

G O O D N E W S C H U R C H

Covenant Life Course Manual



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M A T T H E W & S U S A N J U D D

Covenant Life Course Manual

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Covenant Life Contents

AUTHORITY	
THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR AUTHORITY	1
THE SOURCE OF YOUR AUTHORITY	5
THE AUTHORITY TO RULE AND REIGN	9
THE EXERCISE OF OUR AUTHORITY	12
HEALING	
GOD'S WILL IS HEALING	15
FAITH FOR HEALING	19
WHY CHRISTIANS ARE SICK	23
LIVING IN DIVINE HEALTH	27
FAITH	
THE BASICS OF FAITH.....	31
GROWING IN FAITH	35
THE POWER OF WORDS	39
FAITH IS AN ACT	42
HOLY SPIRIT	
THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	45
THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	48
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	51
THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	54
IDENTIFICATION	
FINDING YOUR TRUE IDENTITY	58
REDEMPTION THROUGH IDENTIFICATION.....	61
IDENTIFYING WITH JESUS	64
THE TRANSFORMATION	67
BLOOD COVEVNANT	
HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE BLOOD COVENANT.....	70
THE COVENANT OF ABRAHAM.....	73
THE NEW COVENANT	76
THE BLOOD OF JESUS	79
PROSPERITY	
GOD'S WILL IS PROSPERITY.....	83
TITHING: THE FIRST STEP.....	87
LAW OF SEEDTIME & HARVEST	90
MAKING YOUR WAY PROSPEROUS	93
RIGHTEOUSNESS	
YOUR RIGHT POSITION IN GOD	96
A NEW NATURE IN CHRIST.....	99
RIGHTEOUSNESS CONSCIOUSNESS	102
THE FORCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	105



The Foundation of Your Authority

Authority's right comes at submission's height.

Great power is available to every believer, yet too often it is not used. It is like having a home wired to be the ultimate electronic showcase but not knowing how to use the components. Fortunately, God has provided a written manual covering all the aspects of His power design. It's all in the Bible! Let's begin by seeing what authority is and how it connects us to God's power.

How Authority Works

- ◆ **Authority:**
Delegated power; the right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action; power or influence resulting from knowledge.
- ◆ **Authority is not just power. It is the right to use the power.**
- ◆ **Authority provides pathways for power to flow as a current.**
 - ◇ Our military's chain of command is an example of authority harnessing and releasing power.
 - ◇ It originates at the power source and passes through joined links to the receptor to accomplish a desired result.
- ◆ **The power of God flows where it's authorized to flow.**
 - ◇ To administer His power, one must be in the flow of His authority.
- ◆ **Everyone but God Himself is subject to authority, and even He is subject to the authority of His own Word.**
- ◆ **Spiritual authority is a higher form of authority than natural authority.**
- ◆ **Authority must be used responsibly within the guidelines set forth for its use.**

Types of Authority

- ◆ **Delegated authority:**
Authority entrusted to a person acting as one's agent or representative.
- ◆ **Abused authority:**
Authority used outside the guidelines set forth for its use.
- ◆ **Usurped authority:**
Authority seized without any right to its use.
- ◆ **Abdicated authority:**
Authority granted to a person that is not exercised or used.

The Prerequisite to Using Authority

- ◆ **To wield authority, one must first submit to authority.**
- ◆ **Submit:**
To yield to the authority or will of another; to surrender to; to be under obedience and subject to; to give in, comply, defer, give way.
- ◆ **We can only exercise authority to the degree of our submission.**
James 4:6-7
 - ◇ Humbling ourselves in submission to God puts us in line to exercise His delegated authority over the enemy.
 - ◇ Without our submission to God, the devil will not flee from us.
- ◆ **If you want to exercise authority, you must first be under authority.**
- ◆ **Some Biblical words that indicate the flow of authority:**
Lord, master, ruler, dominion, rule, submit, submission, obey, obedience, honor, reverence, humility, king, kingdom, reign.

Getting In the Flow of Authority

- ◆ **The initial way we submit to God's authority is by acknowledging through our confession the Lordship of Jesus over our lives.**
Romans 10:9
 - ◇ Giving God's Word final authority in our lives shows our surrender to His Lordship.

◆ **We show our submission to God by being under the authority of others.**

◇ Governing Authorities.

1 Peter 2:13-14

Romans 13:1

◇ Our employers and those we serve.

1 Peter 2:18

◇ Our elders, both natural and spiritual.

1 Peter 5:5

◇ Spiritual leadership.

1 Corinthians 16:15-16

Hebrews 13:17

◇ Husbands and wives.

Ephesians 5:21-22

1 Corinthians 7:4

◆ **Our attitude as we submit is just as important as our obedience.**

Isaiah 1:19

◆ **Things that hinder the flow of authority:**

◇ Pride

◇ Selfishness

◇ Offense

◇ Sin

◆ **To walk in greater authority, you must prove yourself to God by humbly submitting to Him.**

1 Peter 5:5-9

Biblical Examples of Submission

◆ **Jesus derived His power through His submission to the authority of the Father.**

◇ “I...seek...the will of the Father who sent me.”

John 5:30

◇ “I have come...to do...the will of Him who sent me.”

John 6:38

◇ “Not My will, but Yours, be done.”

Luke 22:42

- ◆ **The centurion soldier received his miracle because he understood how authority worked.**

Luke 7:8

- ◆ **Joshua was promoted to lead Israel because of his faithfulness in serving Moses.**

Joshua 1:1

The Source of Your Authority

Your force is the fruit of your source.

Knowing your source is vital to experiencing true authority. It's the power behind the punch, so to speak. If you feel like you are flailing in the air or butting up against brick walls, check your source. You can identify it by where you put pressure – yourself, others, positions, paychecks . . . or God's Word. If you're pressured, you can turn the tables and press in today.

History of Man's Authority

- ◆ **Before the creation of man, Lucifer (later called satan) attempted to usurp God's authority and fell from heaven to earth.**

Isaiah 14:12-14

- ◇ Lucifer was created in the angelic class.
- ◇ He said, "I will be like the Most High (Elohim)."

- ◆ **God created Adam in His very own image and likeness to rule as master over the earth.**

Genesis 1:26-27

- ◇ Adam was made a little lower than God Himself (Elohim).
Psalms 8:3-8
- ◇ Adam had the same dominion over the earth that God had. That authority was delegated to him as he was created.
- ◇ God did not make man and then give him authority. He was made to have dominion.
Psalms 8:6
- ◇ God legally entrusted His dominion to Adam.

- ◆ **Man's job assignment was to "be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion . . ."**

Genesis 1:28

- ◇ When God brought the animals to Adam for him to name, He was acknowledging Adam's dominion over the earth.
Genesis 2:19-20
- ◇ God's plan was for man to establish his dominion and rule the earth with God as his mentor and chief counsel.
- ◆ **Since the creation of man, God has not been "in control" on planet earth. He leased the earth to Adam.**
- ◆ **Because the earth was under his domain, Adam had the legal right to confer his dominion to another being.**
- ◆ **satan concocted a plan to get control of the earth.**
Genesis 3:1-5
 - ◇ satan usurped man's authority when he illegally entered the garden in the form of a serpent.
 - ◇ Adam abused his authority by eating of the tree and abdicated authority by not casting satan out of the garden.
Genesis 3:6
- ◆ **When Adam violated God's command, he broke the chain of authority and fell under the lordship of satan.**
Genesis 3:7-19
 - ◇ Adam's lease was transferred to satan, and all of mankind was doomed to slavery in the kingdom of darkness.
Colossians 1:13
 - ◇ satan became the "god of this world."
2 Corinthians 4:4
 - ◇ Through Adam's high treason, satan legally gained authority over the earth.
Luke 4:5-6
- ◆ **God was left on the outside, looking in.**
 - ◇ Since He had vested the authority over earth in Adam, He could not legally interfere with what had happened.

God's Plan to Reclaim Man's Authority

- ◆ **God had to make covenant with a man to have legal entry into the earth.**
 - ◇ Through His agreement with Abraham, God obligated Himself to send a Savior to deliver man from the dominion of satan.

◆ **God sent His Son, Jesus, in the form of a man to reclaim Adam's lost authority.**

Philippians 2:7

- ◇ One must have a body to have legal access to the earth.
- ◇ Since a man had handed over the authority, a man would have to win it back.
- ◇ Because He was a man, Jesus had the legal right to act in man's behalf.

◆ **Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death.**

Philippians 2:8

- ◇ Jesus suffered the death penalty for Adam's high treason.
- ◇ His submission to God lined Him up for great power to be released in His behalf.

◆ **Through His death, Jesus destroyed him who had the reigning authority over death, releasing us from satan's bondage.**

Hebrews 2:14-15

- ◇ He took the keys of hell and death.
Revelation 1:18

◆ **Jesus disarmed the forces of darkness and triumphed over them.**

Colossians 2:15

- ◇ He brought them to nothing, making a public spectacle of them.

◆ **Through resurrection power, Jesus was raised far above every ruling authority and all things were put under His feet.**

Ephesians 1:16-23

◆ **Any man who believes in the resurrection and willingly confesses the Lordship of Jesus receives all the benefits of salvation provided through Christ's victory over satan.**

Romans 10:9-10

- ◇ Those who don't believe continue to live under the dominion of darkness.
John 3:18

Our Triumph in Christ

◆ **We were raised up together with Christ and made to sit together with Him in heavenly places.**

Ephesians 2:1-6

- ◇ We are no longer under satan's rule.
- ◇ Because we are in Him, all things are now under our feet.

- ◆ **Jesus delivered us from the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God.**

Colossians 1:13

- ◆ **Through Christ, we are now world overcomers.**

1 John 4:4

1 John 5:4-5

The Authority to Rule and Reign

Same name, same claim.

Names are important – even to the point of being protected by the government. Stolen identities are a serious subject because the thief gains access to all the assets associated with that identity. Looking at this in light of what Jesus did, He gave us His name. He knew we couldn't get what we needed in our own name and offered us access to everything through His. What a powerful gift! Now we actually have His authority as our own.

We Now Have the Same Authority as Jesus

- ♦ **Jesus gave His disciples authority over the power of the enemy.**
Luke 10:17-19
- ♦ **Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He delegated His authority to His followers.**
Matthew 28:18-20
 - ◇ “All authority has been given to me.... Go therefore...”
 - ◇ We have been authorized to make disciples.
- ♦ **We were given His authority, not a watered-down version of authority.**
- ♦ **God Himself is the power behind our authority. Our commands are enforced by Him.**
- ♦ **The authority of Jesus is now being exercised in the earth through believers, the Body of Christ.**

Ruling and Reigning with Him

- ♦ **We are Christ's ambassadors, representing Him in this world as we reconcile and restore the lost to God.**
2 Corinthians 5:18-20

- ◇ **Ambaassador:**
The highest-ranking diplomatic representative appointed by one government to represent it to another.
- ◇ We live as citizens of heaven with all the rights and benefits.
Philippians 3:20
- ◇ We are exempt from satan's rule in this world.
- ◆ **God's plan is for us to reign in life as kings.**
Romans 5:17 (Amplified Bible)
- ◆ **We are making His enemies to be His footstool by enforcing this triumph over the enemy in our lives.**
Hebrews 10:12-13
- ◆ **Through exercising the authority that He delegated to us, we will do the same works – even greater works than He did.**
John 14:12

Our Authority in the Name of Jesus

- ◆ **The name of Jesus carries with it supreme authority in the universe. No other name is higher.**
Philippians 2:9-11
- ◆ **We are authorized to pray to the Father, in the name of Jesus.**
John 16:23-24
 - ◇ We are taking His place on earth, acting as His representatives, using the authority He gave us to carry out His will.
 - ◇ Our position “In Christ” gives us the same standing with the Father that Jesus has.
1 John 4:17
- ◆ **Jesus gave us His “power of attorney.”**
John 15:16
 - ◇ One translation: “You ask of the Father in My Name. I will endorse that and the Father will give it to you.”
 - ◇ We have every legal right to use His Name.
- ◆ **We have authority in His name to do His works.**
Mark 16:15-20
 - ◇ We cast out devils, speak with tongues, go unharmed, and lay hands on the sick in His name.

- ◇ Salvation is in His Name.
Acts 4:12
- ◇ We preach in His Name.
Luke 24:47
- ◇ We make disciples in His Name.
Matthew 28:18-20
- ◇ Baptism is to be in the name of Jesus.
Acts 2:38
- ◇ Demons are subject to us in the name of Jesus.
Luke 10:17
- ◆ **We make demands on our covenant rights in His name.**
John 14:13-14
 - ◇ The name of Jesus is our legal authorization to receive any blessing from God.
 - ◇ When we use His name, Jesus personally sees to it that our requests are granted.

Miraculous Use of His Name In the Early Church

- ◆ **A man lame from birth was instantly healed.**
Acts 3:1-10
- ◆ **Faith in His Name brings miracles.**
Acts 3:16
- ◆ **The religious leaders feared the use of His Name.**
Acts 4:17-18
- ◆ **The apostles prayed that signs and wonders would be done through the Name of Jesus.**
Acts 4:29-30
- ◆ **Many signs and wonders were worked among the people.**
Acts 5:12,16
- ◆ **Paul and Silas deliver a girl from a devil in the Name of Jesus.**
Acts 16:16-18

The Exercise of Our Authority

From words to worlds – where in the “L” are you?

Just as God created our world and the worlds of the universe, we too are given the charge of using words to create something good. Your world is waiting for your words. Are you **L**oudly proclaiming truth? Do you speak **L**ife to your circumstances? Does your conversation bring **L**ight to others? Add these “**L**-ements” to your words, and it will do you wor**L**ds of good!

Authority is Released in Words

- ♦ **Just as earthly kings rule by decree, we rule as kings in life by our words.**
- ♦ **We surrendered ourselves to God by confessing Jesus as Lord.**
Romans 10:9-10
- ♦ **Because the world was created under the authority of the spoken word, everything in it responds to words.**
- ♦ **Jesus used His words to exercise His authority when He walked the earth.**
 - ◇ Jesus cursed the fig tree, and it withered.
Mark 11:12-14,20-21
 - ◇ The wind and sea obeyed Jesus’ command.
Mark 4:35-39
 - ◇ Jesus illustrated how to cast out demons by rebuking them.
Mark 9:25
- ♦ **Jesus taught that material things must obey us.**
Luke 17:6
- ♦ **When we speak to the mountains of problems in our lives with the voice of faith, we release God’s power to move them into the sea.**
Mark 11:22-23

- ◇ We have whatever we say because our words grant legal authorization for the things we say to come to pass.

Your Authority Can Be Heard

- ◆ **Jesus taught His followers as one having authority.**

Matthew 7:29

- ◆ **The centurion soldier realized Jesus did His works by issuing commands.**

Luke 7:2-10

- ◇ He saw that Jesus was in the flow of God's authority and could release healing power by speaking a word.

- ◆ **The devils named "legion" recognized the authority of Jesus.**

Mark 5:1-20

- ◇ The devils begged Jesus to let them go into the swine.

Man's Authority and Control on the Earth

- ◆ **Man has the authority over his own life.**

- ◇ God gave man a free will to choose and will never violate man's will.

- ◇ Life and death are set before us. God's advice: "Choose life."

Deuteronomy 30:19

- ◇ Those who never choose to submit to God are condemned to live under the rule of satan.

- ◆ **Even though we have been delivered from the authority of darkness, we can authorize it to work in our lives.**

- ◇ Don't give the devil any place, any opportunity.

Ephesians 4:27

- ◇ If you give him a place, he has a place. God does not control that.

- ◆ **We give things authority in our lives by our words.**

- ◇ Life and death are in the power of the tongue.

Proverbs 18:21

- ◇ We call into our lives what we speak.

- ◇ This spiritual law works for everyone, even those who don't know about it.

◆ **If you resist the devil, standing your ground against him, he will flee.**

James 4:7

- ◇ Don't pray, "God, get the devil off me."

