working for Him. When being with Him fully satisfies us, we can wait for as long as necessary - just as long as He stays with us...

**But to give you the fullness of what He has planned for your life, He will use the season of waiting to prepare you as a vessel, and also to prepare circumstances around your life so that you will be able to step forward into the proper sphere when His release comes to you.** He's waiting so that He can crown you with an even greater blessing...

Even though you may wait on God for many years, there is a day coming when God will change everything in a moment of time! He may take seemingly forever to get around to it, but once God moves, He can change everything in a day.

## THE RIVER

(Quotes from *Secrets of the Secrets Place* by Bob Sorge, p.138, 166, 211-212)

Regardless of your shattered dreams and deferred hopes, live in the secret place of the Most High. It is the secret of your redemption. *As you love Him from your grave, you are setting powerful spiritual forces into motion.*

(regarding Elijah) God had already taught him to stand before Him. So when the time of testing came, Elijah was able to persevere and just stand before His God and minister to Him....God doesn't need our strength; He needs our availability. He's just looking for us to stand in His presence, gaze upon Him, love Him, and fulfill His word when He speaks.

Press into God like you never have in all your life. Allow the desperation of your soul to help you pursue God with absolute abandonment. The secret is this: If you seek Him with all your heart, He will guide you to the ancient river that runs deep in the heart of God.

If you drink of this river everything in you and around you will begin to shake and shudder under the ground swell of God's power released.

Joseph kept sinking his spiritual roots deeper and deeper into the Spirit of God -- until one day he found the river! There is a river, dear friend, that makes glad the city of God. This subterranean river runs so deep that most don't find it.

When Joseph found this river, he found a lifesource in God that goes deeper than the seasons of life. Whether it's flood season or drought season, there is a river available to the saint providing a constant source of divine life and Spirit empowerment. Very few seem to find this great underground river, but when you find it, it is called "abiding in Christ."

"...there is a dimension in Me that is not of your might and power, but it is by My Spirit."

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## MYSTIFIED BY GOD'S TIMING

(Quote from book *In His Face* by Bob Sorge, p 32-34)

The Spirit is saying much today about waiting on the Lord. When seed is sown in shallow soil it springs up quickly. When seed is placed in good soil, you've got to wait for it to come up. When God plants deeply in your life, you'll have to learn to wait.

I have five things to say about waiting.

1. First statement: I hate it. Waiting kills me. Waiting on the Lord kills me...That's what He's trying to do. He's taking so long because He wants me to die to myself.
2. Second statement: Waiting is an act of humility. One of God's foremost ways to cultivating humility in us is "waiting."
3. Third statement: Waiting is an act of faith. When you wait on God, it's because you believe that He will come to you.
4. Fourth statement: Waiting puts us in a receiving posture. Bob Mumford: God wants us to receive what He's giving, instead of trying to take what He's not giving...when God chooses to visit you, you don't have to worry about working something up; you'll know you've been visited. You've got to believe that God can show up without your help.
5. There is only one way to come to an understanding of the timing of the Lord, and that is through waiting. You don't have to be long with the Lord before you're mystified by His timing.



God's sense of timing, like all His ways, is vastly different from ours. It is one of the least-known secrets of spiritual leadership, that God uses leaders who have learned to wait on Him.

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## HEAR

(Quote from book *In His Face* by Bob Sorge, p 32-34, 54-58)

While meditating in the Gospels, I suddenly saw what was the most important concept in the message of Jesus. The Lord revealed to me what was the most prominent word or thought in Jesus' teachings. It's the central word in the gospel. When I saw this, I realized that this was the most important word in the entire Bible. I didn't get this from a commentary or a book. This was a revelation to my heart in the school of the Spirit.

It is very important that you grasp what the Spirit is wanting to say to you in this chapter, because if you can hear this word it will transform your orientation toward everything you do in the Kingdom of God. It has become for me something of a "master key" to moving and ministering in the Kingdom. It is through this one word that we unlock everything that Christ has made available to us in spiritual realms.

The word is simply this: "hear." "He who has ears to hear let him hear!" (Matthew 11:15) Everything in the gospel is predicated upon truly and simply hearing what God is saying.

"Hear, O Israel..." (Mark 12:29)

"Faith comes by hearing." (Romans 10:17)

"This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Mark 9:7)

I will tell you why you don't hear Him. You're not in His word. What was the "one thing" that was needed, which Mary chose? It was to hear His word.

There is only one way to have the thoughts of God, or to walk in the ways of God, and that is by hearing Him.... We can no longer afford to take a solitary step apart from the voice of God.

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## HUMILITY

(Quotes from *Experiencing Father's Embrace* by Jack Frost, p. 186-189)

The Christian walk is a walk of humility. It is the way to our salvation. It is our way to intimate relationships. Humility is the way to dwelling in the abiding presence of Father's love. The number one hindrance to an intimate walk with God, one in which we truly know and are truly known by Him, is the absence of humility. When we are more concerned with what other people think than with what God thinks of us - that is the absence of humility. When we justify our behavior, shift blame, accuse, find fault, criticize or seek to vindicate ourselves - that is the absence of humility. When we had rather be right than have relationship - that is the absence of humility. When we do not confess our sins and our failures to others - that is the absence of humility. When we do not acknowledge our sins against love - that is the absence of humility. When we do not daily admit our desperate need for God to father us and help in our lives - that is the absence of humility. The absence of humility is the sin that caused Lucifer to lose the place of abiding in God's love, the Father's house. See 1 Peter 5:5-7.

"Humility involves letting go of our pride and will and becoming like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when He cried to the Father, "Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42, NKJV). God is opposed to anything within us that lacks humility, anything not humbled in our lives. Any area in which we lack humility will not have His life and grace flowing through it. A humble willingness to be known as we really are reveals a heart of sincere repentance and hunger for God. Anything other than that is usually rooted in the sin of pride, a sin against love.

To be free, I began to recognize that anything I hide from others in order to make me look good is darkness.

I have chosen to live as if every conversation I have, as if everything I do either blesses or defiles someone else."

Any area in which we lack humility will not have His life and grace flowing through it. Anything unloving is a sin against love. A sin of separation is a sin of isolation and self-love.

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## MISTREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF OTHERS

(Quotes from the book *Experiencing Father's Embrace* by Jack Frost, p. 139-144)

We make a decision whether to receive mistreatment at the hands of others as a blessing or as a curse. God has promised a blessing if we respond with forgiveness and grace. But when we respond with accusation, vindication, faultfinding or blame shifting, we then give Satan a key to our front door; he can then come and go as he pleases in our house. (Ephesians 4:26-27)

You can take most of your thoughts or conversations about a difficult person in your life, and in one way or another line them up under one of two categories: thoughts of restoration and relationship, or thoughts of vindication and exposure. One way leads to blessing; the other way releases a self-imposed curse.

When you choose the behavior, you choose the consequences!

(Luke 6:27-35) These verses imply that there is no blessing or reward when we do good to good people. Blessing comes when we do good to the people who hurt us. The blessing is sonship--being placed in Father's presence! We feel the full acceptance and unconditional love of the Father. We begin walking in a deeper intimacy with God and start taking on His spirit of grace, which releases intimacy in many of our relationships. We then start becoming more comfortable with love and forgiveness. *This is the place where healing and the blessings of God begin to overtake you.* (Italics mine for emphasis)

Jesus walked out these principles with the one who hurt Him most, Judas... He never stopped receiving and valuing Judas...Have you received the difficult people whom God has placed in your life as an instrument of blessing? If you do not value, honor and respect them, then you may be treating them like a curse, thus inheriting a curse! When we receive them as a blessing to help us find out what we are full of, then God can take every negative relationship and use it to bring us into spiritual maturity. This releases us to experience His love and then to be an instrument of His love to our family and to the nations!

You do not know what you are in bondage to until you are free from it.

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## A PLACE OF FAITH IN HIS GOODNESS AND LOVE

(Quotes from the book *Experiencing Father's Embrace* by Jack Frost, p. 178-181)

Luke 15:31 "My child, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours." Father longs for us as His children to enter into this kind of relationship with Him. He wants us to enter a place of faith in His goodness and love where we know deep in our heart that He is always with us seeking to meet our need as a caring Father, not just during times of dramatic encounters. It is in this place of abiding daily in His presence that His loving nature displaces our insecurities and fears and where we are being conformed into His image of love. 1 John 4:16, 18 "And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us...There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear."

I have found that people experiencing Father's embrace can enter in two different ways. One is a way of great emotional release. The other is a way of humility and faith. Through experience, I have also learned that often those who never have an emotional encounter are those who, at times, are transformed the most by choosing to abide in Father's love one moment at a time.

You may seek to walk daily in faith, humility and love--this begins to conform you into the image of your loving Father. You won't always feel God's presence. You won't always sense His favor. But as you daily submit your heart to His love, there is change taking place in your character and you begin to abide in His love...abiding in His love requires that we focus on three primary areas in our daily walk: walking in the Spirit; humility before God and man; and transparent witnessing.

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## TEN STEPS TO REVIVAL

(Quotes from the book *Experiencing Father's Embrace* by Jack Frost, p.191-2)

True revival is not a series of meetings, but true revival takes place in the hearts of the people when they begin to receive a true conviction of their sin and cry out to God for His forgiveness, mercy and grace. This results in His children seeking His face, craving for intimacy to be restored with God and man and committing to a daily walk in the Spirit. The path to revival begins with just that: children of God learning to abide in the presence of Father's love and then willing to give it away to the next person they meet. Revival usually follows this type of progression:

1. You begin to become more and more sensitive to the small, daily sins that gradually steal your ability to walk in love, joy, peace and the sense of God's presence.
2. You begin to recognize that every misrepresentation of God's love to another individual is an area of sin and darkness in your life.
3. You start confessing your sin as soon as you recognize it instead of hiding it, justifying it or attempting to cover it up.
4. You experience forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus Christ.
5. You feel clean and free, and gratitude fills your heart for what God has done for you.
6. You experience an overwhelming sense of God's abiding presence, and you begin walking daily in the Spirit. You don't have to chase after a dramatic experience, for by faith, each day you have a sense that you are drawing nearer to the Father.
7. You become so full of God's love and the joy of His presence that you can't wait to tell others. You become an honest, open, transparent witness for what God has done for you.
8. Through your transparent witnessing, others become convicted of their own sin and begin to desire an intimate relationship with God as well.
9. They confess their sins, repent and receive God's forgiveness and cleansing; they then become transparent witnesses themselves.
10. True revival is released within your family, the church, the city, the nation and the world.

## HOW TO ENTER INTO GOD'S REST

(Quotes from the book *Experiencing Father's Embrace* by Jack Frost, p.207-208)

How can you position yourself to enter into God's rest and your spiritual man to rise above the outward man? (Outward man is the soul: mind, will, emotions and the physical body)

First of all, *agree with what the Word of God says about you*. You were created in God's image, and God is love. Every fiber of your being has been created for intimacy with God. We have learned throughout this book that God's unconditional love for you is never based upon your behavior but upon His character of perfect love and grace. Outer man should never be judge of whether you feel close to God or not. God's truth, love and grace are the only factors of proof of whether God is with you. You were born of the Spirit to be filled with the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit, to talk in the Spirit, to commune with the Spirit, to live as a spirit being and for your spirit to rule over strongholds. That is a greater reality than your outer man that is temporal and fading away.

Second, often you will have to *tell your outer man to be quiet!* Seek for peace in the inner man, not in the head. Your mind is to serve your spirit. The emotions are to be subordinate to your spirit. As soon as you don't "feel" close to God, tell your emotions to line up with God's Word. Tell your outer man to line up with your spirit man; allow truth to be your only reality. Do not go by feelings or emotions. Do not look to feelings of blessing to determine whether you are close to God. Anytime your emotions say, "God is not close to me. God couldn't love me. God can't use me," then your outer man is agreeing with the father of lies. The Father of creation has told you, "My child, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours...I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you" (Luke 15:31; Hebrews 13:5)

There is rarely a time when I step into the pulpit to minister that I have not felt feelings of insecurity or unworthiness just before I walk to the platform...I have to speak to those thoughts, "Soul, be quiet! I am spirit, and God dwells in me; by His grace He will minister through me."

Finally, *choose to dwell daily in Father's embrace*. The outward man seeks for the power of God to deliver him from his circumstances. The spiritual man seeks for the presence of God to fellowship with him and be with him through his circumstance. When I am overwhelmed in my mind or emotions and cannot seem to get in touch with my spirit, that is when I stop everything, go into my study and put on some quiet, soothing music about Father's love. Then I lie on the floor before the Father and say to Him, "Dad, I am over here in my soul and can't seem to find You. Please help me." I don't pray a deep, heavy prayer, but just admit to Him that I need His help and then surrender to His love: "Father, draw me back into my spirit. Draw me back to You. I have moved

over into my own thoughts, emotions, insecurities and fears, and I feel alone and discouraged. I need Your fathering arms to embrace me. Run to me to give me the love and comfort that I need."

Soon, Father's love and peace come over me, and my focus shifts. I separate the outward man from the spiritual, and I step right back into the things of the spirit. Everything changes; my attitudes, my desires and my motivations all begin to realign with the Father's heart, and I am free once more to minister His love to my family and others.

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## SPIRITUAL SLUMBER

(Quotes from *Healing The Wounded Heart* by Jack Frost, pp. 47 to 56)

Father God realizes we will not feel like a healthy virgin bride who is willing and ready to fully love her bridegroom until we feel the expressed love He has for us as our Father. When He created us, He programmed us with a great need for expressed love in order for us to yearn after intimacy with Him.

