

THE GOD-MAN
SPIRITUAL
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One

Summary Chart 3

Chapter Two

The Lord Is My Strength 5

Chapter Three

The Creation and the Fall 17

Chapter Four

The Lord Is Our Strength 26

Chapter Five

Out of Delusion and Deception to Strength 38

Chapter Six

Strength in the Lord 52

Chapter Seven

Forget Not His Benefits 56

Chapter Eight

Strength vs. Weakness 69

Chapter Nine

Move from Weakness to Strength 79

Chapter Ten

Back to Basics 94

Chapter Eleven

Five Areas of Blessing or Weakness 114

Chapter Twelve

Faith Adjustments 127

Chapter Thirteen
Accountable to the Lord 145

Chapter Fourteen
Spiritual Beings..... 151

Chapter Fifteen
God’s Truth..... 162

Chapter Sixteen
Passion 181

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
 Chapter One
 Summary Chart

Signs of Weakness	Cause	Solution	Signs of Strength	Scripture references
Unbelief	“Not born again”	Be “born again” with Jesus as Lord of all areas of life	Jn. 1:12-13 °God - man	Exodus 20 Deuteronomy 6:13-19 Deuteronomy 8:19-20
Spiritual apathy	Pride (self)	Jesus, not me or others, is source of life (all areas).	Jn. 14:12 ° Believer	Deuteronomy 9:4-6 Deuteronomy 24-25 Deuteronomy 28
False beliefs	Pride of life (worldly influence)	Whatever I do, I do to further God’s will and purpose with all my heart	1 st Cor. 13:13 ° Love, hope, faith	Psalms 84:1-7 Psalms 96:6-7 Proverbs 3:5-6 Proverbs 24:3-10
Ignorance and lack of desire	Unbelief	Know and do the Word of God.	1 st Cor. 4:2 ° Faithful	Isaiah 59:1-2 Hosea 4:6
Lack of prayer	Spiritual ignorance	Pray without ceasing in the Holy Spirit.	Phil. 4:7 ° Peace	Matthew 5:3-16 Mark 4 Luke 4:18-19
Disobedience of God’s Word	“Playing God”	Be thankful and praise God.	Gal. 5:21 ° Fruit of Spirit	Luke 10 – 19 – 20 Luke 18:4
Jesus is not Lord of all areas of life	Demonic attacks	Give up old (self) ways.	Jn. 3:16 ° Eternal	Luke 18:9-29 Luke 21:34-36
Not seeking the Lord’s wisdom, direction, and purpose		Dwell in God’s house.	Eph. 3:20 ° Limitless in Christ	Luke 22:32, 43 2 nd Corinthians 12:9 Galatians 2:20 Galatians 5:21
Low church attendance		Praise the Lord continuously.	Jn. 17:20-23 ° One with God	Philippians 1:6 Hebrews 10:16-39
Lukewarm, compromising, convenient belief		Seek the Lord’s wisdom.	1 st Jn. 3:1 ° Child of God	James 4:4-10 1 st Peter 2:1-5:9-10
		Minister to (wait on) the Lord.	Believe in and love the Father	Read all of Proverbs
			Matt. 17:20 ° Nothing the Lord wants is impossible to or through Him	Read all of Ecclesiastes

Signs of Weakness	Cause	Solution	Signs of Strength	Scripture References
			Eph. 2:10 ◦ Created to work the will and works of God to God's glory	
			Col. 3:1-2 ◦ Seated with Christ in heavenly places	
			Has dominion in Christ over all things	
			Generous	
			Hid with Christ in God	
			1 st Jn. 3:11 ◦ Loves God's people, loves church	
			Go boldly to God's throne	

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Two
The Lord Is My Strength

No Lack in the Lord

When times get tough, God gets tougher; those who are in Him become more than conquerors and overcomers, and will not be moved by anything that comes their way.

The Lord calls Himself “the God who is more than enough.” He is more than sufficient. This is very important to understand because we live in a world that is deficient, empty and wanting. It is depraved and deprived. The Lord has come to save us from all of that, and to fill our lives to overflowing with His goodness, love, and blessings.

There is no lack with the Lord who is our Shepherd. He fills our every moment with joy in His presence. Ecclesiastes, chapter 5, talks about how the Lord wants to occupy our time with gladness of heart.

One of the reasons people lose their joy is because they start thinking about lack: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. They take their eyes off the author and finisher of their faith, our Lord Jesus, and start to look at other things, not realizing that the Lord is able to multiply the blessing.

People are always looking at what they do not have. The Lord does not look at things that way (in the form of lack). He says you have something. When the five thousand men, not including women and children, were out with Jesus, He wanted to feed the crowd. He asked the disciples what they had, and they said they had a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish, but “*What are these among so many?*” (John 6:9) They were looking negatively at the situation, and the Lord did not even listen to them. He did not talk to them. He just took what they had, raised it up to God, and said, “Thank you, Father, for your provision,” and then He passed it out. When He passed it out, it multiplied.

When the thanksgiving starts, that is when the miracle begins. As long as people are thinking negatively about lack, no miracle is going to happen. The people of the world worry about what they are going to eat, drink and wear. In Matthew, chapter 6, Jesus said that unbelievers think about that. You are a believer, so seek first the kingdom of God and all the other will be added to you (including strength).

The Plans God Has for Us

As we believe God, we speak things into existence. We may not know what to speak because we do not have a clue what to do, but when we can ask the Lord to have His way, we ask Him to work it out the way He is going to work it out. We do not know what the future holds, but we need to thank the Lord as we trust Him to work out what His plan is. We need to yield our plan to Him. God needs to override us, and we need to surrender to Him.

We all make plans, but the Word says the Lord orders the steps. In other words, He will work it out the way that will be the best. If someone asks you what your future holds, you say, "I do not know all the details exactly, but I know that it is going to be good because the Lord knows the plans He has for us. Plans for good, not for evil. Plans to prosper, to give hope and a future."

When we have hope, it keeps us going. It is like the carrot in front of the donkey. The Lord also gives us faith. Faith believes for what is not yet seen, but we know we have it so we can rejoice. We will see it if we do not give up the faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, and that is why it is so important that we hear the Word of God and surround our thoughts with it.

Be talking, thinking, and breathing the Word of God. Have people around encouraging us with it. Without the Word, faith diminishes. Then we have to do something with it. We cannot be just hearers of the Word only, we have to become doers. Doers are believers. You can always tell what you believe by what you are doing.

Loss of Strength

Have you ever tried to do something in your own power? There is physical, mental, and spiritual strength, but without Christ you have

no spiritual strength. Mental strength is willpower, or trying to manipulate people and control situations to make your world. You probably found that people always messed it up. Have you been used or abused by people that way? Have you used or abused yourself? Abused people abuse others because they have lost the trust factor, and they always want everything on their terms.

If we are going to be blessed, it has to be on God's terms. All of our lives we try to get things on our terms. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

How You Lose Strength

When you consider marriage, you are not to seek the smartest, quickest, fastest, and strongest. You have to drop that kind of power game. In nature it is "Survival of the fittest," but that does not work in relationships. For every Ahab, there has to be a Jezebel. Ahab was a spineless, weak, and very wicked man. Jezebel was even worse.

This power struggle has gone on since the devil got kicked out of heaven. People have been taught, "It is by might or by power." The Lord says, *"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit."* His Spirit is love. Love prefers others more important. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; it never fails.

Love endures all things. It perseveres. (1st Corinthians 13:8) People in severe situations may have thought they were losing their minds because the pressure was so great. Maybe you have been in a work situation where you could lose your job, and you felt like you could not finish or complete what you were dealing with, you thought you were losing it. Then you did lose it because fear and worry came in.

Worry and fear are intended to get us to lose our strength. If you have worked night and day trying to make things happen, you lost your strength and could not go any further. At age 24 I had a physical breakdown. I was working day and night trying to be a faithful servant of God, trying to help everybody and everything, and I came to a place where I lost all my strength. It took all I could do to get up and stand in the pulpit. Thank God the church I was pastoring

only met once a week on Sundays. I could not do anything else, but afterward the Lord taught me how to care for His people. He gave me wisdom. We need wisdom if we are going to keep the strength we have.

There are many different factors involved in “loss of strength.” Have you been in a situation where you did not know what to do anymore, and you lost your strength? Did a sudden fear come upon you, and the next thing you knew, you were helpless and hopeless? These things happen in life.

When you were a child perhaps your parents were fighting and going in different directions, and you thought your whole world was over. Maybe you lost your will to go on.

You may have had physical problems come upon you because of other situations. Did you then find that you did not have any strength to deal with anything?

Perhaps you made bad investments and your money “went south.” That is why some people jump out of windows, and it is not from the first floor. They just lose their strength and feel helpless and hopeless.

When you lose your strength, there is a helplessness and hopelessness that comes upon you. The Lord says in Proverbs, chapter 3, that when the sudden fear comes upon you, do not be afraid, for the Lord shall be your confidence. He is going to help you.

The Lord will be your strength. Have you tried to help people but came to your wits end? You were being drained mentally, physically, and financially. You may have eventually come to a place where you used to love someone, but now you are wondering if you even want to see them around. You get to the place where you do not care if they are there or not, and then you feel guilty about it. Guilt will cause loss of strength. Grieving will cause a loss of strength.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9) Do not give up. Stay in there.

When I was with the Lutheran church back in the 70's, I was on a crusade to help and save everybody. The Lord came to me one day and said, "Son, what are you doing?" And I said, "I am killing myself trying to care for your people." When you lose your strength, you lose your love. You start to lose your kind, caring heart, and that is when bitterness and resentment starts to come. Thoughts come in that were not your thoughts, but now they are yours because you are thinking and dwelling on them. Then you want to crawl under a rock and get away from people.

The only time the disciples asked for more faith was when it came to forgiving people. It was not raising the dead, healing the sick, or casting out devils. More times than not relationship issues are one of the most prevalent reasons people lose their strength.

Tired and Weary?

Have you been in a marriage where you just got tired of fighting, the power play and the struggle? First it is a little thing, and then it is a huge issue. Strife came from hell, it did not come from heaven. Power plays and game playing did not come from God. It sucks the life out of you and the marriage, and then you wonder if you are even a Christian anymore. You do not really like your spouse because you are so tired.

Has your job made you tired? *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. They get up early and stay up late."* (Psalm 127:1) (You try to make something happen that is not going to happen.

We have to get tired of ourselves trying to run the show. You can be physically and mentally tired, or sometimes even spiritually tired. Sometimes you can be so tired you cannot even sleep. The Lord says that He gives His beloved peaceful sleep. The Lord will give you refreshing. *"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."* (1st Peter 5:7 NKJV) But before that He says to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. *"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles;*

they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”
(Isaiah 40:30-31)

So when I am walking in the Spirit, I will not get tired and weary. I am not going to get give up on everybody and everything including myself. One thing the Lord wants in this day and age is strength to persevere and not to just “hang in” there, but to overcome.

When you get to the place of no strength, you have to get on your face before God and say, “Lord, I have no strength. I have no energy. I have no vitality. Lord, unless you make this relationship work, it is not going to happen. I cannot do it.”

Many people quote Philippians 4:13 incorrectly. They say, “I can do all things.” We should say “I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me.” You may be brilliant. You may be gifted physically and mentally. You may be talented and have all kinds of attributes and blessings, but let me tell you, you are not God. We all have to come to that realization. God has rest for the blessed.

Receive Strength from the Lord

God says to stand up and be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, and having done all to stand, stand and overcome in the name of the Lord. It may be a physical, mental, relational, or financial situation that you are dealing with. Usually challenges come in multiples, but the Lord says, “I am here for you and I will be your strength.”

“I love you, O Lord, my strength.” (Psalm 18:1) For years Saul hunted down David, trying to kill him. David was running, hiding, and living in caves. He was constantly on the move. That will tire a person out, and it gets old really fast. Have you been in a situation that did not seem to go away? Every day when you woke up you knew you had to deal with it again.

“...the Lord is my rock,” (Psalm 18:2) David said after God delivered him. Understand, however, he went through the whole thing, and the Lord went through it with him.

“...the Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge.” (Psalm 18:2)

We receive strength when we praise the Lord.

Have you looked for a quiet moment but found you could not have it because when you got by yourself you were not quiet? Having no peace will zap your strength right out of you. Where there is worry and fear, your strength is being drained away. When you know that there is a bitter situation between you and somebody else, your strength is taken away. When you are in that double-minded place of confusion, your strength is being zapped. There is no quiet, no peace, and no rest. The Lord says, “I will be your refuge. You can come here with Me, and it will be safe.” That is the quiet, safe place.

Do you long to be free from criticisms, demands, and expectations? Sometimes they come from other people, and sometimes they are from within you.

The Lord says, “I will be your refuge; I will be your safe place.” Under the shadow of the Almighty is the shelter house where you can come and rest, and the Lord will care for you, love you, look out for you, defend you, protect you, supply for you, and provide for you. He will be there for you. He is the refuge.

David was on the run, a fugitive, day in and day out. God became His refuge. *“He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.”* (Psalm 18:2-4)

Many times there are things which come upon you that try to envelop you, suck you under, and hold you down. Have you ever had the feeling that you were drowning? It comes in different ways, like depression, which is trying to take you away from the place where you can do anything about situations, trying to get you to leave life for a while and escape. That is why many people do alcohol and drugs.

The Lord says, "Come to Me and I will be your helper. I will help you in this time." *"In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help,"* (Psalm 18:6) David said. He humbled himself.

You can lose both physical and mental energy in this western society. A wise person will call to the Lord before he gets to the point of burn out. Western culture consists of everything that the Bible talks against, like "be your own person," "be a success in life," "drive yourself until you break down to succeed." What is success? What is prosperity? Knowing God is prosperity, not what you accomplish. You will just leave all your work and efforts to the next guy, whether a wise man or a fool.

I know people that have worked all their lives for a company, but the company dumps them out before retirement, they cut out all their benefits, and the person had stayed late, gotten there early and ended up with nothing.

"In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, because He was angry. Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet. And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire. The Lord thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, the foundations of the world were uncovered at Your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. (Psalm 18:6-15 NKJV)

The Lord is coming from the heavens to save his son. The Bible says, let those who are in trouble pray. If you call on the Lord, He will come like a raging lion to help you. He will come out of the heavens like something that you have never seen before.

“He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He drew me out of deep waters.” (Psalm 18:16)

When you are losing your strength, the tendency is to back off. It says when Paul was being persecuted everywhere he went (2nd Corinthians 12:9), he prayed three times to the Lord to deliver him, but the Lord did not do it. The Lord spoke to Him and said, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”* In other words, “I have all you need. I am more than enough. All you need is Me.” That is the secret to life whether I am abounding in much or I have nothing. Paul said he had learned to be content. (Philippians 4:11)

There is strength in contentment. There is strength in peace. There is strength in quiet. *“In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”* (Isaiah 30:15 NKJV) Quietness is having no fear, worry, or stress. Stress will take away your strength.

David goes on to say, *He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; He rescued me because He delighted in me.* (Psalm 18:17-19)

A Place of Strength

If you have done something out of line, ask God to forgive you, and your strength will come back. After David’s strength left him, he confessed his sin to God. (Psalm 34) Strength will leave us when we are not in a right place with God, and then comes the guilt and trying to lie.

Truth, integrity, and wisdom are a place of strength. Knowledge, love, peace, and joy are a place of strength. *“The joy of the Lord is your strength.”* (Nehemiah 8:10)

When we know that the Lord is delighting in us, we will have strength. Some situations of life make it seem like all the walls are closing in, and you just long to get out into the fields, into the open space. The Lord says, “I will put you in the spacious place. You may still be in

the situation, but I am going to remove the walls. I am going to open up freedom and liberty. I am going to bless you even in captivity.” God told Jeremiah to tell the people, who had been taken into captivity (because they forsook God), “Just build houses and prosper there. I will give you prosperity even in captivity if you return to Me and put your heart upon Me.”

The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He has rewarded me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord; I have not done evil by turning from my God. All His laws are before me; I have not turned away from His decrees. I have been blameless before Him and have kept myself from sin.
(Psalm 18:20-23)

When a man’s ways are right before the Lord, even his enemies will be at peace. If you are at peace, then you are not perceiving any problems as enemies. God says there is nothing too difficult for Him. If there is nothing too difficult for God, then I can do everything that God wants me to do through Christ Jesus who strengthens me. I will have everything I need to deal with whatever I am dealing with.

Other Reasons for Lack of Strength

Impatience and lack of knowledge will take your strength away.

“The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.” (Psalm 18:24)

God blessed David in that instance above, but years later he could not say this because of being with Bathsheba. Life goes on and different things happen at different times. The Lord will give us strength sufficient for the day depending on what the day needs. Some days need more strength than others. Life goes on. Leave yesterday behind because dwelling on yesterday will take strength out of today, and thinking about tomorrow will take strength out of today.

We need to deal with today so we have strength sufficient for this day. We are not in yesterday and we are not in tomorrow, so why are we wasting strength where we are not? The fear of the future will zap your life. Some people who live in a Polly Anna kind of world, which

is an escape, do not have to deal with the reality of what they are facing. The Lord does not take you out of the reality you are dealing with; He gives you strength sufficient, wisdom, knowledge and understanding to deal with it. You cannot just stick your head in the sand. That is what the slothful, lazy man does.

Laziness begets a loss of strength, focus, purpose, and drive. The thief wants you to go where you just do not care anymore. *Que sera, sera.* We are more than conquerors, we are overcomers. We have a purpose, a focus, a vision, and a plan. We have strength and ability to do what is needed spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. We have strength in all those areas because we have the Lord. We are not lazy, we are not going just anywhere or doing just anything so that life takes us down the river. We are going somewhere. We have people to see and things to do in this moment we are in.