◆ **God's Word is the greatest weapon we have against the enemy.**

Hebrews 4:12

- ◇ Jesus defeated satan's temptations with "it is written."
Luke 4:1-13

◆ **We have authority to bind and loose.**

Matthew 18:18

◆ **The fact that Jesus told His disciples to pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" indicates God's will is not automatically happening.**

◆ **Looking at the time when Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted Jesus to do for him, we can see God's deference to the will of man.**

Mark 10:51

◆ **People have what they say whether that is God's will for them or not.**

◆ **You are the prophet of your own life.**

- ◇ You have the ultimate say in your destiny.
- ◇ Your voice is the most powerful voice in your life.
- ◇ Your words are your decree, your rulings.
- ◇ You release great power when you authorize God's words to work in your life by speaking them.

God's Will is Healing

To heal and be healed – there is no question!

Grasp a hold of two pictures in your mind . . . the Garden of Eden and Heaven. Now try to imagine sickness in either place. It doesn't fit the picture, does it? God's will is done in heaven, and there's no sickness there. God's original intent is seen in the Garden of Eden, and there was no sickness there. Between man's origin and final destination there's an earthly life to be lived that most have viewed to be subject to the ills and diseases rampant upon the earth – however, that's not God's will. One last picture, the life and ministry of Jesus, shows God's will in action for a human life. This can be the picture of your life, too.

God's Plan for Man's Health

- ◆ **From the beginning, God's intent has been for man to be well.**
- ◆ **Adam was created healthy and whole.**
- ◆ **Man was never sick until after he sinned.**
 - ◇ When Adam sinned, he fell under the dominion of the law of sin and death.
Romans 8:2
 - ◇ All sickness and disease came as a result of man's sin.
 - ◇ Sickness is a perversion of the health God gave man.
- ◆ **God made covenant with Abraham and his seed and provided for their physical healing.**
 - ◇ "...for I am the Lord who heals you."
Exodus 15:26
 - ◇ "...I will take sickness away from the midst of you."
Exodus 23:25
- ◆ **The Old Testament is filled with God's promises of health and long life.**

Jesus Provided Healing in Redemption

- ◆ **God's will was to restore man to everything Adam had been, through His redemptive plan.**

- ◆ **Isaiah saw that the coming Messiah would pay the price for man's healing.**

Isaiah 53:4-5

- ◇ Amplified Bible: "Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows *and* pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt *and* iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace *and* well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed *and* made whole.

- ◇ Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy.

Matthew 8:17

- ◆ **Just as He suffered for our sins, Jesus bore our sicknesses so that we could be healed.**

1 Peter 2:24

- ◇ He exchanged His health and healing power for our sickness, weakness, and pain.
- ◇ Because sickness and death came as a result of sin, the same sacrifice that was offered for sin also covered sickness and death.

- ◆ **Through Christ, we have been redeemed from the curse of the law.**

Galatians 3:13

- ◇ The curse included every sickness and disease.

Deuteronomy 28:14--61

Healing in the Ministry of Jesus

- ◆ **The ministry of Jesus was the expression of the Father's desire for man.**

John 5:19

- ◇ He came to fulfill the will of the Father.

John 6:38

- ◇ He was on assignment from God, doing the Father's business.

John 9:4

◆ **Jesus came to give man the opportunity to enjoy the abundant life.**

John 10:10

- ◇ His mission was to destroy the works of the devil.
1 John 3:8
- ◇ He went about doing good and healing all the devil had oppressed.
Acts 10:38

◆ **God anointed and empowered Jesus to heal and deliver.**

Luke 4:18

- ◇ He laid His hands on the sick and healed them.
Luke 4:40
- ◇ Power went out from Him to heal the multitudes.
Luke 6:17-19

◆ **Jesus worked great miracles while He was on Earth.**

- ◇ He healed a paralyzed man.
Mark 2:3-12
- ◇ He raised the dead.
Mark 5:38-42
- ◇ He healed a deaf mute.
Mark 7:32-35
- ◇ He opened blind eyes.
Mark 8:22-26

◆ **Jesus commissioned His followers to go into all the world, preaching the Good News.**

Mark 16:15-18

- ◇ He instructed us to lay hands on the sick in His name.
- ◇ He promised that the sick would recover.

The Ministry of Healing Continues in Acts

◆ **Peter and John healed a lame man in the name of Jesus.**

Acts 3:1-10

- ◇ If God was not willing to heal, how could healing be done in His name?

◆ **Many signs and wonders were done through the hands of the apostles.**

Acts 5:12

◇ The sick were brought out into the streets and were healed as Peter passed by.
Acts 5:15-16

◇ Stephen did great signs and wonders among the people.
Acts 6:8

◇ Peter healed a paralytic in the name of Jesus.
Acts 9:32-34

◇ Peter raised Dorcas from the dead.
Acts 9:36-42

◇ A crippled man was healed in Paul's meeting.
Acts 14:8-10

◇ Paul had unusual miracles occur as cloths he had anointed were laid on the sick.
Acts 19:11-12

God is Still Healing Today

◆ **There is no record in the New Testament of healing passing away or ending at any time.**

◆ **If it was ever God's will to heal (and it was), it is still His will to heal now.**

◇ "For I am the Lord, I do not change."
Malachi 3:6

◆ **Jesus is the same today as He was in Bible days.**

Hebrews 13:8

◇ He is still in the healing business today.

Faith For Healing

Faith isn't faith 'till you use it!

Having faith seems synonymous with using it. Christians tell others to “have faith” when they’re facing difficult circumstances and often walk away leaving behind only a pat on the back and words full of sympathy. Jesus told us to “have faith” in God, but he didn’t stop there. He told people how to use it. When it comes to healing, having faith is a bandage but using faith is a cure! Learn how to activate and use your faith with ease.

The Parallel between Salvation & Healing

♦ **Healing is part of the salvation package.**

- ◇ “Healing is simply the salvation of Jesus Christ having its divine action in a man’s body, the same as it had its divine action in a man’s soul.” ~*John G. Lake*
- ◇ **Salvation:** Deliverance, preservation, soundness, prosperity, happiness, rescue, general well-being.

♦ **Healing follows the salvation model.**

- ◇ “The key to the understanding of the whole subject of divine healing lies in a recognition of the almost exact parallel between the appropriation of faith for healing and of faith for salvation.” ~*Gordon Lindsay*

♦ **The same process by which you were saved will work to heal you.**

- ◇ Salvation is received by grace, through faith.
Ephesians 2:8
- ◇ Both salvation and healing are gifts from God and must be received by faith.

♦ **We were born again by meeting two basic faith qualifications.**

Romans 10:9-10

- ◇ We believed in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead.
- ◇ We confessed Jesus as our Lord.

Faith for Healing Comes from His Word

- ◆ **Faith for your healing begins by knowing that it is God's will to heal you.**
- ◆ **The basis of our faith must be what God's Word says concerning healing.**
Romans 10:17
 - ◇ Great testimonies of healing will encourage your faith, but they do not take the place of the scripture.
 - ◇ Do not base your believing on what has or has not happened to others.
 - ◇ Study God's Word concerning healing for yourself.
- ◆ **God has made great promises to us concerning healing and long life.**
 - ◇ "Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling."
Psalms 91:9-10
 - ◇ "With long life will I satisfy him."
Psalms 91:14-16
 - ◇ "Bless the Lord...who heals all your diseases."
Psalms 103:1-5
 - ◇ "He sent His Word and healed them."
Psalms 107:19-20
 - ◇ "For I will restore health to you."
Jeremiah 30:17
 - ◇ "The Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in His wings."
Malachi 4:2
 - ◇ "By Whose stripes you were healed."
1 Peter 2:24
- ◆ **Continue hearing and meditating on God's healing promises until you are fully persuaded that healing belongs to you.**
 - ◇ Meditation on God's Word will cause you to flourish in whatever area His Words address.
Joshua 1:8
 - ◇ Abraham was fully convinced that what God had promised He was also able to perform.
Romans 4:21

Releasing Faith and Receiving Healing

- ◆ **Just as we released our faith for salvation by confession, we release our faith for healing by confessing Jesus as our Healer.**

- ◇ You will steer the ship of your life into the harbor of healing by speaking God's healing words over your life.

James 3:4-5

- ◆ **Jesus taught His disciples to move the mountains in their lives by speaking to them and commanding them to be cast into the sea.**

Mark 11:23

- ◇ Sickness is one of the biggest mountains we encounter in life.

- ◇ We have the authority to tell sickness to leave our bodies.

- ◆ **Jesus gave us His name to use against the devil to demand that sickness leave us.**

Acts 3:16

- ◇ If we resist sickness when the devil brings it to us, it will go.

James 4:7

- ◆ **You can petition the Father for healing in the name of Jesus.**

John 14:13-14

- ◇ Jesus said that He would do whatever we ask in His name.

- ◇ Whenever you ask Him, believe you receive your healing when you pray, not when you feel a change in your body.

Mark 11:24

- ◆ **If you are sick beyond the point of helping yourself, call for the elders of the church to pray for you.**

James 5:14-15

- ◇ As they anoint you with oil and pray the prayer of faith, the Lord will raise you up.

- ◆ **Receive your healing through the laying on of hands.**

- ◇ Jesus said that when believers lay their hands on the sick, the sick would recover.

Mark 16:15-18

- ◆ **You must authorize God to release His healing power in your behalf.**
 - ◇ Your submission to Him authorizes Him to heal you.
 - ◇ Your words authorize His healing power to flow to you.
- ◆ **Find a way to act on what you believe.**
 - ◇ “Faith is not faith until it acts on what it believes.”
Smith Wigglesworth
 - ◇ Faith is not just believing that one day you will be healed. It is daring to act on God’s healing promises today.
 - ◇ Mary told the servants at the wedding at Cana, “whatever He says to you, do it.”
The water turned to wine as they obeyed His command.
John 2:1-10

An Example of How to Receive Healing

Mark 5:25-34

- ◆ **The woman with the issue of blood heard about the healing power of Jesus.**
 - ◇ She heard that Jesus was anointed to heal, and she believed in His anointing.
- ◆ **She kept saying to herself, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”**
 - ◇ Her words determined her future. She spoke what she expected to happen.
- ◆ **This woman, against all obstacles, dared to act on what she believed.**
 - ◇ Even though it was against the law, she came out in public.
 - ◇ The crowd was intimidating, but yet she pressed through all the people to get to Jesus.
 - ◇ She grabbed on to the hem of His garment in faith.
- ◆ **Her faith made a demand on His healing power, and it flowed into her instantly.**
 - ◇ Jesus perceived that someone had touched Him in faith.
 - ◇ He told her to go in peace (be whole in every area of your life) because your faith has healed you.
 - ◇ If her faith can heal her, your faith can heal you.

Why Christians Are Sick

Ignorance knows not what it lacks.

Assumptions and religious traditions are so easily adopted in one's life that most people do not realize they even exist until they are confronted with a new view of truth. Many have grown up with a whole set of wrongs that sound right – especially in the area of God's will concerning healing. Get ready to dispel those nagging, wondering perspectives that bring roadblocks to a healthy life. Your life and others' lives can be profoundly changed by turning wrongs into rights, assumptions into assertions, and religious traditions into real Truth.

Wrong Thinking

♦ **A common belief is that sickness is from God.**

- ◇ Sickness originates from satan and is a perversion of the health God gave us.
- ◇ The Bible says that sickness is an oppression of the devil.
Acts 10:38
- ◇ **Oppress:**
To subjugate or persecute by unjust or tyrannical use of force or authority; To weigh heavily upon; To overwhelm or crush.

♦ **Most people do not know if it is God's will to heal them.**

- ◇ People are destroyed by a lack of knowledge.
Hosea 4:6

♦ **Many fail to realize that healing belongs to them.**

- ◇ Healing was included in the plan of redemption.
Isaiah 53:4-5

◆ **Some believe that sickness comes to chastise or punish Christians.**

◇ “For whom the Lord loves He chastens.”
Hebrews 12:6

◇ **Chasten:**
To educate, to teach, to child train.

◆ **Religion has spread the ugly rumor that God uses sickness to teach us lessons.**

◇ God does not use Satan as His agent to teach the church by making Christians sick.

◇ The Holy Spirit has been set in the church as the Teacher, not sickness.
John 14:26

◆ **One religious tradition is that we can glorify God more by being patient in our sickness than we can by being healed.**

◇ If our sickness is giving God glory, then it would be wrong to go to the doctor, take medicine, or receive any kind of medical treatment.

◇ If sickness gives glory to God, every time Jesus healed someone He was robbing God of the opportunity to be glorified.

◇ God received no glory from Lazarus' illness and death until Jesus raised him from the dead.
John 1:1-44

◆ **Some Christians have more confidence in medical science than they do in God's healing power.**

◇ Doctors are not the enemy. They can be partners together with us against sickness and disease.

◇ Whose report will you believe?
Isaiah 53:1

◇ God's promise of healing is a more sure word than any negative medical report.
2 Peter 1:19

Wrong Speaking

◆ **People call sickness and disease into their lives with their words.**

◇ The power of life (health) and death (sickness) is in the tongue.
Proverbs 18:21

◆ **Some pray for their healing and then continue to complain about their symptoms.**

- ◇ A double-minded man will not receive anything from the Lord.
James 1:6-8

◆ **Faith that refuses to speak what it believes is ineffective.**

- ◇ The weak must say, “I am strong” if they will ever be strong.
Joel 3:10

Wrong Acting

◆ **Those who fail to act on the Word fail to receive their healing.**

- ◇ Faith without works is dead, inoperative, and destitute of power.
James 2:17

◆ **Failing to discern the Lord’s body causes weakness, sickness, and early death.**

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

- ◇ Not realizing what His broken body has done for us keeps us sick.
- ◇ Eating or drinking in an unworthy manner at the communion table brings judgment upon us.
- ◇ Receiving communion is a time to judge ourselves and confess any sin to our High Priest.

◆ **Many Christians tolerate sickness in their bodies.**

- ◇ Some say, “I don’t want to bother the Lord with this.”
- ◇ Others say, “I can put up with this. It is just a little pain.”

◆ **To some, sickness is not an enemy, but a friend.**

- ◇ Some enjoy the sympathy and attention they get from being sick.
- ◇ Some think their sickness makes them special.
- ◇ Some use sickness as an excuse for not doing what they don’t want to do.

◆ **Not walking in love opens the door to sickness and disease.**

- ◇ Healing is received by faith, and faith works by love.
Galatians 5:6

◆ **Those who refuse to forgive are prime candidates for sickness.**

Mark 11:25-26

◇ Harboring resentment and bitterness can make you ill.

◇ There is a connection between forgiveness and healing.

Mark 2:9-12

◆ **Pride leads to destruction, often by sickness and disease.**

Proverbs 16:18

◇ **Pride:**

An excessive belief in one's own worth, merit, or superiority; Dependence upon and trust in one's own abilities or resources.

◆ **“He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”**

Proverbs 29:1

◇ God sends others to us to help keep us on track.

◇ Refusing correction puts you in a vulnerable position.

◇ You never stop learning and growing.

Living in Divine Health

Short-circuit sickness with preventative power.

When it comes to your health, are you on a preventative maintenance plan? Even the world has come to see the benefits of preventative maintenance and provides incentives for people to adopt such a plan. In the insurance world, it saves them money in the long run because it avoids the big problems down the road that could be avoided by simple upkeep. In your own world it saves you time, pain, and money. What a great plan!

God Desires that We Live Well & Live Long

♦ **The opportunity to live in divine health is available to every believer.**

- ◇ Divine health is living life free from sickness and disease.
- ◇ God's best is not just to heal us when sickness comes on us, but to keep sickness from ever attaching itself to our bodies in the first place.

♦ **Jesus provided healing for our physical bodies in redemption, just as He provided eternal life.**

Isaiah 53:4-5

- ◇ Just as God wants us to go to heaven when we die, He wants us to live well here on the earth.

♦ **"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers"**

3 John 2

- ◇ Your health depends on the prosperity of your soul.

♦ **God has appointed man to live for 120 years.**

Deuteronomy 6:3

- ◇ People cannot live that long without good health.

- ◆ **“With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.”**
Psalm 91:16

- ◇ God wants us to live until we are satisfied and are ready to leave.

Your Health Is in God's Word

- ◆ **As we abide in the Word, we come to know the truth about God's health plan for us.**

- ◇ Knowing the truth sets us free from the bondage of sickness and disease.
John 8:31-32

- ◆ **Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are Spirit and they are life.”**
John 6:63

- ◆ **God's Word is life to us and health to all our flesh.**
Proverbs 4:20-22

- ◇ Give your attention to His Words.
- ◇ Fill your “gates” with His sayings.
- ◇ See to it that you keep them in the center of your heart.
- ◇ His Word produces life in you and health for your flesh.