In the first year of a child's life, it is affection that is expressed through soft words and touch that allows a child to learn trust and to develop the courage to live. In the second year, if the child has learned trust, then he takes on independence, the ability to say "no," and develops his own identity. If expressed affection is missing, people-pleasing begins as he tries to earn love and attention. He begins seeking wrong answers for right needs.

When a person's human spirit has not received these basic needs of the spirit-man [love, security, praise/value, purpose], then it may be difficult for this person to mature spiritually. Too often you may find the wounds of the soul overshadowing this person's ability to make Godly choices. It may also be difficult for him to enter into spiritual disciplines and the intimacy with God that helps him to "lay aside the old self and its evil practices and to put on the new self who is being renewed..." (Col. 3:9,10) This may lead to the following:

**SPIRITUAL SLUMBER-- when the wounds of the soul have hindered the ability of the spirit-man to shine forth fully and to rise above the fleshly habit structures of the past.**

There is no direct scriptural reference for this, but there are some scriptures that speak of a person's being in a state of sleepiness or spiritual slumber that hinders his awareness of life in the Spirit. (Rev. 16:15; 1 Thess. 5:4-8)

People who are in spiritual slumber find it difficult to experience intimacy with God. They may experience salvation, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit, but demonstrate little of intimacy with the Father. Their experience is based more in the mind than within their

spirit. Thus, living by the principles of God is easier for them than living by the Spirit of Christ (which is meekness, humility, and gentleness) and seeking to model their life and character after the Father's love, forgiveness, and compassion.

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## HOW THE SPIRIT MAN OPERATES

(Quotes from *Healing The Wounded Heart* by Jack Frost, pp. 47 to 56)

### HOW WOUNDING CAN AFFECT OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

To rightly understand how much the wounds of the soul have hindered the spirit-man from rising above the habit patterns of the old man, **we need to understand how the spirit-man operates.**

#### 1) THE SPIRIT OF MAN COMMUNES WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

(1 Cor. 2:10-13; John 4:23,24)

It is through the spirit of man that we sense **the voice, presence, and dealings of God.** The Spirit communes with our spirit through fresh **revelations, dreams, and a still quiet voice.** This voice we sense can sometimes find difficulty in speaking louder than the voice of our inner pain and turmoil.

**The Spirit of God speaks to the spirit of man and then through our soul. We have to make a choice to listen to our spirit and respond with our mind, will, emotions, and personality.** If our soul is deeply wounded, it focuses more easily upon our pain, frustration, and disappointments; thus the voice of the Lord seems dim. Then those in spiritual slumber end up responding to the voices of the flesh or carnal man more easily than to that of the Spirit.

Examples:

There are people who have **a deep sense of the Spirit of God during worship** while others have no sense of His presence at all. Worship is mechanical to them, so they simply go through the motions.

During personal ministry, some people are **able to sense the anointing** (the manifested presence of God that can be felt with the 5 senses) while others have no sense of God's moving at all. However, they still are able to receive by faith what God is doing as Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." (John 20:29)

Some people have a **deep sense of personal conviction or dealing of God** (conscience) while other Christians rarely sense conviction or the dealing of God over their sin. Thus they remain as carnal Christians and walk unchanged for years. (2 Cor. 7:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:5)

## **2) THE SPIRIT OF MAN RECEIVES UNDERSTANDING AND REVELATION OF SPIRITUAL THINGS**

(Job 32:8; 1 Cor. 2:12, 13, 15)

It is through the spirit of man that we are able to **receive understanding of the Word of God** and receive **fresh revelations and insights** into spiritual things.

Examples:

There are times **the Word comes alive** to us and we drink from it; yet there are times it is dead and lifeless to us.

There may be a musician whose performance is precisely correct but empty of life and meaning.

A preacher or teacher may say all the right words and is an excellent orator, but there is no life or anointing to the message that would bring challenge or a change of heart.

## **3) THE SPIRIT OF MAN HELPS HIM TO OVERCOME SICKNESS**

(Proverbs 18:14; 17:22)

A person whose human spirit has overcome the woundings is able to throw off minor infirmities easily. Even if the illness is terminal, the person will often remain vibrant and full of the sense of life.

## **4) IT IS IN THE SPIRIT OF MAN THAT A SENSE OF FAITH AND HOPE IN THE FUTURE DWELLS**

(Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:17,18)

It is in the spirit of man that faith and hope dwell for a change in present situations... People who live in their woundedness live with the pain and circumstances of the moment, and they have little hope for their circumstances to ever change. They think of their past and only see the memories that cause pain. Consequently, they have little sense of life getting better in the future. They live in the pain of now with no faith for change. Present problems are all they are able to see. Since they have little hope for the future, they often live for the thrill of the moment, without any thought of the consequences of their actions. This is a means of fleeing or escaping their present problems.



## **5) IT IS IN THE SPIRIT-MAN THAT WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO SENSE EMPATHY AND COMPASSION ONE FOR ANOTHER AND TO BECOME ONE IN HEART WITH EACH OTHER**

(Acts 4:31,32; Gal. 5:22,23; Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Peter 3:1,4)

It is the spirit-man who enables us to move past surface relationships with people and to touch them spirit to spirit...Through our spirit we "tune into" (become sensitive to) each other's needs and feelings. Especially in marriage, we need to be sensitive to each other emotionally and in the spirit or else we will not know the other's needs.

When we live burdened down by the pain others have brought into our lives, then our conversations are often guarded and tedious. We have difficulty developing and keeping relationships because we live within the realm of our own need for healing and therefore, are not able to sense the need of others.

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## **COPING WITH DEATH AND DYING**

(Quotes from *The Journey Home* by Bill Bright, p 16-19)

**BILL:** Seeing difficulty through the eyes of God is the only way I can comprehend anyone coping sensibly with death and dying. It takes His perspective, and He says, "Count it all joy" when you have problems and trials (James 1:2 NKJV). So I decided to receive the "bad news" of the medical reports as a gift from God. Yes, a gift. What do you do with a gift?

Receive it, even clutch it to yourself.

Thank the giver, even before understanding the gift.

Open it and discover what the Giver has in store for you.

Begin to employ and enjoy the gift...

From the beginning of this journey home, I fully embraced God's perspective about my illness, pain, and discomfort...I am merely seeking to agree with God on how to look at the challenge. It is an "attitude check" if ever there were one. And an attitude of gratitude to our great Creator-God and Savior always demonstrates faith and pleases God.

**VONETTE:** Another discovery God gave me helped with our natural desire to know when something is going to happen, even though we know we should simply trust God about matters of timing. But God knew my need, and He gave me an answer to that while I was

reading the New Living Translation version of John 14:3 "When everything is ready, I will come to get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

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## POSSIBLE SEQUENCE OF KEY PROPHEPIC EVENTS

Quote from *The New Temple and the Second Coming* by Grant Jeffrey, p.189-190

- 1948: Rebirth of Israel.
- 1967: Israel captures Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount.
- 1973: Yom Kippur War; Israel survives invasion from Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq.
- 1980+ The Temple Institute researches and begins creation of vessels for Temple worship.
- 2005: The Sanhedrin is reconvened for the first time since AD 425. The Temple location is determined by the Sanhedrin. Priests are trained in Temple sacrifice.

### Anticipated Prophetic Events

- The Russian-Islamic alliance will attack Israel but will be defeated supernaturally.
- Israel will build the Third Temple and resume the ancient Temple worship.
- The ten nations (see Daniel 2:40-45) in Europe and surrounding Mediterranean nations will unite, forming the revived Roman Empire.
- A world dictator, the Antichrist, will rise to power over the revived Roman Empire and extend his global rule through military victories and peace treaties.
- The Antichrist will sign a seven-year security treaty with Israel (see Daniel 9:24-27)
- Halfway through the seven years, the Antichrist will stop the daily Temple sacrifice (see Daniel 12:11). The Antichrist will violate the Holy of Holies of the Third Temple.
- Someone will assassinate the Antichrist; then he will rise from the dead and claim to be god, demanding worship as such. He will introduce the Mark of the Beast system.
- The Antichrist's forces will attack righteous Jews and Gentiles who refuse to worship him.
- Nations from Asia ("kings of the east") will lead a revolt against the Antichrist, raising a 200 million troop army and crossing Asia to engage in a massive military confrontation with the western military forces of the Antichrist.
- The battle of Armageddon will occur seven years after the Antichrist signs the treaty with Israel.
- Jesus Christ will defeat both armies to save Israel. He will enter through the sealed Eastern Gate of the Temple Mount into the rebuilt Temple. He will cleanse the sanctuary.
- Christ will establish His millennial kingdom from the throne of David in Jerusalem. Gentile nations will send representatives to the Temple to acknowledge their eternal allegiance to Christ (see Zechariah 14:16).

## UNMASKING UNBELIEF

(Quotes/ideas from Steve Trullinger from CDs *Belief: Enemy of the impossible*)

### *Unmasking Unbelief part 1 (CD#2)*

There are some things that look like something else, but it's really unbelief.

Mark 9:14-24 Help my unbelief.

Rebellion gives nourishment to unbelief.

His prayer on CD: Father, please help us tonight to cooperate with You in unmasking unbelief in our lives. Father, would you search our hearts and minds and uncover the unbelief that lurks there masquerading as other things that divert us from the truth. Father, would you let Your Word act as a two-edged sword tonight, powerful to judge the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. Help us take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and turn away from the rebellion that gives nourishment to unbelief. May we truly be Your disciples, Jesus, so that we will know the truth and it WILL set us free. Holy Spirit, lead us into all truth according to the promise of Jesus. In HIS precious name we pray. Amen.

Distinction between various forms of unbelief:

#### **Gross unbelief - it's obvious**

- Spies who didn't believe they could invade Canaan - (Numbers 13:26-14:4).
- (Romans 11:11-24) Unbelief has serious consequences. Warning to not fall into same unbelief
- Hebrew 3:7-19 Do not harden your hearts. Couldn't enter because of their unbelief.

#### **A model of belief**

- Romans 4:18-24 Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. We're going to be credited with righteousness if we believe as Abraham.

**Definition of unbelief: the refusal to believe God. The source is rebellion (or disobedience).**

How does this relate to doubt? What distinguishes doubt from unbelief?

#### **Doubt versus belief:**

- Matthew 14:22-33 Disciples in boat; Jesus walked on water. You, of little faith. Why did you doubt?

- Matthew 21: 21-22 Jesus had cursed fig tree and it withered. If you have faith and do not doubt... If you believe you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.
- Mark 11:22-24 withered fig tree. Believes that what he says will happen, it will be done. Believe that you have received it and it will be done for you.
- James 1:6-7 Asking for wisdom. Believe and not doubt.

**Doubt: what is it?**

Uncertainty. An undecided state of mind.  
 Inclination to disbelief. On the way to unbelief  
 To hesitate to believe or trust.  
 Questioning  
 Waiting to make up your mind  
 Maybe - hesitancy to believe  
 Double mindedness

**Unbelief is outright rebellion, refusal to believe.**

**Example:**

John 20:24-29 Jesus appeared to the disciples after resurrection. Thomas doubted. Conditional belief - doubt. Stop doubting and believe. Have to stop doubting to believe. Jesus gave grace to Thomas to help him believe.

Doubt is predecessor of unbelief. Can't ride the fence forever.

**Difference between belief and faith**

**Faith is:**

KJV Hebrews 11:1 substance, evidence  
 NIV sure, certain  
 NASB assurance, conviction  
 AMP assurance/confirmation, title deed, proof, conviction of their reality, perceiving as real fact what is not perceived by the senses.

Faith is being convinced that it's real.

**Summary:**

Faith is an enablement leading to a choice to believe, it enables you to make the choice to believe. It's a mechanism, a process leading to a choice to believe. The engine that gets you to belief.

Hebrew 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God." Why? Without faith you can't generate belief.

It is not faith that pleases God. It is belief that pleases God. Why? Because belief is a choice. Choosing to belief is the opposite of rebellion.

Faith is a mechanism; it's an enablement.

It's the belief in God that pleases Him. Without faith that is impossible.

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## GOING FROM UNBELIEF, THROUGH FAITH, TO BELIEF

(Quotes/ideas from Steve Trullinger from CDs *Belief: Enemy of the impossible*)

### *Unmasking Unbelief part 2 (CD#3)*

You use that engine to get you from unbelief to belief. And that pleases God. Ask Him why it pleases Him. He told Steve that it's because it blesses Steve.

Observations: (It's so important to do the study yourself. Like (Acts 17:11) the Bereans. It's nobility, more noble.)

- **Belief demands risk.** Have to be willing to be vulnerable, to trust, to be dependent on God. It's risky to get it. Once you're there, once you're in that place of belief, the risk is gone. During the process of going from unbelief, through faith, to belief is risky.
- Unbelief plays it safe. It will prefer self-reliance, self-defense, and control. Security becomes...
- Unbelief shuns adventure because of fear.
- Fear is the husband of unbelief. They're wedded together.
- Fear is a mask for unbelief. Behind fear is unbelief. If you go back to that mask of fear, there is unbelief behind it.
- Refusal to receive the fullness of God's love allows fear to remain in you, and that masks unbelief. (1 John 4:18)
- It's a choice we make to refuse to receive God's full love, then fear comes/stays in.
- Faith is the assurance that allows us to move from unbelief up to belief.
- Belief describes a place of standing/unmovable/unshakable. Faith is what got you there. (Eph 6) Because you believe God is going to do the rest. You have to have faith take you there.