Strength Will Rise UP

“With your help, I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.” (Verse 29)

In other words, I am not giving up on anything. I am being revitalized, refreshed, renewed, restored, and my strength is going to cause me to rise up on the wings of the eagles. To run and not be weary, to walk and not faint, for the Lord is my strength.

We go from strength to strength. If you are weak, somebody else may be strong and can help you to get back in there. One will move a thousand and two will move ten thousand. If there is one alone, it is a sorry thing. If there are two, one can help the other and vice-a-versa, and a threefold cord is hard to break.

It is not strength in numbers, though; there is strength in faith. All the people in the world can be together, and yet they will all die. Without God there is no help and there is no hope. It is not a president that runs a country. It is time to put our trust in God and seek the Lord. He is the help for our situation. We need to pray for our leaders that God would give them wisdom and understanding. We need to believe God that He is going to rule and reign.

God has used evil kings; God has used wise kings. The key is for God's people to humble themselves and pray, and the Lord will step up on their behalf. He will forgive our sins. He will heal our land, and He will do the things that are needed to be done.

Strength is not a feeling. Love is not a feeling. Peace is not a feeling. Joy is not a feeling. These are spiritual forces. *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans 8:36) Nothing can be against you. Or should I say they can be against you, but they cannot have you. Tell the devil, "You cannot have me." Tell that lust, "You cannot have me." You need strength to overcome temptations. Strength is needed in all kinds of areas. You need strength to tell the truth when the pressure is there to lie.

Any enemy wants you to feel weak. Have you been beat down by somebody because they always verbally attacked you, and after a while you felt worn down? That is what the devil tries to do. There comes a point where you have to say, "Forget it. In the name of Jesus, I am not going to be worn down because God is in me, and He is my rock and my fortress, my refuge, my strength, my very present help in time of trouble. I refuse to give up because the Lord my God is going ahead of me preparing the way, and I do not need to be afraid. I do not need to get discouraged. The Lord has a good plan for my life, and that is the way it is going to be.

We are whole when we have the shalom-peace of God upon our lives in Jesus' name. These are divine God appointed words. Receive them, speak them, act on them, and you will see the strength of God rise up in your behalf.

We have something to look forward to, and in the meantime, we are coming out of the cave, and we are stepping into the spacious place in Jesus' name.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Three
The Creation and the Fall

Strength and Weakness, Good and Evil

We have in our lives what we tolerate and permit, for better or for worse.

The origin of strength and weakness came in the beginning, in the creation, when God created man and woman in His image. He was good and perfect. He took woman out of man, and she carried on the good and perfect because he was good and perfect.

In perfection there is no lack of strength. Strength is often associated with exercising force to gain strength such as in Isometrics which is resistance training. Strength is then increased through physical resistance. Mental strength is increased through resistance, and spiritual strength is increased through resistance, but it is *not through resisting evil*.

Jesus said, *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (Romans 12:21) If you are resisting evil, then you are focused on the wrong thing. You are focused on the evil that you are resisting.

God does not tell us to fight the devil, nor does He say to fight people. He says, *“Vengeance is mine. I will repay.”* (Romans 12:19) If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. We need to do good to our enemies. We need to focus on doing good.

If we can teach people to do good, evil would disappear. But why is it that we do not have to teach little children to do evil? We have to teach them to do good. Something happened that changed the goodness of this world into a place for evil, and that was at the fall of mankind where evil came into the world.

The fall actually happened before man was created. There was nothing known as weakness before that, and strength was not known as strength because they were just enjoying goodness. When you are enjoying goodness you are not thinking about resisting anything, and Adam and Eve did not have to resist anything because there was no evil out there, only goodness.

In the Creation everything good was here. There was no sickness and disease, poverty, terror, trouble, or death. There were not even any flies. Flies clean up the dead stuff. There were no blood suckers. Everything that sucks blood is carrying disease and sickness. There was nothing but goodness. Adam and Eve were very happy.

People cannot even imagine the kind of a world where there is no worry, fear or stress. There was nothing to fear in the garden. They dwelt only in safety, and had no problems of any kind. There was no bickering, fighting, or power plays to control each other. There were no wars and no rumors of wars. There was no threatening of any kind. There were no impending disasters or trouble. There were no storms or catastrophes. Everything was in harmony and in unity. There was only total peace.

Fallen From Heaven

But something happened! *“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. [That is God’s position] I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.”* (Isaiah 14:12-15)

The devil was brought down to the grave in the depths of the pit. He was called Lucifer at the time. He was like God’s imitation of Jesus. (Lucifer, full of light.) He still poses himself that way, but he is not because he opposes God.

Jesus is actually God come in the flesh. He made a body for Himself, and called Himself Jesus. He rose through the mankind line to save us.

The devil was the best of the best originally. The Lord created him to run the heavens, to praise and worship Him and to give dominion, power, and praise to the Lord, to lead the choirs of heavens: “Worthy is the Lamb. Worthy is the Lamb of God.”

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘You were the seal of perfection [speaking about Lucifer now known as the devil] full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite, and emerald, topaz and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. The devil was created as Lucifer. He was a perfect creation of God intended to worship God and to honor God. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you (The Lord said). You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.’” (Ezekiel 28:12b-16a) This was violence towards God because it was rebellion. Pride comes before the fall. Without pride there is no contention. No striving, no competing, no comparing one with another. Everything in unity, harmony and oneness as God would have it. But as soon as Lucifer started thinking, *I am going to be God*, then he came into rebellion against God.

This is where strength comes in. Who is greater? The Lord says, “There is none like unto Me.” The creation is not greater than the creator. Lucifer was creation, he was not the Creator. Man is the creation, he is not the Creator.

“...So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.” (Ezekiel 28:16b-17)

Lucifer started thinking about himself rather than the one he was created to think about, the Lord. He was created to serve God, to honor Him, to praise Him, and to bring Him glory, but he looked at how good God had made him and all his abilities and how wise and wonderful he was. He began thinking about himself and then came the point where he said, "I do not need God, I will be god." And at that point the Lord drove him in disgrace from the mount of God.

"...So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you." (Ezekiel 28:17b-18)

Hatred of God and God's People

The devil is burning inside himself. Have you ever felt driven to be somebody (even to be a Christian) or to do something? Let's say you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, but now you are being driven by what you have to do. As a child of God, the Commandments should not become grievous (because you have to do them) but rather you love and want to do them because they are good, and by doing them you are going to see God's good results.

You may have been told that you are going to get struck with a lightning bolt and God is going to throw stuff at you from the heavens like cancers, heart attacks, sickness, or disease. That kind of teaching came from hell, not from God. It came from an influence that has come to steal, kill, and destroy (because the devil hates God). He is violent towards the heavens. He hates God's creation. He was thrown out of the heavens and he came down to the earth. Jesus said in Luke 10:18, *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."* There was no war in the heavenlies. It was not a war because it was over in a second. Nothing can stand against the Lord. He opposes the proud. (See James 4:6)

Then the thief thought, *Okay, what am I going to do?* He came down and destroyed everything that God had created. Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* And verse 2 *"Now the earth was formless and empty."* God does not create without form and void. There is order and beauty and everything

good. So God did the creation again and he made man in his image in that creation.

God never gave His image to the devil. He made him beautiful, perfect, and above everything that was known, but He never made him of His Spirit. Now the devil is jealous of God's people, and that is why he wants to come and possess people. However, God wants to possess us. Adam and Eve were possessed by God, but they went for something else. The thief succeeded in taking them out of the will of God, and they lost God's image.

When the thief was talking through the snake, he spoke to Eve and said, "Did God really say that you would surely die if you participated in this?" And she said, "Yes, we will surely die." Then he challenged God and said, "No, that will not happen." Right there she should have realized the voice that was talking through the (stand up) snake was lying (because he said what God told her would not happen), and she should have left. But she stayed there, she went for it, and her spirit died to God right there. She lost the image of God. Then Adam came along, a weak, spineless man and listened to Eve.

Men were created for fellowship with the Lord, not fellowship with the woman. The devil says that men were created for fellowship with women. Yet the Lord intended the human relationship-fellowship to cause godly offspring to come to pass.

Dwell on the Good

After Adam and Eve ate of the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, suddenly they saw themselves as naked. It did not bother them before because they never saw evil. Then they participated in the knowledge of good and evil. God never intended them to know evil. He only wanted them to know goodness.

Paul talked about the same thing in a letter to the Corinthians. God only wants us to dwell on the good. As soon as you dwell on evil, you contaminate yourself. In the Old Testament it says not to use the name of other gods. You should be talking about the Lord.

Jesus never cared about what the devil was doing. He only cared about working the works of the Father. He was not dwelling on all the nonsense.

Man fell away and he lost the goodness of God. He lost the image of God, and he hid from Him. He had never hidden from Him before because He had loved His presence. However, no one can hide from God. Adam lost the knowledge of God as well as the relationship. Then each offspring was born into sin.

Sin means separation from God and “missing the mark.” People usually think about what we call actual sin such as lying, cheating, revenge, hatred, bitterness, etc. The power of this was broken at the cross, and when you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the image of God came back to you. The power of sin was taken off your life and God gave His goodness to you.

While we were yet enemies of God, Christ died for us – the godly for the ungodly. The Lord wanted to save us and get us back to Him and get His image back in us because once His image is in us, the goodness will triumph over the evil. What is intended for evil in the earth, God intends for good. He turns it from evil to good. That is the power and the grace of God. Once we start to understand that, we are back in the image of God through faith in Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus covers us.

The Lord would save the devil if he would repent and turn back to Him, but he will not. The devil is sealed in that fate, and he wants to destroy everything that is good and everything that is of God in the earth. He wants to destroy mankind because man is created in God’s image. You can understand why he wanted to get rid of Jesus from the get-go. He never wanted to see that happen, but he could not do anything to stop it because God’s plans cannot be thwarted by anybody or anything.

Once you start to put your thoughts on the Lord and good rather than on all the evil and corruption around, you realize that you have power over the evil and corruption in the earth in the name of Jesus. God’s image is in you, and the devil does not see you anymore, he sees Jesus because *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,*

but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20) "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" (Psalm 91:2)

Keep the Correct Belief System

There was no weakness in the first creation. There was no need for strength because there was no resistance. Nothing was going on that was not anything but good. Why is bad happening in the earth today? It is not God's doing, it is a thief who has come to steal, kill, and destroy.

Get this straight in your mind and heart so your belief system is not corrupted. God does not give and take away. God gives only good and perfect gifts. (See James 1) Anything else has come because people have lost the image of God and are ignorant of His ways. Evil has been let loose in the earth. Evil is what is not of God.

Learn what is of God. Throughout the Old and New Testaments the Lord sought to establish a people who were called by His name. He gave the Ten Commandments (external in the Old Testament, internal in the New Testament [written on our hearts]). We have the image of God through faith in Jesus. When Adam and Eve fell, God immediately gave His plan of salvation so that we would be saved and restored. He gave us back His image so we are not mere human beings anymore.

We are children of the Most High, and God is in us. He has written His commandments on our hearts. We are here to be to the praise of His glory. Goodness gives Him praise and glory. His loving kindness, His goodness, His patience, and His tolerance leads people to change.

We Have Been Given Strength

Once we start to understand origins, we realize that in Christ there is no weakness. There is nothing but strength. Before we had Christ in our lives, we were weak. We did not have the image of God. We were separated from Him.

“Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’” (Joel 3:10 KJV) Why are we strong? Because we are believing God. God is our strength, and He removes our weakness.

In 2nd Corinthians 12:9 Paul prayed three times about relationship situations. Everywhere he went he had “a thorn in the flesh.” What was it? People under the influence of the devil tried to kill him and ruin his life. It was persecution. He prayed three times, “Lord, take it away,” and Jesus said, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness.”* (2nd Corinthians 12:9 NJK)

In other words, on your own (in the self-nature) you are weak. *Your spirit is willing, your flesh is weak.* But that is the flesh nature. That is not your nature anymore. You are born of God and your nature is God’s image, and He in you is mighty. As you are in Christ Jesus, operating and believing God, you have no weakness. You only have His strength. *“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:13KJV) Verse 12 says, *“Work out your salvation.”* In other words, work out the goodness of God. Work out what He has given us; right standing with Him. Go work the works of God. Bring goodness back into the earth. Turn hatred to love. Turn separation into reconciliation. He calls us ministers of reconciliation (2nd Corinthians 5), reconciling the world to God.

Let’s go out and heal the sick, mend the brokenhearted, cast out devils, raise the dead, work the works of God, preach the good news of Salvation that God loves people and cares about them. The old, dead, selfish nature was separated from Him. It is no more. It died when we received Jesus as Lord and Savior and the new life He has given us. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”* (2nd Corinthians 5:17)

We are of God now, whereas before we were about ourselves, which is weakness. We are created by God in His image just like the first creation except better because we are going to be part of the new heaven and the new earth when Jesus comes back. It is going to be so wonderful, but in the meantime the Lord says, *“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

In other words, let's crucify this evil. Let's do away with it. How do we do away with this? By doing good in the earth. By not leaning to our own understanding and trusting God. *"Lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3: 5 & 6)

We have power over evil. The power is love, the love of God. *"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," saith the Lord.*" The Spirit of love that He has put in us will overcome all things. It believes all things, bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things; it never fails. God never gives up on anybody. But people choose what they are going to have.

I heard the good news that God loved me, even when I was His enemy going out doing my own thing. He loves me; He has a purpose and a plan for my life. His plans for me are for good not for evil. Plans to prosper me, give me hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11-12) He wants us about His business in this earth, and He has empowered us to do that. *"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."* (Luke 10:19 NKJV)

God is with you, He is for you. The Safe Place. (Psalm 91)

All of creation (and the lion and the lamb) lay down together in the first creation, and they are going to do that again. But right now it is survival of the fittest in the earth. It is people against people, animals against animals, which it is all part of the fallen world.

Jesus came to restore heaven's plan. God so loved the world that He gave his only Son that whoever believes in Him, the Lord Jesus, will not perish but will have everlasting life. That starts right now when we believe in Jesus.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Four
The Lord Is Our Strength

Cycles of Thinking

Sometimes hard things happen, yet they are in the will of God. It was a hard thing for Jesus when He went to the cross. It is one thing for people to go through something for themselves, but it is another thing to be going through it for somebody else. Jesus did not need salvation. Everything Jesus did, He did for us because we were the ones that needed to be saved and forgiven. We were the ones that were separated from the Lord.

When you leave this world, you are leaving with salvation, which means you are going from life to life. When you receive the love of God and the life of God in Jesus, you are not leaving this earth with nothing. You are getting ready for Paradise, to be forever with the Lord.

Part of the curse that the book of Genesis mentioned is that the people would have to toil in their labor. There would be weeds. Have you ever noticed that the weeds grow faster than the plants? They will choke out the plants if you do not deal with them.

It says that the woman will have travail in childbirth. That is part of the curse, but in Christ Jesus there can be blessing.

“The Lord says, ‘The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.’ ” (Isaiah 35:1-2)

Something happens inside of you when you get exuberant. It just suddenly bursts forth. The thief wants people to be depressed, lazy, beat down, cast down, and not excited about anything, which makes them weak. Enthusiasm means “in God.”

People who have a hard time dealing with life let everything roll right over them through depression. That means all the crud comes by

and it will settle in the rut, which is you. You need to get out of the rut. The cycle of thinking that does not allow any excitement or enthusiasm puts you in a rut.

The Word says, *“Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”* When a trial comes upon you, do not go into the rut. The rut is like the Grand Canyon in most people’s minds. We have to say, “Lord, I know your plans are good and not evil; to prosper and give hope and a future.”

As long as we are thinking about our health, our wealth, our job, our circumstance, or what somebody said to us or did not say to us that we thought they should have said, we are off the track and in the rut. At that point we are weak because we are not looking to our strength. Our strength is in the Lord. You need to know that.

We cannot do anything on our own. We need the Lord. Our troubles are trivial in comparison to how big God is. You do not have to mentally entertain your troubles. You are either in the Spirit of God or you are not. Be in the Spirit in the moment. What really matters is are you in the Lord, or are you out of the Lord? In the Lord you can deal with anything, anytime, anywhere. Nothing bothers you. God is greater, there is no lack, and you are content and happy. *“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.”* (Philippians 4:11-12)

Ask the Lord what He wants you to do today. Ask Him who He wants you to meet, to see, to talk to. *“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*

Depression comes when we take our eyes and our thoughts off of the Lord and we start to think about our health, wealth, etc. One day we will perish, and we had better be in the Lord when we die. There are people who write health books and die early!

The things that really matter are the things of God, in the Spirit of God, in the moment with God. When we quit thinking about our lives, then God can do something with us. If you are thinking about your

life too much, you need to ask the Lord to forgive you. The Lord says not to think about it. He says, "...*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 1:6)

We Are God's Cheerleaders

The Lord says, "*Be strong and courageous.*" (Joshua 1:6) God is making the crooked way straight. He is leveling the ground in front of us, and He is preparing the way. He is making a testimony to His glory. Many times things happen, but the Lord turns them into a testimony to good. He turns things around, and even if I die, I live. I cannot lose.

I do not pray for people to live or to die. I pray that they finish what God has given them to do for their lives. This is what the Holy Spirit taught me many years ago. We have seen people live that nobody thought would live. In fact, a few that had died came back because they had not finished what God had given them. Some died without Jesus and they needed salvation. People were believing for them, and they headed out before they were saved, and God cannot cause them to come back.