Keys to Living in Divine Health

- ◆ **Do not let sin have its way in your body.**
Romans 6:12

- ◇ Sickness gains a stronghold through sin.
- ◇ The wages, or payoff, of sin is death.
Romans 6:23

- ◆ **Adopt the same attitude toward sickness that you have toward sin.**

- ◇ Identify sickness as a work of the enemy in your life.
- ◇ Do not give it any place in you.
Ephesians 4:27
- ◇ Run it off immediately when it comes knocking at the door of your life.
James 4:7

◆ **Recognize that death no longer has dominion over you.**

Romans 6:8-9

- ◇ Because we died with Christ, we now live with Him.

◆ **Fill your mouth with God's Word concerning healing and long life.**

- ◇ Use your mouth to call for life in your body.

Proverbs 18:21

- ◇ "Who satisfies your mouth with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Psalms 103:5

◆ **Waiting on the Lord, ministering to Him, will strengthen you.**

Isaiah 40:28-31

- ◇ In His presence is fullness of joy.

Psalms 16:11

- ◇ The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

◆ **Make a lifelong commitment to walk in the love of God toward every person.**

- ◇ You cannot fail if you stay in the way of love.

1 Corinthians 13:8

- ◇ Unforgiveness will make you prey for all kinds of ailments.

◆ **Allow the fruit of the Spirit to develop in your life.**

Galatians 5:22-23

- ◇ Self-control leads to health and long life.

◆ **Joy, singing, and laughter have a healing effect on your body.**

- ◇ A merry heart does good like a medicine.

Proverbs 17:22

- ◇ Depressed people are more susceptible to sickness and disease.

- ◇ Jesus said, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.)"

John 16:33

◆ **Worry does not add any good thing to you. It will steal your health.**

Matthew 6:27

◇ Be anxious for nothing.
Philippians 4:6

◇ Take control of your thought life.
Philippians 4:8

◆ **Do not let the cares of life weigh you down and tire you out.**

◇ Cast all of your cares on Him, for He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

◇ Cast your burden on the Lord for He shall sustain you.
Psalms 55:22

◆ **Glorify God in your body because it belongs to God.**

1 Corinthians 6:20

◇ Do not allow habits or behaviors that are ungodly in your life.

◇ Having sickness in your body brings no glory to God.

◆ **Remember that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

1 Corinthians 3:16

◇ Because the Holy Spirit lives in you, He will give life to and restore your body.
Romans 8:11

◇ He needs your body to live in as much as you do.

◆ **Sow seeds of healing in your life every day so you can have a continual harvest of health.**

◇ Whatever a man sows, he will reap.
Galatians 6:7

◆ **Do what you can in the natural to keep your body healthy.**

◇ Exercise your body on a regular basis

◇ Eat the foods that will properly fuel your body.

◇ Get sufficient sleep and rest, and observe the Sabbath principle.

◇ See your doctor and dentist for regular check-ups.

◇ Use medicine, as needed, until your healing manifests.

The Basics of Faith

Life without faith is like a house without floors.

Where would you stand if your house had no floors? If you were willing to live in it, you'd have dirt and bugs under your feet. There would be no such thing as "upstairs" and you wouldn't be likely to acquire good furniture. Without Bible-inspired faith, your spiritual life will look much the same – you will be stuck in the mud and lacking in God's benefits. As you understand the basics of faith, you will be able to build a strong life of faith right where you are at and continue to expand to new levels in God.

Receiving What You Need From God

- ◆ **God has already provided everything man will ever want or need.**
 - ◇ Complete provision for life is now available to every man.
 - ◇ Man has legal right to this provision through the covenant made in the blood of Jesus.
Romans 8:32
- ◆ **God instituted the process of faith whereby man could tap into everything God has provided for him.**
 - ◇ Not only did God make complete provision for man, He also gave (as a free gift) the faith needed to receive it all.
Ephesians 2:8

The Faith Model

- ◆ **The model is based on Romans 10:9-10.**
 - ◇ If you confess _____ with your mouth ...
 - ◇ And believe _____ in your heart ...
 - ◇ You shall be _____ (whatever you believe and confess).

◆ **Receiving salvation is the initial work of faith in man's life.**

- ◇ The complete life provision God made for man is included in the salvation package.
- ◇ Each benefit of salvation is received the same way salvation is.

◆ **Faith comes to man as he hears God's Word.**

Romans 10:14-17

- ◇ God loaded His Word with the faith man needs to receive His provision.
- ◇ That faith comes to man as he hears the Word being preached.
- ◇ As man open his heart to God's Word, faith is planted in his heart.
- ◇ When faith takes root and begins to grow, man begins to "believe."

◆ **Believe: 1**

1. To credit upon the authority or testimony of another; to be persuaded of the truth of something upon the declaration of another. **2.** To expect or hope with confidence, to trust. **3.** To have a firm persuasion of anything.

◆ **For faith to produce provision in man's life, it must so fill one's heart that it bursts from his lips.**

Romans 10:8

◆ **Man's heart agrees with the Word he is hearing, and he dares to confess that Word as the truth in his life.**

Romans 10:9-10

◆ **Confess:**

To own, to acknowledge, to agree fully; To say the same thing. Has the connotation of a binding public declaration by which a legal relation is contractually established.

◆ **As the heart and mouth of man get in agreement concerning God's Word, the faith they release will be able to receive anything God has provided.**

◆ **The "Faith Model" can be applied to many areas.**

◇ *Example:*

If you confess with your mouth Jesus is your healer and believe in your heart that His stripes provided healing for you, you shall be healed.

¹ American Dictionary of the English Language, by Noah Webster, 1828. Published by the Foundation for American Christian Education, San Francisco, CA, Copyright 1967 and 1995.

A Faith Lesson from Jesus

- ◆ **Jesus cursed a fig tree by saying to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.”**
Mark 11:12-14
- ◆ **As Jesus and His followers passed the tree the next day, they saw it was dried up from the roots.**
Mark 11:20-21
- ◆ **Jesus explained how He used faith in God to cause the fig tree to wither and die.**
Mark 11:22-23
 - ◇ Faith begins with a decision to put trust in God.
 - ◇ Man must dare to speak to things and tell them what to do.
 - ◇ A “faith man” doesn’t wait for God to speak to the situation.
 - ◇ When man speaks to natural things, even to the mountains of life, they will obey him.
 - ◇ He who speaks must not doubt in his heart.
 - ◇ Men of faith believe that those things they say come to pass.
 - ◇ He who speaks what he believes will have whatever he says.
- ◆ **Faith is the necessary element in man’s prayers.**
Mark 11:24
 - ◇ “Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them (right then when you pray). . .”
 - ◇ The moment of prayer is the moment man receives His provision.
 - ◇ If man waits until he sees the manifestation to believe that he has it, he will never have it.

The Role of Faith in Man’s Life

- ◆ **Faith is a way of life, the way man receives what he needs from God.**
Hebrews 10:38
- ◆ **Faith gives substance to the provision for which man hopes.**
Hebrews 11:1

- ◆ **Faith is the evidence (confidence, title deed) that man has received what he cannot see.**
- ◆ **Faith will give man a good testimony.**
Hebrews 11:2
- ◆ **God framed (or set in order) the worlds with words.**
Hebrews 11:3
 - ◇ Man can set his world in order with his words.

Faith and the Five Natural Senses

- ◆ **Faith operates in the realm of the unseen.**
 - ◇ God used faith to create this seen world from an unseen world.
Hebrews 11:3
 - ◇ Men of faith never wait until they see something to say they have it.
- ◆ **Because faith is a spiritual force, its work cannot be detected by the natural senses.**
- ◆ **Faith is not blind. It just sees something doubt and unbelief do not.**
2 Corinthians 4:18
 - ◇ When in faith, man must look not at what his natural eyes see, but at what the eyes of his spirit see.
 - ◇ Those things which are seen are temporary (subject to change), but those things which are unseen are eternal (unchanging).
 - ◇ Faith in the unchanging Word of God will change any natural circumstance.
- ◆ **To partake of what God has provided, man must walk by faith and not by sight.**
2 Corinthians 5:7

Growing in Faith

Feed your faith and watch it grow.

How do you make things grow? You can't! What you can do, however, is provide the nourishment. If you want a plant to grow, you need to water it. If you want a child to grow, you need to feed him. It's the same in every area of life. Your faith grows as you feed it. Its growth can be enhanced by providing the optimum environment. All that is left is time, and that is where you watch the wonderful effects of your work unfold. Instead of using your energy trying to make something happen, focus on feeding, relax, and watch your faith grow.

Becoming Fully Persuaded

- ◆ **Faith:**
Conviction, confidence, trust, belief, reliance, persuasion.
- ◆ **Faith is not merely believing something, but it is being fully persuaded about something.**
 - ◇ **Persuade:**
To cause to do something, to bring to the point of action, by reasoning, urging or inducement. To induce to believe something, to convince.
- ◆ **A man of faith has done what is necessary to persuade himself that God's Word is the truth.**
- ◆ **The process by which someone allows himself to become fully convinced of God's promises is called meditation.**
 - ◇ **Meditate:**
To reflect, to moan, to mutter, to ponder; To make a quiet sound such as sighing, to contemplate something as one repeats words.
 - ◇ Meditation allows the believer to see (or imagine) himself with his need met before he ever actually has his need met in the natural.

- ◇ The Lord told Joshua that meditating on God’s Word day and night would enable him to make his way prosperous and bring him good success.
Joshua 1:8
- ◇ Meditation allows the believer to become firmly rooted in God’s Word and to prosper in whatever he does.
Psalms 1:1-3

An Example Faith

- ◆ **By faith, Abraham became our father in the faith as well as a father in the natural.**
Romans 4:16-22
 - ◇ God promised Abraham an heir that would make him the “father of many nations.”
Genesis 17:5
 - ◇ Despite the fact that Abraham had no natural hope of ever having a child with Sarah since she was past the age of childbearing and had been barren, he believed in the hope God’s promise gave to him.
- ◆ **Since Abraham was not weak in faith, he did not consider the limitations of his own body nor the fact that Sarah was barren.**
 - ◇ Weak faith considers the circumstances, but strong faith focuses on the Word and what God has said.
 - ◇ Although it took 25 years for the promise to come to pass, Abraham did not waver by allowing unbelief to get a stronghold in his life.
 - ◇ Abraham was strengthened in faith as he gave glory to God.
- ◆ **Things that helped Abraham get fully persuaded:**
 - ◇ The Lord gave him vision by telling Abraham to look at the stars of heaven as a sign of how many descendants he would have.
 - ◇ God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, which means the “father of many nations.”
 - ◇ God instituted circumcision as a mark to remember the covenant.

The Role of Patience

- ◆ **The promises are inherited through faith and patience.**
Hebrews 6:12

- ◆ **Patience:**
Endurance, steadiness, diligence, long-suffering, perseverance; The ability to endure without complaint or losing self-control.
- ◆ **The force of patience enables the believer to stay the course without casting away his confidence.**
Hebrews 10:35-36
- ◆ **Three ways to obtain patience:**
 - ◇ Patience is a fruit of the spirit.
Galatians 5:22
 - ◇ Faith trials produce patience in the life of the believer.
James 1:2-4
 - ◇ Patience comes through the Word of God.
Romans 15:5

Some Hindrances to Faith

- ◆ **Never committing to faith as a lifestyle.**
Habakkuk 2:4
- ◆ **Neglecting to make a quality decision to stand in faith.**
Mark 11:22
- ◆ **Needing physical evidence before you believe.**
 - ◇ Thomas would not believe until he saw the scars of Jesus.
John 20:24-29
- ◆ **Putting the promises of God off until the future or “someday.”**
Hebrews 11:1
- ◆ **Not walking in the love of God.**
Galatians 5:6
- ◆ **Growing weary, becoming discouraged, and fainting.**
Galatians 6:9
- ◆ **Allowing satan to steal the Word before it bears fruit.**
Mark 4:13-20
 - ◇ satan comes immediately to steal the Word from those who hear it.
 - ◇ Some manage to keep the Word for a time, but lose it when trouble or pressure come.

- ◇ Some begin to bear fruit, but then get distracted by the world and stop fruit production.
- ◇ Some are good ground – hearing the Word, accepting it, and bearing fruit.

Reasons to Trust God

◆ **God is not a man that He should lie.**

Numbers 23:19

- ◇ He is good for His Word, and He will not fail to honor it.

◆ **God, who has made great promises to us, is faithful.**

Hebrews 10:23

- ◇ “...For He Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down, relax My hold on you! Assuredly not!”

Hebrews 13:5 (Amplified Bible)

◆ **“With God all things are possible.”**

Matthew 19:26

The Power of Words

Faith – You have it, now harness it!

Directing your faith in the paths prepared by God's Word is not as complicated as many people think. The primary power behind faith lies in words. Simply matching your words to God's words gives you access to the desires of your faith. The precept is simple; the challenge is to actually do it! This lesson will help you guide your tongue to success.

Words Determine the Outcome of Life

♦ **The ultimate power over life and death is in man's mouth.**

Proverbs 18:21

◇ Man's provision in life comes from what his mouth produces.

Proverbs 18:20

♦ **The spirit of faith is released as man believes and therefore speaks.**

2 Corinthians 4:13

♦ **Words set the course for man's life.**

James 3:3-4

◇ Just as a horse is turned by the bit in his mouth and a ship is turned by a rudder, so the tongue determines the direction of a man's life.

♦ **Words can create traps that will hold men captive.**

Proverbs 6:2

◇ "Whosoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles."

Proverbs 21:23

♦ **God will judge man by the words he has spoken.**

Matthew 12:34-37

◇ Man's words are the indicator of what is in him in abundance.

◇ Worthless and empty words will be accounted for in the day of judgment.

- ◇ Man is justified (declared righteous, acquitted) or condemned (declared guilty and unfit for service) by the words he chooses to speak.

How God Uses His Words

- ◆ **God sends His Words to accomplish what He pleases.**

Isaiah 55:11

- ◆ **God spoke the worlds into existence.**

Genesis 1

- ◇ “Then God said ... and it was so.”

- ◆ **The worlds (ages) were framed by the Word of God.**

Hebrews 11:3

- ◇ “By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”

Psalms 33:6

- ◇ **Frame:**

Arrange, set in order, equip, adjust, complete what is lacking, make fully ready, repair, prepare.

- ◇ The words men speak frame their world.

- ◆ **The power of God’s Word holds everything together.**

Hebrews 1:3

- ◇ “He sustains the universe by the mighty power of His command.”
(The Message Translation)

- ◆ **With His Words, God calls things into being.**

Romans 4:17

- ◇ He “calls things that be not as though they were.” (KJV)

- ◇ “With a word He makes something out of nothing.”

- ◆ **God spoke in the Garden of Eden and set in motion the plan of redemption.**

Genesis 3:14-15

- ◆ **Throughout the Old Testament, God inspired His prophets to speak for Him in faith and call His plan into existence.**

- ◇ Isaiah foretold of the coming Messiah.

Isaiah 9:6-7

- ◇ He also prophesied the crucifixion and redemption.

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

Jesus Released His Faith in His Words

- ◆ **When crossing the lake, Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us cross over to the other side.”**

Luke 8:22-25

- ◇ He declared His desired outcome from the beginning.
- ◇ His words of faith set the course for their deliverance.

- ◆ **Jesus spoke words that set His resurrection in motion.**

John 2:19-22

- ◆ **When Jesus was before Pontias Pilate, He said very few words so that He would not set His deliverance in motion.**

Matthew 27:11-14

- ◆ **Repeatedly in His ministry, Jesus used His Words to dominate natural laws and to deliver those who followed Him.**

Taming the Tongue

- ◆ **The tongue, by nature, is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.**

James 3:5-12

- ◆ **If it is left undisciplined, it will destroy whatever it touches.**

- ◇ The whole body can be defiled by what the mouth says.
- ◇ Negative words can cancel out the good that positive words produce.