Subtle masked unbelief:

- The big "if": If it be Thy will, Lord, heal this person. Why doesn't it happen? One reason is rebellion. His "if" (condition) is much better than our "if." Follow the condition that brings the promise.
- Anxiety/fear: We don't believe God will protect us, etc.
- Worry: finances, other provisions (Matt 6:25-34) Refusal to believe what God has said He would do when He promised.
- The word maybe should be non-existent in a Christian's vocabulary. James 5:12 Yes be yes and no be no. It's hiding unbelief.

- Bondage to the past: "if only we could be that way again." God's going to make your future better than the past. Jeremiah 29:33.
- Bondage to the future: "when this or that happens, I'll be set." If you're waiting to be happy, then you are soul-tied to an ideal image. The spirit of the ideal image is a lying, deceiving devil.
- A wrong self-image: no worth, no value. The truth is we are more than conquerors. We're more powerful because of Who is in us.
- I can't \_\_\_\_. The truth is I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Because of a limitation on myself.
- Agreement with lies: refuse to believe God.

There's grace for unbelief. That's the good news. (1 Tim. 1:13-14) Paul received grace while he was not believing God. In Jude 22 says to be merciful to those who doubt. Jesus was to Thomas.

- We need to have a solution for unbelief. What do we do now? God gives us the answer.
- Confess it, especially allowing it to stay hidden.
- Repent from keeping unbelief hidden in your soul.
- Remember unbelief is rebellion (against what God has promised/said).
- Rebellion is witchcraft. It hides inside of us. It masquerades as fear. It's the enemy. He wants to stay hidden. The enemy has cloaked himself in fear. Hoping we never receive that perfect love.
- God said all that stuff will be brought to light. That includes witchcraft.
- Renounce all agreements with the spirit of unbelief. There is a spirit of unbelief that attaches itself to your rebellion, and it needs to be renounced.
- Then take the mask of unbelief off, expose it, and the light of God's truth will come in. The blood of Jesus wash you clean. 1 John 1:9. Unbelief, rebellion is unrighteousness.

Allow the HS to search your heart and reveal/unmask unbelief. You can't do it. It has to be revealed to you.

Prayer by Steve:

Father, tonight, by faith in the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus, I am submitting to your program of healing. Father, tonight, by faith, I choose to believe Your Word that says I'll be washed clean from all unrighteousness by the blood of the lamb. I'm making a choice tonight, Father, by faith, to move from unbelief all the way to belief: belief in Your Word, belief in Your promises, belief in Your perfect love for me.

I choose tonight, Father, by faith, to believe what You say about me. I believe You when you tell me who I am in Your sight. I believe that I have value. I believe that I'm more than a conqueror. I believe that I'm a son of God, and I'm an heir, a co-heir with Christ. I own the Kingdom. I own the Kingdom. That's the truth. Not someday, somehow, somewhere. I own it, because I'm a co-heir with Christ. He lives in me and I live in Him. When You look at me, You see Him, and it gives You great pleasure to give me the Kingdom.

And, Father, in Your Kingdom there is no unbelief. When Your Kingdom comes here on earth as it is in heaven, unbelief has to go. It's not allowed; it's not. It's not a resident of heaven. It has no visa. It can't visit. It can't even get close. So unbelief, you have to go. So, Father, right now, in the name

of Jesus, I speak to that spirit of unbelief, that has influenced us, that has had place in our lives, that has had a foothold or a stronghold even. And I bind it, I break its power, and I loose every person in this room, in Jesus' name.

I break the power of every familiar spirit associated with that spirit of unbelief, and rebellion and witchcraft, and I break its power. Jezebel, you loose every person in this place, in Jesus' name. You are not allowed in the Kingdom of God. You are not allowed in the temple of the Holy Spirit. You are a trespasser, and you are going, now, in Jesus' name. Thank You, Father.

Receive, by faith, the freedom that Christ died for. The Word says that He came to set us free. He came to give us life and give it to us abundantly. It's for freedom that Christ has set us free. And where His Spirit is, there is freedom. Father, tonight, by faith, I declare that I'm a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, and because I'm His disciple, Your Word has promised me that I shall know the truth, and it shall set me free. So, Father, tonight, it's setting me free.

The truth is that unbelief is rebellion. The truth is that that has been masked, been hidden in my soul. But from this day forward, it will no longer have a hiding place in me. I renounce all agreements with that spirit of unbelief. I renounce them. I say they are no longer valid. They're cancelled; they're done, forever.

Father, I need Your help to stay under Your protection, to stay in the Secret Place of the Most High. I need Your help, Father, to stay there, but it's a place of complete and total safety where I can believe, where I am immune to fear, where You put courage in my heart because of my belief. Thank You, Father, that YOU gave me the faith to take me from unbelief to belief tonight.

Father, help me learn how to do this whenever unbelief is unmasked in my life. Holy Spirit, I believe that You are faithful to help me. I believe, God, in Your great and precious promises. They are yes and amen in my life. So, now, Father, fill me with Your Holy Ghost. Fill those places that have just been vacated because unbelief has gone. Fill those places with Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. Fill me tonight, Father, with Your Holy Spirit. Thank You, God. Fill us up, Father. More. Fill to overflowing, and let joy arise in us because of this freedom. Let joy arise, Father.

Jesus, You said that You desire that we have that joy, and that it be complete in us. And thank You, that it is complete when unbelief is pushed out. Thank You, God, that Your joy finds its home in me because I'm choosing to believe. I'm putting aside rebellion. I'm turning away from that. I refuse to agree with the devil who says the opposite of what You say. I refuse to agree with lies any longer, Father. Every deceiving devil is no longer allowed in my mind. You will stop whispering to me. You are forbidden to speak to me. I will not listen if you do.

And MY GOD, who says all things are possible with Him, will protect my hearing. He'll protect my heart, and my mind with the peace that surpasses all understanding. He'll guard my heart and my mind. And I choose tonight, by faith, to believe that. So thank You, Father, for delivering me from unbelief. Thank You that it's no longer a part of my life. Thank You, Father, when it tries to attack, it will be repelled.

Thank You, Father, that I'm running into the strong tower named Jesus. Thank You that He's my Fortress, He's my Rock, He's my Refuge. When I'm hidden in Him, I'm totally safe. Unbelief can't find me. I'm invisible to the enemy. Thank You, Father, for that. Thank You, God, for this freedom.

Let it build. Let it flow out from me to others. Let my life, my journey into belief, be an encouragement to others, Father. Let my testimony bring You glory, Father. And I choose, I choose to believe You. Let that be pleasing to You, Father, and let it be credited to me as righteousness.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

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## GOD WAITS TO BE WANTED

(Quotes from the book *The Pursuit of God* by A. W. Tozer, pp. 11-12, 17-19, 27, 98-99)

We pursue God because, and only because, He has first put an urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit. 'No man can come to me,' said the Lord, 'except the Father which hath sent me draw him' and it is by this prevenient *drawing* that God takes from us every vestige of credit for the act of coming. **The impulse to pursue God originates with God, but the outworking of that impulse is our following hard after Him...**On our part there must be positive reciprocation if this secret drawing of God is to eventuate in identifiable experience of the Divine.

I want deliberately to encourage this mighty longing after God. The lack of it has brought us to our present low estate. The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. **Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted."**

When the Lord divided Canaan among the tribes of Israel, Levi received no share of the land. God said to him simply, 'I am thy part and thine inheritance,' and by those words made him richer than all his brethren, richer than all the kings and rajas who have ever lived in the world. And there is a spiritual principle here, a principle still valid for every priest of the Most High God. **The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One...**having the Source of all things he has in One all satisfaction, all pleasure, all delight. Whatever he may lose he has actually lost nothing, for he now has it all in One, and he has it purely, legitimately and forever.

Now he was a man wholly surrendered (after giving up Isaac), a man utterly obedient, a man who possessed nothing...I have said that Abraham possessed nothing. Yet was not this poor man rich? Everything he had owned before was his still to enjoy: sheep, camels, herds and goods of every sort. He had also his wife and his friends, and best of all he had his son Isaac safe by his side. **He**



**had everything, but he possessed nothing. There is the spiritual secret.** There is the sweet theology of the heart which can be learned only in the school of renunciation.

Made as we were in the image of God, we scarcely find it strange to take again our God as our All. **God was our original habitat and our hearts cannot but feel at home when they enter again that ancient and beautiful abode.**

**Them that honor me I will honor"** (1 Samuel 2:30), said God once to a priest of Israel, and that ancient law of the kingdom stands today unchanged by the passing of time or the changes of dispensation. The whole Bible and every page of history proclaim the perpetuation of that law. "If any man serve me, him will my Father honor" (John 12:26), said our Lord Jesus, tying in the old with the new and revealing the essential unity of His ways with men.

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## THE CREATIVE VOICE OF GOD

(Quotes from *The Pursuit of God: a 31-Day Experience* by A.W. Tozer p 109-113)

Self-expression is inherent in the Godhead. God is forever seeking to speak Himself out to His creation. The whole Bible supports this idea. God is speaking. Not God spoke, but *God is speaking*. He is, by His nature, continuously articulate. He fills the world with His speaking voice.

The expression of the will of God is the breath of God filling the world with living potentiality...The voice of God is the most powerful force in nature, indeed the only force in nature, for all energy is here only because the power-filled Word is being spoken.

The voice of God is alive and free as the sovereign God is free. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). The life is in the speaking words. God's word in the Bible can have power only because it corresponds to God's word in the universe. It is the present Voice which makes the written Word all-powerful.

God is here and He is speaking--these truths are back of all other Bible truths; without them there could be no revelation at all...He spoke a Book and lives in His spoken words, constantly speaking His words and causing the power of them to persist across the years.

If the living voice of God were not speaking in the world and in the hearts of men, the written Word could have no real meaning for us. Because God is speaking in His world, we are able to hear Him speak in His Word.

## THE INWARD HABIT OF BEHOLDING GOD

(*The Pursuit of God: A 31-day Experience*, by A.W.Tozer, pg 147-8)

Many have found the secret of which I speak and, without giving much thought to what is going on, inwardly gazing upon God. They know that something inside their hearts sees God. Even when they are compelled to withdraw their conscious attention in order to engage in earthly affairs, there is within them a secret communion always going on. Let their attention but be released for a moment from necessary business and it flies at once to God again. This has been the testimony of many Christians...

I do not want to leave the impression that the ordinary means of grace have no value. They most assuredly have. Private prayer should be practiced by every Christian. Long periods of Bible meditation will purify our gaze and direct it; church attendance will enlarge our outlook and increase our love for others. Service and work and activity--all are good and should be engaged in by every Christian. But at the bottom of all these things, giving meaning to them, will be the inward habit of beholding God. A new set of eyes (so to speak) will develop within us enabling us to be looking at God while our outward eyes are seeing the scenes of this passing world.

But at the bottom of all these things (prayer, Bible meditation, church attendance, service), giving meaning to them, will be the inward habit of beholding God.

## MEEKNESS

(Quote from *The Pursuit of God* by A. W. Tozer, p. 179-183)

The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather, he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson: but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God has declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is, in the sight of God, more important than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto. He knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring. He rests perfectly content to allow God to place His own values. He will be patient to wait

for the day when everything will get its own price tag and real worth will come into its own. Then the righteous shall shine forth in the kingdom of their Father. He is willing to wait for that day.

In the meantime, he will have attained a place of soul rest. As he walks on in meekness he will be happy to let God defend him. The old struggle to defend himself is over. He has found the peace which meekness brings.

Then also he will get deliverance from the burden of *pretense*. By this I mean not hypocrisy, but the common human desire to put the best foot forward and hide from the world our real inward poverty. For sin has played many evil tricks upon us, and one has been the infusing into us of a false sense of shame. There is hardly a man or woman who dares to be just what he or she is without doctoring up the impression. The fear of being found out gnaws like rodents within their hearts....

To all the victims of the gnawing disease Jesus says, "Ye...[must] become as little children" (Matthew 18:3). For little children do not compare; they receive direct enjoyment from what they have without relating it to something else or someone else. Only as they get older and sin begins to stir within their hearts do jealousy and envy appear. Then they are unable to enjoy what they have if someone else has something larger or better. At that early age does the galling burden come down upon their tender souls, and it never leaves them till Jesus sets them free.

To men and women everywhere Jesus says, "Come unto me, and I will give you rest." The rest He offers is the rest of meekness, the blessed relief which comes when we accept ourselves for what we are and cease to pretend.

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## JOY

(Quote from *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ* by John Piper, p 41-42)

But the *glory* and *grace* of Jesus is that he is, and always will be, indestructibly happy. I say it is his *glory*, because gloom is not glorious. I say it is his *grace*, because the best thing he has to give us is his joy. "These things I have spoken to you, that *my joy* may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11, RSV; see also 17:13). It would not be fully gracious of Jesus simply to increase *my joy* to its final limit and then leave me short of his. My capacities for joy are very confined. So Christ not only offers himself as the divine object of my joy, but pours his capacity for joy into me, so that I can enjoy him with the very joy of God. This is glory, and this is grace.