I had a couple of people die in church. Of course that emptied the building because some were thinking, *Oh man, I do not want to go to that church, people die there.* But those people also came back to life.

In the Book of Acts it says that Paul was preaching so long that a young man went to sleep, fell out the window, and died. Paul went out and picked him up, and raised him from the dead. Then he preached until dawn.

"In your presence is fullness of joy." (Psalm 16:11) When you are in God's presence, do not bring your baggage and play back old tapes. God is in you. Did not you die to being "down?" It has no power over you. It is not who you are or who you are about. The Lord wants to occupy your time with gladness of heart. The only way that can happen is if it is all about Him. He is the only one that is true, just, beautiful, of virtue, and worthy of praise. (Philippians 4:8)

“...The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.” The Lord is going to give it to them. *“The splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.”* (Isaiah 35:2)

Look to the Lord

People cannot see the splendor of God because they are looking at everything else. They are thinking about everything else. They are too busy. *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.”* (Luke 10:41 NKJV) Mary was doing the one thing needful, which was spending time with the Lord. Some of your finest moments in life are when you spend time with the Lord, and with His people. There is nothing finer happening “out there.”

The Lord knows us. He knows how we are. But understand, He knows how He wants us to be, and He knows how He is making us into His image restoring His strength. The Lord is restoring to us in Jesus Christ everything that was in Adam and Eve before the fall.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2nd Timothy 1:7 NKJV)

We do not have to be in a rut anymore. We do not have to go there, and we do not have to stay there, and if we are there, we are out of there in Jesus' name.

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul?”

It can try to come on you, but you can say, “Go to hell in Jesus' name. I am not there anymore. The Lord is my strength.” As soon as you start to think that you are cast down, you get weak, you get hopeless, you get helpless. It is because you left the fortress of the Almighty. You stepped out where all the lions and tigers and bears are.

You do not need a badge of courage. You have a heart. You have God's heart. It is in you. You just need to realize what is going on.

When things are not looking so splendorous in the world, we are going to be looking at God. The Lord is preparing His people for these last days before His return. He is preparing us for His return

and getting us ready. He is going to spread His glory around the earth. As the evil increases in the world, God's glory will come down.

He is going to come out of the heavens with a fury after those things that are trying to mess with His children. This is a time of boldness; this is not a time to sit back on your hands. *"Do not fret because of evildoers."* (Psalm 37:1 NKJV)

The world does not care about you. It is all about money. But we are different. We are all about God. Jesus says in Matthew 6 *"You cannot serve both God and money."* (Matthew 6:24) If you are serving money, you are going to lose because you cannot have God and the love of money. Many Christians have been taught they cannot have money either. If you have money, you can do something for the kingdom of God.

"...Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.'" (Isaiah 35:3-4)

That is what the Lord is saying to His people in these days. Be comforted and be strengthened because the Lord has everything under control. But if you are in fear, you have taken it out of control for you. God still has it under control, but fear has torment.

"There is no fear in love." (1st John 4:18)

If you want to be in the perfect love of God and be at peace, not worrying, having a good life, you go on about your business, and you stay in faith. Believe God and keep your eyes on Jesus.

The Reality Factor

"...Then will the eyes of the blind be opened." (Isaiah 35:5) This is not necessarily talking about the physical eyes but spiritual eyes. (Still we have seen physical blind eyes that were opened.) The servant of the prophet of God, Elisha, saw the big army around the village and he was so afraid that he ran to the man of God. He said, "We are going to die, it is all going down, we're under siege!" Elisha said, *"Lord, open his eyes so he can see [the reality]."* (2nd Kings 6:17)

This is very important because what you see is not reality. This current economy was caused by greed. The banks and lending institutions violated all the principles that they stand for. They gave loans to people that did not even qualify. They suddenly loosed the flood gates so they could make the money going and coming, and now we have the problem. It is all a shell.

Things are being manipulated in the world by men under demonic direction and greed. That is how it works. Bringing everything to the fullness of days, and one of these days as Gog and Magog (that is, Russia and Germany), will come down against Jerusalem and the fireworks will begin. It is being set up right now. There is a reason why Israel is in the news every day. The whole world revolves around it.

These are exciting times. We are getting very close to the Lord's return. Even Hollywood has had movies out for years about the end. The end is coming, "Judgment day," but people live with their heads in the sand.

Understand, what the servant saw was not the reality. It was the physical reality, but the spiritual reality is the real reality. It is the real truth. The Lord opened his eyes and he saw the fiery chariots, horses, and the angels of God's army all around the other army. Although the Lord had it all under control, initially they only saw the army around the village. But Elisha was not moved. He was in faith. He knew the reality about what was going on. He did not necessarily see what the servant saw. He did not need to because he knew that God was there in charge.

One day I was sitting waiting for Jesus to walk in a room and tell me some things that I had been seeking to know for a few weeks. The Lord spoke to me and said, "Son, I am not going to do it," and I knew what He was talking about. Then I said, "Yes, I was wrong. I have been sitting here waiting for you to come, where I would see you visibly, and to sit and talk to me." The Lord had shown me what I needed to know two weeks before, but I was just waiting to have a sit down chat, a sign.

I do not need a sign, but I have seen things that people would not believe if they saw it. I do not need that because I know the Lord is

right here with me always. He is not going anyplace, He has not forsaken me, He is with me. He is for me. He is not against me.

Reality is not what we see, not what we feel, not what we taste, not what we touch. But that is how people operate. The mind is like a computer that processes all those things. Reality is not what we think we know. The real reality is as Jesus says, *“The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life.”* And *“God calls things that are not as though they were”* and then they happen. The spiritual comes out of the spiritual realm and manifests itself into the physical realm, and then we have the reality. It is what God’s plan is: where the spiritual supersedes the physical. Where you lay hands on the sick, which in itself will not do anything, but the world thinks it is crazy.

What makes you think popping a pill is going to do something? There are lots of pills that doctors give people that are nothing but sugar. Then there are others that are not, and you can get addicted to them. Sometimes the cure is worse than what you had. Anybody that has been sick knows what I am talking about.

In the spirit, in the moment, is the safe place.

Keys for Strength:

- *“To you I call, O Lord my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit. Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.”* (Psalm 28:1-2)

Have you ever called to the Lord, but you heard nothing but silence? Did you find that God was silent because you were doing all the talking? The prophetic ministry of God is a revealer of truth. It exposes truth for better or for worse. It exposes what we are doing so we can understand why we are doing it. When God shows us what He wants to do, we ask ourselves why we are doing what we are doing because God has something better to do. Why not just let Him do it? Let Him show us what He wants to show us and do what He wants to do.

Many times it is not that God is silent, it is that people are doing all the thinking and talking. The Word says when you come into the presence of the King, be of few words. People think when they pray they have to pray long prayers. I think sometimes we are really just trying to talk ourselves into faith, or make somebody else think that. You ask somebody to pray, and they are not sure what to say. All you have to say is "Jesus." When you are praying over a meal, never have an intercessor do it or you will never get to the meal.

There is a time to realize that *"faith in the name of Jesus is what made this person whole"* as Peter said to the people in the book of Acts. God knows what is going on, He knows what is needed, and He knows why we are speaking the name of Jesus. You do not need to go into all kinds of other prayer because you may undermine your faith. "Lord, if it is your will, heal me, if it is not your will, then I will accept that and conform to it." That is being double-minded.

"That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man unstable in all he does." (James 1:7-8) How about when you are praying, and it seems like God is silent so you pray some more? Or when He does answer you, but He does not answer the way you wanted Him to answer you, you pray some more.

The Lord asks, "How long are you going to be of two opinions?" Are you going to believe Him or not? Jesus asked the people, "What do you want? Be it done to you according to your faith." Have you seen God stretch you beyond what you wanted, and He gave you something even better?

- *"...hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help. Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil."* (Psalm 28:3)

David was growing in the Lord when he said this ignorant statement. Understand, David was a person talking to God, and what he said is accurately recorded, but he was ignorant there. God is not going to carry you away with the wicked. He is not going to trash you. You are not going to the fiery lake with the wicked. God will not leave you and abandon you, leave you high and dry, or betray you. He says, *"...be without covetousness; [Do not look to somebody else or something else.] for "...I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5) He will not leave you out there with the wicked, the

unbelievers, unless you are an unbeliever. Birds of a feather flock together.

Hang around people of faith that are believing God, not unbelievers. Sympathy is not going to get you delivered, healed and blessed. God comes up beside you and overcomes. There is power and compassion in Jesus' name.

- *“...who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve. Because they have no regard for the deeds of the Lord and what His hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.”* (Psalm 28:3-5)

At one time in my life I was reading that passage and it sounded really good. I thought, *That is what the Lord says. Okay.* I started to speak it out, but the Lord said, “He is wrong, son. He’s wrong.” And He took me over to Matthew 5:43-45, *“Behold, you have heard it said, ‘an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,’ but behold, I say unto you ‘Love your enemies. Pray for them who spitefully use you and persecute you that you may be children of your Father in heaven who causes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust.’”*

If I had cursed there, I would have been cursed. The Lord goes on to say, *“Bless; do not curse.”* I kept hearing that – “Bless; do not curse.”

That is the glory. Those in a rut speak the low stuff, but when I am speaking the high stuff (the glory stuff of God), then He is going to move and bless. He wants everybody blessed. He does not want anybody cursed. People curse themselves by not doing what God says. They get into unbelief. But the Lord wants everybody to believe and to be saved and blessed. He does not want anybody to perish. David was praying, “Strike them down. Tear them down, God, and never build them up again.”

In the same way, two disciples asked, “Master, can we call down the fire on the Samaritans? (Can we wipe them out?)” The Samaritans had not received Jesus. The Lord looked at them and said, “Come on, guys, do not you know what spirit you are of?” He did not talk

about where their heads were at. Who you are is not what you see in the mirror. Your spirit is who you are. That is the real you.

You are either of God or you are not of God. Jesus asked why they wanted to call down the fire. (God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah if there had been ten righteous there, but that is the farthest Abraham went.) God wants to save. Jesus went on to say, “I have come to save. I have not come to kill and destroy. *The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.*” (John 10:10)

Cursing is not strength. One day there was a witch sitting here in church. (Just because somebody comes to this church does not mean they are of God. There are many people who come here from different backgrounds and with all kinds of things going on. Nobody can come, though, except by divine appointment. Why? God wants to do something.)

So what happened? I looked at the witch, and I said, “You have no power anymore, no strength.” And she started screaming. Have you ever heard a demonic scream? That is *really* screaming. You could get a job in Hollywood. It was amazing that scream. It just pierces through you, but I love screamers because the devil that was controlling her life came right out of her, and when it left her, she was weak. She had no strength. Understand, what she had was not really power or strength because God just took it away like that, and she knew it left. Then we proceeded to tell her what real power is, and what real strength is because she was seeking power, strength, and control.

God gave the real control, which is God-control. The Spirit controls life (Romans 8), and it is the victorious life. What is strength? What is weakness?

David thought he was praying in strength, “God strike them down.” God is not going to do that for you, especially if you are asking Him to. In fact, He says if you do that, He will take His hand off of them and put it on you.

Bless; do not curse. Allow the Lord to move. “Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.” It should not be, “Lord, strike

them all down. Toast them on the spot. Cause the fire to come. Let leprosy and cancer come upon them all. Strike them with heart attacks and heart disease. Let horrible calamities and accidents happen to them. Let trees crash down on their houses.”

“Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.” (Luke 9:55 KJV)
Know who you are. You are a child of God. Any weapon formed against you is not going to prosper. I feel badly for everybody who ever says or does something bad against me because it is going right back on them. I know what the Word says. I pray that the Lord have mercy on them and save their souls. Let them come to their senses and out of their ignorance. I bind the devil off of them in Jesus’ name. Speak the life of God. That is strength.

- *“...Praise be to the Lord, for He has heard my cry for mercy.”*
(Psalm 28:6)

Who was David concerned about? – himself.

Jesus said, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23:34 KJV) while He was suffering and dying on the cross to save us. He considered it all joy (the contradiction of the cross) for the sake of what lay ahead for us, our salvation. He was not concerned about Himself. He was concerned about us. That is strength. That is power.

When Jesus was dying, and said “It is finished,” everything to save us was finished, for He was the perfect sacrifice to God. The angels were jumping up and down. All of a sudden God opened up the graves, and people were being healed. It must have been awesome to be there and watch. Such things are still happening today when God’s people do what God says.

- *“...The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.”* (Psalm 28:7)

When we trust in Him, we are helped. When we trust in Him, we have strength.

- *“...My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.”*
(Psalm 28:7)

This is what we need to do to get our strength. We need to be thankful and give thanksgiving to God. Start praising God. There is strength in praising and thanking God for all He is and all that He has done for us.

When you are weak, helpless, and hopeless, the tendency is to notice that the feelings have come, the pain has come, and you think about what you are going through. What you need to do is praise and thank the Lord. Start to worship God, and strength and wisdom will come.

If someone is going through something, just tell them how much God loves them, and that He is *not* the one doing these bad things to them. The Lord does not back you over with a car to teach you not to go out in the street.

The Lord is a good God. The thief wants us to think that He is not. He wants us walking on eggs, afraid of God. The Lord says, "I do not care what you have done, come to Me, and I will turn this thing around. I will help you. I will get you straightened out, and then I will get things straightened out around you, and then I will use you to my glory, about my purpose."

- *"The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever. (Psalm 28:8-9)*

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Five
Out of Delusion and Deception to Strength

God in Us to Overcome

I love the verse from Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) – *“Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”*

Look at all those adverbs. Verbs are action. Adverbs add to the verb. It makes it exceedingly abundantly more than anything we are able to ask or think, meaning that the Lord wants to go way beyond where we are. He wants to take us out of this world into the heavenly realms as far as our life and living right now, and that is going way beyond what our mind is thinking, what we have been taught, or what we have understood to be true. *“According to the power that works in us.”* (Ephesians 3:20) That power is there when you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, [That is our position now with Christ] set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2) You do not set them down here because this is all passing away. It is time to set your affection on the other side now, and be about the kingdom work that will help others to be on the other side with us someday.

It is kingdom living, it is blessed living, it is the overcoming living that Ephesians 3:20 is talking about. In these days we need God in us to overcome what is going on out there. We have to have stable thinking because the world is not thinking with stability right now. It is thinking chaotically. It is upside down thinking.

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced-mind and discipline and self-control.” (2nd Timothy 1:7 AMPC) That is not being moved by

what is going on around because it is rooted and grounded in the faith in the Lord. He supersedes everything else.

God's economy is not run by the world. The world knows nothing of God's economy because it does not believe in Him to receive it. The Lord knows how to take care of His own. Believe Him and put your trust in Him, and somehow He will make a way. We do not always know how He will do it, but He will do it.

Consequences of Delusions

There are cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things that make the Word of God unprofitable to people. (The book of Mark, chapter 4) Have you found that when you have a care about life (like people and situations, your health or wealth), the Word of God does not come to play in your life?

Perhaps you stopped taking on as much of the care of the world, and you got blessed. Then you accumulated some wealth, and you began to think about what you have and how good it is. It is more blessed to have something than to not have something, but the deceitfulness of riches (the delusion of riches) causes people to feel secure and to think everything is okay. That is a delusion.

Paul told Timothy to tell the rich people not to put their trust in uncertain riches. (1st Timothy 6) There are many people in the world right now that are scrambling to hold onto what they have because it is slipping away. The Lord spoke to the rich man after he built his big barns and stored up everything. The man thought, *Now I can sit back, rest, and take it easy the rest of my days*, and the Lord told him, *"You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you."* (Luke 12:20) And he left everything to the next guy, whether a wise man or a fool. Jesus said, *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."* (Luke 12:21)

With delusion you get caught up in all the "stuff." You buy all your different toys, and the next thing you know your love for God disappears. You are not attending church much anymore because you are too busy using the things that you have now bought. You are

not trusting God because you have the riches, and you feel you are secure. Well, the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

The deceitfulness of riches is the counterpart of the cares of the world (where you think you do not have enough, and how are you going to make it?) The other side is, "Okay, I am secure," but both of them leave God out. Your love for God disappears and the love of money comes in. Now that you have something, you love having it, and the Lord takes a back seat. He may still be in your life, but your life is unprofitable as far as God is concerned.

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

(Philippians 4:11-12) The deceitfulness of riches says that your life consists in the things you possess, and as a result you are missing what real life is. You are always trying to hold on to what you have, use what you have for your own purposes, store it up, and you are afraid that you will lose it.

It is difficult for people who have had nothing to then have something. It is also difficult for them to go back to where they have nothing again. They will lose their contentment in God. They will lose their peace.

God's Control or the World's System

If the Lord is not your content (but the "stuff" is), you are going to lose your life because your life is hid with Christ in God. It is not in the things you have or do not have. Jesus said we would always have the poor with us. The rich use the poor for their purposes. Now we are in a situation where the government is taking over all kinds of things to bail people out, which is not a good thing, but they are doing what they can because the world is scrambling, trying to cover its bases. Only trust in God is going to see people through this time.

There have been times like this before. It is not unique. I have seen three of these in my lifetime. This one is probably the greatest of the three. But it is what happens in the world, the Word says.

God reigns. He has things under control, but if you are scrambling to figure it all out in your own understanding, you are going to fail. If you are not putting the Lord first and the kingdom of God first, you will fail, and you will fall. The Lord controls everything, the world's system does not. In these last days, there will come a time when the mark of the beast will be required, and if you do not have it (the mark of the world on you); you will not be able to buy or sell.