- ◆ **A mature Christian is one who has mastered his tongue, thereby bridling his whole body and bringing it under subjection.**

James 3:2

- ◆ **Paul’s advice to the saints:**

- ◇ “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but that what is good for necessary edification (building up), that it may impart grace to the hearers.”
- Ephesians 4:29*

- If words can build up, they can tear down.
- Grace (favor, divine ability) can be ministered from believer to believer through the spoken word.

Faith is an Act

Life is not a one-act play ... stay in character until the curtain call.

Spread across the stage of your life are plots and scenarios from every imaginable story line. When the villain strikes, does the faith hero appear on the scene? He should. To fulfill the role of “faith hero” in your life, you must go beyond just knowing your lines. An actor certainly prepares and rehearses mentally, but there comes a time when he acts it out. That’s why it’s called acting. Is your faith acting? Does your life have an active faith hero? Develop your acting abilities with the principles you learn in this lesson and star in your own role every day.

Faith Without Works Is Dead

♦ **“Faith isn’t faith until it acts on what it believes.”**

Smith Wigglesworth

♦ **Acting on God’s Word is what produces results.**

James 2:14-26

- ◊ A man who says he believes, but never actually steps out in faith, is not in faith at all.
- ◊ Faith by itself, unaccompanied by works, is dead, inoperative, and destitute of power.
- ◊ Living faith is always accompanied by “corresponding actions.” (Weymouth’s Translation)
- ◊ As Abraham acted on God’s promises to him and offered Isaac on the altar, his faith was made complete.
- ◊ Faith is not complete until man acts on his heart’s conviction.

♦ **Jesus taught the importance of acting on the Word in His teaching about building the house upon the rock.**

Matthew 7:24-27

- ◊ Both the wise man and the foolish man heard the Word.

- ◇ The difference between their outcomes was that the wise man acted on what he heard, but the foolish man did not.

◆ **People deceive themselves when they hear the Word but do not act on it.**

James 1:22-25

- ◇ The deception is that they think they are in faith, but in reality they are not because they have failed to act on the Word.
- ◇ Those who act on the Word will be blessed in what they do.

◆ **The key to receiving a miracle from God is found in the account of Jesus turning the water into wine.**

John 2:1-10

- ◇ “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

Faith, Foolishness, and Presumption

◆ **Faith is firmly founded on God’s Word.**

It acts in accordance with a strong inward conviction that what God has promised He is willing and able to perform.

- ◇ A man of faith takes firm hold of what God has said in His Word, meditates on His promises until fully persuaded that God will do what He has said, and acts in accordance with that Word from God.

◆ **Foolishness:**

Exhibiting folly, defunct of understanding, without judgment, silly, unwise, stupid, idiotic, senseless, ill-advised, brainless, witless, and irrational.

- ◇ A foolish man will act prematurely, often out of line with or in opposition to the wisdom provided in the Word.

◆ **Presumption:**

To take or suppose to be true; Belief without an examination of proof; To take for granted, to infer, to assume.

- ◇ A presumptuous man never takes the time and effort to dig out the truth of God’s Word for himself and meditate on His promises until he is fully convinced that God will do what He has said.
- ◇ People often act presumptuously by imitating others’ faith or doing what they heard someone else did and expecting the same results.

◆ **Learning to live by faith is a process of growth because faith has to be developed.**

- ◇ A man who has never even believed God for a pair of roller skates is probably not ready to stand in faith for a Porsche.

Bible Examples of Acting in Faith

- ◆ **Naaman received his healing when he obeyed the word of the prophet Elisha to dip in the river Jordan seven times.**

2 Kings 5:1-14

- ◆ **Blind Bartimaeus received his sight when he stepped out in faith, crying out to Jesus to have mercy on him.**

Mark 10:46-52

- ◆ **The multitudes witnessed the miracle of multiplying the loaves when they sat down and prepared to eat as Jesus commanded them.**

Mark 8:1-10

- ◆ **The man with the withered hand was healed because he dared to stretch forth his hand at the command of Jesus.**

Mark 3:1-5

- ◆ **The woman with the issue of blood dared to come in the press behind to touch the hem of His garment.**

Mark 5:25-34

- ◇ This lady's desire and determination to be healed are evident in the fact that she had done everything in the natural in her attempt to be healed.
- ◇ When she heard of Jesus, faith came to her.
- ◇ As she meditated on what she had heard about Jesus, she began to see herself getting to Him and receiving her miracle.
- ◇ Faith grew as she kept saying to herself, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."
- ◇ The time came when faith swelled within her to the point that she fought her way through the crowds thronging Him and grabbed the hem of His garment.
- ◇ By acting in faith, she was rewarded with the healing of her body and the restoration of her life.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Good help isn't hard to find!

Self-help books line the shelves of many a home, but the best help isn't in a book – it's in you. You've got a Personal Advisor operating 24 hours a day who offers truth instead of opinions, power instead of philosophy, and insight instead of an invoice! The Holy Spirit is here and ready to help. Are you ready to receive?

Jesus Described the Holy Spirit's Ministry

♦ **The Holy Spirit gives us the advantage (the edge) in life.**

John 16:7

♦ **Jesus prayed that the Father would give us another Helper.**

John 14:16-17

◇ **Another Helper:**

One besides, another of the same kind. “One besides me and in addition to me, but one just like me. He will do in my absence what I would do if I were physically present with you.”

◇ **Helper:**

Comforter, Consoler, Friend (Message), Enabler (BCJ). Counselor, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby (AMP).

◇ The chief role of the Holy Spirit in the earth is to help us as He empowers and enables us to fully do and carry out the will of God.

◇ He comforts us and strengthens us, enabling us to endure the hostility of the world's system. He makes us comfortable in a prickly world of chaos.

◇ He is here to stay with us forever.

◇ For the first time, God, by His Spirit, would live in man.

- ◆ **He has come to teach us and bring all things to our remembrance.**
John 14:26
- ◆ **The Holy Spirit will testify of Jesus as He presents evidence of His work in us and through us.**
John 15:26
- ◆ **The Truth-giving Spirit guides us into the truth.**
John 16:13-15
 - ◇ Message: He'll take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is...He'll make sense out of this.
 - ◇ He has come on assignment, authorized by the Father, to speak to us on behalf of the Father.
 - ◇ The Holy Spirit is our lifeline to the Father, transmitting the Father's plans and purposes to us.
 - ◇ He announces and declares to us the things that are to come.
 - ◇ Through His leading and the gifts of the Spirit, we receive divine revelation concerning the past, present and future.
 - ◇ He honors and glorifies Jesus by revealing to us what He has done for us.
- ◆ **The Holy Spirit will be the power source for our lives.**
Acts 1:8
 - ◇ **Dunamis power:**
Wonder working, miraculous power. Energy, might, great force, great ability, strength. Divine power that overcomes all resistance.
 - ◇ The Holy Spirit empowers believers with all the ability they need to be His witnesses.
 - ◇ The Holy Spirit comes on us and anoints us (rubs Himself on us, smears Himself into us) to do the works of Jesus.
Acts 10:38
 - ◇ **Anointing:**
Burden removing, yoke destroying power that makes you able.

His Ministry at Work in Our Lives

- ◆ **The Holy Spirit leads and orchestrates God's plans on earth.**
Romans 8:14
- ◆ **The Spirit Himself gives us an assurance of our salvation.**
Romans 8:16

◆ **He helps our inability (our present limitations) to pray.**

Romans 8:26-27

- ◇ He takes hold together with us and makes our weak prayers effective.
- ◇ He pleads our case on our behalf.
- ◇ He doesn't do our praying, but partners with us, aids and bears us up.
- ◇ He knows God's will for us and enables us to pray it out.

◆ **The Holy Spirit partners with our own recreated human spirits to convict us of sin.**

Romans 9:1

◆ **The Holy Spirit is the source of wisdom and revelation.**

Ephesians 1:17-19

◆ **He strengthens us with His mighty power on the inside of us.**

Ephesians 3:16

◆ **The Spirit of grace gives us divine ability to carry out God's will.**

- ◇ **Grace:**
The unmerited favor of God's power and divine ability.
- ◇ The gifts of the Spirit are all "charismas," gifts of grace.

His Ministry to the Unbeliever

◆ **He has come to convict the world of sin and lead men to God.**

John 16:8

◆ **The reason He came upon ("up" and "on") us is to minister to others.**

Luke 4:18-19

- ◇ The Holy Spirit is a wellspring within us to sustain our lives.
- ◇ He flows through us like a river to help other people.

◆ **As we preach the Word, He backs us up with demonstrations of great power.**

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

The Leading of the Holy Spirit

Where He leads me, I will follow.

Judging from the fruit in some peoples' lives, it would seem that they read the above statement as, "Where He leads me, I will fallow." Ground that is fallow is dormant, unattended, and subject to its environment. If you have been ignoring the leading of the Holy Spirit, or haven't been able to recognize it, you are probably experiencing fallowness. Learn how to follow and you'll find fruit in your life with God.

He Leads Us First through His Word

- ◆ **The Holy Spirit has been sent to lead us into all the truth.**

John 16:13

- ◆ **The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

Psalms 119:105

- ◆ **Spending time in the Word helps us to discern His leading.**

Hebrews 4:12

- ◆ **Meditation on God's Word enables you to observe or "see how to do" His will.**

Joshua 1:8

- ◆ **God's Word sets the parameters by which you judge the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

1 Thessalonians 5:21

He Speaks to Us Spirit-to-Spirit

- ◆ **The Holy Spirit leads us on the inside by the inward witness.**

Romans 8:16

- ◇ On the inside, we can sense His confirmation or denial that we are taking the right steps or making the right decisions.

◆ **We are His sheep, and He leads us by His voice.**

John 10:1-5

- ◇ There are many voices that believers may hear, but only one is the Spirit of God.
- ◇ We can learn to know and respond to His voice just as sheep learn to follow their shepherd's voice.

◆ **The spirit of a man is the candle or lamp of the Lord.**

Proverbs 20:27

- ◇ The Holy Spirit deals with man's spirit by giving him light and revelation in the heart, not the head.

◆ **If you acknowledge Him, He will direct (make plain) your paths.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

- ◇ Our part is to look to Him. His part is to lead and guide.

◆ **Always follow your heart's peace.**

Isaiah 55:12

- ◇ Let the peace on the inside give rulings and call the shots concerning your steps in life.
Colossians 3:15 (AMP)
- ◇ Paul always followed peace as he planned his missionary journeys.
Acts 16:6-10

◆ **We have an unction from the Spirit by which we know things.**

1 John 2:20

- ◇ **Unction:**
A supernatural knowing, urging; a divine ability.

◆ **His leading will often just "seem" like the right thing to do.**

Acts 15:34

How to Be Led When You Need Direction

◆ **The counsel of the Holy Spirit is in your heart. Your job is to draw it out.**

Proverbs 20:5

◆ **God communicates and reveals Himself to us through His Spirit who is in our spirit.**

1 Corinthians 2:6-12

- ◇ We are speaking God's wisdom in a mystery when we pray in tongues.
Verse 7

◇ Wisdom from God is not natural (of the flesh or mind), but is of the spirit.
Verses 9-11

◇ His Spirit came to live in us so that we might know what God has freely given to us.
Verse 12

◆ **When you speak in tongues, you speak to God, communicating with Him about mysteries (divine secrets).**

1 Corinthians 14:2

◆ **Pray in tongues, then expect to interpret what you prayed.**

1 Corinthians 14:13-15

◇ Prayer in the Spirit is the doorway over into the realm of the Spirit.

◇ As you pray in tongues, you are speaking forth direction from God.

◇ Ask God for the interpretation of what you are praying so your mind can understand it.

◇ Pray in the Spirit, then pray with the understanding.

◆ **Praying in tongues on a continual basis enables you to draw up the wisdom and direction that you need in a constant flow.**

1 Corinthians 14:18

◆ **God often speaks to us as we minister to Him.**

Acts 13:1-2

◇ Ministering to Him includes prayer, praise, worship, and waiting before Him.

The Power of the Holy Spirit

He's DY-NO-MITE!

Describe a person as “dynamic,” and the impression you give is that of a “show-stopper.” Describe the Holy Spirit as “dynamic,” and you’ve made quite an understatement! His power resident in you will make you a dynamo for God. You’ll be able to show the mighty power of God and stop the show of the devil. The world will see what you’ve got and say, “DY-NO-MITE!”

The Holy Spirit Came on Us in Power

♦ **But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.**

Acts 1:8

- ◇ The power is part of the Holy Spirit package; it is not an add-on or option.
- ◇ When He comes on you, He becomes the power source in your life.

♦ **Power (dunamis):**

Energy, power, might, great force, great ability, strength.

♦ **He anoints you with power from on high.**

♦ **To be “anointed” means that the Holy Spirit has rubbed Himself onto you and smeared Himself into you.**

- ◇ When He comes on you, His power rubs off on you, and you become anointed with Holy Ghost power.

♦ **Jesus’ ministry was known for great demonstrations of God’s power.**

- ◇ He launched His earthly ministry with a message of the Good News that He was anointed.

Luke 4:18-19

- ◇ The Bible attributes the healings in His ministry to the fact that He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power.

Acts 10:38

◆ **When the Holy Spirit came on the early church, so did His power.**

Acts 2:1-4

◇ Power to speak in tongues.

Acts 2:5-13

◇ Power to bear witness.

Acts 2:14-41

◇ Power to do signs and wonders.

Acts 2:43

◇ Power to be bold.

Acts 4:29-31, 33

◇ Power to speak for God.

Acts 6:8-10

◇ Power to cast out devils.

Acts 8:5-8

◇ Power to impart the Holy Spirit to others.

Acts 8:17-19

◇ Power to access the realm of the Spirit.

Acts 10:9-16

The Early Church Walked in Great Power

◆ **Jesus told His disciples they would do the same works He had.**

John 14:12

◆ **Peter and John healed the lame man.**

Acts 3:1-10

◆ **The apostles worked miracles and cast out the devil.**

Acts 5:12-16

◆ **Peter restored the paralytic, Aeneas.**

Acts 9:32-35

◆ **Peter raised Dorcas from the dead.**

Acts 9:36-43

◆ **Paul and Silas experienced an earthquake that delivered them.**

Acts 16:25-26

◆ **People associated the early church with the same power that was on Jesus and called them Christians (little anointed ones).**

Acts 11:26

The Spirit Filled Life Is One of Great Power

- ◆ **“The Holy Spirit is on us to do mighty works – to do for people what Jesus did for them.”**
~Smith Wigglesworth
- ◆ **Jesus said that supernatural signs would follow those who believe.**
Mark 16:17
- ◆ **The power of the Holy Spirit enables us to demonstrate this Gospel we preach.**
1 Corinthians 2:4-5
- ◆ **The gifts of the Spirit are all supernatural demonstrations of His power.**
1 Corinthians 12
 - ◇ When the Holy Spirit is in manifestation, His power flows freely.
 - ◇ These gifts are special endowments of His power that impact men in a variety of ways.
- ◆ **The power of His Spirit living in us gives life to our mortal bodies.**
Romans 8:11
- ◆ **Paul prayed that we would know through experience for ourselves the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.**
Ephesians 1:17-23
 - ◇ This is resurrection power – the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and from the pit of hell and up to the right hand of God.
 - ◇ Through this great power that is available to you, you can overcome any obstacle you may face in life.

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

Open the present of His presence.

Gifts of all kinds await you in the presence of God. They are always available but not always accessible. Why? The key may be your awareness. Through this study you will find ways to stimulate your sensitivity and receptivity to the presence of the Holy Spirit. Develop a new in perceptiveness your relationship with Him and discover the benefits in His presence.

All We Need Is Found in His Presence

♦ **In His presence is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.**

Psalm 16:11

- ◇ Spending time with Him strengthens us because the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

♦ **There are times of refreshing awaiting us in His presence.**

Acts 3:19 (AMP)

♦ **Great power is manifested to us and through us in His presence.**

Acts 10:38

♦ **All of these are found in His presence. He is the Spirit of ...**

- ◇ Truth, Holiness, Life, and Grace.

John 14:17

Romans 1:4

Romans 8:2

Hebrews 10:29

♦ **He is known as the Spirit of glory.**

1 Peter 4:14

- ◇ Glory is the manifested presence of God.

◇ **Glory:**

Heavy, weighty, heavy laden with all that is good.