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## FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

(Quote from John Piper in *Desiring God*, p 56)

The proper understanding of everything in life begins with God. No one will ever understand the necessity of conversion who does not know why God created us. He created us "in His image" so that we would image forth His glory in the world. We were made to be prisms refracting the light of God's glory into all of life. Why God should want to give us a share in shining with His glory is a great mystery. Call it grace or mercy or love--it is an unspeakable wonder. Once we were not. Then we existed--for the glory of God!

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## REGENERATION - A SPIRITUAL HEART TRANSPLANT

(Quotes from John Piper in *Desiring God*, p 65-66)

Repentance and faith are our work. But we will not repent and believe unless God does His work to overcome our hard and rebellious hearts. This divine work is called *regeneration*. Our work is called *conversion*.

Conversion does indeed include an act of will by which we renounce sin and submit ourselves to the authority of Christ and put our hope and trust in Him. We are responsible to do this and will be condemned if we don't. But just as clearly, the Bible teaches that, owing to our hard heart and willful blindness and spiritual insensitivity, we cannot do this.

We must first experience the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures promised long ago that God would devote Himself to this work in order to create for Himself a faithful people:

"And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live." (Deuteronomy 30:6)

"I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart." (Jeremiah 24:7)

"And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God." (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit

within you, and cause you to walk in my statues and be careful to obey my rules." (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

These great promises from the Old Testament describe a work of God that changes a heart of stone into a heart of flesh and causes people to "know" and "love" and "obey" God. Without this spiritual heart transplant, people will not know and love and obey God. This prior work of God is what we mean by regeneration.

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## THE ALL-SATISFYING TREASURE

(Quote from John Piper in *Desiring God*, p 71-73, 87)

Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

In other words, the faith that pleases God is a confidence that God will reward us when we come to Him. But surely this does not mean that we are to be motivated by material things. Surely the reward we long for is the glory of God Himself and the perfected companionship of Christ.

So the faith that pleases God is the assurance that when we turn to Him, we will find the all-satisfying Treasure. We will find our heart's eternal delight.

The tree of faith grows only in the heart that craves the supreme gift that Christ died to give: not health, not wealth, not prestige--but God. Test yourself here. There are many professing Christians who delight in God's gifts, but not God. Would you want to go to heaven if God were not there, only His gifts?

(1 Peter 3:18) "Christ...suffered once for sins...that he might bring us to *God*"

Saving faith is the confidence that if you sell all you have and forsake all sinful pleasures, the hidden treasure of holy joy will satisfy your deepest desires. Saving faith is the heartfelt conviction not only that Christ is reliable, but also that He is desirable. It is the confidence that He will come through with His promises *and* that what He promises is more to be desired than all the world.

These are some of the affections of the heart that keep worship from being "in vain." Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of His worth. It is not a mere act of willpower by which we perform outward acts. Without the engagement of the heart, we do not really worship. The engagement of the heart in worship is the coming alive of the feelings and emotions and affections of the heart. *Where feelings for God is dead, worship is dead.*

## BECAUSE OF HIS CROSS

(Quote from John Piper in *Desiring God*, p 313)

To love God does not mean to meet His needs, but rather to delight in Him and to be captivated by His glorious power and grace and to value Him above all other things on earth. All the rest of the commandments are the kinds of things that we will do from our hearts if our hearts are truly delighted with and resting in the glory of God's grace.

(Quotes from *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper, p. 47-59)

But whatever you do, find the God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated passion of your life, and find your way to say it and live for it and die for it. And you will make a difference that lasts. You will not waste your life.

Christ bought every good thing and every bad thing that turned for good. Why is this the case? Because for redeemed sinners, every good thing - indeed every bad thing that God turns for good - was obtained for us by the cross of Christ. Apart from the death of Christ, sinners get nothing but judgment. Apart from the cross of Christ, there is only condemnation. Therefore everything that you enjoy in Christ - as a Christian, as a person who trusts Christ - is owing to the death of Christ. And all your rejoicing in all things should therefore be a rejoicing in the cross where all your blessings were purchased for you at the cost of the death of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

We are sinners and by nature children of wrath, apart from Christ. So how did we come to have such a gift for our good? Answer: Christ died for our sins on the cross and took away the wrath of God from us and secured for us, even though we don't deserve it, God's omnipotent grace that works everything together for our good.

By it [the cross] he [Christ] bought for us every blessing - temporal and eternal. And we don't deserve any. He bought them all. Because of Christ's cross, God's elect are destined to be sons of God. Because of his cross, the wrath of God is taken away. Because of his cross all guilt is removed, and sins are forgiven, and perfect righteousness is imputed to us, and the love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Spirit, and we are being conformed to the image of Christ.

## THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

(Charles Stanley: *The Gift of Forgiveness*, p. 104-105)

*If you forgive men when they sin against you,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  
But if you do not forgive men their sins,  
your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15)*

Does this mean that my failure to forgive someone who has wronged me will deprive me of the forgiveness God purchased in my behalf through Christ's blood at Calvary?

The answer to this question goes back to understanding what Christ meant by the word *forgive*...

To forgive means to release others from a debt incurred when they wronged us. The debt may be material or emotional, some form of hurt or embarrassment. When we forgive, we assume the loss. We free others from the bondage of material or emotional indebtedness. If we refuse to forgive, we place ourselves in bondage to an unforgiving spirit, which is accompanied by tension, strife, pressure, irritation, frustration, and anxiety.

Therefore, because it is always the will of the Father for us to be forgiving toward others, refusing to forgive our offenders prevents God from releasing us from the same bondage. In love He cannot simply overlook our un-Christlike spirit; we must deal with it by confessing it and forgiving those who have offended us. Otherwise we bear the pressure of His chastisement, which is His refusal to release us from the natural penalty of an unforgiving spirit.

When Jesus says in this passage, "Then your Father will not forgive your transgressions," He is not implying that our salvation is in jeopardy. Our fellowship with Him is what will suffer. We cannot be right with God and unforgiving toward others. Confession is absolutely essential if we are to walk in fellowship with our heavenly Father whose forgiveness toward us is eternal, whose unconditional love toward us cannot be diminished, and whose grace toward us can never be thwarted.

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## DEVELOP FAITH IN THE LOVE OF GOD

(Quotes from *The Bait of Satan* by John Bevere, p 14-18)

There was a time when I did everything I could to show my love to a certain person. But it seemed that every time I reached out to love, the person slapped me back with criticism and harsh treatment. This went on for months. One day I was fed up.

I complained to God. "I have had it. Now You are going to have to talk to me about this. Every time I show Your love to this person, I get anger thrown back in my face!"

The Lord began to speak to me. "John, you need to develop faith in the love of God!"

"What do You mean?" I asked.

"He who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption," He explained, "but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (See Gal. 6:8-9)

"You need to realize that when you sow the love of God, you *will* reap the love of God. You need to develop faith in this spiritual law--even though you may not harvest it from the field in which you sowed, or as quickly as you would like."

The Lord continued. "In My greatest hour of need, My closest friends deserted Me...Yet as I died for the sins of the world, I forgave. I released all of them--from My friends who had deserted Me to the Roman guard who had crucified Me. They didn't ask for forgiveness, yet I freely gave it. I had faith in the Father's love."

"I knew that because I had sown love I would reap love from many sons and daughters of the kingdom. Because of My sacrifice of love, they would love Me..."

I realized that the love I was giving was being sown to the Spirit, and eventually I would reap those seeds of love. I didn't know from where, but I knew the harvest would come. No longer did I see it as a failure when love wasn't returned from the person I was giving it to. It freed me to love that person even more.

If more Christians recognized this, they wouldn't give up and become offended. Usually this is not the type of love we walk in. We walk in a selfish love that is easily disappointed when our expectations are not met.

If I have expectations about certain persons, those people can let me down. They will disappoint me to the degree that they fall short of my expectations. But if I have no expectations about someone, anything given is a blessing and not something owed. We set ourselves up for offense when we require certain behaviors from those with whom we have relationships. The more we expect, the greater the potential offense.

If we don't risk being hurt, we cannot give unconditional love. Unconditional love gives others the *right* to hurt us.

**But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be...unforgiving...having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:3-4)**

Notice that they will have a form of godliness or "Christianity," but they will deny its power. How will they deny its power? They deny that Christianity can change them from being unforgiving to forgiving. They will boast of being followers of Jesus and proclaim their "new birth" experience, but what they boast of has not been allowed to pierce their hearts and bring forth the character of Christ.

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## THE GOAL OF CHRISTIANITY

(Quotes from John Bevere's book *A Heart Ablaze*, p. 21)



He [God] said to me, "John, the goal of Christianity is not ministry. You can cast out demons, heal the sick, and lead people to salvation, yet end up in hell." He added, "Judas left his job to follow Me, he healed the sick, he raised the dead, and he cast out demons, yet he is in hell." Those words riveted my heart.

We have to remember that when the apostles went out with power to heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out devils, Judas was included (Matt. 10:1-8).

I quickly asked, "Then what is the goal of Christianity?"

He immediately replied, "To know Me intimately!" I then remembered that Paul said he counted all things as rubbish that he "may know Him" (Phil 3:10 NKJV).

The Lord whispered to my heart, "Out of that intimate relationship will come true ministry."

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## THE THIRD DAY

(Quotes from John Bevere's book *A Heart Ablaze*, p. 26, 30)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "**Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.**" (Ex. 19:10-11 NKJV)

This whole scenario is prophetic. Not only did it apply to them, but it is also God's word to us. God told Moses that after two days He was coming to the people. In that time period, Moses was to consecrate them, which involved their washing their clothes.

We read in **2 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)**, "**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.**" And the psalmist wrote, "**For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past**" (Ps. 90:4 NKJV). One of God's days is a thousand of our years. So how long has it been since Jesus has been raised from the dead? The answer is, almost two days; we are at the very end of the second day... We are very close to His return, according to the prophetic time clock! We immediately see the correlation between what God said to Israel and what He is saying to us. Our responsibility as a church has been to consecrate ourselves for the past two thousand years in preparation for His coming!

**Come, and let us return to the Lord;  
For He has torn, but He will heal us;  
He has stricken, but He will bind us up.  
After two days He will revive us;  
On the third day He will raise us up,  
That we may live in His sight. (Hosea 6:1-2 NKJV)**

After two days, two thousand years, He will revive us, and on the third thousandth year He will raise us up that we may live in His sight. That third thousandth year is the millennial reign of Christ (this is when Christ will come to earth and reign a thousand years in His glorified body - Rev. 20:4)

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## SEEING AND ENTERING THE KINGDOM

(Quotes from John Bevere's book *A Heart Ablaze*, p. 60)

Jesus talks about "seeing" the kingdom and "entering" the kingdom (John 3:3, 5). We have to be born again, which is to be delivered from the world, to see the kingdom. But we are not to stop there; we are called to enter it. Paul said to men and women who were already saved in the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:21-22 NKJV). God prepares already saved people for what they will face to enter the kingdom.

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## BECOMING CLEANSED

(Quotes from John Bevere's book *A Heart Ablaze*, p. 96-102)

**Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. (2 Cor. 6:17-18 NKJV)**

We are to separate from the world's system. If we obey, God will receive us and reveal Himself to us! But if we don't our fate will be worse than it was for the Hebrews.

God told Moses to consecrate the people. Being set apart for Him would enable them to behold His glory. We are given the exact instruction to be separate. To paraphrase, God is saying, "I have delivered you from the world. Now get the world out of you!" Obeying will prepare us for His glory.

Moses was told to instruct Israel to "wash their clothes." They were to get the filth of Egypt off themselves. Even so we are told, **"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1 NKJV).**

We are to perfect holiness by cleansing ourselves from the filth of the garments of the flesh and spirit. As with Israel, we are to wash the filth of the world off ourselves. Paul does not say, "God will cleanse you" or "The blood of Jesus will take care of cleansing you." ... that puts on us the responsibility of initiating and carrying out our purifying.

Of course, we could never do this without God's grace, for grace is His bestowed ability to do what His truth demands. It empowers us to obey God's words. That explains why Paul says, **And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2 Cor. 6:1 NASB)**

To receive something in vain would be not to use its potential....to receive God's grace in vain would mean that He has given us the power to walk free from the snares of this world through holiness, but we neglect it.

The law is an outside restraint while grace is an inward transformation.

Grace is defined not as a cover-up but as a force that enables us to serve God acceptably. Grace that is received in vain results in an unchanged heart toward the impurities of the world. Therefore, the fruit of holiness is the proof of our salvation.

None of us could buy our own grace. We have been given it as a gift, which we can never earn. But we must use its potential.

That is why James boldly states to believers: **"Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:17 NKJV).**

James states that a life of holiness is the evidence a person has received God's gift of grace through faith. Grace, therefore, imparts the desire to obey and the ability to obey.

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## THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

(Quotes from John Bevere: *A HEART ABLAZE*, p. 118, 149)

(From Matthew 25:1-12) The kingdom of heaven is compared to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the Bridegroom, Jesus. All of them were virgins, and they all called Him "Lord." All of them had lamps, which speak of light, representing those who have received the gift of eternal life. All of them were expecting to go with Him in His second coming. He is not talking about those who have not heard the gospel or never acknowledged belief in Him. In other words, He is not talking about the cold! [as in the church at Laodicea]

Of the ten virgins, five were wise and five were foolish. The ratio is significant. Jesus is discussing a sizable portion of the church.