Some people say they will be raptured out of here before that happens. What if you are not? What will you do? Faith in God is what will make a difference.

If your life is about money, you are a loser. You cannot serve God and mammon. You either love one, or you love the other, but you cannot love both. The love of money is the root of all evil.

People who have nothing are always looking to get something, and then they think they will be better off. It is not necessarily so. Take a look at the people who have won the lottery, and you will see that their lives were messed up as a result of a sudden, abundant increase. God was not the source.

The Lord says to store up treasures in heaven where moth and rust will not consume. If you have ever bought something that you do not even use, what was the good of it to you if it was profiting nothing? What did it add to your life?

When people get old, some marry so they can get their spouse's money. The pharaohs of old buried their wives with their treasures. However, no one would have wanted to marry the pharaoh because she would get buried with him. He was taking everything that was his on to the next life... The delusion of riches. You cannot take it with you. You came in with nothing, and you are leaving with nothing. All that matters is godliness with contentment. That is of great price.

What about the blessing of the righteous? The blessing of the righteous says that you have the stuff, but it does not have you. If God should call for it to be distributed, you would be obedient to do what God directs you to do.

A fellow come up to the Lord Jesus one day and asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" and Jesus said, "Have you done the commandments?" Basically Jesus only quoted the second table of the law, which dealt with loving your neighbor as yourself. The fellow said, "I have done all those things since I was a youth." Jesus did not deny that, He just went to the next level with him. Jesus looked at him lovingly and told him, "If you want eternal life, take all that you have, sell it, and give it to the poor." The man bowed his head and walked away sorrowing because he had great wealth. If God should ask for it, what would you do?

The Lord said it is very difficult for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven because his trust is in uncertain wealth. He is deluded at that point. *"Their trust should be in God."* (1st Timothy 6:17 NLV) Because the other comes and it goes, thus the expression "Easy come, easy go." The Lord is saying, "Put your contentment in Me. Put your peace in me. I am your peace. I will keep you, whether you are abounding in much or you have little. I am your source."

"Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God." (Proverbs 30:8-9 NIV)

We have been raised in a world that is all about money. The gas and oil prices escalated because people put billions of dollars in there to keep the price up, to drive it up, and when they made their money they dropped it back down. Money drives everything in the world's system. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer, and everybody in the middle is suddenly washed away. That is for a purpose because the rich want the poor to serve them. It has gone on since the beginning when Adam and Eve fell.

When children are taught from childhood that this world is not about money, it is about God loving you and you loving God, then their whole life is put in perspective, and they are set on the right track. Many had to be pruned way back because they came to the Lord later in life, and they had received all the world's values and way of

thinking. (If your tax preparer says you are giving too much to church, get a different tax preparer.) God is blessing those who honor Him, but such a person as the tax preparer is from the world's system. There are many tax people that would encourage you to do that. Ask them what they would rather have you do, and what they would do. Would they take it away from the Lord and put in into other investments? Well, how are investments doing nowadays?

Jesus said that you cannot serve two masters. You either love one or you love the other. He says, "Store up your treasures in heaven where nothing can take it away from you." That is not just pie in the sky, bye-and-bye. That is talking about right now. *"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10) What I invest into heaven is being invested into things here as well. God knows how to do this.

Where Is Your Contentment?

Jesus said not to put your trust in uncertain riches because they are uncertain. What is going on with the banks is uncertain, and the media sensationalizes it, putting fear into people's hearts and minds. Consequently desperation begins to work. Desperate is "able to eat despair." When you are desperate, you are not thinking soundly.

Have you ever been desperate for a relationship and ended up with despair? Where is your contentment? There needs to be balance. If you are saving up for the children, the children need to be doing their own godly, right stuff. If my children were not walking with God, I would not leave them anything because all that I have is from God and it belongs to God. Do you think God is going to give something to a person who is not walking with Him?

What are you doing with your life? Where are you going with your life? Who is your source? Why should God bless you if you are not doing what He says? He is not going to. Mercy goes to the repentant, to those who are turning from their ways. Otherwise, everybody would be going to be with God.

Think about water baptism. When it rains, any unbeliever could get baptized, but it takes faith in God to make that baptism valid – not going out and getting caught in a rain shower.

What would you do if you had nothing? *“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.”* (1st Timothy 6:7) We are leaving with the Lord, though. If we have the Lord, we have all that we need. Jesus never took a thought for His life; what He was to eat, drink, wear, or where He was going to live, how He was going to relate to people or anything else. The Father was His source. Jesus lived as a man like us. He was a human being, except He had the power of God.

Ephesians 3:20 tells us that we have the power of God in us. We have all we need for life and blessing. It is not based on what we have as far as “stuff” goes. It is not based on relationships. It is based on the fact that we have the Lord.

When we can really understand that and get it down inside of us, we will have an abundant life in the time of famine, and we will never lack for any good thing. *“I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.”* (Psalm 37:25) The righteous are the uncompromising righteous – those who are seeking the Lord with all their hearts.

Get a new perspective: What can you do without? People do not usually think that way. They think about what they need.

I have recently begun the process of sizing down. I am now thinking that a whole lot of things are not necessary. Another pastor asked me, “Are you getting ready to leave?” And I said, “Yes, I am. The Lord is coming one of these days, and I am getting ready to leave. I am going to take as many devils down as I can, and get as many people up with God.” I still have people to see and things to do, but in my heart I am getting ready for the kingdom of heaven and to finish the things that God has given me to do. I am heaven minded. This is not my home, and I am looking forward to all of us being on the other side together.

We need to start preparing our hearts and our minds to be with the Lord. The way I read the Bible, even the one who did not obey God the most ends up in some kind of mansion in the new heaven and the new earth. Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you,” and “In my

Father's house are many mansions." Gold is paving material in heaven. It *is* significant that gold prices have gone up. Some people are scrambling, rushing out to invest in gold. But a month from now it will be something else.

Moses cared about being with God. It did not break his heart that he did not get to go into the Promised Land because the Lord let him see it from a distance.

People have not been taught to relate to the Lord so that the Lord is their life. They know nothing other than having stuff. I told my parents to use up their inheritance and make sure they are taken care of. I do not care about the inheritance. I care about them. I had rather they had a decent life in their last days. It is not about me. Besides, they worked for it. They earned it. One of the worst things that I could do for my children is to simply give them everything. If they do not work for it or earn it, they do not value it.

Strength is not needing anything or anybody other than God. If you come into a relationship needy, if "you cannot live if living is without you," that which you fear will to happen to you. People are not going to meet your needs. God never made them to meet your needs. Besides, most of the time they are more concerned about their needs than yours. Why are you concerned about them meeting your needs when you are not concerned about them?

It is time to grow up. Get out there into the real world and do not blame anybody else. You need to be obedient with the things you have learned and understood and known. Be able to start to work it because we are not coming in weak and needy.

We came into this world weak, but we are not going to leave that way. We are going to leave strong. We are going to leave with the Lord. I leave behind whatever God has blessed me with, and I do not care about what He has not given to me, it is not mine. I am simply responsible for what I have been entrusted with. I am not carrying the world on my shoulders because Jesus already did that. It is weak thinking that you have to do everything yourself. Strength is realizing that you only need to do what God has given you to do – no more, no less.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2nd Corinthians 12:9)

We need to rely on God’s grace to help us to deal with this life. He will make us strong. He will make us able to deal with life’s situations.

Have you found that the Lord gave you strength to deal with what you never thought you could deal with? God stood up in you, and, whoa, you dealt with that trauma of life. Whatever happened, you are still here to tell the story.

The world and the world’s system is weak. Whatever is selfish and money driven is weak. Whatever is God-driven is strong. *“Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.”* (1st John 4:4) Those in the world consist of the world’s system, all the demonic systems, all the things that are trying to take away your faith. You have the Greater One in you. You do not have to yield to the pressures in life, the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, the lust of other things.

God is coming back for His own, and in the meantime He left His deposit of Himself in you. We need to begin to realize this and get perspective.

“Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’ ” (Joel 3:10 KJV)

Keys to strength:

- Have no vengeance. The world says to get them before they get you. The Lord says to do to others what you want done to you. He says in all circumstances give thanks to God. God is greater than whatever it is we are facing or dealing with. God is our strength. He is with us, He is for us, He is our refuge, our fortress.

If we have wrong thinking and are not giving thanks, if we are complaining, grumbling, worrying, fearing, griping, and blaming people, we are weak. We have to be able to recognize this and move out of that weakness and get back into the strength.

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young – a place near your altar, O Lord Almighty, my King and My God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.” (Psalm 84:1-4)

We are the temple of God because God now lives in us. The power of Ephesians 3:20 is in us. We have that power in Christ Jesus.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)

God will give you strength to do whatever it is that He wants you to do. He will not give you strength to do what He does not want you to do. He will not give you strength to fall into temptation and turn away from Him. God is going to make you weak at that point, and He will resist the proud and give grace and ability to the humble. He will work against your plans because He does not want your plans to happen.

King Nebuchadnezzar eventually grazed out in the field like a cow. He was one of the greatest kings of the Babylonian empire, but not until he acknowledged God did God bring him back to sanity. He acknowledged that God was the one responsible for everything that he was and had, not he himself. Once he acknowledged it, the Lord blessed him and restored his mind.

- One way we gain strength is to come to church and to fellowship with other believers in God. The Lord gave me a diet years ago for His people: one worship service, one teaching service, and one opportunity for ministry.

“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.” (Psalm 84:5-6)

Our lives are a pilgrimage, for we are just passing through. It is not our final place. We are picking up Jesus in this life, and we will go on to eternity with Him. He will take us out of this life and take us to be with Himself. Jesus said, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”* (John 11:25 NKJV)

In some mythologies there is a river where people are shuttled across on a boat: That is a counterfeit. The Lord is going to take us from this life into Paradise. He will shuttle us across. We go from life to life and Jesus sees us across.

The counterfeit picks up on what is true, but it does not give God the glory nor does it give correct perspective.

“They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.” (Psalm 84:7)

Have you found that your strength has increased spiritually, mentally, and emotionally? God has made you strong enough to deal with life situations. We are going from strength to strength and faith to faith. You can have faith as a grain of mustard seed and move mountains. Just think what a pound of it will do. We are not the same people that we used to be, for the Lord is changing us into His image.

The day is coming when we will appear before God. Be getting ready for that time!

When Diana and I first got married we did not have a whole lot. We have much now, but we are downsizing. It is not about stuff. We never sought the stuff. We sought the Lord. We were happy and content even when the accountant told us we were eligible for food stamps (when I was pastoring in a denominational church). We had not known that. We were happy and blessed. We did not even think about what we did not have.

When I left the Lutheran church, we did not know where our next meal was coming from, but the Lord did, and He has always been faithful. He has always been committed to us, and we committed to Him. One day Diana asked me, “Do you think if I go to the grocery

store they are going to give me a loaf of bread?" I said, "You do not know what will happen until you just go."

To move from weakness to strength dwell in the house of the Lord, both personally and corporately. You will be strengthened when you come to church. You will be encouraged, enriched, restored, revitalized, refreshed, recovered, and you will walk out better than when you came in.

The thief wants you out there on your own. He does not want you going to church. He would rather have you going out in the dune buggy, boating, going for a walk, or staying at home because you are tired. I rise early to meet the Lord because I love it. He is more important than anybody or anything else.

People receiving the body and blood of the Lord unworthily is the reason they are weak and sick. They are not discerning the Lord's body and blood by believing in what is going on; it is just motion. Some have died because they are not fellowshiping with God and honoring Him. (1st Corinthians 11:27-30)

Have you ever gone on a vacation from God while on a vacation? Was it horrible? If you love God, how can you forsake the assembling together and try to deal with life? *"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."* (Matthew 10:37)

Church is vital for strength. One moves a thousand, and two move ten thousand. It says to come in agreement with people of like heart and believe in God.

David said that out there in the world he was confused, he was beat up, but "I love the courts of the Lord. I love to enter His courts because there is peace there, there is safety. There is solace. I find refuge. I find wisdom and understanding about life."

As we come together, the corporate anointing of God is in the house and the Lord does what He says He will do. He heals the sick, He mends the brokenhearted. He will do whatever is needed.

- The third way to move from weakness to strength: Praise and worship God with thanksgiving. *“Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.”* (Psalm 96:6-9)

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. As we honor the Lord, His presence fills the house. The glory of the Lord fills us personally, and fills the house. Then the Lord strengthens, He encourages, He builds up.

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.” (Proverbs 24:3-6)

For living life you need guidance, and for victory you need many advisers (godly counsel).

- A fourth principle for going from weakness to strength is gaining wisdom and knowledge. If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5) He will give us direction. When you are in a place of fear, worry, and uncertainty, you have no strength. In fact, ignorance is weakness. Where you do not have understanding about what is happening and why it is happening, you are in a place of weakness.

Then you read in the Word or you come to church and God gives you understanding – what to do and how to do it. You move from a place of weakness to a place of strength because you understand what is going on.

The only way to know the innermost truths of God is for us to face the things that are in our lives, which I call artichoke layers. You have to peel all this off, so you can get down to the heart of who you are and what you are about. I find the closer you draw near to God, the uglier you see yourself. The truth really comes out that you are totally

depraved, deprived, selfish, self-centered, and do not really care about anybody except how you can use them for your purpose, how you can use them to help add to your life. It is pathetic when we see that old self. What a horrible, hideous thing. You just want to fall on your face and ask God's forgiveness and thank Him for saving you, loving you, giving Himself for you.

The world says you are your own person, and you have to get a positive self-image. God says to die to your old self. Forget positive self-image, and receive God's image (who He is) because you are worthless. When you think you are worth something, you are weak. When you think you can do all this yourself, you are weak. When you think that somebody else can do it for you and you can use them for your purpose, you are weak. There is no strength in you. You are a miserable, despicable person. You use people, you abuse people, and then you throw them away. Your life is a waste. That is weakness. You do not appreciate anybody or anything. You are not thankful for what you have. You are always discontented, grumbling, moaning, or complaining.

The Lord wants to show us His understanding and wisdom to help us to really see who we were and what He has for us and how He can change us and transform us from the toad to the prince or the princess with the kiss of God's love.

You can think you are a prince or a princess all day long, but if you are a toad, you are a toad. It is amazing what pride does to folks. It devalues us. It demeans, it depreciates, it despises, and it wants to destroy. That is what the devil does. He uses, abuses, and then throws us away.

But God has come that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Six
Strength in the Lord

Not Moved From Strength

Martin Luther said that there are several things you can do to keep the devil away. One is to proclaim the name of Jesus (to praise the Lord), another is to speak the blood of Jesus over yourself, which is God's protection, and do what God says in the Word. Lastly, just laugh, be thankful, happy, and blessed.

Praising the Lord is good for the soul. It keeps our minds fixed on the Lord and keeps our spirits doing what it loves to do. Then the body will line up. We need to do this every day and sometimes more than once a day. It is a good thing to do all day long. We were created by God to do this. I figure if the creation praises the Lord, how much more so the highest of God's creation, namely, us?

When we go from strength to strength, faith to faith, wisdom to wisdom, and glory to glory, we are in a growth process. The body grows in strength the more we exercise it, work it, and put the right things in. This also works with the spirit, mind, finances, and relationships. Relationships grow stronger the more we work them. The more you love people, the better it gets for everybody.

When Paul was sitting in the prison for his faith in Jesus, people outside were criticizing him. They were building their ministries off what he had done, but he did not think that way. He said it did not matter what motive people preached Christ as long as Christ was preached. What had befallen him had encouraged others because he was standing fast in the faith while going through persecution. He was a believer, which was encouraging to others who were not going through things as intensely. They saw the genuineness of his faith, hope, and love and that he loved not his life to the death. He was totally sold out for Christ no matter what came his way. He was not moved from the faith, hope, and love of God. They knew he had not always been that way.

He asked the Lord to take the persecution away from him three times. He was of the thought that God sent it to keep him humble, but God was not sending it. It was an angel of Satan that was sent to buffet him, but God protected him. *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”* (2nd Corinthians 12:9) He was not saying that Paul was weak. He was saying that God in him was sufficient.

There are many people who dwell on the weakness, but *“Let the weak say I am strong.”* (Joel 3:10 NKJV) *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV) It does not say that I can do all things by myself. People who do that are weak. But through Christ we are strong. God said, “I am not leaving you or forsaking you. Therefore you can boldly say, *‘The Lord is my helper. I will not fear what man shall do to me.’*” Fear is weakness.

Jesus endured the contradiction of the cross for the joy that was set before Him. (Hebrews 12)

The same word for joy is also used in James, chapter one, where it says *“My brethren, count it all joy when various trials come upon you,”* (James 1:2 NKJV) for they work endurance (or patience) and make you strong. You really know what is in you when something happens. It does not take a lot of faith –just a little grain like a mustard seed. You can lose a grain of mustard seed in your fingers because it is so small. Jesus said that is all it takes for you to move mountains. Just think what grapefruit-sized faith will do.

Some days need more strength than other days, but we do not go to weakness. The Lord is our strength. Weakness happens when there is something you have not been given to do but you are trying to make it happen. Go to your strength. *Go to what you know to do* (that is of God and right). If you hear something else, do not listen to it. Go back to what you know is God, what is right, what works, and what accomplishes the purpose of God.