- ◇ When Moses asked to see the glory, God showed him His goodness.
Exodus 33:18-19
- ◇ God's glory and His goodness are synonymous and cannot be separated.
- ◇ When the glory of God shows up, everything good that could possibly happen is available to those who will receive.
- ◇ In the fullness of the glory, man's joy is so rich and intense that it cannot be fully communicated to others.
1 Peter 1:8

- ◆ **We are liberated and set free from the bondages of the enemy.**
2 Corinthians 3:17

How to Abide in His Presence

- ◆ **To live in His presence is to live in the Spirit.**
- ◆ **Through our praise we are ushered into His Presence.**
Psalm 100:1-5
Psalm 22:3
- ◆ **Wait on the Lord and He shall renew (make new, revitalize) your strength.**
Isaiah 40:29-31
- ◆ **Your hunger (craving) for God and your desire to know Him opens the door for Him to manifest Himself to you.**
Matthew 6:33
 - ◇ Jesus promised that those who hunger and thirst for Him shall be filled.
Matthew 5:6
 - ◇ Paul's determined purpose was to become deeply and intimately acquainted with Him and to know His resurrection power.
Philippians 3:10 (AMP)
- ◆ **Get into the habit of practicing His Presence.**
Psalm 63:1-8
 - ◇ To practice His presence means to continually be aware of and acknowledge His indwelling presence.
 - ◇ When you are aware of His presence, you will talk to Him, listen to Him, look to Him, and defer to Him and His desires.
 - ◇ The Holy Ghost is the ever present "Holy Guest."

◆ **Moses' fellowship brought him face to face with God.**

Exodus 33:7-11

- ◇ No one but man is capable of having such a relationship with Him

◆ **Jesus often took time away to be alone with God and to fellowship with Him.**

Luke 6:12-16

◆ **Paul instructs us to be continually filled with the Spirit.**

Ephesians 5:18

- ◇ The best Greek rendering of this verse is “to be being filled” and denotes a continuous action.
- ◇ Speaking in songs, hymns and spiritual songs, as well as singing to Him, will help keep you filled.

◆ **To experience His presence in our lives, we must yield to Him.**

Romans 6:13

◆ **Yield:**

To surrender; to submit to; to let Him have the right of way; to give place to; to give leadership over to; to give up willingly a right, position, or privilege.

His Presence Demands Holiness

◆ **Holy:**

Pure, blameless, consecrated, separated, God-like, set apart for God, reserved for God and His service, having God's innermost nature.

◆ **We were born again into Christ and made holy and blameless by His blood.**

Ephesians 1:4-7

- ◇ If Jesus is holy, we are holy because we are now in Him.
Romans 11:16
- ◇ We have been called not to uncleanness, but in holiness.
1 Thessalonians 4:7

◆ **Sin separates man from the presence of God.**

Isaiah 59:2

◆ **Many have mingled with the world and learned their ways.**

Psalms 106:35-36

- ◇ Living the way the world lives will ensnare you in sin and keep you from His glorious presence.

- ◆ **We, as the light of the world, have no communion with darkness.**
2 Corinthians 6:14-16
 - ◇ For we are the temple of the living God.
 - ◇ God's plan is that He would continually manifest Himself to us and through us.

- ◆ **We are called to perfect holiness in the fear of God.**
2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1
 - ◇ We are to live in this world separated from the sin of this world.

- ◆ **God has said, "Be holy, for I am holy."**
1 Peter 1:13-16
 - ◇ We do not have to live under the control of fleshly lusts the way we once did.

- ◆ **We put off the old man and the old ways of living and live like the new righteous, holy men we now are.**
Ephesians 4:22-24

- ◆ **You can judge yourself so that God won't have to judge you.**
1 Corinthians 11:27-33

Finding Your True Identity

Do you know who you are?

Identities are crucial in our time. People are proving identity daily in order to complete transactions. When called into question, documents are requested and reviewed. Without your I.D. you can run into plenty of roadblocks. If you are not experiencing “complete transactions” with God, you may want to check your I.D.! With it, you can access the same things Jesus did. You can also prove your place and press through opposition. “Who do you think you are?” is a question you’ll be proud to answer when you know your true identity.

Identification, Identity, Identical, Identified

♦ **In the Bible we find our official, legal identification.**

♦ **Identification:**

The condition or fact of being the same in all qualities under consideration, to consider or treat as the same.

♦ **People identify themselves in terms of their families, vocations, interests, education, hobbies, and affiliations.**

♦ **Get a revelation of your true identity: who you are in Christ.**

Philemon 1:6

♦ **Jesus found Himself in the Word and began identifying with the power of God.**

Luke 4:17-20

◇ Peter recognized Jesus as the Christ (the anointed one) because He saw how Jesus had the same qualities the scripture attributed to the coming Messiah.

Matthew 16:13-16

◇ This revelation led Peter to the realization of his own true identity.

Matthew 16:17-18

- ◆ **Paul laid aside his former identity and became completely submerged in His identify as being *in Christ*.**

Philippians 3:8-9

- ◆ **To find your identity *in Him*, find yourself in the Word.**

John 1:1

Adam or Jesus ... Who are you?

- ◆ **The whole Bible is essentially about only *two* men who produced *two* races of people.**

- ◆ **We were all born *in Adam* and identical to him since we were reproduced from him.**

- ◇ When Adam fell, we were all plunged into sin and death.

Romans 5:12

- ◇ We inherited Adam's identity. His defeated language. His perverse thoughts. His sinful nature. His problems. His weakness. His lack. His sickness.

- ◇ This race is bound by the law of sin and death.

- ◆ **Because Jesus was born from Mary by the seed of God, He represented a whole new species of people that had never existed before.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

- ◇ These people are "super-men" that know no limitations.

- ◇ Everything that was missing or broken in Adam was restored in these people.

- ◇ Those who identify with Jesus have a completely new way to live.

- ◆ **Every person who has not been born-again into Jesus is still in Adam.**

Being Re-born into Christ

- ◆ **God had to institute a way for people to lose their identity with Adam and get a new identity.**

- ◇ Man had no choice other than to be in Adam since you get your race through birth.

- ◇ Jesus said, "you must be born again."

John 3:7

◆ **God made a plan to bring us out of sin and death.**

Romans 5:17-19

◇ He used the same law that allowed one man to plunge every man into sin and death to have one man redeem every man.

◇ “If one died for all, then all died.”

2 Corinthians 5:14

◆ **Through the New Birth, we lose our identity in Adam and establish a whole new identity in Christ.**

Acknowledging Our New Identity In Christ

◆ **The New Testament is filled with the *In Him* revelation.**

◆ **Our new identity supersedes any natural identity we may have.**

Galatians 3:27-28

◆ **To find out who you really are, scour through the scriptures looking for your new identity.**

◆ **When you find yourself, acknowledge your new identity by boldly declaring who you are.**

◆ **Acknowledge:**

To admit to be true. To confess. To recognize the authority or claims of. To express thanks for. To state that one has received something.

◆ **“The reason that the majority of Christians are weak, though they are earnest, yet they are weak, is because they have never dared to make a confession of who they are in Christ.”**

E.W. Kenyon

Redemption Through Identification

Are you Encrusted or “in-Christed”?

Many people believe they share Jesus Christ’s death and even say they share His resurrection, yet their lives are encrusted with the effects of death and decay this earth is subject to. But if you have been raised with Christ, you are no longer subject to spiritual death or its effects! Your status of being “in Christ” goes beyond the grave. He rose again so you could rise up ... right now, right here. The remarkable life Jesus lived is just the beginning for us!

The Law Of Identification

- ◆ **Identification with Christ is the recognition of our complete union with Him in His substitutionary sacrifice for us.**
- ◆ **Through identification, Jesus’ redemption of man is made legal.**

Jesus Identified With Man

- ◆ **Jesus, even though He was every bit God, willingly left behind His glory to come as man.**
- ◆ **He took on the form and appearance of man, conforming Himself to man’s image.**
Philippians 2:5-8
- ◆ **He emptied Himself of His privileges and limited Himself to man’s abilities.**
- ◆ **He had to be flesh and blood and like us *in all things*.**
Hebrews 2:14-17
- ◆ **Jesus did everything He did as a man operating under the Abrahamic law.**

He Became Our Substitute

- ◆ **“He was made to be sin for us.”**
2 Corinthians 5:21
- ◆ **“He became a curse for us.”**
Galatians 3:13
- ◆ **All of our pain and punishment was laid on Him instead of us.**
Isaiah 53:4-5
- ◆ **Everything He suffered at Calvary, He suffered as you and me.**
- ◆ **Jesus did not die His own death, but He died our death for us.**
Romans 5:6-8
 - ◇ No one took His life from Him, but He laid it down for us.
John 10:15-18
 - ◇ He gave it willingly as our substitute.
- ◆ **If one man died for all, then all died.**
2 Corinthians 5:14
 - ◇ One translation: If one man died the death of every man, then every man died in Him.
- ◆ **On Heaven’s general ledger, it has been accounted that we died on the cross and were raised from the dead.**
- ◆ **The Gospels give a disproportionate amount of space to the death and resurrection of Christ.**
- ◆ **Every sermon in the Book of Acts is about His substitutionary sacrifice for us.**

Now We Must Identify With Him

- ◆ **He substituted Himself so that we could identify (be the same as) with Him.**
2 Corinthians 5:21
- ◆ **Paul’s revelation that our identity was swallowed up in Christ.**
 - ◇ “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”
Galatians 2:20

◇ “Christ took me to the cross...and I died there with Him...”

Laubach

◇ “I have shared Messiah’s crucifixion...it is Messiah’s life in me.”

Way Translation

◇ “I consider myself as having died and now I’m enjoying a new existence, which is simply Jesus using my body.”

Distilled Bible

◆ **Because “Adam Man” was broken beyond repair, God had no choice but to kill him. So He did.**

◆ **“Our old man was crucified with Him.”**

Romans 6:6

◇ WAS ... not is going to be one day.

◇ Other translations:

my old sinful self, my former self, the person I used to be, my former unregenerate self, my former evil identity, my inherited self

◆ **The only you that now lives is the In Christ You. “Jesus Man.”**

◆ **Jesus gave us two powerful reminders of our identification with Him.**

◇ Water baptism is a re-enactment of what happened spiritually when we were born again.

Romans 6:4

◇ The communion celebration is a remembrance of our oneness with Him and His substitution for us.

I Corinthians 11:23-26

Identifying With Jesus

Are Jesus' shoes too big to fill?

Something marvelous happened when Jesus came to earth ... He stepped into your shoes. Why is that so wonderful? Because after He stepped in, he walked right back to God and made a path for you. Now it's up to you to follow in His footsteps ... and they're just your size!

We Died With Him, We Live With Him

- ◆ **We share in not only in His death and burial, but also in His resurrection.**
Romans 6:5
- ◆ **He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit with Him.**
1 Corinthians 6:17
- ◆ **We were made alive together with Christ and sit together in Him.**
Ephesians 2:4-6

We Became New Creations

- ◆ **We were *In-Christed* (put forever in Christ) when we were created in Him.**
Ephesians 2:10
- ◆ **Any man who is in Christ is now a creation.**
2 Corinthians 5:17
 - ◇ “If anyone is in union with Christ...a new life has begun!”
20th Century
 - ◇ “The man he was has passed away...a new man has been created.”
Laubach
 - ◇ “A true Christian is not merely a man altered, but a man remade...”
Deane

- ◆ **You are now completely made new.**
 - ◇ You were not just repaired or fixed somehow.
- ◆ **You have been *re-gened*...regenerated.**
 - ◇ God took spiritual DNA, cloned Jesus, and got you.
 - ◇ The new man is made in the image and likeness of Christ Himself.
- ◆ **This is the mystery hidden for ages: Christ in you, the hope of glory.**
Colossians 1:26-27

Living With The Jesus Identity

- ◆ **For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**
Colossians 3:3
- ◆ **You now have the same position, privileges, and rights as Jesus.**
2 Corinthians 5:21
- ◆ **God chose us, who were nobodies, to be somebodies.**
1 Peter 2:9-10
- ◆ **We have been made partakers of divine nature.**
2 Peter 1:4
- ◆ **We have been raised up and made to sit together to reign with Him.**
Ephesians 2:6
 - ◇ “We ourselves now exercise and have authority like that which Christ has in the presence of God.”
Ben Campbell Johnson
 - ◇ “He raised us up with Him to rule...in the heavenly world.”
Kleist and Lilly
 - ◇ “We found ourselves...in Christ...in the heavenly realm ourselves.”
Carpenter’s
- ◆ **We were in Christ when He defeated satan.**
2 Corinthians 2:14
 - ◇ Therefore, we have already defeated the enemy.
 - ◇ We are now more than conquerors.
Romans 8:37
- ◆ **God’s promises are “yes and amen” to those who are in Him.**
2 Corinthians 1:20

- ◆ **He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing and accepted us in the Beloved.**

Ephesians 1:3,6

- ◇ The blessings begin in the eternal, spiritual realm and flow down into this natural realm.

- ◆ **Jesus redeemed us and gave us His inheritance.**

Ephesians 1:7,11

- ◆ **The same power God raised Christ with is working in us.**

Ephesians 1:17-20

- ◆ **We have been given boldness and access to God with confidence.**

Ephesians 3:12

- ◆ **Our new identify is one of victory, overcoming, conquering, winning, and success.**

- ◇ 1. In Christ, we know no defeat.

The Transformation

TRANS + FORMED = formation in transit ... get moving!

What came instantly to your spirit (this gift of new life from God) is unwrapped through your soul. Your mind, will, and emotions are highly involved in transforming the life you live in the flesh. Your soul is like a valve that allows influences or blocks them. If you've got things flowing correctly, what was put into your spirit can pour into your life. The key to keeping the valve on target is the understanding you have of Truth and your place in it ... in essence, understanding proper identification.

The Change Is Up To You

◆ **You have to strip off old man and put on the new.**

Ephesians 4:22-24

◆ **Put to death the members of your body.**

Colossians 3:1-5

- ◇ 1. Adam-man is used to being dominated by his flesh.
- ◇ Because, your natural body has not been re-created yet, you must put it in subjection to your re-created human spirit.

◆ **Clothe yourselves with the new man.**

Colossians 3:9-10

- ◇ God has provided a new set of clothes, but you must dress yourself.

The Transformation Begins In Your Thinking

◆ **Be renewed (made new) in the spirit of your mind.**

Ephesians 4:23

- ◇ 1. Your mind still thinks according to Adam's ways.

- ◆ **Change begins with understanding who you are in Christ.**
Romans 12:1
 - ◇ 1. You will undergo a metamorphosis whereby the new creature within you will be revealed.
- ◆ **“The process of mind renewal does not even begin until you understand your identification with Christ in His death and resurrection.”**
E.W. Kenyon
- ◆ **The root of wrong behavior is in wrong identification.**
 - ◇ 1. Understanding and recognizing your new nature is the first step towards living as the holy man of God that you now are.
- ◆ **No longer do we regard ourselves according to the flesh or what our flesh has done or what it represents.**
2 Corinthians 5:15-16
- ◆ **If you do not realize that the old man is dead, you will live subject to feelings of condemnation for what the old man has done.**

Sanctification Comes Through Identification

- ◆ **Sanctify:**
A setting apart; to dedicate, consecrate, separate, make holy.
- ◆ **Sanctification is the process of increasing in your separation from what you used to be and in your dedication to God.**
- ◆ **We are no longer slaves of sin, but we are now free from it and all the wages it pays.**
Romans 6:6-7
 - ◇ “Our former evil identities have been executed. Our old rebel selves were exterminated and that leaves us no further role to perform as offenders.”
Richert translation
- ◆ **You are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ.**
Colossians 3:3
- ◆ **It is your responsibility to discipline your body and keep it under subjection to your spirit man.**
1 Corinthians 9:27
- ◆ **Make no provision for the flesh and don’t plan to fulfill its lusts.**
Romans 13:14

Learn The Language Of Identification

- ◆ **The message (written word, language) of the cross is the power whereby we are transformed.**

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

- ◆ **Speaking forth what Christ has done for you will change you.**

- ◆ **Paul said before Agrippa, “I am a happy man.”**

Acts 26:2

- ◇ 1. He was testifying of the complete transformation he had undergone.