What separated the wise from the foolish? The foolish had only their lamps. The wise had vessels that contained a surplus of oil to continually keep the lamps burning. At midnight a cry was heard that the Bridegroom was coming, and the virgins were to meet Him. But the lamps of the foolish were going out. They immediately said to the wise, **"Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." (v. 8 NKJV).**

The wise answered them, **"No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves"** (v. 9 NKJV).

One morning I was outside in a remote place praying, I fervently cried out, "Lord, please help me understand this parable!"

That very day God showed me that the key statement of the parable is in the words of the wise virgins to the foolish: **"But go rather to those who sell and buy for yourselves."** Picture this: ten virgins, five wise and five foolish, walk into a surplus store. The foolish walk up to the counter, pull out some money, and say to the clerk, "Give me one of those lamps. I want to be saved. I don't want to go to hell. I want the blessings of God." Each leaves the counter with a lamp that is burning and says, "Thank God, I am saved!"

The wise walk up to the counter and pull out of their pockets all of their cash. They have liquidated every asset and brought that money as well as their savings. They say to the clerk, "That represents everything I own, every penny I am worth. I have nothing else! Please give me that lamp, and use every penny left over to buy all the oil it will buy." Each one walks away with a lamp and a large vessel filled with oil to fuel the lamp.

The difference is that the wise gave their entire lives and the foolish gave only what they thought was required to be saved. They kept back part of their lives. Though they left with a lamp that burned and their light could be seen, it would not endure to the end. In the parable their lamps began to go out at midnight. In the darkest hour, when tribulation hit its peak, they could no longer endure. That is why Jesus often says, **"He who endures to the end shall be saved."**

The foolish virgins immediately went out to buy, but while they were gone, the Bridegroom came. The wise who were ready went with Him to the wedding, and the door was shut. Upon their return, the foolish cried out, **"Lord, Lord, open to us! (v. 11 NKJV).** But He answered and said, **"Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you"** (v. 12 NKJV).

Again the Lord utters, "I do not know you" to those who confess His lordship. The lukewarm had not given their entire lives. These words of Jesus surely applied to them: **"He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me"** (Matt. 10:38 NKJV).

Why have we believed a gospel in America that has given us the provisions of resurrection power without the Cross? This gospel has led us into a lukewarm state. It has robbed us of the fire of God that we need to burn in our hearts...Have we forgotten His words, which so clearly state, **"If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life"** (Matt. 16:25 NLT)?

God will once again shake His church, then the nations. Shaking removes what is not built on a proper foundation. It removes what is dead or not good. It purges so that what is living or pure may remain. The only ones who need to fear God's shaking are those who do not fear Him

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## ABOUT THE RAPTURE

Then I (Joan) asked: Lord, does that "saved" (in "he who endures to the end shall be saved") mean saved by the Rapture out of the tribulation?

*Yes, My child, it does.*

It really does!

*Yes, it really does!*

Then I looked up some Scriptures that apply to this idea about the Rapture and who might be the specific ones raptured:

**We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 NLT)**

**But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53 NLT)**

**This is a message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open. I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me. (Revelation 3:7-8 NLT).**

**Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. (Revelation 3:10 NLT)**

**Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the rolling of loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together. This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb. They have told no lies; they are without blame. (Revelation 14:1-5 NLT)**

**And from the throne came a voice that said, "Praise our God, all his servants, all who fear him, from the least to the greatest." Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God." (Revelation 19:5-9 NLT)**

I read John Bevere's explanation about the percentage (5 out of 10) "Christians" who would be left behind when the door is opened in heaven for the Bridegroom to come to take the 5 wise virgins into heaven with Him. Then I thought perhaps those left behind are some of the people for whom I am to write my books. They might be really seeking "why" they were left behind at the Rapture. I remembered the section on the title page of my web site ([www.doveministry.net](http://www.doveministry.net)) where I wrote (guided by the Holy Spirit) these things:

**WHO ARE THESE BOOKS FOR?**

- Those who like to read interesting true stories from the lives of others.
- Those who want ideas on how to proceed in their own spiritual journey.
- Those who are curious about what the life of a Christian might be like.
- Those who want to learn how to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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## MULTIPLIED EFFORTS

(Quotes from John Bevere, *Driven By Eternity*, p. 233)

(John Bevere said the Lord spoke this): "Look to Me, and I will show you what to do." In the thirty minutes following, He led me to people and gave me the words to speak. The words were now sinking in, and three men gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Looking to the Holy Spirit and listening to His spoken word in my heart multiplied my efforts.

### **1 Peter 1:17 NLT**

**"And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites when he judges. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as foreigners here on earth."**

## ETERNAL JUDGMENTS

(Quotes from book *Driven By Eternity* by John Bevere, p. 8-9)

Many today are not building their lives on the eternal--God's Word--but rather cultural thinking, tradition, assumptions, and emotional feelings about who God is. This doesn't just apply to people who are not Christians, but to many believers as well. It's a scary thing to believe something temporal as being the eternal truth. If this is done, your foundation is faulty and setting you up for a sure fall. You'll believe a lie and are in a deceived state.

I am amazed at how many people I meet who base their lives on what's not eternal. Some will tell me of God and their belief in His Son, but whom they declare just isn't the One revealed in His Word. The deception runs deep. How can they believe what they have simply imagined within their own minds, shaped by a society that has already been declared contrary to God's nature? Jesus said:

He who...does not receive My words, has that which judges him--*the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day*. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. (John 12:48-49 Emphasis mine)

There is a Judgment Day, which has been appointed from the foundation of the world (Acts 17:31). That day will not bring new revelations of truth; rather, it will measure all things by what has already been spoken. His Word, which we currently possess, will judge us in that last day. It is eternal. It is final. There are no exceptions, alterations, or revisions. Wouldn't it benefit us to know and live by what He says, rather than assume what He said?

The judgments made in that day are called *eternal* (Heb. 6:2). In other words, the decisions made that day, which will be based on how we lined our lives up with His eternal Word, will determine how we spend the rest of eternity! There will never be any changes to those decisions, for they are called *eternal judgments*.

So many, both believers and nonbelievers, are ignorantly allowing the appointed judgment to hasten toward them without cause for investigation. They've taken a false hope in concepts that are not found in the Bible. Some think God will take into account all the good they've done and if it outweighs the bad, they will find favor. Others who profess a new birth experience have thought that they will not stand before Jesus as Judge because He is their Savior. They believe they are exempt from any form of judgment. They will be most surprised. There are some who think everything will just pan out. They are trusting in an unscriptural mercy.

None of these concepts are what the New Testament reveals and teaches. These notions and many others that people have devised in their own imaginations are temporal, not eternal, and will not stand in that day. There will be stunned men and women, and I personally think there will be more professing Christians than unbelievers who are shocked on Judgment Day.

## THE DOOR

(Quotes from John Bevere's book: *The Devil's Door*)

### A DOOR TO OUR SOULS

(p. 9) There is a door to our souls, a passage where our enemy can gain access. The presence of this portal goes undetected by many, but it is known widely in the realm of the spirit. This door stands ajar between light and darkness, with a history as ancient as the sons of Adam.

Under the divine law of God, our enemy is restricted to the realm of darkness. As believers, we are delivered from these powers of darkness. But if this door is opened, Satan and his cohorts are granted legal entrance. Their objective: to control areas of our lives.

Jesus called these doors "gates." His exact words were "the gates of hell" (Matt. 16:18). He also said He had won the keys which locked them tight (Rev. 1:18)

### NOTHING GOOD OUTSIDE THE REALM OF GOD'S WILL

(p. 19) It must be settled in your heart that there is nothing good outside the realm of God's will. James shows that (James 1:16-17) you can be deceived if you believe there is good outside of God's provision. No matter how good it looks, tastes or feels, no matter how rich, abundant, wise or successful it will make you, if it is not from God, it will eventually lead to intense sorrow and end in death. Each and every perfect and good gift is from God. There is no other source. Embrace this truth and settle it in your heart. Don't let looks deceive you! If Eve had followed this admonition she never would have been swayed. But instead, she looked beyond the realm of God's provision to fulfill her desires.

### DO YOU KNOW MORE THAN GOD?

(p. 31) Do you think you know more than God? Of course not! But when we are disobedient, that is exactly the message we communicate to God and those around us....Yet we exalt our wisdom above His when we ignore His counsel!

### GOD LEADS - WE FOLLOW

(p. 44) To view God as subject to our will is backward thinking. We do not lead while God follows. No, God leads, and we follow - if we are wise (John 12:26). As we follow, He instructs us.

We have mistakenly thought that if we laid hands on the sick, independent of the Spirit's leading, God was obligated to heal and confirm our lead by following with His signs. If this were true, we should go empty the hospitals. We get discouraged when God does not follow our lead



with His healing and miracles. God will heal and perform miracles, but it is as He leads and we follow.

### SATAN IS CONFINED TO DARKNESS

(p. 65) When a person walks in obedience to God, witchcraft has no power over him. Satan is confined to darkness (Jude 6), so he has no access to us when we are joined with God, in whom is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

### WHAT GOD HAS MADE CLEAR TO US

(p. 70) Now let me make this point clear: we come under bewitchment when we disobey what God has made clear to us - not when we disobey what has not been revealed to us.

### THE REBELLIOUS

(p. 80) The rebellious see God's Word as a restraining law rather than as protection and life.

### AFTER THE LORD HAS SHOWN HIS WILL

(p. 85) This is a principle that every believer should grasp and understand. When we pester the Lord after He has already clearly shown His will, He may step back and allow us to have our way even though it does not correspond with His original plan. When our hearts are set on a course of action, God will grant us permission, though He knows we will later answer for the course we choose.

### TO BELIEVE IS TO OBEY

(p. 111) In the Scriptures we find *believe* means not only to acknowledge the existence of Jesus but also to obey His will and His Word. Hebrews 5:9 says Jesus became "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." To believe is to obey.

### WHEN SIN COMES KNOCKING

(p. 196-200) The final thought I'd like to leave with you is in regard to this door. We can choose one of four responses when sin comes knocking.

1. Blatant disobedience
2. Reasoning yourself into disobedience
3. Obedience with a bad attitude

4. Obedience with a willing heart

**If they obey and serve Him [God], they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures (Job 36:11).**

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## GOD'S CORRECTIVE PROCESS

(Quotes from *Under Cover* by John Bevere, p. 114-117, 394)

Steps in God's corrective process when we sin:

1. Conviction of the Holy Spirit
2. A prophetic messenger
3. Judgment: hardship, sickness, affliction, chastened by the Lord so we may not be condemned with the world: (1 Cor. 11:31-32; Matt. 7:20-23; Luke 12:45-48)

If obedience is not complete, faith will not increase, but dwindle! James 2:20 "Faith without works (obedient actions) is dead."

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## NO WASTED SORROWS, ASPIRATIONS OR DREAMS

(Quotes from *THE VANISHING POWER OF DEATH* by Erwin Lutzer, p. 63-67)

As we walk along our own private journey to Emmaus, the resurrected Jesus walks with us. Thanks to His triumph, we know that we are never forsaken. He understands our hopes and dreams and knows the depths of our pain and disappointment. He is there to point us back to the Scriptures and remind us that we are not alone. He picks up the pieces of our shattered dreams and gives us a reason to go on...

Every shattered dream we give to Jesus is integrated into a higher and even more blessed purpose. In short, if we have faith to believe it, there are no wasted sorrows, no wasted aspirations or dreams. Even in this life, we see that God is continually reshaping whatever we give Him. Indeed, the Christian life is a series of new beginnings. God Himself rushes in to fill the vacuum left in the wake of our own disappointments.

Dreams left unfulfilled in this life will most assuredly be fulfilled in the life to come. Jesus brought our dream of healthy bodies back with Him when He was raised from the dead.

To those who are brokenhearted, Jesus assures us that fulfilling family relationships will be ours. As we learned in Jesus' encounter with Mary, He says, "I am your Brother; I am your Father; I am your Friend." The fulfillment of our deepest desires for friendship and acceptance awaits us. Even our longing for security and wealth will be fully realized. We are, after all, "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17). And "he who overcomes will inherit these things" (Revelation 21:7 NASB). We do not have to win in this life in order to win in the next.

Our problem, simply put, is that like the disciples, we do not recognize Jesus as He walks with us. We fail to see Him in the circumstances He brings into our lives; we fail to see Him in our hardships and disappointments. He is here, but our eyes are clouded with our own faithlessness and failures. Blessed are those who see Jesus when others see Him not.

For those who are willing to believe, the risen Christ is with us to guide, to give assurance, and to fellowship with us. In His presence our broken dreams are redirected to serve His higher purposes. In His eternal presence, all God-given dreams will eventually come to pass.

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## ABOUT BELIEVING

(Quotes from *The Revelation of Truth* by John Hagee, p. 136-7)

Now notice this: *Abraham believed God*. The Word of God tells us, "**And [Abraham] believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness**" (Gen. 15:6 NKJV)... Abraham believed God--not *loved* God, or *served* God--but *believed* God, and God credited him with righteousness. Belief, or faith, is powerful!

**Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV): "And these signs will follow those who believe: 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."**

**Acts 16:31 (NKJV): "So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"**

Do you need a miracle? Only believe!

## PEOPLE OF ROYALTY

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty* by Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton)

Kris says we are prisoners because of three things: 1. Unforgiveness (Matt. 18:21-35), 2. jealousy/envy/and fear, (1 Samuel 18:7-10) and 3. believing lies (John 8:32).