Strength is commitment to God and commitment to your spouse in a marriage. Your commitment should be as fresh as the day that you made it. Go back to your commitment. Go back to your commitment to Jesus every day. You will not do funky things when you have a

commitment to the Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave His life for us that we might have life. He endured the contradiction of the cross for us because He loves us, cares about us, and wants us saved. We have a commitment to Him that He is our Lord. We will not go off the track, but if we get off, we ask God's forgiveness and get right back to doing the right thing. We come to our senses.

Humble Yourself

The reason many people have problems is because God wants them coming back to their senses. The discipline of the Lord happens because He loves us. The Bible says to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God.

If you walk in the Spirit of God you would never have a problem because nothing would ever be a problem. You have the greater One in you. People should be thanking and praising God when they have issues, irritations, pressures, temptations, or troubles because as they draw near to God, He draws near to them. They will get better than they ever were before.

"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1st John 4:4 KJV)

"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time." (1st Peter 5:6 KJV) It is all about humility and submission to God. *"The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith."* (1st Peter 5:8-9 NKJV) He is after the people who are standing for God, who are in God. He is not after the unbelievers out there. He is not after the rebellious, the stubborn, the independent people who call themselves Christians (even though they are still rebellious and independent, which means they are not Christians.) They just think they are, and you can tell they are not because they are not humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God, submitting to God and doing what He says to do.

"Wives, submit yourself to your husband as to the Lord. Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the church."

The devil is after the believer. He comes because you are believing God. You should be saying, "Praise God, I am being tempted again." When persecution comes, the glory of the Lord rests upon you, and you should rejoice.

I actually thank the people who are persecuting me because the glory of God shows up. They do not know what they are doing, right? They mean it for harm, but I am excited and happy because I am in the will of God.

God is alive and well on this great planet Earth. If He is permitting something to go on, then He has a good end to it. God is in control.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Seven
Forget Not His Benefits

The Lord Will See Us Through

“It is written, ‘I believed; therefore I have spoken.’ With that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to Himself. All this is for your benefit so that the grace [God’s exceeding power and favor] that is reaching and teaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an internal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2nd Corinthians 4:13-18)

People need the entrance of God’s Word to remove the weakness and to give light in the darkness. The entrance of God’s Word brings light and life into the darkness; therefore, we do not lose heart.

Though outwardly the whole world is wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day, in spite of whatever is going on out there. *“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” (1st John 4:4)* We are being renewed through the Word of God.

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” (2nd Corinthians 4:17) Troubles are not heavy and forever. That is a lie. We cannot believe in lies at the time we are in. We need to be believing God in all areas: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, financially, and in relationships. Everything that is in us should be to the praise of God’s glory and we are pressing ahead to the mark of the high calling of God that is ours

in Christ Jesus. We are not going to faint. We are going to finish and receive the crown of life that God has given.

The book of James says to count it all joy when various things happen because God is greater, and He is developing patience in us. *“We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”* (Hebrews 6:12)

The thief wants us to faint and give up. He wants us to think that situations are heavy and that they will never go away. The Lord says, “Put your trust in Me.” Lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct the path. He knows a way when we do not know a way. There are many accounts of that in the Bible, and there are many accounts of that today in the lives of God’s people. The Lord made a way where there did not seem to be a way. He gives hope where there was no hope. He gives faith where there was no faith. He turns what was intended for evil around to something good to His glory. A great testimony comes out of it and encourages other people.

The final take-down of stealing, killing, and destroying is happening in the world now. It is like what happened when Elisha sent his servant out to the well to get the water. The servant saw hundreds of thousands of troops coming after that *one* man of God. The enemy was encamped around about them, and their plan was to take him down, take him out, and remove faith from the land. The servant ran in and said, “It is all going down!”

As long as God reigns, nothing of God is going down. Everything *not* of God is going down. We are being stripped of what is not of God in our lives. We may have held onto it because there was never a crisis to take it off, so we tolerated things that are not profitable. The Holy Spirit says those things need to go. He wants pure love, pure faith, pure hope, and no nonsense. The day of playing church is over. The day of thinking you can do whatever you want to do without God is over. It is happening and only what is of the Lord is going to remain.

In the end Elisha walked away to see another day of blessing in the Lord. In like manner this is where we are – in the times the Bible

talks about. It is not a time for the weak and the faint. We will not faint and grow weary. The Word of God will see us through whatever we face in this life.

Fix your eyes on what is unseen. You do that by fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. Yes, there are situations going on in the world, but the Lord reigns. We do not know how He is going to do it; we just know that He is. We need to live our lives moment to moment in the Spirit. We rejoice, praise the Lord, and be glad in our hearts and minds. We will be confident in our God in whom we trust.

We have all been through many things in our lives, but understand, the Lord saw us through it victoriously. He did not abandon us or forsake us. *“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.”* (Proverbs 24:10 NKJV) The test is on. We need to get more strength. A pearl is formed through irritation. A diamond is formed by extreme pressure over a long time. And steel is an alloy of iron with carbon heated in a furnace to be purified into steel.

Testify to What God Can Do

“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (2nd Corinthians 4:15)

When we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and submit to Him, He gives more grace. The more we draw near to Him, the more He draws near to us and helps us, and we sin less. Sin is separation from God. We will not be thinking about sinning because we will be thinking about the Lord and how He will make a way for us. Do not think about yourself; think about the advance of the gospel, the advance of the kingdom of God. *It is what this time is about.* The Lord is reaching the nations of the earth with the Word because the harvest is happening. When people realize that their system of operation has broken down, they will start looking for something that will work. That is where your testimony of what God can do comes in.

The girl in Syria told the great commander who had leprosy that there was a man of God over in Israel to go to and God would heal.

Nobody could do anything for the military man, but this girl's testimony was given. She knew that Elisha would heal him if he would just go there. And he went, bringing cartloads of wealth to give the man of God (the wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous). What good is "stuff" when you have no health? It was a long way for this man to travel, but he had a need and he heard the testimony from the servant girl, mighty in spirit, so he went.

Do not ever think that you are nobody to say something to people. You testify. I will boast in God all day long because I know He will do it, and I do not care who I am talking with because the time comes when people are going to need the Lord.

That girl was right there, and she was not afraid to talk to Naaman (a leader of the armies that were the most powerful of their day). She talked to him, telling him to go over where there was a man of God, and he would talk to God and God would heal him.

Necessity led to the miracle. God is here to meet those needs, whatever they may be and there is nothing too difficult for Him.

But Elisha never went out to see the commander. He followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and sent word to him, "Go bathe in the Jordan River." (So dirty that the intelligent leader of the armies of a great nation said, "I have clean rivers back home. Why should I bathe in that dirty old river?") But the little servant girl spoke up again and said, "Master, what do you have to lose except your leprosy? Why do not you just do it? You came all this way."

A man of authority knows how to be under authority. He also knows how to be in authority, but when he has a necessity he is not in charge. Naaman humbled himself to receive the blessing of God, and the great man of the world went out and bathed in the Jordan River. After six times down in the water nothing happened. The word was that on the seventh time he would come up whole, cleansed. Sure enough, the seventh time down, he came up and his skin was like a baby's skin.

There is not anything that the Lord cannot do, but this world has not been looking to Him. They have been leaning to their own

understanding and doing their own greedy things, always about their own purpose. It is all going down. The Lord is setting the stage for the greatest revival that has ever been on the face of the earth. As the evil increases, the Word of God says, God's grace abounds even more. Thus it is so important that we humble ourselves, seek the Lord and draw near to Him more than ever before, and give Him the praise and glory.

God's Plan Is for Good

He has just been waiting for this moment. People are dreading this time, but God has been waiting for it. When people come to the place of emptiness, it is the place where God can fill them. It is where He can work the miracle.

We should want God's best for people, and we do not have to worry about taking care of ourselves. It is difficult for the mind to comprehend because the world has so engrained people to "do it for yourself because nobody else is looking out for you."

"God helps those who help themselves" is a lie. Before we were even conceived, before the foundation of the world was laid God knew us. He had a plan for our lives that was beyond anything that we could ask or think about. His plan is for good, not for evil, to prosper and to give hope and a future. Look at the Lord as the Creator who is behind everything. He never planned the evil out in the earth. He never planned the nonsense that people deal with, and neither did He have anything to do with sickness, disease, poverty, hateful, harmful wars, and greed. His plan is for good, not for evil, and He does not show partiality. He wants everybody to have it. He wants everybody not to perish. He wants everybody saved. He wants everybody blessed. He wants everybody to have the life of God. He wants everybody to experience good things.

The Lord's prayer says, "*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*" (Matthew 6:10), and Revelation 21 says there will be no more tears, sorrow, pain, suffering, sickness, poverty, or death. People have prayed for centuries, "*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*" but they never really understood what they were saying. They can have heaven right now in this earth. When Jesus, God come in the flesh, prayed that prayer, He was showing us what we

can have right now if we are part of the kingdom of heaven. Remember, Jesus said the kingdom is within you. It is not “out there.” He told Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, I would send legions of angels, and that would be the end of the matter as to who is the king.”

Put Faith With It

You do not have to let evil go on anymore. Because the law of life and health is flowing in you, sickness and disease does not have to have power over your life. It does not have to affect you.

You cannot just rattle off the prayer, you have to put faith with it. We are actually asking the Lord to bring heaven here now (for the believers). God intended it for everybody, but only the believers will receive it because it all works through faith in God. *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”* (Hebrews 11:6)

People do not want to have anything to do with a “God-thing,” and I say, “That is sad because God wants to bless the community, He wants to bless the nation and the world.” He wants to do all these wonderful things, but they do not want anything to do with it. What they have is working? I do not think so. Until people realize for themselves that what they are doing is not working, they will not seek a change.

We are to die to self. Until people come to the end of self, they will not do anything with it. Giving tithes and offerings in this day and age is a stretch, but it will put us into the spacious place. Anytime I stretch to do what God says, it puts me into a spacious place, and I grow. When I pull back, then I do not grow and that locks me in.

If you stretch physically, you help your muscles, ligaments, and fibers. If they are not stretched, and they pull back in, they are going to snap. The pain comes when people do not stretch. When we do what God says, then we move out of this world into the heavenlies. Then we are drawing on what is in the heavens. Jesus says, *“Whatever you ask in my name (the term is “demand”), that I will do.”* (John 14:13 NKJV) He is bringing it from the heavenlies because

God has whatever is His in the heavenlies and it comes into this earth.

All the miracles that Jesus and the prophets of old did, and the ones that are operating now, God stretches because somebody was thanking and believing Him. That is when the Lord will do something. People say, "He is a Sovereign God. Why cannot He just do it and that will be the end of it?" It does not work that way in His system. You have to want it. If you do not want it, it will not come to you. *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."* (Mark 11:24) We want God's desire, so the first thing to ask is "What do you want, Lord?" Then when we get it, we ask for what He wants and He will do it. Your prayer will be 100 percent yes all the time, every time, because you are asking what God wants. Why? You sought Him first and what He wanted. Not, "Lord, I am coming with my little shopping list of what I think I need and I want." When you get what God wants, then He makes the stretch happen. That is strength.

It is weakness to leave God out of the picture. The world says it is strong. "Be your own person; you can do it," but that is weakness. When you honor God with your giving, realize that you are putting a stretch and a demand out there on the Lord. He says that if you do that, then He will do this. (Malachi 3) God says, "Prove Me, put Me to the test. See whether or not I will open up the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing upon you so great you will not be able to hold it all, and with it I will rebuke the devourer (the thief) who is rampantly killing and destroying, and I will bless the fruit, the labor, of your hand. Whatever you do will prosper. And then the nations will say, 'How great is your God and how blessed you are.' "

Benefits from God

Every time you honor God in doing whatever He said, that is a stretch, but it is not a stretch that we cannot make because God is in us and He is working to will and to do His good pleasure. When we do what God says, then we also thank Him that we will see the benefit of what He says will come to pass according to His Word. We are not doing it for the benefit. The world does things for the benefit. We do it out of love, thanks, and obedience to God because He asks us to do it.

The people in the stock market are looking for the benefit, but the benefit has disappeared. The last I heard you could buy a major car manufacturer's stock for \$2.00. What is going on out there? The Lord is our benefit, and this is why He says not to be covetous. *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you, nor forsake you.'*" (Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) In other words, do not look for your benefit anyplace else but in God – not in your relationships. He has to be the number one love before anybody or anything, and when that is the case your benefit is in the Lord.

"Forget not all His benefits." All the benefits of life and blessing that we have come from God. All of our benefits are in the cross with the blood of Jesus. They are stable and secure. They cannot be taken away. They are increasing every day. Jesus said not to store up treasures in the earth where moth and rust can destroy and you do not have the benefit of it.

Have you ever had food spoil because you did not get to it? That is what happens in the earth as well. Jesus said to store up your treasure in heaven, where nothing will take away your benefits. As long as you are looking at your benefits here, you are going to lose. It is weakness because the system of man has fallen. The whole world is in a bailout mode right now. But understand, it has all got to come down to God because He is the only one that can save. He is not interested in saving the world's money and economy. He is interested in *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever (the people) believes on Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

As far as God is concerned, this whole world is coming to an end. He will make a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no more nonsense that we have experienced in our lifetime and in the lifetime of all the generations before us.

In Malachi, chapter 3, it continues on after the wonderful promises there. *"Test me in this" says the Lord Almighty, "and see if (note, that is the only place in the Bible where God says, "Prove Me.") I will not throw open the flood-gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing*

that you will not have room enough for it [benefits]. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty. [He is the one who is able to do everything.] “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty. “You have said harsh things against me,” says the Lord. “Yet you ask what have we said against you? You have said, it is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out His requirements and going around like mourners before the Lord Almighty?”

Who Are You Seeking to Benefit?

The world is always worried about gain. “What did we benefit by doing this?” In 1st John 5:3 it says the commandments of God are not grievous. Many people in the Christian community do not want to hear about the commandments of God because they just want to do their own thing. The world teaches you that you need to look out for yourself, and you need to get the first portion to make sure you get something. That is weakness.

Have you approached a job interview with the question “What are my benefits? What is my salary? How much vacation do I get paid? What is in it for me?” Any good employer would look away and put you on the questionable list because you are not looking to benefit the company, you are looking to benefit yourself. All the complainers, grumblers, and divisive people are not adding to, they are taking away. They are expendable. The Lord is the source of our provision, not the job. The Lord is the source of our benefits. If you are looking for the benefits, then you are missing God. God is bigger.

All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord.” (Proverbs 16:2) Whatever you do, do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. That is what the Lord is looking for. Whether it is a relationship, a marriage, or a business, it has got to be with all the heart.

When I got my first “real” job (even though I had all kinds of paper routes and lawn jobs as a young boy), at sixteen I had a leading that I needed to get a job for some reason. I do not know why I was thinking that way except the Holy Spirit guides and directs.

Sometimes you do not know why you are doing something, you just have to follow that leading.

I had a leading to put out job applications. After I prayed over them, I had the impression that the first one that came through was the one the Lord wanted me to have. So, I got a call to go to work for a major department store where I was going to make \$1.20 an hour, and I took it. I was thrilled.

Then, I got three more calls. The jobs paid four to five times more than the one I accepted. It did not bother me because I had purposed that I had already heard from the first one and it was *the* one. (Follow the leading that God puts in your heart. Step out and do it. You cannot just sit there and wait for the job to fall from heaven. God is not doing manna right now).

God's principle is: whatever you do, do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. Be faithful, committed, show up early, stay late, do what you do, and be the best that you can be at what you are doing.

Six months after I took that job, the Lord opened up the department I was working in for commission sales. There I was, a sixteen year old kid, working in the garden and toy department. I knew all about gardening because I had been doing that for years so I knew what people needed. I sold toys at Christmas, and swimming pools in the summer.

I was working 16 hours a week, making as much as the people in the major appliances on the second floor. Everybody wondered how I was making all that money. You see, I did not go in for the money. God told me to get a job. I worked there for a few years, and then I went away to college. Guess what was right down the street from the college? – The same major department store. They looked at my track record, and I was hired on the spot, and God continued to bless me.

If you are looking for benefits, you are a loser. God is the source. He knew the future. If I had taken any of those jobs that paid more at the time, they would have been short lived. I paid for all my college

education and tuition as God provided for me, and I received scholarships. Grades count, do not let anybody tell you they do not. Start young. Start little. Make those grades count. Learn and do the best you can because you are going to school in the name of Jesus. Whatever you are doing, do it with all your heart to the glory of God.

That is how I have lived my life. I was taught that from a little guy, and God put it in me. You do the best that you can do, and God will take it from there. He knew the future and what was really going to benefit me.

Many people just hop on the first thing out there (that God did not give them) because it looked good. Was how someone looked the first thing that attracted you to the person? That is “Shallow Hal” stuff. The world is shallow and superficial.

They were saying, *“What did we gain by carrying out His requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evil doers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.”* (Malachi 3:14-15)

Have you fretted over evildoers and wondered why they were getting benefits and blessings? Read Psalm 37 and understand that all the people that came out like fat cats on the last go-around have just lost everything they had. Dishonest gain leads to poverty, which is a spiritual principle. Make sure what you do is honest gain and work for it. If we are working for it, it is honest gain.

“Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other,” [We need to get back to the fear of the Lord – respect, honor, and reverence for God.] *“And the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name.” “They will be mine, says the Lord Almighty, in the day when I make up my treasured possession.”* (Malachi 3:16-17)

He is talking about us being part of His treasured possession. All that matters in life is relationships. You can be really happy and blessed and have nothing. You can be happy and blessed having many

goods. The people that are happy on both ends are never really concerned about stuff. What matters to them are other people. Whether we sit on the curb and talk, or we sit in a palace and talk, we are together and talking. That is worth a whole lot.