- ◆ **We are to acknowledge every good thing that is ours in our identification with Christ.**

Philemon 6

- ◆ **“The reason that the majority of Christians are weak, though they are earnest, yet they are weak, is because they have never dared to make a bold confession of what they are in Christ.”**

E.W. Kenyon:

History and Origin of The Blood Covenant

Ancient roots. Eternal benefits. Blood Covenant gets you in the loop!

Not just a thing of the past, blood covenant is a contemporary answer for current issues. There is an enduring covenant already in place that provides for man's every need to be met by God. Like rituals you may have heard about, it involves blood. Blood covenant goes deep. Even in the natural, blood bonds reach a depth of heart that will cause one person to sacrifice his own life to save that of another. God's agreement goes even further ... eternity. This time, Jesus' blood was shed on behalf of mankind. Upon acceptance, His covenant provides eternal life in heaven and abundant life in earth. As you discover what goes into making blood covenant, your faith and surety will skyrocket as you realize God did this for you!

The Blood Covenant

- ◆ **Our western minds have not understood the concept of blood covenant.**
- ◆ **Covenant:**
Compact, pledge, treaty, and agreement.
- ◆ **In Hebrew, covenant means to cut an incision where blood flows.**
 - ◇ Life is in the blood.
Leviticus 17:11
- ◆ **This rite is the most enduring and most sacred pact known to man.**
- ◆ **It is the strongest agreement that can be made. It can never be annulled.**
- ◆ **Covenant is the total giving of one's self to another forever.**
- ◆ **Entering into covenant with another joins you together as one.**

Reasons for Cutting Covenant

- ◆ **Protection**
Two parties come together to strengthen the other's weaknesses.
- ◆ **Safety**
Neither tribe will take advantage of the other.
- ◆ **Blessing**
The parties enter into a business arrangement.
- ◆ **Love**
People want to be in close union.
 - ◇ Union of people (love).

The Cutting of the Covenant

- ◆ **Discussion**
Because it is based on differences, there are great discussions. It can never be entered into lightly.
 - ◇ There is no way out without death.
 - ◇ Covenant is forever between us whether we get along or not.
 - ◇ No one chooses their natural brother, but you do choose blood brothers.
- ◆ **Representatives**
One party chooses a representative who stands in for the whole tribe.
- ◆ **Gift Exchange**
Each man exchanges gifts symbolizing "all that I am and have is yours."
- ◆ **Weapon Exchange**
They take each other's weapons. "You're enemies are mine."
- ◆ **Promises**
Each man makes the promises of the covenant to the other, swearing by God.
- ◆ **Proclamation**
The blessings and curses of the covenant are pronounced.
- ◆ **Blood Exchange**
The flesh is cut on the wrist, symbolizing the giving of life. The blood is mixed and the two parties become one.
- ◆ **Blood Oath**
The hands are lifted as the men take the oath "so help me God!"

- ◆ **Blood Seal**
The scar serves as a seal and sign that the two are now one.
- ◆ **Name Exchange**
Names are exchanged as a testimony that the two are one.
- ◆ **Memorial**
A memorial is established by planting trees or erecting a pile of stones.
- ◆ **Covenant Meal**
At the covenant meal, they feed each other saying, “Eat of me. I am yours.”
- ◆ **Covenant Relationship**
A covenant friend sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24
- ◆ **Hesed:**
Covenant love.
It is a personal involvement and commitment beyond the rule of law.

Blood Covenants Originated with God

- ◆ **After Adam fell, God made him clothes from animal skins.**
Genesis 3:21
- ◆ **God made covenant with Noah. The rainbow is a memorial.**
Genesis 9:8-17
Revelation 4:3
- ◆ **Record of blood covenants has been found in all ancient civilizations.**
- ◆ **The Bible is primarily a record of the two covenants God cut with man.**
 - ◇ Old Testament: God’s Covenant with Abram.
 - ◇ New Testament: God’s covenant with Jesus.

The Covenant of Abraham

The ultimate act of matching donations!

Dollar for dollar, some companies will match charitable giving and cause the original donations to be strengthened. The ways of covenant are similar. Whatever one party puts on the table, the other does likewise. Together they do what could not have been done alone. God and man were in a situation where neither one could enact salvation alone. Legally, God had no right to force His will on the earth. Man was in charge and God could only work through him. So God found a man, cut covenant with him and asked him to give the life of his son – the only heir to his great wealth. Consequently, this opened a legal channel for God to do the same – give the life of His only son and heir. Now that’s charitable giving!

Blood Covenant Facts

- ◆ **Covenant:**
Compact, pledge, treaty, and agreement.
- ◆ **In Hebrew, covenant means to cut an incision where blood flows.**
Life is in the blood.
- ◆ **Blood covenant is a total giving of one’s self to another forever.**
- ◆ **It is important whom you go into covenant with.**

God Deals with Abram

- ◆ **God searches for a man to covenant with.**
- ◆ **The man would have be obedient and establish his children in the covenant.**
Genesis 18:19
- ◆ **He finds Abram and tells him to leave his country.**
Genesis 12:1

- ◆ **God promises to bless him and all the families of the earth.**
Genesis 12:2-3
- ◆ **Families:**
Classes, kinds, and types of people.
- ◆ **Abram calls on God.**
Genesis 12:8
- ◆ **God blesses Abram.**
Genesis 13:2,6
- ◆ **Abram rescues his nephew Lot.**
Genesis 14:15-16

The Covenant with Abraham

- ◆ **The covenant with Abraham was made to open the door for Jesus to come.**
- ◆ **Exchange of possessions**
 - ◇ Abram brings tithes of all.
Genesis 14:18-23
 - ◇ I AM your shield.
Genesis 15:1
- ◆ **What will you give me? Abram questions God.**
Genesis 15:2
- ◆ **God shows him the stars.**
Genesis 15:5
- ◆ **Abram believed God.**
Genesis 15:6
Romans 4:13-21
- ◆ **Believed:**
Unqualified committal of himself and all he was and ever was or ever will be to God. A covenant is a total giving of both sides.
- ◆ **Animals were sacrificed.**
Genesis 15:9
- ◆ **Blessings and curses.**
Genesis 15:12-14

◆ **The exchange of names.**

Genesis 17:5

- ◇ John Jones and Bob Smith go into covenant. Their new names would be John Bob Jones and Bob John Smith.
- ◇ The last two letters of Jehovah are added to ABR and AM to make Abram's new name Abraham.
- ◇ God changes his name, too.
Exodus 3:1-6

◆ **Blood is shed with circumcision.**

Genesis 17:10-14

- ◇ In the second covenant God's blood is shed.

◆ **Abraham is tested.**

Genesis 22:1-5, 12-18
Hebrews 11:17-19

◆ **Abraham is a friend of God.**

James 2:21-23

◆ **A friend is a covenant partner.**

He was required to keep his part of the covenant by believing and obeying God.

The New Covenant

Don't degrade ... upgrade!

Now that Abraham's covenant has been fulfilled by Jesus, an "upgrade" has been offered. Your life can operate on a whole new system. You don't have to look for the day when the Messiah will come. He's already been here and done the job! Your benefits aren't off in the future – they're here right now! You don't have rituals to perform to keep you in the covenant. Jesus did everything required for entering the covenant on your behalf. You just need to accept it and then take advantage of its benefits. Don't settle for less than what God gave you ... learn your covenant and "install" the upgrades!

Jesus Became Our Sacrifice

- ◆ **Under the Old Covenant, the blood from animal sacrifices covered sin.**
- ◆ **Jesus offered His own blood for the remission of our sins.**
Hebrews 9:12-14
- ◆ **Remission:**
To send away. Release from bondage or imprisonment. Forgive.
- ◆ **Because Abraham willingly sacrificed his son, God was obligated to the same.**
- ◆ **Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. We only need to enter into covenant with God one time.**
Hebrews 9:24-28

Jesus Established the New Covenant

- ◆ **This covenant is between the Father and Jesus. We can't mess it up.**
- ◆ **Because neither Jesus nor God can break it, there is no curse.**
- ◆ **We get in on the benefits of the covenant by being "in Christ."**

- ◆ **He is the mediator of a better covenant with better promises.**
Hebrews 8:6
 - ◇ Mediator: go-between, reconciler, arbitrator, intermediary.
 - ◇ Because He perfectly fulfilled the Old Covenant, He was able to upgrade.
- ◆ **We get all of Abraham's blessings without the curse.**
Galatians 3:13
- ◆ **This covenant offers the promise of the Holy Spirit.**
Galatians 3:14
 - ◇ God Himself moved into man.
2 Corinthians 6:16
 - ◇ All of His power and ability is present and available for man's use. We've been given the ministry of reconciliation.
2 Corinthians 5:17-20
 - ◇ We receive from this covenant through faith in God who gave His Word.
- ◆ **God writes in man's heart. Man knows God. He forgets our sin.**
Hebrews 8:10-13
- ◆ **No longer is man's circumcision in the flesh, but in the heart.**
Romans 2:29
- ◆ **We are no longer strangers, but members of the household of God.**
Ephesians 2:19
- ◆ **We are not slaves, but sons and heirs of God.**
Galatians 4:7

Celebrating the New Covenant

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

- ◆ **Communion is a remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus in the establishment of the New Covenant.**
Verses 24-25
- ◆ **We drink His blood and eat His body as a sign of our participation in the covenant.**
- ◆ **There is no specific directive on how often to receive communion.**
Verses 26
- ◆ **The table is a place of judging yourself and repenting.**
Verses 28-32

- ◆ **Many are sick or have died young because they have not:**
 - ◇ Judged themselves before receiving the elements.
 - ◇ Walked in love with all those in the Body of Christ.
 - ◇ Discerned what this covenant has provided for them.
- ◆ **Communion is a way to settle issues in consecration to God.**
- ◆ **Making a demand on the covenant over the communion table is powerful. Whatever we need God will supply.**
- ◆ **Communion is saying, “All that I have is Yours; all that You have is mine.”**

The Blood of Jesus

Love and Eternity ... it's yours in the Blood.

What's the big deal about blood? Do you ever wonder why Jesus couldn't get things done another way? Maybe God could have just written down His plan and given us the option of buying into it. Did Jesus really have to come and die? Why didn't he just show us how to live in God and then stick around to give seminars and pointers? Thankfully, God's aim wasn't to get people to behave on earth. It was to restore His family – and that would require new life to be generated. Find out how Jesus' blood brings you into God's family and why it's so powerful in your life today.

Life is in the blood

- ◆ **For the life of the flesh is in the blood.**
Leviticus 17:11
- ◆ **A-dam:**
The blood of God.
- ◆ **Even medical science knows that blood is the vehicle for the substance of life.**
- ◆ **The voice of Abel's blood cried out to God from the ground.**
Genesis 4:10

Blood and Atonement

- ◆ **Through Adam, all human blood was tainted with sin and death.**
- ◆ **Atonement:**
The covering over of sins.

- ◆ **Only through the shedding of blood (the giving of life) can atonement be made.**

Leviticus 17:11

- ◆ **Animal sacrifice was instituted by God Himself in the Garden. God made Adam and Eve clothes from animal skins for a covering.**

Genesis 3:21

- ◆ **In the Old Testament, a clean animal became the substitute for the sinner. It died in his stead. Life was given for life.**

- ◆ **The patriarchs of old offered animals as sacrifices.**

- ◇ Noah offered on an altar animals he had saved from the flood.

Genesis 8:20

- ◇ Abram offered a ram.

Genesis 22:13

- ◆ **The children of Israel applied blood to the doorposts at the Passover.**

- ◇ Exodus 12

- ◆ **Rahab, the harlot, was spared by a type of the blood (a scarlet thread).**

- ◇ Joshua 2

- ◆ **In the ordination of the high priest, blood was applied to his right ear, right thumb and right foot.**

The meaning was that the blood would cleanse all that enters a man's ear, everything he puts his hand to do, and wherever he goes.

The Most Precious Blood

- ◆ **The Blood of Jesus was sinless, untainted blood.**

- ◆ **His was the Blood of God. He was called the second *A-dam*.**

1 Corinthians 15:45

- ◆ **His Blood was precious blood, from a Lamb that was without spot or blemish**

1 Peter 1:17-19

- ◆ **His Blood paid our ransom.**

We were redeemed (bought back) by that Blood.

- ◆ **No other blood in any amount could pay the price for us.**

- ◇ Before the Ark was brought in at the Temple dedication, the animals slaughtered could not be numbered for the multitude.

1 Kings 8:5

- ◇ At a later offering, 22,000 bulls and 120,000 sheep were sacrificed.
1Kings 8:63
- ◇ There was no blood anywhere other than the Blood of Jesus that could pay the price for us.
- ◆ **Jesus was the final sacrifice, paying the price once and for all.**
Hebrews 9:12-14
Hebrews 10:10-18
- ◆ **Only the holy, pure Blood met the criteria.**
The blood of the innocent was required to pay the price for our guilt.

What the Blood has Done for Us

- ◆ **We are saved and sanctified by the Blood.**
Revelation 1:5
1 Peter 1:2
- ◆ **We have been brought near (into His family) by the Blood.**
Ephesians 2:13
- ◆ **We have been justified (declared righteous) through the blood.**
Romans 5:9
- ◆ **We are continually cleansed from sin through His Blood.**
1 John 1:7
- ◆ **We have peace (wholeness) with God through the Blood.**
Colossians 1:20
- ◆ **We have bold access to the Father through the Blood.**
Hebrews 10:19
- ◆ **Our consciousness and heart are purified by the Blood.**
Hebrews 10:22
- ◆ **We are perfect in every good work by the Blood.**
Hebrews 13:20-21
- ◆ **We are redeemed from the hand of the enemy.**
Ephesians 1:7

Pleading the Blood

- ◆ **The Blood is a powerful weapon against satan and the forces of darkness.**

◆ **Plead:**

To appeal earnestly; to put forward a plea of a specific nature in a court of law; to address a court as a lawyer or advocate; to assert or urge defense, vindication, or excuse; to present as an answer to charge, indictment, or declaration made against one.

◆ **We legally have the right to enter our plea as “not guilty by the Blood of Jesus.”**

Revelation 12:10-11

- ◇ satan is accusing us day and night of guilt and wrongdoing.
- ◇ Through our earthly birth, we were guilty and subject to sin and all its effects. satan therefore had the right to rule over us with sin, sickness, poverty and death.
- ◇ Through the Blood, we were redeemed. satan has no right to us and has no power over us. We are no longer guilty.
Colossians 1:14
- ◇ When he accuses us (or brings sickness, poverty, or death to us), we can say “I plead the blood” as our way of saying “I’m not guilty because of the Blood, therefore I do not have to suffer from the effects of sin and death.”
- ◇ Just as the blood on the doorposts kept Israel safe from judgments that came on Egypt, the Blood of Jesus keeps us from being judged with the world. We are no longer owed the wages of sin.
- ◇ Whenever condemnation (accusation) or discouragement comes, realize that you are not guilty and plead the blood.

God's Will is Prosperity

God's Three P's – Plan, Prosper, Pleasure.

The will of God is not such a mystery as some would have you think. If He is good (and He is), wouldn't He want an abundance of good in this world? If He could create a way to experience His way of life (and He did), wouldn't He want you to know it? If you simply follow His plan, you will prosper and He will be pleased.

God's Legacy of Prospering His People

♦ **Before God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden, He filled the garden with all man would ever need.**

Genesis 2:8-15

- ◇ Every good and pleasant tree that man could want was there, and there were gold and precious stones.
- ◇ If God had intended for man to be impoverished and to suffer lack, He would have made Adam a poor man from the beginning.
- ◇ As a result of sin and the curse, Adam lost his home and fell into lack.

Genesis 3:23-24

♦ **God prospered Noah to enable him to finance the building of the ark.**

Genesis 6:14-16

- ◇ God's command to Noah was to be fruitful and multiply, to increase.

Genesis 9:1-7

♦ **God established a covenant of prosperity with Abraham.**

- ◇ "I will bless you and you shall be a blessing."