#1

(P. 45) Isaiah said that we were anointed to proclaim "liberty to captives" and "freedom to prisoners" (Isa. 61:1). I believe he is describing two kinds of people behind bars: "captives" and "prisoners." Prisoners are people whom the judge sends to prison. It takes a court order from the Judge of Heaven to release them. These folks have opened the door of their life to tormentors through sin and unforgiveness. They must forgive those who have hurt and abused them in order for God, who is the ultimate judge, to be justified in calling off the tormentors and releasing them from prison.

(P. 48) God's Kingdom is not a performance-based kingdom. We don't lead because we are necessarily the most qualified; we lead because we are "called" to be the leader...If we believe that we are leading because we are the most qualified, then we will subconsciously work to undermine other people's advancements.

#2

The life of King Saul also shows us how suspicion can masquerade as discernment and ultimately lead us into bondage. Suspicion is the gift of discernment being used by the spirit of fear. It leads to bitterness, unforgiveness, and torment, and it results in our going into a spiritual prison where all guards work for the dark side. The spirits who guard the walls of this prison have names like sickness, depression, hatred, and murder.

#3

Isaiah also said that there were people who were "captives." Captives are people who have been captured in battle and held as prisoners of war. These people do not have unforgiveness in their hearts, but instead they are bound by the lies they have believed. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). The word *truth* here means "reality." So many of us live in a "virtual reality;" It feels real and looks real, but it isn't real. It is just an illusion. We give the devil permission to punish us because we think his lies are true. When we are tormented because of lies we need a revelation of the truth of God so that we can escape to freedom.

(P. 49) We must leave the prison behind to come into the palace. People of royalty focus on who they are called to be. They have forgiven those who have hurt them, they have rejected the lies of the enemy, and they have embraced the truth. They don't live in the bondage of prison but in the wholeness of the palace.

# INHERITANCE

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty* by Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton)

(p. 188-9 by Bill Johnson)

The key ingredient of this process of increase is inheritance. Inheritance is the link between the generations. It is what each generation receives from the previous generation, and then what they pass on to the next. When one generation has been "fruitful and multiplied," the next generation starts out ahead of where they would have had to start in a certain area of life.

If, as God's royal priesthood, we understand that it is by inheritance that God wishes to establish each generation to advance His Kingdom, we must recognize what that makes us responsible for. When we receive an inheritance, we are freely getting what someone else paid a price for. Inheritance makes each generation responsible to both receive and honor what has passed on from the previous generation, and then pay their own price to make it grow so that the next generation starts ahead of them. The ceiling of one generation must become the floor of the next. In our lifetime, this requires us to act with an awareness that our actions affect generations ahead of us. This is precisely the effect that righteousness will have on the way we think, because "a righteous man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."

But what constitutes the inheritance of the Kingdom? What do we receive from our royal history, and what are we to give to those ahead of us? After God established His covenant with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai, Moses made this statement: "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29). "Revelation," or the "things which are revealed," is the inheritance of the Kingdom.

(pg. 197 by Bill Johnson)

God hides things for us because, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter" (Prov. 25:1). God is glorified by not speaking in plain language to you. He's actually glorified by speaking in parables and symbols and dark sayings. And because the glory of kings is to search out a matter, the royalty that exists in the life of the believer comes to the surface when we realize we have legal access to hidden things and we begin to pursue the unlocking of those mysteries...

Now those who gain access to realms of revelation and anointing, through rising into their royal call and searching out the matters that have gripped their hearts, will experience a spike in human experience, just as the heroes of history did. But what they and the people of God must realize is that the spike is not to equip just one person to operate in that realm, but to empower that person to equip the Body of Christ to walk in that anointing, in order to establish it as the new norm for Kingdom life.

# FOLLOW THE BURDEN IN OUR HEARTS

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty* by Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton)

(pg. 185) (by Kris Vallotin)

What I learned firsthand through the experience is that we in the Body of Christ have what it takes to see our cities transformed. If we are willing to follow the burden in our hearts and take ownership for our community beyond what is expected, God will give us the strategies and strength to see breakthrough happen.

The Body of Christ is equipped to bring the kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy wherever we go. We have power over the evil prince that keeps people in bondage. We have love that causes people to know they are cared about. We have grace that gives them the power to change. We have mercy that picks them up when they fall. We have courage that stands in the face of violence and brings peace, and we have wisdom that shows people how to live. Most of all, we have an awesome Father who knows how to melt the hearts of His people. We have the answers to the world's problems and the devil's devices.

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## SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty* by Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton)

Affecting the Invisible Realm

(pp.204-5 Kris Vallotton)

It's amazing that an apostle with a hanky has more power than seven sons of Sceva with the right name. Paul had something they didn't - an apostolic commission. There are two reasons why that is significant: the first is that Paul was an apostle because he was *commissioned* to be one in Acts 13 by the Holy Spirit and by the other church leaders. He was under authority, and Scripture shows us that we only have as much authority as we have submitted to.

The second reason Paul had authority is because he was commissioned as an *apostle*. Although there are other roles and levels of leadership in the church, apostles and prophets are specifically called the foundation of the church (see Eph. 2:20). Paul was designated as a governmental leader of the Body of Christ, and as such was assigned to a much larger sphere of spiritual influence than most of us are. Because of how authority works, when we come into submission to an apostolic leader and are commissioned to serve their mission, we can operate with their authority. That is probably the broadest and most fundamental level of our spiritual covering.

How does spiritual authority work? When we pray, prophesy, and minister in the name of the Lord, we know that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate source of power and authority. In the same way that we are invited to co-labor with Him, God commissions angels to carry out His will. In Hebrews 1:13 it says of the angels, "Are they not ministering spirits sent out to render service for the sake of those

who will receive salvation?" The angels are there to make sure that the sons and daughters of the King come into their destiny and that the mission of the Kingdom actually happens. What many of us don't realize is that we have a role in commissioning the angels. Psalm 103:19-20 says:

**The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all. Bless the Lord, you His angels, mighty in strength who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all His hosts, you who serve Him, doing His will. Bless the Lord all you works of His in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.**

The angels heed the voice of His word, but the Church is His voice to declare that word on earth. I am proposing to you that the angels actually receive their commissioning from the prayers and prophecies of the saints. I don't think we have to tell the angels what to do; I think we just need to pray and prophesy in the Name of the Lord, and when they hear the word of the Lord they go out and perform it. But we can only declare a word of the Lord that commissions the angels if we are under authority and therefore have authority to send them.

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## SUBMISSION UNTIL PROMOTION

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty* by Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton)

(pg 207 Kris Vallotton)

There is no victory without a battle. Battles are designed to free us from the prisons of life and take us to the palace of our destiny. Between the prison and the palace there is always a process that this warfare facilitates. The process is often better described as a trial. The trials of our life are designed to develop our character so that we can stay in the palace.

(pg 208-9 Kris Vallotton)

Notice that Joseph submitted to Pharaoh's authority, even though Pharaoh was a pagan leader. God could trust him with the position he had dreamt of years earlier because he had learned submission through his trials. He maintained that attitude in his position of authority. Submission to Pharaoh didn't mean he abandoned his identity and belief in God. It was precisely God's plans and ways that gave him the wisdom Pharaoh deferred to. Romans 13:1 states: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." Because Joseph recognized God's delegated authority and His way of testing, he proved himself worthy to walk in authority.

(pg. 210-211 Kris Vallotton)

Giants in Scripture are often a symbol of spiritual principalities. Goliath's challenge is a good example of how spiritual authority works. If the principality is unseated, then everyone that was under its influence will come under the influence of whatever replaces it. Here [1 Samuel 17:9], if someone kills the giant, all the Philistines will serve Israel, but if that person loses the battle, all of Israel will be enslaved to the Philistines.)

David is up for the task because, like Joseph, he has been faithful in a place of obscurity. He has been doing a remarkable job taking care of a herd of sheep on the edge of the wilderness. Once again, this is the key to obtaining spiritual authority: submission until promotion. Little did he know that the challenges he faced while protecting his flock would prepare him for his day of destiny.

Before he can fight Goliath, again like Joseph, he must first endure his brothers' ridicule. Those of us who aspire to leadership must realize that we will face what Joseph and David did from their brothers. Like David and Joseph's brothers, people who have no vision live their lives in the bondage of their own frailties and sins. They persecute anyone who has a vision, has conquered fear, or lives their life above sin rather than under it. This persecution takes place because it is easy to feel all right about their bondage as long as everybody they know is in bondage too--misery loves company. If someone starts to get victory in the same circumstances that others are failing in, it takes away their excuses and calls them to give an account for the inconsistencies in their character.

Scripture says that David, before he fought the giant, left "his baggage with the baggage keeper" (1 Sam. 17:22). While that wasn't necessarily a character test for him, I believe it's mentioned as a significant detail because he is modeling how we should face our challenges. David didn't go into battle without first unloading anything that could hinder him. Similarly, we shouldn't plunge into confrontation with the enemy without first letting God confront any unresolved sin or issues in our heart. I find the most important things we do in our lives are often done in private. Watch out for people who have a public victory without a private one.

Because David took down the champion of the Philistines, the battle ended. David's personal victory became a corporate blessing, bringing all of Israel peace.

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## FAVOR WITH THE INVISIBLE

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty* by Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton)

(pg. 211 Kris Vallotton)

One of the principles that is important for us to understand here is that physical obedience brings spiritual release. Paul said that the natural is first, then the spiritual (see 1 Cor. 15:46). We have been investigating the lives of people who passed their character tests, completing the process of promotion in the natural (visible) realm of life, which then resulted in gaining authority in the spirit (invisible) realm. Much of the church hardly acknowledges the invisible realm at all, much less realizes the implications that it has on our daily lives. The invisible kingdom that lies within us and around us is more powerful than the visible world that is perceived with our natural eyes. We are either benefited or befuddled by the invisible world, depending on how we relate to it.



## THE REALITY OF HEAVEN

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind* by Bill Johnson)

(p. 30)

God is changing the way Christians think and the so-called impossible. He is teaching us to work hand-in-hand with the Kingdom so the reality of heaven comes crashing into earthly problems and overwhelms them. The results are astonishing miracles, great victories over the enemy, healing deliverance, revelation, and more.

(p. 102)

Others face storms because they are in the middle of God's will. He doesn't like the storm, but He wants to train you to use tools He's given you to calm the storm.

## KEEPING A KINGDOM MINDSET

(Quotes from *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind* by Bill Johnson, p. 113-120)

### REMEMBERING

*The Promises of God are like the rudder to a ship. Reviewing them sets the direction for my life.* It's easy for our minds to stray into natural thinking only, for our faith to erode so subtly that we don't notice it happening. Little by little we can begin to think "practically," leaning on natural wisdom instead of Kingdom reality. One of the great tools for keeping a Kingdom mindset is to meditate on and remember God's Word, devising ways of reminding ourselves of His promises to us, and then passing those promises and remembrances on to the next generation of believers. Without taking practical steps to remember and meditate on the truth, we will easily forget what God has promised. By degrees, we will become earthly minded, and that's what we must avoid if we're to successfully live the normal Christian life.

### MEDITATION DONE RIGHT

We must get our minds set on spiritual things because as long as we fill our minds with what's happening in the natural, we restrict our effectiveness. We may rise up now and then and score a victory with the gift of faith, but we won't have the continual influence of Kingdom transformation flowing through us. What's the solution? To meditate on the Word and give ourselves every opportunity to remember what is true.

### WRITE IT DOWN

Habakkuk 2:2 says, *Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.* People need motivation to run. That's the main reason I travel and speak and write as much as I can. I want to give other people the fuel they need to get up and go. I want them to have whatever revelation I have, just as I feed on the revelation given to me by others. That's why I do as Habakkuk advised and write down God's ideas about my life whenever they are revealed to me...I write down prophecies I've received on note cards and in my computer, and I carry those with me wherever I go...I keep a journal for my children and my grandchildren that they might see what God did in my lifetime. **We even have a staff member at our church whose entire job description is to record the miracles that happen in and through our church and with our ministry teams.** I want people to know the great and mighty works of the Lord long after we're gone, so they can run with the vision even further.

#### REVIEW IT

A written record is only useful when you review it. Sometimes I need to revisit those prophetic words that were spoken over me, so I go through the stack of cards and read the ones I need. They are the facts of my life, because God spoke them...it's meditating on what God has said until I can see it and run with it...the testimony must be heard, spoken, written down, and reviewed.

#### REMIND GOD

Malachi 3:16 tells us about God's journal: *Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name.* Sometimes God reviews what is written in His book of remembrance, and He shapes the future because of what was done in the past....At times, God instructs us to actively remind Him of what we've done. He invites us to engage Him in this way and to review the circumstances of our lives before Him so that through this interaction we are transformed.

Renewing the mind becomes possible when we **remember, record, review, and remind** ourselves and God of what He has done in the past, and of our obedience. It is a sure way to solidify your identity in Him, and to mold your mind so it conforms to the mind of Christ.

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## MIRACLES

(Quotes from *When Heaven Invades Earth* by Bill Johnson)

P. 17

Repentance means you change your way of thinking. And it's only in changing the way we think that we can discover the focus of Jesus' ministry - the Kingdom. Repentance is not complete until it envisions His Kingdom.

P. 24

Being possessed by a promise I live without options...All my eggs are in one basket. There is no "Plan B." And it's from this posture that I write.

P. 26

Miracles of healing had become more common...to the point that a life-threatening disease seemed more like a potential miracle than it did something to fear. That in itself is a dream come true for me--people in North America *expecting* something supernatural from God!