Diana always said with humor that I married her for her Chevy Nova, which was a form of comparison. I had a '64 Plymouth – an oxidized red wagon that had holes in the floorboard and actually became like a sleigh during the winter months because the windows did not really shut right. I have driven every kind of car that you can think of, except the really fancy six figure sports cars. To me a good car is one that runs well and gets me where I need to go. What matters is that we are together in good times and hard times.

God said, *“In that day when I make up my treasured possession, I will spare them just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.”* You will see a distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. Those who do not serve God are just looking for the benefits. As soon as hard times come, they pull in their tithes and offerings, and they quit honoring God. They start to do whatever they can do to survive; *“Every man for himself.”*

Survival of the fittest is not God's way. It is man's system. Were you caught up in that? The Lord says, *“I will take those people who believe me, and their faith will not be in vain.”* Those who call upon the name of the Lord will not be ashamed, they will not go away empty, and they will not become a laughing stock. Some may laugh and mock, but the day will come when they are not laughing and mocking anymore, just like in Noah's day. The Lord is with us, and He will help us if we do not faint (disbelieve) and lean to our own understanding.

A Scroll of Remembrance was written in His presence. They wrote it down. When you write something down and look at it, it brings it to remembrance. Forget the handshake deals; write it down and everybody will remember.

We already have the benefits of heaven. Many people come up for prayer to get well. Jesus already gave them wholeness, and all they have to do is receive it because it is already there.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Eight
Strength vs. Weakness

As God Directs

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” (2nd Corinthians 9:6)

The sower is the one who gets the blessing. In the book of Genesis Isaac sowed a seed in the time of famine. He had not eaten all of his seed, so he had something to sow.

Jesus operated the same way we operate in this earth. Jesus, the man, was just like us when He walked the earth. He went through the same temptations and pressures. The only difference is He always put everything into His Father’s lap and trusted Him. Many times we will hang onto things for a while before we let them go.

Fear and worry never does any good. When you release them to God and asked for forgiveness, the Lord will take them and do something with it. If you would start there to begin with, you would save quite a few moments in your life.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give.” (2nd Corinthians 9:7)

Many people get upset with me because I speak out the way God sees things. For example, why give an inheritance to a fool when he is just going to squander it and use it for nothing of any purpose? It should be used as God directs, and as long as you have it, you can direct how it will be given and what needs to be done with it. If you want your children and family saved, maybe you can write them out of the inheritance until they get saved, but do not tell them that is the clause.

You could be contributing to someone’s delinquency with an inheritance. You do not know what they will use the money for – it

could be for alcohol, drugs, or they could go out and blow it, which is foolishness, is not it? The prodigal son eventually got saved. He lost everything he had because he received his inheritance early, and then blew it all.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion.” (2nd Corinthians 9:7)

I was never raised with the understanding that you have to give. I did what I did towards God because I knew He loved me, and when He asked me to do something, I was like that little boy in John 6:9 who gave his lunch of fish and a few loaves – I would just give it all.

God is looking out for you when you do what He says to do. When you are obedient to Him, He will take care of things. I never had a thought about what I was going to do. I gave my lunch. Compulsion giving means that you feel that you have to do it because of what others will think if you do not or you feel guilty. That is reluctant giving. There is an exterior pressure, and there is an interior pressure.

Compulsion will make you bitter. Many people are bitter against God because they do not want to be flaming unbelievers. They have some semblance of right-doing, but they would really rather do something else. Have you ever gotten upset because somebody seemed to get away with something? The motive behind that is you wanted to do the same thing but you were afraid that you would get disciplined. If you do not do the right thing, you will get the switch, even though others are not getting the switch.

When you act right, but it is out of a wrong heart, you are under compulsion. Later you will get bitter about it because you think, *Man, they do not love God at all and they are getting blessed, or All this is happening for them.* You are doing the right thing so why is not it happening for you? After a while you start to hate God because you have it in you that He is a fiery God in the heavens who is throwing lightning bolts and putting heart attacks and cancers on people if they do not do what is right. You do not want to die early, so you just try to do the right thing. Even though you do not want to, you do it anyway.

The Lord is not like that. Many people have the real God mixed up with the Greek gods, Norwegian gods like Thor, and gods of different places. They do not know who the real God is.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, our Lord Jesus, that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have everlasting life. He demonstrated His love to us first, so we can do away with reluctant and compulsive giving. We do what we do because God says to do it, knowing He loved us first. Before I loved Him, He loved me and He gave Himself for me. No other gods out there have done that, nor will they ever. They want you to serve them.

Those who plan to marry want spouses that are giving of themselves, not those that demand their rights all the time. “You live the way I want you to live towards me, and then I will like you.” So you walk on eggshells, and after a while you get bitter. That person has never given one thing of themselves towards you. Have you started feeling badly towards somebody that was selfish and self-indulgent?

Abounding in Much

God loves a cheerful giver, which means a hilarious giver. You cannot wait to give your offering. You have been preparing it and you now have opportunity.

Paul said in Philippians, chapter 4 – “I have learned the secret to life, whether I am abounding in much or I have got little, I am content. I have something that is bigger than life in me. I have Someone in me who is bigger than life, which makes me bigger than life.” That means when I walk into a room, the peace, the joy, the love and the provision of God goes with me.

I love the life God has given me. I talk to many people that call themselves believers, and I am always amazed how they do not really love their lives. They do not love their marriages, and even sometimes they do not even love their children or themselves.

I love what God is doing in me. I walk in front of the mirror and I say, “Whoa, God, you are looking good today. Look at what the Lord is doing in me.” How good is that? It is not about the *externals*; it is

about the internals. What God is doing in me He is faithful to perfect and to complete.

Our Father in heaven loves us and cares about us, even when we have not been so nice, and it is His loving-kindness that leads us to change. We do not have to be afraid to come into the presence of our heavenly Father. We may need to be cleaned up, but He will help us to get back on the track.

“And God is able to make all grace [favor and ability] abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2nd Corinthians 9:8)

God fills us to bless others through us, and when that happens, we are well taken care of. The life of God is flowing through Jesus, through me, and on out when we do not think anymore about ourselves and what we are going to eat, drink, or wear. That is what unbelievers think about.

“As it is written, he has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, His righteousness endures forever.” (2nd Corinthians 9:9)

Righteousness means right standing with God. When we are in an unbelieving state, we are not in right standing with God. We cut off the flow and the blessing of God because we are operating as a mere human being.

T.L.’s Testimony:

I had eight dollars in my pocket, and I thought it was not enough to give to the Lord. This was all that I had. I had lost everything – my business, my marriage, and all I had was that eight dollars in my pocket. I fought with the Lord all during the service about giving the money to Him. He wanted me to give it all, and I was wanting to hold back. I wanted to give what I usually gave, which was bigger amounts and thought that eight dollars was only change.

Do you remember the widow who gave her last two mites? They were worth less than a buck, but Jesus said that lady gave more than all of the others. She gave all that she had, whereas the others just gave a portion.

The next day after I gave my last eight dollars to the offering, the Lord blessed me with \$1,900. Then it was in my heart to give what I wanted to give which was half of that. God showed me that the eight dollars was significant. It was seed, and He multiplied it beyond, beyond, beyond, and gave it back the very next day.

God was giving seed to the sower so he could sow more.

I am now totally out of debt. The Lord supplied. The word came out about two months ago not to get caught up in the things of the world, so we have not watched the news or looked at the internet. I have no idea what is going on with the financial things of this world, and we just keep going on and giving and God keeps blessing. We are not in any fear or worry whatsoever.

2nd Corinthians 9:10 – *“Now He [God] who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”*

God will give seed to you when you are a sower. When you are not sowing, you are not getting anything from God. It will not come to you. These are principles of life, and they are even applied to love. If you sow love, you sow goodwill. If you sow peace to people, you will get it back.

Let God Be Your Source

Jesus spoke more about money than he did about love. “Where your treasure is is where your heart is.” If you are serving money (which is why people lack right now because of the fear of what is going on with their money), you will have a great fall. You cannot serve two masters. You either serve God or you serve money. (Matthew 6)

The world needs love, but the world’s system operates around money. It is all about the love of money and self. People do not see their own selfishness. If someone points it out to them, they think all the person wants is their money or attention. They are projecting their thoughts onto somebody else. The Bible says to get the log out of your own eye so that you can see clearly to get the speck out of somebody else’s eye.

If you go into a situation wondering what someone is going to think about you, they will not think what you want them to think. If you go into a job interview wondering whether you are worthy to get the job, you will not get the job. The Lord shall be your confidence.

I was taught by the Holy Spirit as a young boy to learn to see that there are lessons in all kinds of things, and my God is not a God who is in a little box that you open every now and then. People have boxed in God, and they do not have a clue that He is so much bigger and better than anything you can imagine or think.

The devil does not like us. He does not care about us at all. He does not want us being with Jesus, and he does not want us believing God or looking to Jesus as the source for our life. He wants us to keep looking at ourselves and do a few nice things that make us feel good. He told me one time he allows people to read the Bible, he allows them to sing songs to God, and he allows them to do all kinds of good little things. He allows people to talk about Jesus, but he does not allow them to have fun with Jesus. It is all about works, like having to read an “x” amount of passages, or having to witness to so many people. Driven. He keeps people back from really enjoying, loving, and having a freedom of a relationship with the Lord. It is all external. It is a religious spirit. The devil also told me that he lets people go to church, but he does not allow them to go to churches like ours or other churches around the world where the Holy Ghost is because he will be spotted, and then he will be kicked out.

“The Lord will supply and increase your store of seed, and He will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2nd Corinthians 9:10)
There will be bigger harvests, more lives will be touched, and more things will happen. Then God switches it from money to influencing people. It costs to broadcast, it costs to print Bibles, and it costs to get the word out to the nations. It costs time, talents, and treasures. Many times you have to go out of your way to love people and do good.

Obedience to the Holy Spirit Is Strength

One night I was driving along a main thoroughfare. It was very dark and pouring down rain – a torrential rain. The road was flooding, and

the next thing I knew I was off the road out in the sand. I did not have a four wheel drive, but I was “off-roading.” I could see the lights of the cars, and somehow the Lord got me back into the traffic flow. I continued driving down the road, coming up to the next cross street, but I still had not come to the stop lights. At that time, there were not as many buildings as there are now and it was very dark. Out of the corner of my eye I could see a guy out there in the rain. Have you ever seen one of those little cats in the rain, just drenched?

I was late for church, which is a bad thing for a minister, and I just whizzed right on by the guy. Then I heard a voice say, “Go pick him up.” I do not recommend this to anyone nowadays, especially ladies. But I know the voice of the Lord, and He said to pick him up, so I went back and picked him up. He was muddy and soaked, which was not so good for my interior, and he was smelling pretty ripe. It was just one of those scenarios. I asked him where he was looking to go and he told me. It was about five miles out of the way. No sooner did I drop him off when I heard a little voice, “What you have done to the least of these you have done to Me.” You know, the guy could have been an angel, who knows? I do not think so because the Lord was quoting out of Matthew 25, so that meant it was a person. Then I had a wonderful, full cinema experience (Hollywood effect) of the Good Samaritan and the two ministers of God who went wide around the guy that was lying in the ditch. Whoa!

Weakness was really all around because I was looking at the fact that I was late, and I had responsibilities. The only responsibility that we have is to do the will of God, and do what God says and directs us to do.

There are many things in life that you do not have any control over. I was out driving in the sand, and I should have gotten stuck. I should have been up to my hubcaps in that stuff because it was flood water. I was one of those people that should not have been out there. Others have actually died in such areas, trapped in their car as the water was blowing over it.

But down inside of me is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God. You have to know something about me. I hate being late. To me that is rude, crude, and is just not love unless there is a reason for it.

I had all of this weakness around, but God was in me and He rose up. I went by the guy and I could hardly see him. I was focused, especially after driving in the sand, and the guy was wearing dark clothes. It was pitch black and I went right by, but God helped me to see him. The Lord will make you aware.

Part of strength is focus. Part of strength is having your wits about you. The Lord was bringing me back under control. I had to make a decision at that point. It had to be decisive, whether I was going to turn back around and go get him or not. I had already gone about a quarter of a mile down the road from where I first saw him. When I came back, that was God's strength. I was not reluctant or under compulsion. Whatever you do, you have to do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. That is strength. If you are not doing it that way, then it is not acceptable to God and there will be no blessing in it. We do not do things for the blessing, we do it because we love God. The Lord says, "If you love Me then you will love that other person. What you do to them you do to Me."

We are to be obedient to the Holy Spirit. We are not to pick up just anybody out there doing anything. Obedience to the Holy Spirit is strength.

Somebody asked me, "You believe in all this healing stuff, so why do not you go into the hospitals and pray over all the people and raise them up?" I said, "Because God has not told me to do that, and God respects a person's right to privacy." In other words, the Holy Spirit is not going to go in where somebody does not want Him. If the person wants you there, they will ask for you. It does not matter whether or not the family wants you there –you are not going for them, you are going for the one who asks.

I have been in situations where the Lord had me pray the prayer of peace over someone and five minutes after I left the person went on to be with the Lord. I did not look back. Going on to life with Jesus forever is not a bad thing. There is no more suffering, sorrow, or pain. God is the strength.

There is a form of compulsion of the Holy Spirit where the love of Christ compels us. It drives me on, it causes me to go where I would not go and do things that I would not normally do. It is the leading of the Holy Spirit, God's strength, insight, and knowledge. He will help you to work the exploits of God because He is doing it through you. It is happening. I get so proud of what the Lord is doing in all of us. I am here to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, and to get God's people out there to do it.

"You will be made rich in every way [spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and in relationships], so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (2nd Corinthians 9:11) The service that you perform not only supplies the needs of God's people, but also overflows in many expressions of thanks to God. It is all about God getting the thanks and the glory for what we all do. *"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves"* [proved yourselves a believer], *"Others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."* (2nd Corinthians 9:13)

Obedience that accompanies is the old "put your money where your mouth is," "Practice what you preach," "Walk the walk. Talk the talk," "Talk is cheap," "Put up or shut up." In other words, be real. Be who you believe because you be who you be. God says, *"I am who I am."* We be who we be. We are believers. What do we do? We believe.

God's Strength Flows Through Us

"And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you." (2nd Corinthians 9:14)

It is such a sad thing when God's people are not being who they be. His grace, ability and favor is working in each of us. Greater is he who is in me than whatever is going on in the world. I will give the Lord the praise and the thanks for it.

We are talking about strength and weakness. When we start to operate that way, God's strength flows through us. It is not about *"What are these amongst so many?"* (John 6:9) because the Lord takes what we *have* and He multiplies it. Without the God-element in

everything there is no way the miracle will ever happen. It is the Lord who is doing this to His glory and all the thanks and praise and honor and glory belong to Him. For this reason we live forever and have joy and peace in the Holy Ghost – because of the Lord, and what He has done for us in Jesus our Lord at the cross where He gave His blood and His life for us.

Jesus has put us in this life to go forth in His name and to work His works so the world can be saved. We are on an assignment from God to love the people of this world. We need to love them into heaven, into the kingdom of God.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Nine
Move from Weakness to Strength

Humility and Obedience

When systems in the world are pulling back, the Lord is moving ahead. The kingdom of heaven is advancing no matter what is going on in the earth. The Lord does not live on the world's standards or ways. He has His way and He can do whatever He wants to do.

This is a very humbling time for the world, time when it is coming to its knees. All the proud, the mighty, the rich, and the famous are having to take a look at what is going on. This is a time for God's people to shine brightly, with Jesus in their hearts and the love of God in them. What people need right now is love. They need the love of God. They need the faith of God, and they need the hope in God that only will allow the blessing which will supply and provide for this time that we are in.

In the book of Joshua, chapter 1, the Lord told Joshua as he was going into a new territory, a new place, "This is the Promised Land." The people had wandered around in unbelief for 40 years and yet God remained faithful to them. He remains faithful to us even if we are not faithful to Him. He humbles the proud and gives grace to those who humble themselves under His mighty hand. There is a great shaking going on in the Christian community right now because people are finding out if their faith is truly based on the Lord (as their source) or on the world and the things of the world.

There have been many people who have not done what God said when there were times of provision, and they thought it was okay not to honor God with tithes and offerings. They thought it was okay to have bitterness in their hearts towards people. They thought it was okay to lie, fear, worry, and go about their own business rather than about the Lord's. But there has always been a day of reckoning in the Word of God throughout history, and it is in those times that people need to turn their faces to God, fall on their knees, humble themselves in His presence, and give Him the praise and thanks.

They need to be obedient to what God says. When you suddenly find that you cannot make things happen anymore, it is going to have to be the Lord to do it, and it is on the Lord's terms, not yours.

If we do not become obedient to do what God says and humble ourselves under his mighty hand, then we will be shaken and fall. We need to live daily with the Lord as our source.

The Lord gave a promise to Joshua as He had given a promise to Moses. He has given us, His church, the same promise in Hebrews, chapter 13.

He said, *"No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Joshua 1:5) This is the theme of God's presence. When He is present in your life, He is around. He is with everybody, but He is not with everybody. He is with those who humble themselves, acknowledge Him, and realize His presence. People ask, why God is not stepping in and doing something. It is because people are not humbling themselves and believing God to do something, or they are believing God to do something, but they are not humbling themselves.

They want God to bail them out of what they got themselves into, but they are still going to live on their terms. My experience over many years of ministry is that many of the people who have received healing went back to their old ways and ended up having worse problems than they had before. The Lord does not bail us out just to let us go back to our old ways.