Genesis 12:1-3

- ◇ God's blessing on him made him very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 13:1-7

- ◇ When Abraham was an old man, God had blessed him in all things.
Genesis 24:1

◆ **Abraham's seed walked in great abundance.**

- ◇ Isaac inherited his father's wealth.
Genesis 25:5
- ◇ Jacob became exceedingly prosperous with large flocks and many servants.
Genesis 30:43
- ◇ God's favor gave Joseph high a position in Egypt and caused him to prosper.
Genesis 39:23 , 41:39-42
- ◇ The blessings of the covenant caused God's people to prosper.
Deuteronomy 28:1-14

◆ **The children of Israel came out of slavery with the wealth of Egypt.**

Exodus 12:35-36

◆ **Joshua's men conquered the kings of Canaan and got their wealth.**

Joshua 12:7-24

- ◇ The Israelites lived in cities they didn't build and ate food they didn't grow.
Joshua 24:13

◆ **God prospered David so much that he had billions to build the temple.**

1 Chronicles 22:11-16, 29:1-5

- ◇ The other leaders of Israel gave billions to the building of the temple.
1 Chronicles 29:6-9
- ◇ If God would provide that much to build a temple, what will He provide for us?

◆ **In Solomon's time, God's people had so much that silver had no value.**

2 Chronicles 9:20

◆ **Jesus made the way for us to walk in this same prosperity.**

Galatians 3:29

God's Plan Is for You to Increase

◆ **Above all things, God desires for His people to prosper.**

3 John 2

- ◇ Prosper: to flourish, thrive, grow in a vigorous way. To do better. To help on the road. To succeed at reaching something desirable.

◆ **Jesus came to give us the life of abundance.**

John 10:10

◇ His designed a life that overflowed with good and was well supplied and rich.

◆ **God's purpose for increasing us is so that we can bless others.**

◆ **God takes pleasure in prospering us.**

Psalm 35:27

◆ **God's names express His nature and His provision for us.**

◇ Jehovah Jirah: The Lord Our Provider

◇ El Shaddai: The God of More than Enough, The All-Sufficient One

God's Word Promises Us Prosperity

◆ **He will cause whatever you do to prosper.**

Psalm 1:1-3

◆ **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want (lack).**

Psalm 23:1

◆ **Those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good.**

Psalm 34:8-10

◆ **In the days of famine, the upright will be supplied until there is no lack.**

Psalm 37:19

◆ **The paths He has made for us drip with abundance.**

Psalm 65:11

◆ **As we praise God, He causes the earth to yield her produce to us.**

Psalm 67:5-7

◆ **God daily sends us a load of benefits.**

Psalm 68:19

◆ **He puts wealth and riches in the house of the upright.**

Psalm 112:1-3

◆ **He has in mind to bless both us and our children.**

Psalm 115:12-15

◆ **The wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.**

Proverbs 13:22

◆ **God has assigned the sinner to gather that he may give to us.**

Ecclesiastes 2:26

◆ **As we seek first His Kingdom, everything we need will be added to us.**

Matthew 6:33

- ◆ **If God gave us His only Son, how shall He not freely give us all things?**
Romans 8:32

Tithing: The First Step

The end of the road starts at the beginning.

Venturing into the collegiate world, you'll quickly find you can't jump to upper level classes simply because of how smart you are. There are prerequisite classes that must be completed or specific tests that must be passed before you can advance. In the same way, if you want to step into abundance, tithing is the prerequisite.

The Law of the Tithe

◆ **The tithe is the Lord's and is holy unto Him.**

Leviticus 27:30

- ◇ Tithe: one-tenth
- ◇ The tithe belongs to God and has been set apart and designated for His use.
- ◇ Because the tithe belongs to God, you aren't really giving anything when you tithe. You are returning to Him what belongs to Him.
- ◇ You cannot sow a seed until you have given to God what belongs to Him. Tithing comes first.

◆ **God rebuked Israel for not keeping the law of the tithe and offerings.**

Malachi 3:6-9

- ◇ They had gone away from His ordinances of tithing and giving offerings.
- ◇ When men don't tithe and give offerings, they are robbing God.
- ◇ Robbery: refers to not only stealing but includes doing bodily harm to someone. When God's people don't tithe, it hurts the Body of Christ in the earth.
- ◇ If you don't give, you rob God. If you rob God, you are cursed with a curse.
- ◇ Cursed: lumped together with the world. To be nothing special to God.

◆ **God tells us how to get out from under the curse and into the blessing.**

Malachi 3:10-13

- ◇ Bring all the tithe into the storehouse that there may be spiritual food there.
- ◇ God will open the windows (floodgates) of heaven and empty out on you His blessing of divine enablement and a supernatural anointing to increase.
- ◇ This blessing from the Lord will make you rich and adds no sorrow to you.
Proverbs 10:22
- ◇ God sends windows of opportunity your way to increase you.
- ◇ The tithe is what activates the financial side of your covenant with God.
- ◇ Under the New Covenant, we have the responsibility for rebuking the devourer (satan) because Jesus has defeated him for us and given us power over him.
- ◆ **As you honor the Lord with your wealth and with the tithe, your accounts will be filled with plenty and your businesses will overflow.**
Proverbs 3:9-10
- ◇ Tithing is being faithful with what belongs to God. Offerings are being faithful with what belongs to you.
- ◇ If you are faithful with what God has entrusted to you, He will be faithful with what you entrust to Him.
- ◇ When you tithe and give offerings, you cut off your dependence on this world's economic system for your financial well-being, and God becomes your source.

Tithing Is a New Testament Practice

- ◆ **The tithe was instituted in the garden when Adam was given something that belonged to God to manage but wasn't allowed to use it on himself.**
Genesis 2:15-17
- ◇ The tithe is a test of man's faithfulness in His relationship with God.
- ◇ If you can't be faithful with His money, how can He trust you with His power?
Luke 16:10-11
- ◆ **Abram met Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God, after a victory in battle, and Abram gave him a tithe of all.**
Genesis 14:18-20
- ◇ This was over 400 years before the law was given.
- ◇ Melchizedek was an antetype of Jesus in His role as High Priest. He was not a Levitical priest that would later receive Israel's tithes. This signifies that ultimately Jesus receives our tithes.
- ◇ Abram offered his tithe in honor to God for giving him victory in the battle.

◇ Abram was our father in the faith and he offered tithes of all.

◆ **Hebrews compares tithing under the law to tithing now under the New Covenant.**

Hebrews 7:1-10

◇ The sons of Levi (the Levitical priesthood) received tithes according to the law, but our tithes (like Abraham's) are received by Our High Priest, Jesus.

◇ *Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives (present tense) them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives (speaking of Jesus).*

Verse 8

◆ **Jesus said that we should tithe, but that tithing doesn't give us the right to neglect the weightier matters of justice, mercy and faith.**

Matthew 23:23

◇ He didn't say that we should stop the practice of tithing, but He pointed out the connection between the condition of our heart and the tithe.

◇ What is in your heart affects what you offer to God.

Matthew 5:23-24

◆ **Paul wrote of temple robbers, referring to those who don't tithe.**

Romans 2:21-22

Tithing the Tithe

◆ **Just as Abraham offered his tithe in recognition of the blessing of God upon his life, we, too, should recognize His blessing when we tithe.**

◆ **We can follow the Old Testament outline for offering the tithe.**

Deuteronomy 26:1-15

◇ Take your tithe to the place the Lord chooses to make His name abide.
Verse 2

◇ Go to your priest and speak to Him. Jesus is your High Priest.
Verse 3

◇ Speak to the Lord and declare your testimony of deliverance.
Verses 3-10

◇ Worship before the Lord. Tithing is an act of worship.
Verse 10-11

◇ Don't consume the tithe on yourself. Don't give it for the dead.
Verse 13-14

◇ Receive by faith the blessing that God bestows on those who tithe.
Verse 15

Law of Seedtime & Harvest

Great harvests are not built; they are born.

When a husband and wife become pregnant they know what kind of harvest they are getting. No one wonders if they'll get an animal or plant! Everyone knows that humans reproduce after their own kind. That same principle carries through to all aspects of life. Whatever you plant brings a harvest of the same.

The Law of the Kingdom

- ◆ **The Law of Seedtime and Harvest: Every living thing contains within itself the seed to reproduce after its own kind.**

Genesis 1:11

- ◇ While the earth remains there will always be seedtime and harvest.

Genesis 8:22

- ◆ **The Kingdom of God is established on the principle of seedtime and harvest.**

Mark 4:26-29

- ◇ Since everything in the Kingdom functions through planting seeds and harvesting the increase, the economy of the Kingdom must function on the same principle.

- ◇ Man does the sowing and harvesting, but God gives the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6

- ◇ Seedtime and harvest is a process that happens step by step over a period of time. The time varies from seed to seed, but there is time between the planting of the seed and the harvest.

- ◆ **God gave man the ability to determine his future when He gave him seed. His future harvests were dependent on the seeds he sowed.**

Genesis 1:28-29

- ◇ God told man to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. Then He told him how to do that when He said, "See, I have given you seed."

Man, the Farmer

- ◆ **Man's original job was as a cultivator. His home was a garden.**
 - ◇ God intended for man to live by what he produced through his sowing.
- ◆ **The key component of your increase is your seed.**
 - ◇ The only things on earth that increase are those things that produce seed.
 - ◇ If you want more corn than what you have, you must sow corn as seed.
- ◆ **No matter what your career, your paycheck is your source for seed.**
Ephesians 4:28
- ◆ **The man who plants seed increases, but withholding leads to poverty.**
Proverbs 11:24-25
- ◆ **The poor have not cultivated their ground sufficiently to yield crops.**
Proverbs 13:23
- ◆ **Understand that whatever you sow, God will multiply back to you through other people. He works through the earth's economic system.**
Luke 6:38
- ◆ **Jesus gave us tips on seedtime and harvest in the parable of the sower.**
Mark 4:3-8
 - ◇ Beware of the birds that come to eat seeds and weeds that choke out the crop.
 - ◇ The ground you sow in has everything to do with the crop you harvest.
 - ◇ Good ground can produce thirty, sixty, and even a hundred fold.
 - ◇ A good place to sow seed is in ground that is producing fruit for the kingdom.

Principles of Giving 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

- ◆ **The amount you sow determines the amount you will reap.**
Verses 6
 - ◇ Those who sow a little will reap a little. Those who sow much, much.
- ◆ **What you sow is up to you. You decide in your heart what to give.**
Verses 7
 - ◇ Don't give reluctantly, out of duty, or in response to pressure from others.
 - ◇ God loves hilarious givers, those who get caught up in the joy of giving.

- ◆ **“God has the power to supply you abundantly with every blessing. Thus you will always have enough for every situation, and you will be able to provide for every good work.”**

Verse 8 Noli's translation

◇ God's empowering grace to sow and reap is available to anyone who will sow.

- ◆ **God works with people, funneling seed to those who will sow it, providing them with food, and multiplying the seed that they sow.**

Verse 10

- ◆ **“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.”**

Verse 11 NIV

Sowing and Reaping as a Lifestyle

- ◆ **Jesus was committed to a life of “doing good” or being benevolent.**

Acts 10:38

- ◆ **Man's harvest in life depends entirely on the seed he sows every day.**

Galatians 6:7

◇ If you aren't satisfied with your harvest, change the seed you are sowing.

- ◆ **Don't let yourself get weary because you will reap if you don't faint.**

Galatians 6:9

◇ There is “time” between planting the seed and reaping the harvest.

Harvesting Your Crops

- ◆ **Harvesting is not automatic. It is up to you to put in the sickle.**

Mark 4:29

- ◆ **You harvest your crop by faith. Claim what you need and then call in your harvest, using your mouth as your harvesting instrument.**

◇ Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish by speaking as He blessed them.

Matthew 14:19

- ◆ **Your harvest in life comes through your obedience to the Holy Spirit.**

◇ The key to miracles of increase: “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

John 2:5

◇ Jesus instructed Peter to go fishing to get the money to pay their taxes.

Matthew 17:24-27

Making Your Way Prosperous

God is the rainmaker, but you are the “rain-taker.”

Your prosperity has accumulated in heaven, but like the rain in a cloud it must be drawn out by certain conditions. In the natural model, it's gravity. In your case, God has given you tremendous “pull” with which to draw His prosperity upon you. Like the word implies, “pull” means there's some effort involved. This is your part.

You Are Responsible for Your Prosperity

- ◆ **God has opened the door to our prosperity, but we have to lay hold on it ourselves.**
- ◆ **The secrets to living a prosperous life are hidden in the Word of God and are transmitted to us as we meditate in the scripture.**

Joshua 1:8

- ◇ Basic: *Let this book of the law ever be on your lips and in your thoughts day and night, so that you may keep with care everything in it; then blessing will be on all your way, and you will do well.*
- ◇ As you ponder the Word in your heart and speak it to yourself, you will begin to see how to apply its principles in your life to make your way prosperous.

- ◆ **God blesses man by causing whatever he does to prosper.**

Psalms 1:1-3

- ◇ If you aren't doing anything, God has nothing to bless and cause to prosper.

- ◆ **The hand of the diligent man will make him rich.**

Proverbs 10:4

- ◇ Many people never succeed because they don't put their hand to anything or they give up and draw back when circumstances don't seem favorable.

- ◆ **As you are faithful in what God has entrusted to you, He will give you more and more.**

Luke 16:10

The Anointing to Increase

- ◆ **In order for us to make our way prosperous, God has supernaturally empowered us to obtain wealth.**

Deuteronomy 8:18

- ◇ We have not been given *wealth* but the *power to get wealth*.
- ◇ Power: ability, capacity, strength, force, means, substance, endurance.
- ◇ The purpose for prosperity is to establish or confirm God's covenant with man.
- ◇ When God's people prosper, it is a sign to the world of His blessing and favor on His people. It is a demonstration of His goodness.

- ◆ **The anointing comes upon believers to enable them to increase to a greater degree than they could by their own natural ability.**

- ◆ **This is the same anointing that was on Jesus when He preached the Good News to the poor.**

Luke 4:18

- ◇ The dunamis power evident in the ministry of Jesus removed the burden of lack and destroyed the yoke of poverty.
- ◇ Dunamis: miraculous power, great force, great ability, strength, abundance.

- ◆ **Jesus, our example, used the anointing for supernatural provision.**

- ◇ Peter was rewarded with a great catch of fish for allowing Jesus to use his boat to minister to the crowds who followed Him.

Luke 5:1-7

- ◇ He supernaturally multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed 5,000 men and their families.

Luke 9:10-17

- ◆ **The Old Testament records many accounts of God's people tapping into His miraculous power to increase.**

- ◇ The prophet Elisha multiplied the widow's oil so that she could sell it to pay her debt and have money to live.

2 Kings 4:1-7

- ◇ The power of God on the children of Israel gave them favor with the Egyptians and allowed them to plunder the Egyptians' wealth before the Great Exodus.

Exodus 12:35-36

- ◇ Jehoshaphat and his armies were able to gather up spoils for three days after God caused their enemies to turn on each other and defeat themselves.

2 Chronicles 20:25

The Prosperous Soul

◆ **You will prosper *even as* your soul prospers.**

3 John 2

- ◇ Your financial prosperity is dependent on the prosperity of your soul.
- ◇ If your mind, will and emotions don't flourish, you won't increase.
- ◇ A prosperous soul will produce a prosperous image inside you.

◆ **You must see yourself as a success in life before you will become one. Your image of yourself dictates who you capable of being.**

Proverbs 23:7

Get Wisdom and You Will Prosper

◆ **A prosperous soul is one that has both knowledge and the understanding of how to apply that knowledge to bring about a desired result.**

- ◇ The soul that prospers is a soul that acquires wisdom.

◆ **Because wisdom is the principal thing, it should be your foremost pursuit in any endeavor.**

Proverbs 4:7

- ◇ What wisdom produces in your life is far better than anything else you desire.
Proverbs 3:13-15

- ◇ When wisdom comes to you, it will bring you riches and honor.
Proverbs 3:16

◆ **True wisdom comes from God's Word and is always in agreement with it.**

Luke 11:49

◆ **The Holy Spirit helps us by teaching us Godly wisdom.**

John 14:26

◆ **Wisdom makes its home and dwells with those who are prudent.**

Proverbs 8:12

- ◇ Prudent: cautious, circumspect, careful of the consequences of enterprises
- ◇ A critical key to gaining wisdom is careful and thoughtful planning.
Proverbs 21:5

◆ **Wisdom causes those who love it to inherit wealth, and it fills their treasuries.**

Proverbs 8:21

Your Right Position in God

You've got reserved seats ... and they're the best in the house!