P. 27

The lack of miracles isn't because it is not in God's will for us. The problem exists between our ears. As a result, a transformation--a *renewing of the mind*--is needed, and it's only possible through a work of the Holy Spirit that typically comes upon desperate people.

Our mandate is simple: raise up a generation that can openly display the raw power of God. This book is all about that journey...the quest for the King and His Kingdom. *The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.* (Matthew 6:33)

P. 29

Jesus could not heal the sick. Neither could He deliver the tormented from demons or raise the dead. To believe otherwise is to ignore what He said about Himself, and more importantly, to miss the purpose of His self-imposed restriction to live as a man.

Jesus Christ said of Himself, "The Son can do nothing."... He had NO supernatural capabilities whatsoever! While He is 200 percent God, He chose to live with the same limitations that man would face once He was redeemed. He made that point over and over again. Jesus became the model for all who would embrace the invitation to invade the impossible in His name. He performed *miracles, wonders, and signs*, as a man in right relationship to God...not as God. If He performed miracles because He was God, then they would be unattainable for us. But if He did them as a man, I am responsible to pursue His lifestyle. Recapturing this simple truth changes everything...and makes possible a full restoration of the ministry of Jesus in His Church.

He was completely dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit working through Him.

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## DISCOVERING GOD'S ORIGINAL COMMISSION

(Quotes from *When Heaven Invades Earth* by Bill Johnson)

P. 30

The backbone of Kingdom authority and power is found in the *commission*. Discovering God's original commission and purpose for mankind can help to fortify our resolve to a life of history changing significance. To find that truth we must go back to the beginning.

Man was created in the image of God and placed into the Father's ultimate expression of beauty and peace: the Garden of Eden. Outside of that garden it was a different story. It was without the order and blessing contained within and was in great need of the touch of God's delegated one--Adam.

Adam and Eve were placed in the garden with a mission. God said, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it." It was God's intention that as they bore more children, who also lived under God's rule, they would be extending the boundaries of His garden (His government) through the simplicity of their devotion to Him. The greater the number of people in right relationship to God, the greater the impact of their leadership. This process was to continue until the entire earth was covered with the glorious rule of God through man.

But in Genesis chapter 1 we discover it's not a perfect universe. Satan had rebelled and had been cast out of heaven, and with him a portion of the fallen angels took dominion of the earth. It's obvious why the rest of the planet needed to be subdued--it was under the influence of darkness. (Genesis 1:2) God could have destroyed the devil and his host with a word, but instead He chose to defeat darkness through His delegated authority--those made in His image who were lovers of God by choice.

P. 31

The Sovereign One placed us--Adam's children--in charge of planet earth. "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men." (Psalm 115:16) This highest of honors was chosen because love always chooses the best. That is the beginning of the romance of our creation...created in His image, *for intimacy*, that dominion might be expressed through love. It is from this revelation that we are to learn to walk as His ambassadors, thus defeating the "Prince of this world." The stage was set for all of darkness to fall as man exercised His godly influence over creation. But instead, man fell.

Satan didn't come into the Garden of Eden violently and take possession of Adam and Eve. He couldn't! Why? He had no dominion there. Dominion empowers. And since man was given the keys of dominion over the planet, the devil would have to get his authority from them. The suggestion to eat the forbidden fruit was simply the devil's effort to get Adam and Eve to agree with him in opposition to God, thus empowering him. Through that agreement he is enabled to *kill, steal, and destroy*. It's important to realize that even today satan is empowered through man's agreement.

Mankind's authority to rule was forfeited when Adam ate the forbidden fruit. Paul said, "You are that one's slaves whom you obey." (Romans 6:16) In that one act mankind became the slave and possession of the Evil One. All that Adam owned, including the title deed to the planet with its corresponding position of rule, became part of the devil's spoil.

God's plan of rulership for man never ceased. Jesus came to bare man's penalty for sin and recapture what had been lost. Luke 19:10 says that Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was

lost." Not only was mankind lost to sin, his dominion over planet earth was also lost. Jesus came to recapture both.

P. 32

In redeeming man, Jesus retrieved what man had given away. From the throne of triumph He declared, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore..." (Matthew 28:18-19) In other words: *I got it all back. Now go use it and reclaim mankind.*

We were then to be completely restored to His plan of ruling as a people made in His image. And as such we would learn how to enforce the victory obtained at Calvary.

Our rule is still over creation, but now it is focused on exposing and undoing the works of the devil. We are to give what we have received to reach that end. (Matthew 10:8) If I truly receive power from an encounter with the God of power, I am equipped to give it away. The invasion of God into impossible situations comes through a people who have received power from on high and learn to release it into the circumstances of life.

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## KINGDOM APPROACH TO PRAYER

(Quotes from *When Heaven Invades Earth* by Bill Johnson)

p 62

The Kingdom approach to prayer:

1. Praise & worship (Matt 6:9)
2. Praying for heaven on earth (Matt 6:10)
  - a. Heaven's effect on material needs (Matt 6:11)
  - b. Heaven's effect on personal relationships (Matt 6:12)
  - c. Heaven's effect on our relationship to evil (Matt 6:13)
3. Praise & worship

P. 66

I now pray until I come into a place of faith for that situation. When that happens, my perspective on the problem changes. I begin to see it from heaven's view. My role also changes. Instead of asking God to invade my circumstances, I begin to command the mountains to be removed in His name. It is from this place of faith (or rest) that I discover my role as the pray-er.

Pray until there's a breakthrough. Then exercise the authority given to execute His will over the circumstances at hand.

p 88

It's apparent that we speak the word, and the Father does the works - miracles!

(1 Cor 4:20) "For the kingdom of God is not in word (logos) but in power (dunamis)."

P. 91

Dunamis is 'the power of God displayed and imparted in a Holy Spirit outpouring.' That is the Kingdom!

*Pentecost is coming to My people who are looking for Me -- seeking Me.*

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## HOW DO WE GET THE POWER

(Quotes from *When Heaven Invades Earth* by Bill Johnson, p. 128-129)

Jesus commanded the most highly trained individuals in the supernatural to ever walk the earth to "wait in Jerusalem for what the Father has promised." (Acts 1:4) Luke states it this way, "Tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49) Even though they had been with Him, even though they had experienced His power through their own ministry, they were to wait for *Dunamis*--the ability to perform miracles.

It is as if they had been working under the umbrella of His anointing. The time had come for them to get an anointing of their own through an encounter with God. The baptism of fire would give them **their own ongoing encounter** that would help to keep them at the center of God's will *when* persecution came.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an immersion into the *dunamis* of heaven. The ability to pray in tongues is a wonderful gift given through this baptism. I pray in tongues constantly, and am grateful for such a gift from God. But to think that speaking in tongues is *the* purpose for such a holy invasion is embarrassingly simplistic. Such ignorance has caused great numbers of people to halt their pursuit once they've received their spiritual language. They have been taught they are now full of the Holy Spirit. A glass is only full when it overflows. Fullness can only be measured by overflow.

The fullness of God ought to do more for me than give me a supernatural language. If that's all there was, I'd have no complaint. It's a glorious gift from God. But His purposes bring us into more, **to a divine partnership in which we become co-laborers with Christ. Power came to make us witnesses.** When the Spirit of God came upon the people in the Scriptures, all of nature bowed before them. Power was displayed, and impossibilities gave way to the full expression of God's presence.

## CHARIS

(Quote from *Strengthen Yourself in the Lord* by Bill Johnson, p. 27)

**And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (Luke 2:52)**

The "favor" that Jesus grew in is the word *charis*, which refers to the divine grace and ability of God Himself that comes upon and enables a person to accomplish His purposes. As Jesus modeled, each of us must grow in favor if we are going to fulfill our destiny in God. But favor, because it is so glorious and powerful, is a weighty thing. Thus, God, in His mercy, gives you His favor in the measure your character can handle, taking you from glory to glory, faith to faith, and strength to strength.

## TEST QUESTIONS FOR THE JUDGMENT

(Quotes from book *55 Answers to Questions About Life After Death*, by Mark Hitchcock, p. 148)

The preparation for the judgment seat

The Bible tells us that the great test day for our lives as God's children is coming. But like a kind, gracious teacher, God has given us the "test questions" for the judgment seat of Christ beforehand. It's our job to study these test questions so we can be prepared, and make an "A" on the final exam. Here is a list of some of the main areas in our lives that will be tested when we stand before the Lord:

1. How we treat other believers

**Hebrews 6:10**

**For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.**

**Matthew 10:41-42**

**If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be**

given a reward like theirs. And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

2. How we employ our God-given talents and abilities

**Matthew 25:14-29**

Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.’

**Luke 19:11-26**

The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. He said, “A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’ But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’



“After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’

“‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’

“The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’

“‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’

“But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’

“‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

“Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’

“‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’

“‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.’

#### **1 Corinthians 12:4**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.

#### **2 Timothy 1:6**

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

#### **1 Peter 4:10**

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

### 3. How we use our money

#### **Matthew 6:1-4**

Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

#### **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for

our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

4. How well we accept mistreatment and injustice

**Matthew 5:11-12**

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

**Mark 10:29-30**

“Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.

**Luke 6:27-28, 35**

But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

**Romans 8:18**

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

**2 Corinthians 4:17**

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

**1 Peter 4:12-13**

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

5. How we endure suffering and trials

**James 1:12**

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

**Revelation 2:10**

**Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.**

6. How we spend our time

**Psalm 90:9-12**

**We live our lives beneath your wrath, ending our years with a groan. Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away. Who can comprehend the power of your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear you deserve. Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.**

**Ephesians 5:16**

**Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.**

**Colossians 4:5**

**Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.**

**1 Peter 1:17**

**And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners in the land."**

7. How we run the particular race God has given us

**1 Corinthians 9:24**

**Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!**

**Philippians 2:16**

**Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.**

**Philippians 3:13-14**

**No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.**

**Hebrews 12:1**

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.**

8. How effectively we control our fleshly appetites

**1 Corinthians 9:25-27**

**All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.**

9. How many souls we witness to and win for Christ

**Proverbs 11:30**

**The seeds of good deeds become a tree of life; a wise person wins friends.**

**Daniel 12:3**

**Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:19-20**

**After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! Yes, you are our pride and joy.**

10. How much the doctrine of the Rapture means to us

**2 Timothy 4:8**

**And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.**

11. How faithful we are to God's Word and God's people

**Acts 20:26-28**

**I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know. "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.**

**2 Timothy 4:1-2**

**I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.**

**Hebrews 13:17**

**Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.**

**James 3:1**

**Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.**

**1 Peter 5:1-2**

**And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.**

**2 John 1:7-8**

**I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.**

12. How hospitable we are to strangers

**Matthew 25:35-36**

**For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'**

**Luke 14:12-14**

**Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."**

13. How faithful we are in our vocation

**Colossians 3:22-24**

**Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.**

14. How we use our tongue

**Matthew 12:36**

**And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.**

**James 3:1-12**

**Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.**

**We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.**

**But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.**

**People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.**

Carefully consider this list. Read the verses. Develop and grow in these areas of your life so that when you stand before the Lord someday, you can hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21 NIV).

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## PROPOSED CHRONOLOGY OF THE END TIMES

(Quotes by Mark Hitchcock from his book *Iran: The Coming Crisis*, page 201ff)

1. Events in heaven
  - A. The Rapture of the Church (1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 3:10)
  - B. The Judgment seat of Christ (Rev. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 4:1-5; 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 5:10)
  - C. The Marriage of the Lamb (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:6-8)
  - D. The Singing of two special songs (Rev. 4-5)
  - E. The Lamb receiving the seven-sealed scroll (Rev. 5)
  
2. Events on earth
  - A. Seven-year tribulation
    1. Beginning of the tribulation
      - a. Seven-year tribulation begins when the Antichrist signs a covenant with Israel, bringing peace to Israel and Jerusalem (Dan. 9:27; Ezekiel 38:8,11)
      - b. The Jewish temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 11:1)