In the economic world huge companies were bailed out, and once they were bailed out, they went back to spending even more on their own ways. Bailouts and welfare are not to be a lifestyle. God humbles the proud and give grace and ability to the humble. Those who lean to God, turn to Him, obey and do what He says.

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses

gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:6-7)

If we are doing what God says to do, the Lord will cause us to be successful wherever we go. The term successful means a completeness – not lacking. It is like the shalom peace of God: nothing broken, nothing lacking, everything is there wherever you go, whatever you do. As you put the Lord first, God will honor you.

Disobedience Leads to Weakness

“Be strong and very courageous. (Joshua 1:7) Keep this book on your lips (speak it); meditate on it (think it) day and night.” (Joshua 1:8) Do not let unbelief come out of your mouth. Disobedience is the result of unbelief. The reason people do not do what God says is because they do not believe Him. They do not believe in Him. They may believe that He exists, but the devils even know that God exists, and they fear and tremble. There are many people who know that God exists, but they do not fear and tremble. Even the devils are smarter than many people because at least they fear and tremble in the presence of the Lord.

People are stubborn, rebellious, independent, and willful. They do what they want to do even though they know differently. God is shaking the church. Judgment begins first with the household of faith and then it goes out.

Years ago there was a great shaking in the church. Some notorious people became really notorious, and God shook the church, and then He went after the government. There was a great cleaning of house going on in the world and in the government. God is doing it again.

It is amazing how a nation can accept getting rid of prayer in the schools, have nothing to do with it but bring in occult practices, teaching the kids that. They allow children to learn about alternate styles, but do not allow Christianity in the schools. They do not allow God to be spoken about and want to remove Him. When 9-11 came, the whole country was saying, “We need to pray to God. We need to seek God, everybody.” From the top to the bottom, everyone was seeking God. Then they were going to have national prayer. God turned things around when the people humbled themselves and

prayed, and God forgave the land. He healed and forgave and things got back on track. Six months down the road, however, some were trying to get rid of the Ten Commandments, and not have them displayed in public, getting rid of anything that had to do with God.

Well, guess what? The Lord is not going away. They even took “In God we trust” off the face of the new coins and put it on the side where you cannot see it.

We are now in the greatest worldwide economic crunch that has ever hit. It is not just a depression in a country. I would say somebody needs to get God back on the money more visibly.

Joshua was told by the Lord to be strong and very courageous, *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)

When they got to the Promised Land after 40 years, they really did not have much money. They did not need money because the Lord was taking care of them. As they went into the Promised Land, God was ahead of them preparing the way. He knows your beginning from your end. He already knows your future. His plans for you are for good, not for evil. Plans to prosper, to give you hope and a future.

God says to keep His ways in front of you where He is. He already has everything under control. He laughs at the wicked from heaven. He laughs at those who are opposing Him. (Psalm 2) Who can oppose God and win? What amazes me is that people follow the devil who is a loser. He already has two strikes against him and the third one is coming. He is striking out and that is the end of the matter, so why follow a loser? If you have not repented and humbled yourself, and if you are not doing what God says, then you are not following Him.

The Bible constantly says, *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.”* (Galatians 6:7) If there is an area that is out of line with Him, the Holy Spirit will show you. Do you have something in your life right now that you know is wrong with God because He is thumping your head about it?

Once upon a time I had a teacher in grade school who would come along and “knuckle” the heads of the students. Nowadays people say that is abuse. But let me tell you, it scared the hell out of the kids, and he had the most well-behaved, orderly classroom in the entire school. No, he did not beat us into submission. It only took one little touch. He did not knock us, he just let us know he was there. He did not abuse anybody, maim anybody or bruise anybody, but we all knew the handwriting was on the wall if you got the knuckle.

What does it take for people to wake up and understand what is really going on? When there is willful, knowing, disobedience towards God, we are on the way to getting empty. We are moving from strength to weakness, and the fact that we tolerate it and allow it in our lives says that we are getting weaker in faith, hope, and love. Did you find that it took a trauma to get you back on fire for God? I am not saying God caused that to happen. You stepped out of the protection and blessing of God. You stepped out of the love of God because you were not loving Him by willfully, knowingly opposing Him (and yourself). When you refuse to do what the Lord says to do, you are opposing yourself.

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.” (Joshua 1:8) God is not interested in your opinion about what He says. The Lord will allow you to go to hell if you want. There are people in Christendom that do not even believe in hell. Many people out in the world are going there, and they need to hear good news, turn from their ways, and come to God so they do not go there. You cannot willfully, knowingly, disobey God and get away with it.

When times tighten up, we have to take a good look at our lives. Even in prosperous times we need to take a good look at our lives daily to see what is going on. *“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.”* (2nd Corinthians 13:5) – Because prosperous times can lure people away from God too.

“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” (Deuteronomy 8:18) Do not start to think that you did it yourself.

If you want to see the blessings in these times, you need to draw near to God. You need to keep His Word right in the middle of your heart, in front of your eyes, in your mind, and be very careful to do everything written in it. Then the result will be prosperity and success.

It is like the person who wants the big salary that athletes receive but does not want to practice to get it. You want the benefits, but you are not willing to do what is necessary to receive them. That is loser-type thinking. We are not losers in Christ Jesus.

It is a command from the Lord to be strong and very courageous. It takes courage to do what God says in a world that does not want to hear about the Lord Jesus.

Do not be terrified. Do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. If you draw near to the Lord, He will draw near to you.

Other Forms of Weakness

Being proud, (not humbling yourself) before God is weakness. Unbelief is weakness. Putting your trust in money rather than God is weakness. When a traumatic event happened in your life, did weakness immediately come? Fear and worry immediately come. It may be that your whole life seems like it is over. Trauma is intended to get you to lose your faith. It is intended to get your eyes off of God. It is intended to steal your love.

Have you felt you hated people, and you did not want them in your life anymore because you no longer loved them? I have heard people say that they do not love their spouse anymore. The first thing I realize when I am ministering to that person is that some traumatic event has happened to create such a response.

God does not fall out of love with us, and the devil has never loved us in the first place. The Lord says He hates divorce (Malachi 2), but divorce is not a writ of paper or certificate of divorce. What He hates is that people break faith with each other and basically condemn others to hell, saying, "I do not want you anymore in my life... ever."

God hates it because that is not the nature that He put in us when we received Jesus. That was the nature we had before we received Jesus because we were cut off from God forever ourselves. It was very easy to cut people off because we were cut off, but God never cut us off. We were born into it. This is why Jesus said, *“You must be born again.”* (John 3:7) “I have done everything so that you are not cut off anymore.” He did everything to put us back in relationship. That is the good news.

The gospel is very simple: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16) The good news is that God did it for us. We could not do it because we were cut off, and we could not restore ourselves, but God in His great love said, “I love my people, and I am not letting them go. They are mine, and I am going to come and get them. I will not let any thief take them away from me,” and He came for us in Jesus. He made Himself a body, and called Himself Jesus, *“for He will save His people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21)

Sin is a state of separation. When people lie and cheat, it is a result of being separated from God. Every time people lie, cheat, or have unbelief they are saying, “I am not connected to God.” Every time we get bitter with somebody, we are not connected with God. It is an indicator there is a problem.

“Do not be afraid of the sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord shall be your confidence.” (Proverbs 3:25-26)

Truth will traumatize (but in a good way) because it will cause you to wake up and move out of that position into a position of blessing. There can be trauma in the mental realm and the physical realm. If you had an accident, things changed just like that. If you go to the doctor, and he says something negative to you about your condition, bam, the trauma comes in.

Joseph was minding his own business running around in the coat of many colors that his dad gave him, when his brothers decided they would kill him. They threw him in a hole, but God intervened, and

they just sold him into slavery. In other words, they thought *Let's just get him out of here so we do not have to deal with him.*

We live in a throw-away society. People throw away others' lives and do not take another thought about it. All they are thinking about is themselves. They want to get rid of the irritation out of their life, so they forget it. Where is the faithfulness? The Lord is faithful even when we are not. We are created in his image and are becoming like him.

The Invincible Principle

Trauma is intended to bring weakness into a person's life, whether it is a spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, financial, or relationships attack. Joseph said to his brothers (after many years of going through hard times), *"You intended to harm me, but, God intended it for good."* (Genesis 50:20) A praise report came out of his traumatic experience.

The Lord taught me this as the invincible principle. No matter what comes at me spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, or in relationship, that is not the issue. No matter what losses happen, like good friends turning into horrible enemies, God called us while we were enemies. Christ died for us, the godly for the ungodly, and He calls us friends while we're enemies. Then He makes us friends. Is not that nice to be a friend of God? The friends of God are the ones who believe Him and do what He says.

The Lord will turn what is intended for evil around for good. Really get this down inside of you because this is raw strength and power. No matter what comes against you *"A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you."* (Psalm 91:7) There is a safe place in God, hid under the shadow of the Almighty where we cannot be touched.

Yes, it may hit your body, your mind, your job, your family or whatever is going on in your life, but it cannot win. It cannot have power over you. Even if we die, we will live because of Christ Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life. *"He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live."* (John 11:25)

Death is the major fear and trauma that faces every proud man because he cannot control it. He does not have power over it; only God does. Everyone stands traumatized and helpless, knowing that someday they will die and leave whatever they have to the next person, whether a wise person or a fool. (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19). You cannot do one thing about it.

The whole world is traumatized by what is going on with the economy, but what was intended for evil, God will turn for good. If you know that God is the owner of your money, then you will ask Him how to spend it and what He wants you to do with it.

Yes, there is a reason why the money is going down the tube in the world. People are not trusting that God owns the money. Even though it is His they are not looking to Him, they are looking to the money.

Have you ever had fear about losing someone? Have you had fear about losing your income or getting old? The fear is not really about getting old, it is about maybe not looking as good, which is evident in the world with the multi-billion dollar cosmetic business, or not feeling as good. Look at Moses who was 120 years old and his eyes were not dim. Still, you will have whatever you are fearing. *“What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.”* (Job 3:25)

Fear sets up trauma. That which people fear has not yet happened. It is not a reality. But in the physical realm it is trying to set up the trauma of the event to happen, and it is already traumatizing the person ahead of the actual event. In other words, it has not even happened, but grandma died of that, mom died of it, and guess what, who is next? You do not have to be afraid of generational curses because it does not have to go that way. The trauma tries to set up itself to happen through the fear.

This is one of the devil's greatest tools. He is a terrorist, trying to create fear in people, and if he can create fear, then he can do every dastardly deed to steal, kill, and destroy.

Many people who have had the fear that they were going to lose their spouse have driven the spouse away because of the fear that they

were going to lose them. If you kick a puppy long enough, even the puppy will leave.

Grief is another big one the devil uses. He puts fear with the grief. Part of the fear of getting old is that you will not function and get around like you used to. It is not just a fear of getting older; it is a fear of health breaking down. The multi-billion dollar drug business is dependent upon this one. There is a drug for everything under the sun, but it causes even more problems because every time you add something to your body, something else will be affected.

Which is stronger – health or sickness? Wealth or poverty? When you are grieving, there is a natural sorrow, which is not weakness. However, sorrowing like there is no hope is weakness. In life stuff happens. *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the Mighty Hand, that He may lift you up in due time.”* (1st Peter 5:6) Why does the Holy Spirit put that right there? The next verse says *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”* (1st Peter 5:7) which is what the people who trust in God do. That is strength because we were never created to carry those cares.

Have you found that your mind, body, finances, and relationships started to break down because you were carrying the cares (whether for your life, or somebody else’s)? God never intended us to carry cares. In fact, He wants us to have no cares. God wants us to do what He directs us to do, which is strength. It is weakness for us to lean to our own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5&6) The Lord says, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and He will make your paths straight.”* That is all part of the person who humbles himself under the mighty hand of God.

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” (1st Peter 5:7) Do not be traumatized by anything when it comes, and do not be surprised by it. It says it is going to come. Understand, the Lord will be your confidence.

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” [traumatize, steal, and

kill].” (1st Peter 5:8) The thief cannot steal, kill, or destroy if we are in a strong place under the shadow of the Almighty.

We cannot lose in Christ. This has to be more than a mental assent. There has to be the understanding that the invincible principle says that no matter what comes against me, God is greater and will turn whatever is intended for evil around for good to His glory, and we will give Him all the praise for it.

The thief only has to do one incident and everybody begins to fear about it. Our country has spent years trying to get rid of terrorists, but we will never get rid of them. However, we can get rid of the terror, and God can get rid of the terrorists.

“In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus says. *“But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) He says, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”* (John 14:27) The solution for trauma is the peace of God that says, yeah, this is all going on, but it will not come near me, it will not get inside of me (inside my head).

A terrorist tries to get inside of your head. Have you ever been bombarded by thoughts? If you do not like that thought, then more than likely it is not your thought. Just say, “Go to hell! Get out of my head in Jesus’ name.” Do not listen to anything that is not building up faith, hope and love. You have to stand up and be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, and having done all to stand, stand. Quit tolerating thoughts that are contrary to what God says. Therefore, you need to know what God says. *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”* (Hosea 4:6) To make it worse, He goes on to say, *“Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests,”* meaning you do not want to get knowledge. You want to stay in your ignorance; you want to stay traumatized, stupefied, and demonized.

If you are an obedient child of God, quit listening to stuff that is not you. You have the Good Shepherd. Remember that the next time the big bad wolf comes around.

The day the pipe come through my windshield, it did not look good. It was a full-out attack – spiritually, mentally, physically, financially and relationship attack. I could have gone on and left trauma in the wake, but no, I had no trauma. I never lost control. I had no pain. Even the doctor really could not figure it out – after he had to put everything back together. The Lord had told me, “Let them set the teeth, and I will cement them.” I did not take pain medication, even though they tried to give it to me. I did not need it.

Many people that do not have pain take pain medication. They used to have pain, but now they do not have it. They are still taking the medication, trying to keep the pain away because all of a sudden the fear of pain starts coming in. Many things are addictive.

The only one I want to have power over me is Jesus. If you have ever had pain and the thought came to you that it is going to come back, the thief is trying to set up its return. Jesus says after the devil is cast out of the person, then it wanders around in the wilderness for a while, and it comes back to where it was, checking to see if it can come back in there. I have had spirits tell me through the people, “I have been in here a long time,” and I say, “I do not care how long you have been in there, you are exiting.” They have no right to that place, but they try to come back. Pain tries to come back and it tries to set up its return. Just because it comes back does not mean you have to lie down and let it happen. Stand up and say, “No, in the name of Jesus – wrong house, go someplace else,” and do not wish it down the block on somebody you do not like.

Have you ever wanted to get back at the person who did something to you? The Lord says not to repay evil with evil. He says to repay evil with good. You can always tell somebody who has received the trauma because they are thinking how they can do worse to the person. That is a demonic delusion.

There is a God-type bubble under the shadow of the Almighty, the invincible principle, where stuff which comes against you will not penetrate. It will not get inside of your head or heart. It has no place of power. The thief does a counterfeit operation where he puts you in a delusion that says, “I am okay, and I am justified in putting pain on somebody else’s life because they put pain on mine.”

Remember Jabez' prayer, "Lord, do not let me receive pain, and do not let me give pain to others." Do not let me be anything but a blessing to people.

Abused people abuse. They are the ones who have received the trauma. It is not what was done to you that is the problem, it is what you do with it afterwards that is the problem. If you had somebody wrong you ten years ago and you still think about it, your life stopped right at the point where the trauma happened. That is what the thief intends. He intends to keep you from moving on with what God has for your life. He wants you to stop right there, and he has you as a standing target. If you are moving, you are less of a target. If you are a standing target, he got you right at the point of vulnerability.

We cannot be ignorant of Satan's devices. We need to understand how he works and what he is trying to do. You learned your parents' ways and passed them down, whether they were good ways or bad ways. Keep the good ways of God and let go of the bad. You do not need to allow negative things to continue going from generation to generation.

Many traumatic events like accidents are sudden. Other things have happened through learned behavior where you are tormented by what you do – and you see your parent in yourself. You see what it is doing to them and how it is not working any good for them, but you still continue to do it.

You can move from weakness to strength because you are a child of God. You are not born out of the will of man or of the flesh of man, but you are born of God. (John 1:11-12)

The fruit of the Spirit is passed down to us: love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, meekness, and self-control. We have all God's qualities... so what does that do to inferiority and insecurity like striving, competing, comparing? We are not born of that. We are not born of a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound well-balanced, disciplined mind. (2nd Timothy 1:6)

When this stuff comes, it is not a reflection on us. Do not take personally what is not really yours to take. You can be traumatized by it and it is not yours, and that is a sad thing.

Why do you look to what people have to say about you? Are they going to validate you? Many are looking to be validated and loved. They are looking to be recognized. They are looking for some significance, while God is up there saying, "I love you with an everlasting love that never fades away or changes. I came for you that you might be with me forever. I am here with you forever right now. Be not covetous for I, the Lord, will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5-6)

If the Lord will never leave you or forsake you, and there is nothing too difficult for Him, then why would you ever allow negative to come inside of you? God does not send bad things to us, but He does know it is going to happen. The fact is not whether or not He allows something to happen, it is that the Lord can turn whatever is intended for evil around for good to His praise. Character is built through the hard times.

The pearl is formed from irritation. The diamond is formed by extreme pressure, and steel is made when the impurities are taken out by intense heat.

The Lord Almighty is with us, He is for us, He is not against us. He is helping us, and no matter what comes – trauma, terror, or whatever the thief is trying to get us to move away from God. If we are in God, the event draws us closer to God. I tell the devil, "Bring it on because the more you bring on, the stronger I get in God." For the Lord has said, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.*" (2nd Corinthians 12:9) I say, "God, perfect your strength in me." It does not matter what comes spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, or relationships, even all of it at once.