In the world, we see people get “high-minded” and think more highly of themselves than they ought. Their thoughts are off balance with their position. But in Christ, you already have a high position. The Bible says you have been seated with Christ in heavenly places. That puts you right beside Jesus and right before God. In that seat you will find greatness girded by gratefulness. The most humble act you can offer is to accept righteousness and renew your mind in light of God’s high view of you. This truth will elevate your thoughts and actions to a place harmonious with your position.

History of Man’s Righteousness

◆ **Righteousness:**

The ability to stand in God’s presence without the sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority – as though sin had never existed.

◆ **Man was created righteous before God.**

Genesis 1:26-30

◇ We were made in His image and in His likeness.

Verse 27

◇ Man had a unique position with God. He was created a little lower than *Elohim*, the Most High God.

Psalms 8:4-5

◇ Man had dominion over the whole earth.

Psalms 8:5-8

◇ God made man in His class so that He could fellowship with man.

◆ **Man fell and lost his special place with God.**

Genesis 3:1-10

◇ When he sinned, man died spiritually and lost his God-like nature.

◇ Man fell under the curse and forfeited his dominion over the earth.

Genesis 3:17-19

- ◇ Because sin would be destroyed in the presence of a Holy God, all fellowship between God and man had to be cut off for man's protection.
Genesis 3:23-24

Restoration of Man's Righteousness

◆ In the Old Testament, men were, at best, servants of God.

- ◇ Because man had a sin nature, he did not qualify to be in God's presence and therefore could not fellowship with God.
2 Corinthians 6:14

- ◇ Man's relationship with God was based on his works, i.e., how well he kept the law.

◆ Since we had no chance of achieving righteousness on our own merit, Jesus became our righteousness for us.

1 Corinthians 1:30

- ◇ The righteousness we have obtained is a free gift from God that cannot be earned through our good works.
Romans 5:17

◆ We were restored to all that man had lost in the fall and given a whole new relationship with God that is better than the one man originally had.

- ◇ Now we are no longer slaves, but we have become children of God and heirs of all that He has.
Galatians 4:4-7

- ◇ We have been given the same position with God that Jesus has and the right to share fully in His inheritance.
Romans 8:15-17

◆ God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:9

- ◇ **Fellowship:**
Sharing, unity, close association, partnership, participation, communion, contributory help, brotherhood.
- ◇ Our fellowship with God can be disrupted, but our relationship with Him as our Father cannot be ended because of our sin.

Realization of Our Righteousness

◆ The parable of the lost son and the loving father.

Luke 15:11-32

- ◇ The younger son took advantage of his position by asking for his inheritance and then left fellowship with the father.
- ◇ The older son thought righteousness was by works and tried to earn what he already had.
- ◇ Neither son understood who he was or the position he had with his father.
- ◆ **The works of religion versus the gift of righteousness in Christ.**
 - ◇ Religion compels people to work for God as servants instead of working with Him as co-laborers in the family business.
1 Corinthians 3:9
 - ◇ Religion teaches law-keeping as the way to be restored to God, but we cannot do anything to earn a good position with God.
 - ◇ Religious people condemn others who are not living up to their “rules” as unacceptable and unfit. Without the blood of Jesus, we are all unfit. Through the blood, we are all made right.

Made Righteous Because of His Love

- ◆ **The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.**
Luke 15:1-10
 - ◇ Just as the shepherd would go to find just one missing sheep, God would have sent Jesus to redeem and restore just one person.
 - ◇ God carefully searches for every person, because He is not willing that any should be lost.
 - ◇ Heaven joyously celebrates whenever sinners repent, return to God, and receive their rightful position in Christ.
- ◆ **Because He loves us, God’s desire is to be in close fellowship with us.**
 - ◇ God’s great love for us motivated Him to act in our behalf, raising us up and giving us the same position as Jesus Himself.
Ephesians 2:4-7
 - ◇ The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin and all unrighteousness, enabling us to be near God and enjoy His Presence.
Ephesians 2:13
 - ◇ The purpose for making man righteous and giving him a good position with God was to restore fellowship and establish partnership between God and man.

A New Nature In Christ

Sin's old haunt is now Christ's flaunt.

God is proud of you! Did you know that? Ever since the moment you accepted His “family plan,” He has been not only pleased, but thrilled that you are now His. You’re His victory banner in the earth. Through you, He flaunts truth and triumphs over fickle sin. He’s given you the precious gift of Himself and a clean slate to receive it. Don’t quiver behind your old shadow. You really are new ... a breath of fresh air in the earth!

How Did We Become Righteous?

◆ **Righteous:**

Able to stand in God’s presence without any sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority – as though sin had never existed.

◆ **Under the law, no one is righteous**

Romans 3:10

◇ No man with a sin nature could ever fulfill the demands of the law.

◆ **Through Jesus’ offering for our sin, we were made right with God.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

◇ Though Jesus never sinned, all of the sin of mankind, everything from Adam on, was put upon Him.

◇ As he took our sin upon Himself, He bore its punishment so that through our union with Him, we might come into right standing with God.

◇ As our substitute, He actually took on our sin nature and exchanged His righteous nature for ours.

◇ We were newly created, given new natures, and became brand new righteous people in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

- ◆ **We were justified (declared to be righteous) freely through redemption.**
Romans 3:21-26
 - ◇ Through faith in the work of Christ Jesus, we were set right with God and now stand right before Him.
Romans 5:1
- ◆ **When we believed in and received Jesus as Lord, we came out from under the rule of the law and were made righteous.**
Romans 10:1-4,10
- ◆ **Our relationship with God has been restored and reestablished because we now have peace with God who has reconciled us to Himself.**
Romans 5:10-11

The Past Life of Sin No Longer Haunts Us

- ◆ **Salvation is more than a pardoning or an overlooking of our sins because a pardon would not solve the sin problem.**
- ◆ **God solved the sin problem and dealt sin a final, fatal blow when Jesus came to do away with and put an end to sin by His self-sacrifice.**
Hebrews 9:26
 - ◇ He cut sin off at the root and destroyed its power over mankind.
- ◆ **We are more than just forgiven because our sins were remitted when we were born-again.**
Acts 10:43
 - ◇ **Remit:**
To wipe away as though it had never happened. This word is used only in connection with the New Birth.
 - ◇ Any repenting, any giving up sin, any penance does not bring man into good standing with God. He must be born again and have his sins remitted.
- ◆ **The purpose of the forgiveness of sins is for believers to be restored in their fellowship with God.**
1 John 1:5-9
- ◆ **God accepts the sinner as he is.**
 - ◇ No matter how deep or how far into sin he has gone, the New Birth will straighten him out and restore him to God.
 - ◇ Righteousness is available to and made for every man.
- ◆ **There is now no condemnation to us who are in Christ Jesus.**
Romans 8:1

- ◇ God did not send Jesus to declare us unfit, unacceptable, or useless, but to make us fit, acceptable, and useful to Him.
John 3:17

The Nature of the New Creation

- ◆ **We were, by nature, children of wrath and partakers of satan's nature.**

Ephesians 2:1-3

- ◇ Sin was natural for us. Godly living was a struggle and quite foreign to us.
- ◇ We lived by the ways of the world. We were ruled by the lusts of our flesh

- ◆ **Because of His great love for us, God created us anew and raised us up together with Christ.**

Ephesians 2:4-10

- ◇ Now we are “in Christ” and are forever united with Him.

- ◆ **Through the New Birth, we became a brand new species of people who had never before existed.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

- ◇ These new people are “in Christ people” who look just like Jesus.
- ◇ The past has passed, and a new life has begun.

- ◆ **God has given us great promises by which we may partake of God's divine nature, making it our own.**

2 Peter 1:4

- ◆ **We were re-created to be new men who live in true righteousness, which is the very nature of Father God.**

Ephesians 4:24

- ◆ **We are now new men that have been made right with God and have a great position with Him. It is our new nature to do good works.**

Ephesians 2:10

- ◆ **Through living as the new creations that we are, we produce the fruits of righteousness.**

- ◇ Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. We produce what He would produce.
John 15:5

- ◇ We bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives for others to eat.
Galatians 5:22-23

- ◇ We go about and do the same works Jesus did.
John 14:12

Righteousness Consciousness

Don't get knocked out ... Be a knock-out!

Christianity is not meant to be a subconscious or subliminal suggestion. It's a wide-eyed wonder that stands right in the face of darkness and beams its light into every shadow. It's an up-front way of life that offers a keen awareness of authority and power veiled only by ignorance. Tear off the veil! Shed the sin thoughts! You're not who condemnation says you are. Lift your own eyes and you'll draw the gaze of others as well. It's this wonderful freedom that will wake up the world.

Natural Man Is Sin Conscious

- ◆ **All shame, fear, inferiority, guilt, and condemnation came on mankind through Adam's sin.**
 - ◇ Before He disobeyed the command of God, Adam was completely at home in the presence of the Father.
 - ◇ As soon as he sinned, Adam felt ashamed of himself.
Genesis 3:8
 - ◇ Ever since this event, man has been plagued with guilt, shame, low self worth, and condemnation. He is ever aware of his shortcomings and failure.
- ◆ **Sin consciousness:**
The sense of having no right to stand in the Father's presence. To be plagued with guilt, condemnation, or feelings of inferiority and unworthiness. Being more aware of sin, shortcomings, and failures than the realities of righteousness and being made right with God.
- ◆ **Because of the separation sin caused, man sees God as holy, just, austere, and unapproachable.**
- ◆ **For thousands of years, man has attempted to cure his shame, leading to religion, religious works, and the development of philosophy.**

- ◆ **This sense of unworthiness robs believers of true fellowship with the Father and is the reason for spiritual failure. It destroys faith and makes prayers ineffectual.**

God's Cure for Sin Consciousness

- ◆ **Jesus dealt with the root of the problem when He put sin away.**
Hebrews 9:26
- ◆ **Jesus was given as the final offering for sin and the cure for man's sin consciousness.**
Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-22
 - ◇ Animal sacrifices could not perfect (complete) us.
Verse 1
 - ◇ Purification should do away with sin consciousness.
Verse 2
 - ◇ By His one offering, He has perfected us forever.
Verse 14
 - ◇ God has chosen not to remember our sins or hold them against us.
Verse 17
 - ◇ Because of His blood we now have boldness to enter His Presence.
Verse 19
 - ◇ Our hearts are sprinkled from an evil conscience.
Verse 22
- ◆ **Because we have been delivered from the power of darkness and Jesus is now our Lord, our sin is absolutely none of satan's business.**
Colossians 1:13-14
 - ◇ Do not let satan engage you in a review of your past sins.

Awake to Righteousness

- ◆ **When you are awake, you are conscious. Be aware of righteousness.**
1 Corinthians 15:34
 - ◇ Meditate on the truths of righteousness.
 - ◇ Confess daily who you have been made in Christ Jesus.
 - ◇ Refuse to entertain thoughts of condemnation or guilt.
 - ◇ Renew your self-image from inferior or worthless to valuable and precious.

◆ **Righteousness consciousness:**

Having a full sense of a legal right to stand in the Father's presence without any guilt, condemnation, or inferiority. Being fully aware of the realities of righteousness and the broken dominion of sin. A realization of the acceptance we have in Christ.

◆ **The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel. This message is good news to those who believe.**

Romans 1:16-17

◆ **Understand God's attitude towards the righteous:**

◇ He is not condemning us.

Romans 8:1

– Condemn:

To doom or declare unfit.

◇ He sees us as his very own children.

Romans 8:16

◇ He makes His home with us.

John 14:23

◇ He loves us just like He loves Jesus.

John 16:27

John 17:23

◇ His eyes are on us, and His ears are open to our prayers.

1 Peter 3:12

◇ Our prayers avail much with Him.

James 5:16

◆ **Recognize the reality of your righteousness.**

◇ We are no longer in bondage to sin.

Romans 6:5-11

◇ We are now the children of God.

1 John 3:1-2

◇ We are holy, blameless and above reproach in His sight.

Colossians 1:19-22

◇ We are complete in Him.

Colossians 2:10

◇ We are world over-comers.

1 John 5:4

The Force of Righteousness

May ~~the feeling~~ the FORCE be with you.

Your feelings are fickle little flags that wave in the wind of circumstance. It's a mere indicator of what's whizzing by. What you believe is like the pole your flag is hoisted on. If you are firmly grounded in righteousness, it won't matter how strong the storm is. Your flag will become a steady banner, a sign of victory, a testimony of one who stands in the face of adversity. If all you have is a twig of traditions, you'll snap easily when the pressure is on and end up chasing your feelings across the terrain trying to get them under control. Fortify yourself with the truth. Trust the force of righteousness. Know who you are and live it!

Establishing Righteousness in Our Lives

- ◆ **Righteousness is established in our lives as we recognize and believe by faith that Jesus made us as right with God as He is.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

- ◇ Righteous:
Able to stand in God's presence without any sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority – as though sin had never existed.

- ◆ **Righteousness can only be obtained by faith, not by good works.**

Romans 9:30-33

- ◇ Your relationship with God is not based on what you have or have not done, but rather it is entirely dependent on what Jesus has done for you.
- ◇ Accept the fact that there is nothing that you can do to make God love you more or to make yourself more worthy of Him.

- ◆ **Righteousness must be submitted to and believed.**

Romans 10:1-4

- ◇ Realize that your feelings are not the proof of your righteousness.
- ◇ Develop your faith in righteousness the same way you would in healing.

- ◆ **Righteousness speaks, telling you that Jesus has already achieved all that is necessary for you to enjoy salvation and peace with God.**

Romans 10:6-11

- ◆ **If we can believe we are saved, we can believe we are righteous.**

- ◇ Just like you believe you are saved based on the promises in God's Word, so you must believe that you are righteous based on what God has said.

- ◆ **We can grow in *the knowledge* of our righteousness, but it is not possible to grow *in* our righteousness.**

- ◇ You cannot be any more righteous than you are when you are born again.

- ◆ **If we do not renew minds to the realities of our righteousness in Christ, we limit our ability to freely receive all that God has so generously provided for us.**

Righteousness Versus Sin

- ◆ **Righteousness is our greatest weapon against sin.**

Romans 6:13-23

- ◇ Because Jesus freed us from sin and made us right with God, we no longer have to live under subjection to our sinful flesh.

- ◇ To walk free from sin, we must present ourselves as slaves of righteousness.

- ◆ **Wake up, realize you are righteous, and do not sin.**

1 Corinthians 15:34

- ◇ The greater your understanding of your position in Christ and your freedom from sin, the greater your ability to resist the temptation of sin.

- ◆ **Because Jesus is our sanctification, we are fit for service in the Kingdom of God.**

1 Corinthians 1:30

- ◇ Sanctification: To be set apart, dedicated, separated, and consecrated unto God.

- ◆ **Now, it is natural for us to live holy.**

What Righteousness Produces in our Lives

- ◆ **We have boldness to enter His Presence to obtain whatever we need because we have no guilt from our past sins or shortcomings.**

Hebrews 10:19

Hebrews 4:16

- ◆ **As children of God, we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ and have free access to all that He has.**
Romans 8:17
- ◆ **By the gift of righteousness, we rule and reign in this life as kings.**
Romans 5:17 (AMP)
- ◆ **The work of righteousness in our lives produces peace and wholeness, leaving nothing missing and nothing broken in any area of our lives.**
Isaiab 32:17
- ◆ **Protection is provided for the righteous from the evil one.**
Isaiab 54:14-17
 - ◇ You have been delivered from oppression, fear, and terror.
 - ◇ No weapon formed against you shall prosper.
- ◆ **As we seek our right position in the Kingdom of God, He will see to it that all our needs are met.**
Matthew 6:33
 - ◇ What we shall eat, what we shall drink, and what we shall wear
 - ◇ Protection and security from the evils of tomorrow

The Force of Righteousness in Action

- ◆ **Because Jesus knew His position with God, He was able to raise Lazarus from the dead.**
John 11:38-44
 - ◇ “I know that you always hear me.”
- ◆ **We are now masters over evil.**
I John 4:4
- ◆ **“As He is, so are we in this world.”**
1 John 4:17
 - ◇ He is a new creation. So are we.
 - ◇ He is the righteousness of God. So are we.
 - ◇ He is an heir of God. So are we.
 - ◇ He is Master of the underworld. So are we.
 - ◇ As He has fellowship with the Father, so have we.