- c. The reunited Roman Empire emerges in a ten-leader configuration (Dan. 2:40-44; 7:7; Rev. 17:12)
- 2. First Half (3 1/2 years) of the Tribulation
  - a. The seven seal judgments are opened (Rev.6)
  - b. The 144,000 Jewish believers begin their great evangelistic ministry (Rev.7)
  - c. Gog and his allies invade Israel and are decimated by God (Dan. 11:40-45; Ezekiel 38-39)
- 3. The midpoint of the tribulation
  - a. Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and invades the land.(Dan. 9:27;11:40-41)
  - b. Antichrist begins to consolidate his empire by plundering Egypt, Sudan, and Libya, whose armies have just been destroyed by God in Israel.(Dan. 11:42-43; Eze. 38-39)
  - c. While in North Africa, Antichrist hears disturbing news of insurrection in Israel and immediately returns there to destroy and annihilate many. (Dan. 11:44)
  - d. Antichrist sets up the abomination of desolation in the rebuilt temple of Jerusalem. (Dan. 9:27; 22:45a; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5, 15-18)
  - e. Sometime during these events, the Antichrist is violently killed, possibly as a result of a war or assassination. (Dan. 11:45; Rev. 13:3, 12, 14; 17:8)
  - f. Satan is cast down from heaven and begins to make war with Israel. (Rev. 12:7-13)  
The chief means he uses to persecute Israel is the two beasts in Revelation 13.
  - g. The faithful Jewish remnant flee to Petra in modern Jordan, where they are divinely protected for the remainder of the tribulation. (Matt. 24:16-20; Rev. 12:15-17)
  - h. The Antichrist is miraculously raised from the dead to the awestruck amazement of the entire world. (Rev. 13:3)
  - i. After his resurrection from the dead, the Antichrist gains political control over the ten kings of the reunited Roman Empire. Three of these kings will be killed by the Antichrist, and the other seven will submit. Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12-13)
  - j. The Two Witnesses begin their three-and-a-half-year ministry. (Rev. 11:3-6)
  - k. Antichrist and the ten kings destroy the religious system of Babylon and set up their religious capital in the city. (Rev. 17:16-17)
- 4. Last half (3 1/2 years) of the Tribulation
  - a. Antichrist blasphemes God and the false prophet performs great signs and wonders and promotes false worship of the Antichrist. (Rev. 13:5, 11-15)
  - b. The mark of the beast (666) is introduced and enforced by the false prophet. (Rev. 13:16-18)
  - c. Totally energized by Satan, the Antichrist dominates the world politically, religiously, and economically. (Rev. 13:4-5, 15-18)
  - d. The trumpet judgments are unleashed throughout the final half of the Tribulation. (Rev. 8-9)
  - e. Knowing he has only a short time left, Satan intensifies his relentless, merciless persecution of the Jewish people and Gentile believers on earth. (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:12; 13:15; 20:4)
- 5. The end of the Tribulation
  - a. The bowl judgments are poured out in rapid succession (Rev 16)
  - b. The campaign of Armageddon begins (Rev. 16:16)
  - c. Commercial Babylon is destroyed (Rev. 18)

- d. The two witnesses are killed by Antichrist and are resurrected by God three and a half days later (Rev. 11:7-12)
  - e. Christ returns to the Mount of Olives and slays the armies gathered against Him throughout the land, from Megiddo to Petra (Rev. 19:11-16; Isaiah 34:1-6; 63:1-6)
  - f. The birds gather to feed on the carnage. (Rev. 19:17-18)
- B. After the Tribulation
1. Interval or Transition period of seventy-five days (Daniel 12:12)
    - a. The Antichrist and false prophet are cast in the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20-21)
    - b. The abomination of desolation is removed from the temple (Daniel 12:11)
    - c. Israel is regathered (Matt. 24:31)
    - d. Israel is judged (Ezekiel 20:30-39; Matt. 25:1-30)
    - e. Gentiles are judged (Matt 25:31-46)
    - f. Satan is bound in the abyss (Rev. 20:1-3)
    - g. Old Testament and Tribulation saints are resurrected (Daniel 12:1-3; Isaiah 26:19; Revelation 20:4)
  2. One-thousand-year reign of Christ on Earth (Rev. 20:4-6)
  3. Satan's final revolt and defeat (Rev. 20:7-10)
  4. The Great White Throne Judgment of the lost (Rev. 20:11-15)
  5. The destruction of the present heavens and Earth (Matt. 24:35; 2 Peter 3:3-12) Rev. 21:1)
  6. The creation of the New Heavens and New Earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1)
  7. Eternity (Rev. 21:9-22:5)

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## A GENTLE WHISPER

(Quote from *Streams In The Desert*, L. B. Cowman/A. B. Simpson, p. 255-256)

*And after the fire came a gentle whisper.* (1 Kings 19:12)

A friend gave me a book that had this one primary thought - that God was waiting in the depths of my being to speak to me if I would only be still enough to hear His voice.

As I listened and slowly learned to obey, I shut my ears to every other sound. Soon I discovered that once the other voices ceased, or once I ceased to hear them, "a gentle whisper" began to speak in the depths of my being. And it spoke to me with an inexpressible tenderness, power, and comfort.

This "gentle whisper" became for me the voice of prayer, wisdom, and service. No longer did I need to work so hard to think, pray, or trust, because the Holy Spirit's "gentle whisper" in my heart was God's prayer in the secret places of my soul. It was His answer to all my questions, and



His life and strength for my soul and body. His voice became the essence of all knowledge, prayer, and blessings, for it was the living God Himself as my life and my all.

*Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)*

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## DREAMS

(Quotes from *A Dream Come True* by James Ryle)

(p 63) Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus did not say that He was the only way into the spiritual realm, rather that He is the only way a person may pass through that realm and safely reach the true God.

(p. 75) The word vision means to gaze at, to perceive mentally, or to contemplate with pleasure. Specifically it means: "to behold, to look up and see."

Satanic dreams: false teachings, evil premonitions, terrors and nightmares - these types of dreams reflect the perversion of Satan and provide us with clues to his intentions against ourselves and others. I have found that the best recourse for this type of satanic interference is to stand firm in faith and annul his strategies with a resolute *No!* - in the name of Jesus Christ.

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## REPENTANCE

(Rick Joyner in a special bulletin 11-26-04 at MorningStarMinistries.org)

Truth without love will result in a legalism that kills. Love without truth will result in a license that will likewise result in sin that kills. We need to keep both and keep them in their proper balance.

Even so, God does not forgive excuses—He forgives sin, if we repent of it. Therefore, to have a true ministry of restoration we must have an unyielding devotion to the biblical standards of morality and integrity. However, to have that devotion without a ministry of restoration usually leads to destructive legalism. To seek to have a ministry of restoration without upholding the standards of God's righteousness usually results in people feeling better about their problems, but

not being delivered from them. We need both a devotion to God's standards of righteousness, and a true open hand and heart to any who have fallen short of it. Truth, openness, and transparency, which is the confessing of our sins to one another, are necessary for a true restoration, but we do not want to embarrass anyone—we want to restore them.

I have prayed for many years to have more of the true and holy fear of the Lord, and to hate sin and love righteousness as the Lord did. I don't think any single event in my life has caused me to grow so much and so fast in both the fear of the Lord and the hatred of my own sin. Though I may not be guilty of the sins that disqualify one from ministry, it can be **“the little foxes that spoil the vine” (Song of Solomon 2:15 NIV)**. Many little things in my life that I knew in my heart were wrong have been greatly magnified in importance and revulsion. I think the deeper concept that I have of both His kindness and His severity have brought a much deeper level of cleansing in my own life.

We are about to know the depth, height, and width of His kindness toward all who repent. We are also about to know His severity for those who do not.

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## SIN AND RESTORATION

(Rick Joyner, special bulletin #4, 2005, MorningStarMinistries.org)

There is a process which almost everyone goes through after they sin. We even saw this process with former President Clinton. It was demonstrated after the first sin with Adam and Eve and most people since. Just as Adam and Eve first tried to hide, cover themselves, deny, and then blame-shift, most people seem to go through these same stages in regard to sin. Therefore, evidence that we have truly repented (which is more than just admitting to the sin) is open honesty about the sin, abandoning all attempts to cover it up, and no longer blaming others for what we did. God does not forgive excuses—He forgives confessed sin. Ownership of the sin and transparency are signs that there has been true repentance.

As stated, repentance is just the first step in the restoration process. The length and difficulty of this process usually depends on the one who sinned. I do not believe any sin that requires a restoration process is easy, or is meant to be. This is not because the restoration process is punishment for the sin. It is never intended to be punishment, which was paid for on the cross, but rather it is for the purpose of finding and shutting the gates of hell or the devil's access points into a person's life, through which he was brought into the sin. This is not to blame the devil for what we did, but because he saw an opening and used it means that there was a weakness in our lives that needs to be recognized and changed.

It will take much longer to find these gates of hell if the person continues to have the tendency to cover himself or blame others for his problems. Sometimes even after the initial burst of honesty

and repentance about the sin it still takes time and hard work to become transparent enough about the problems to even find the gates of hell, much less close them. Light casts out darkness, therefore transparency is essential in a true restoration process.

I believe any restoration can be made easier and faster by honesty, true remorse for the sin, and genuine desire for freedom from the sin, if coupled with the constitution of being a fighter. One with a weak constitution will usually be prone to making excuses for failures. There is a saying that one who is good at making excuses is seldom good at anything else. I have found blame-shifting and self-pity to be the main strongholds that keep people in the bondage of sin.

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## THIS AGE IS A TEST

(Quotes from *A Prophetic Vision For the 21st Century* by Rick Joyner)

(p. 108) “This whole age is a test. The entire church age is for the bride to prove her devotion and faithfulness by overcoming an evil world and to learn the responsibility that will enable her to reign with Christ. God does not test us so we can fail, but so He can see where to place each of us in the authority of His eternal kingdom.”

(p. 110)

“We are told that “the gates of hell shall not prevail” against the church. (Matt. 16:18) These gates are the enemy’s access points into our lives, our congregations, our cities, and our nations. The church has the authority to shut those gates - they cannot prevail against us.”

(p. 12)

“...we must take a stand for God’s kingdom by resolutely maintaining our position in Christ. This position is always demonstrated by the fruit of the Spirit. Whenever we can endure the often trying and unfair encounters of life without compromising our position in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, we are extending the limits of the kingdom of God.”

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## BECAUSE YOU HAVE ENTERED MY REALM

(Excerpts from *The Final Quest* by Rick Joyner, page 50)

“But that was so real! I was there again,” I exclaimed.

“You were there,” replied Wisdom. “It has not gotten more real, but you have...you can enter Paradise at anytime. The Lord, His Paradise, and this mountain, are all abiding in you, because He is in you. What were but foretastes before, are now a reality to you because you have climbed the mountain. The reason that you can see Me and others cannot, is not because I have entered your realm, but because you have entered Mine. This is the reality that the prophets knew which gave them great boldness even when they stood alone against armies. They saw the heavenly host that was for them, not just the earthly one arrayed against them.”

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## THE LOVE FOR HIS WORD

(Quotes from *THE TORCH AND THE SWORD*, by Rick Joyner)

(72)

(Jesus) “This sword is a divinely powerful weapon. It is the power of My redemption....No power on earth is stronger than My redemption. However, if you use it wrongly, it can bring great troubles to the earth. With this sword those that you bless will be blessed. If you bless a devil it will be blessed and will prosper. You must be careful not to try to redeem that which My Father did not plant, but you must go forth to redeem.”

(73)

(Jesus) “Remember that My Word is never still, but living, sharp, and active. Remember that life always moves. This is why My work on the earth is often called ‘a movement.’ Just as I created the universe to ever expand, My Word will be forever moving and expanding. Those who know the life that is in Me will also forever be expanding in knowledge, wisdom, and power. They will never stop growing.”

(Jesus) “As long as you abide in Me, you will forever be growing in both knowledge and power. I now give you the command to move and grow. In due time I will give you the command to multiply and conquer, not by taking lives, but by saving them.”

(74)

(Jesus) “What you are feeling is the passion for My Word. You are holding My living Word. This is what the true love of My Word does. Those who have the true love of My truth, love those for whom I gave it. The Spirit is again going to breathe on the Scriptures, and this love for My Word will come upon My messengers in your time.”

(75)

(Jesus) “That is the power of My Word for those who will receive it into their heart. To receive My Word into your heart must be your quest every day. Then you will begin to see. Then you will have understanding.”

(76)

(Jesus) “You must receive My Word into your heart first, then it will open your mind. If you only receive it into your mind, it will not live. My living Word must be received into the heart first, and then your mind will open.”

“Only when you believe can you understand....When your understanding ceases to grow, you have departed from the path of life. As long as you are on that path you will grow. Your understanding will grow as well.”

“The joy of My presence can alone sustain you through what is coming upon the earth.”

(78)

(Jesus) “You must learn to walk in My presence in the midst of evil and prevail. If you do not abide in Me, you will be overcome.”

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## END NOTES

Derek Prince, *Prophetic Guide To The End Times*  
Derek Prince, *The Spirit-filled Believers Handbook*  
Derek Prince, *Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting*  
Derek Prince, *Rules of Engagement*  
Derek Prince, *Blessing or Curse: You Can Choose*  
Derek Prince, *Atonement*  
Joan Royer, *My Journal*  
Wade Taylor, [www.wadetaylor.org](http://www.wadetaylor.org)  
Craig Kinsley, Awake International  
David Oyedepo, *Understanding Financial Prosperity*  
Bob Sorge, *The Fire of Delayed Answers*  
Bob Sorge, *Secrets of the Secret Place*  
Bob Sorge, *In His Face*  
Jack Frost , *Experiencing Father's Embrace*  
Jack Frost , *Healing The Wounded Heart*  
Bill Bright, *The Journey Home*  
Grant Jeffrey, *The New Temple and the Second Coming*  
Steve Trullinger, *Belief, Enemy of the Impossible CDs*  
A.W.Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*  
John Piper, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*  
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Charles Stanley, *The Gift of Forgiveness*  
John Bevere, *The Bait of Satan*  
John Bevere, *A Heart Ablaze*  
John Bevere, *Driven By Eternity*  
John Bevere, *Under Cover*  
John Bevere, *The Devil's Door*  
Erwin Lutzer, *The Vanishing Power of Death*  
John Hagee, *The Revelation of Truth*  
Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton, *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty*  
Bill Johnson, *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*  
Bill Johnson, *Strengthen Yourself in the Lord*  
Mark Hitchcock, *55 Answers to Questions About Life After Death*  
Mark Hitchcock, *Iran: The Coming Crisis*  
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Rick Joyner, [MorningStarMinistries.org](http://MorningStarMinistries.org)  
Rick Joyner, *A Prophetic Vision For the 21st Century*  
Rick Joyner, *The Final Quest*  
Rick Joyner, *The Torch And The Sword*

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