Paul says, "*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*" (2nd Corinthians 4:17)

No matter what comes, do what God says and praise Him. In all circumstances, give thanks to God. In all situations, give thanks to God and you will get stronger, and stronger, and stronger.

You would think the devil would get it. We are not going to bow to him, but the only way he knows what is going on with you is how you react to the trauma he is sending. It comes out of your mouth. *“For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”* (Luke 6:45 NKJV) He knows exactly where you are by what comes out of you. He does not even know what you are going to do. The angels do not know what you are going to do.

When Abraham was offering Isaac up at the altar, the angel said, “Now I know what you believe.” God knew what Abraham was going to do. When God tests you, He knows the outcome. He knows you will be faithful. He knows you will stand, or He knows you will need a little extra encouragement along the way. He helps you through the trial, test, or whatever you are dealing with. He is not leaving you or forsaking you. He is right there helping you through it.

“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.” (Proverbs 24:10 NKJV) If you faint in the day of the trial, the test, or the trauma, your strength is small. Do not sit there condemned because your strength is small, just get more strength.

Many times when people are deluded, they do not want to hear the truth. They do not want to hear about God’s ways. They think they have it all together, but they have nothing together. *“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”* (Proverbs 16:18)

The devil was so self-deceived that he actually imagined he could fight against God and win. *“Because He loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.”* (Psalm 91:14-16)

We will experience the goodness of God. The Lord says that He will make sure that His son or daughter will experience the joy of His presence.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Ten
Back to Basics

Seek God and His Truth

Only what God thinks really matters. People have thoughts about everything and everybody, and they think their thoughts are correct. The truth of it is, let God be true and let every man be a liar. The only truth is God's truth, and the only thing will bring life abundantly is God's Word.

The Lord has me going back to what the Word says, back to basics. Our country has gotten off from the Word and from God's principles it was founded on. The deceitfulness of riches does that.

If you look at the rise and fall of the nations throughout history, whenever they came to the point of opulence, immorality, having all kinds of ideologies, belief systems, and thoughts; the fall was very close behind. *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall."* (1st Corinthians 10:12 NKJV) *"Pride goes before destruction."* (Proverbs 16:18) It happens every time. Whenever man started thinking how wonderful he was, thereafter came the crash.

People start doing and thinking things that they should not. Scientists try to create life by cloning, and then people take away life through abortion. They think they can do anything they want, whenever they want to do it, but the Lord is not pleased with that. He cannot bless and help people when they are not seeking Him with all their hearts.

Today, I am personally drawing closer and closer to the Lord, and I encourage you to do the same. Let's allow Him to bring His favor and His blessing back. *"If my people who are called by name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* (2nd Chronicles 7:14) He will do all kinds of wonderful things for those who seek Him with all their hearts, and turn from wicked ways. You cannot seek the Lord with all your heart if you do

not turn from the ways that are not a part of His plan. That is why the Word of God is so important for us. It gets us back to the truth. It gets us back to our center because sometimes we can get out of balance.

You do not hear Jesus preached much anymore. You do not hear the gospel preached much anymore. You do not hear much about turning away from the ways that are not of God.

I received a letter from a fellow who was wondering what the gospel is. *What is the truth? I want to be saved. How can I be saved?* He said, *I have been hearing all kinds of things about God and about life, but what must I do to be saved and to know I am saved?* We wrote back a response by giving him the pure gospel.

A letter from India read: *Lord Jesus, I pray to you. Please take me in your shelter. I am living in this world without God. I am fed up with my life. No one loves me. Life is becoming heavier for me. No God wants to hear my prayer. My heart is still as pure as a child. I do not need anything from the world. I need help by you. I am a Hindu person. I want to become of your service. Please save me. I am not educated so please forgive me for my fault of writing.*

There are people all over the world like these men who are seeking God. They are seeking the truth. I almost hesitate to use the term God anymore because there are thousands and thousands of gods out there. That is what the Hindus believe, for they have a god for everything. However there is only one true God, the Living God. There is only one God who is living and who is just and true.

America is saturated with a form of godliness but denies the power of godliness. People know what God says, but they still do what they want to do. There is something terribly wrong with that. This is the deception that is coming upon the world in these last days that even the elect will almost be deceived. We need the Word of God. We need the truth of God. Jesus said, *“My words are spirit and life.”* They bring life. We can only have abundant life doing it God’s way.

People sit in churches thinking they are just fine, but they are not on fire for God. They are not seeking the Lord with all their heart. They

are still worried about their own lives. When you are worried about your own life, you are not building the Lord's kingdom. *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)

"All that the Father has for me, Jesus said, will come to me." (See John 17:7-10) Have you thought it is not coming? Have you thought that God was late or that He had forgotten about you and passed you by? Why can people believe that Santa Claus is going to deliver on time?

There are many belief systems. People trust a doctor or a counselor more than they trust the Lord. They trust a pill more than they trust the Lord. They trust a news reporter more than they trust the report of the Lord.

Do you get in your car and believe it will run? Do you believe that you will continue to breathe? Do you take it for granted that your heart is pumping? Many times people take for granted that things are going to work out, but they are not going to just work out if the Lord is not in it. There are all kinds of people in the world that have a euphoria that they are okay, and you are okay, and it is all going to work out fine; do not worry, just be patient. But if the Lord is not in it, it will not work out. Optimism is not going to help when things are going down.

If fear is controlling the stock market, it goes down. If a rumor starts, the stock market goes down. It may go down over something that is not even true. It may not even be happening, but it is something that pervades people's thinking. They believe a certain report.

What Are You Believing?

Whose report will you believe? Will you believe what the Lord says, or will you believe your thinking, or the prevailing report. It will make the difference whether or not you will have an abundant life.

Have you ever believed someone loved you but found out they did not? Or, you just did not believe they loved you? In your own mind you can mess up your destiny by leaning to your own understanding. *"Trust the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own*

understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)

Just because you wear a watch does not mean it is telling the correct time. There are many beliefs that are not accurate. If you have ever had a moment of insanity (where you were acting crazy), track it back, and you will see that you believed in something that upset you.

Did you say hurtful, hateful, ignorant things when you were in that state? This is what keeps muddying up the waters. It creates confusion in the earth, and the only thing that will remove it is truth. Get all the facts. Do not go by your own understanding or somebody else’s who may be as whacked out as you.

I ask people what the source for their way of thinking is. They say, “Well, I heard it.” Job said that about the Lord. He said, “I had heard about you with the hearing of my ear, but now I know who you are. I spoke ignorantly about you, about who you are, and how you do things. Job did not really know about whom he had believed, but at least he was doing something right because the Lord spoke highly about him. He had not yet known whom he had believed.

There are many people seeking to do good, right things, but they do not know whom they have believed yet. They still allow themselves to get into confusion. Once we get to know who the Lord is, all the confusion leaves. *“The entrance of Your Words gives light”* (Psalm 119:130 NKJV) and life. It brings truth. It sets the lies apart and you can identify what is what for what it is.

The Lord will make a way for those who seek Him with all their hearts. “He is near to be found. *“Give and it will be given to you.”* (Luke 6:38) *“Give and you will receive.”* (Luke 6:38 NLT) You put faith in God, and the Lord will answer your prayer. If you put faith in His Word, He will do exactly what He says. *“Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”* (2nd Chronicles 20:20 NKJV) They are bringing you the Word of the Lord, and it is the Word of the Lord that causes the blessing to come to pass. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of the Lord.

People believe what they are hearing even if they are not hearing the truth. We have to hear truth. (John 8:31-32 NRSV) *“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples indeed. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”* It will set you free, it will keep you free. Free from all the lies of the thief. Free to experience the blessing of God, the life of God. Free to come into everything that the Lord intends to do in you and through you to bless His kingdom in this earth.

If you do not know the truth, then you are susceptible to weakness. Fears and worries bring people into bondage. Lies or thoughts that somebody did not like or love you will enslave you.

If you think that you are not going to have anything to do with a certain person anymore, you will wall yourself in and be enslaved and ensnared yourself. If you are free, you can go anywhere, anyplace, anytime. You do not have worries or fears, and you are not concerned about whether people like you or not. I am not talking about an apathetic attitude in relationship. I am just saying that what people think of me does not have any power over me as far as who God made me to be, so I am free to do whatever God wants me to do.

As Jesus walked the earth, He did not really care what people thought about Him or even if they were thinking about Him. But He did share, *“If you believe in me, you are going to have life. If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. If you love God, you will love me.”* He says all these things because they are true, and He is not bound by what people are thinking. *“The fear of man brings a snare.”* (Proverbs 29:25 NKJV)

Then there are Libertarian thinkers out there who do not care what anybody thinks of them. Ultimately they do care about what people think of them. They are just saying that because they want to show themselves strong, while actually being weak. You will never reach people with the love of God if you do not care about what they think, right or wrong.

Do You Want to Hear the Truth?

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2nd Corinthians 4:6 NKJV) *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14 NKJV) When the light comes into the darkness, the truth comes in. Some people will want to hear the truth and others will not.

God said if you honor Him, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing so great you will not be able to hold it all. The fruit is in the giving. That is the proof.

“...you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” (Revelations 3:16)

A man came to me and said, “I just lost my house,” and I answered, “Well, you know, I cannot really do much about this because for all these years you have refused to bring the whole tithe to God. When you were asked about whether you gave the tithe years ago, you said you were and you lied to my face.” (Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter in chapter 5 of Acts). “How is it that now, all of a sudden you decide that you need God to help you and do something for you?” I continued, “I am sorry, I cannot pray for you because you are lying to God, and you are lying to yourself. You put your family in jeopardy, and you are dealing with the reality of life.”

Until a person humbles himself and seeks to do what God says, the Lord cannot help. It is about honoring the Lord. The Day of Judgment is coming, and the Lord will not say, “I honor your good intention.” He is not going to say, “I will just let it go this time, come on in and receive my pleasures which I have prepared for you.”

This is the delusion that many people have. This is a time of drawing near to the Lord with all your heart. This is a time to allow the fire of God to come up. There needs to be a healthy fear of God back in the church.

When Ananias and Sapphira lied to God, and to Peter, the man of God, they brought another spirit into the house, and it was not God's Spirit. They both dropped over dead right there. Then the fear of God came upon everyone. The reason people are not afraid of God is they think if they are out of line, God will strike them down right then. Since they did not drop over right away, they figure they are okay. However, God is not mocked. Whatever people sow, they are going to reap. (Galatians 6) The day of reckoning will be here.

The Lord's will is not that we perish. He wants us to come to the saving knowledge of the truth. He wants us to get free from that kind of thinking. Instead of saying you are okay, you should rather be falling on your face, thanking God that He did not strike you down right there – that He gave you the opportunity to turn from your ways and come to your senses, change, and get back to believing Him. You cannot take this lightly.

Somebody told me that I was really intense, and I said, "I am not intense enough." We are talking about life and death. I am talking about eternal life and death. It is not just fun and games that we are dealing with because "*As a man thinketh in his heart so he is.*" (Proverbs 23:7 KJV) You have in your life what you are believing. Be it done to you according to your faith.

You have to know who you believe, and you have to know that what the Lord says is true. I spent four years looking at healing verses because I had to know that when I laid hands on people in the name of the Lord that they were going to get healed. I could not pray over anyone in unbelief, in double-mindedness, or in confusion. I have to know the truth about this. That is intense.

What was I supposed to tell that guy that lost his house except the truth? Getting someone back to God and to obedience is worth losing a house. What about your salvation? What about losing your life with God forever? Little foxes spoil the vines. If you are not honoring God with your substance, how can you be honoring God with your heart? The Lord says you cannot serve two masters. You either serve God or you serve money. You serve the world, or you serve God.

Although people may hate the truth, they need it. People that cannot give tithes and offerings are greedy people who love money, and that is why they will not part with it to honor God. People that cannot submit to their spouse as to the Lord have an authority problem. I have heard people say they will only submit to God, and I say, fine! Far be it from me to discourage you from submitting to God, but if you are submitted to God, then you will submit to your husband.

The Word says, "Submit yourself to those that are over you in the Lord." (Hebrews 13:5-6) The Word is the truth of God. It is the sincere milk of the Word which will cause us to grow up in the ways of God in the truth. "We will know the truth and the truth will make us free."

Find What the Lord Has to Say

If you are submitted to God, then you will go by what the Word says. The Word says submit yourself to one another as to the Lord. Wives, submit yourself to your husband as to the Lord. Is not the Holy Spirit brilliant? He knows how our little arguments and thoughts are. He does not just say submit yourself to your husband or to all the authorities that be. He says, as to the Lord. So, if I am submitted to the Lord, then I will be submitted to all His authorities in my life as to the Lord.

When Diana and I first got married, she shared with me, "Well, if God says that, then I will believe it." She started seeking the Lord and the Word of God to find out what the Lord had to say.

I wanted my bride to have the truth, and God is going to get us the truth, but what He told me was "Back off, and I will show her."

Diana's Testimony: The generation I came from was "I can do all things, I am woman." Then Randy started saying you need to do this and submit to that, and I am like, *Say what?* Uh oh. Then I started fighting scriptures with scriptures. I looked up all the scriptures. He would give me one and I would say, "I do not like that one; let's look for another one." I did not find any scripture that gave me a leg to stand on. That was 34 years ago, I have done pretty good.

Pastor Randy: Yes you have. The Lord has done good things in you, and He is still doing good things in you.

Diana: I was an independent woman and I did not want anybody telling me what to do because I could do my job, I was making money, and I was running a company with a million and a half dollars, and less than 1 percent bad debt. Now I am running a family and dealing with Pastor Randy. I am a domestic engineer.

Pastor Randy: What did it say when you were searching the Word of God?

Diana: It said I would be blessed if I did what God would have me to do for my husband unto him. So I vacuumed for Jesus. Randy did not care, for he did not even see it unless I did not vacuum, so I just vacuumed for Jesus.

Pastor Randy: One time the Lord told me to go in and thank her for doing the wash because the Lord was honoring what she was doing as to Him. What happened inside of you when you started doing things as to the Lord rather than as to a person or even for yourself?

Diana: A thankfulness and appreciation, and I was blessed doing it. I did not care who was looking or what it looked like, I just did it and had a happy feeling. You did not force the Word of God on me nor say, "You will do this because this is what the Bible said." You did not beat me into submission, so to speak. If you would have touched me I would have punched you, but you did not force me, you allowed me to want to do that, and that is why I did it. I did not have to get my high heels on.

Pastor Randy: Did you find that when you were searching the Word that there were things in there that you thought were there and you did not find.

Diana: Yes. For example, "God helps those that help themselves." That was not in there. Me being in charge of stuff was not in there.

Pastor Randy: You did not find that Diana was not in charge, or is in charge.

Diana: When you were not home then I was in charge, and then Erin was in charge of Jesse, and Jesse was in charge of the dog.

Pastor Randy: This has to do with an authority issue. Most folks deal with authority issues. What was the devil's issue? – Authority. He refused to humble himself under God. He wanted to be God.

Diana: I was under the assumption that when I submitted myself, I was stupid, like a doormat, and did not have a brain in my head because that is what the world said at that time. A famous singer said, "I am woman," and I thought that is where I was coming from. But that was the world's way. So, I am happier now.

Pastor Randy: You see, the lies come in, and then you buy into them. When you get into God's Word, you see that you are not in charge. It says to die to self. Get rid of all that, but the world is saying to be your own person, do your own thing, or conform to everybody.

The non-conformists actually look the same, act the same, and do the same.

The worst thing the devil ever could have done was start thinking for himself. He got kicked out of heaven because he opposed God.

People deceive themselves and are opposing themselves. They do that by going contrary to what the Lord intends for their lives, and wanting to do our own thing and figure it out their way. By doing that, we are opposing what God has put in us.

The Lord will have His way because He opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble (those who submit themselves to Him). Humble does not mean you are a poor, miserable, wretched worm. Humility is submitting yourself to the Lord where the Lord is number one. How easy. If He is number one, then His Word and the Lord are one together. I have the truth and the truth will set me free. I just need to search for it.

People have to be motivated and provoked to get off their spiritual duff, get into the Word, and seek God with all their hearts to know who He is. If you lose your house and save your soul, hallelujah. It was not God taking the house away. It was not God putting sickness on Job and all his problems. It was not God that took away his family. It was a thief who came to steal, kill, and destroy.

We Need the Truth

Job said, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." That is a lie, but it is quoted by every preacher under the sun as being true. The Lord gave – that part is true, but the thief took it away. You may ask, "Did not God allow that to happen? Where was the Lord? Why did not God step in and do something to help Job?"

Job knew deep down in his heart what was wrong. *"For the things I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.* (Job 3:25 NKJV) For a long time Job daily offered up sacrifices on behalf of his children, for perhaps they had committed sin. There was no "perhaps" about it. He knew what they were doing, and he was trying to cover them through offering up sacrifices and prayers to God. But they needed the truth. They needed a dad that loved them enough to enforce the Word of God in their lives, and to drive away the rebellion and independence. They needed somebody in their life that really loved them and cared about them, and would tell them the truth and act on it.

Those children were not living in their own houses; they were living in daddy's house. If children are living in daddy's house, then daddy's rules go. If parents do not stand up for what they believe and know is true and enforce it, they are enabling wrong beliefs. *"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* (Joshua 24:15)

Diana is part of my house. Erin and Jesse were part of my house. This is God's house, and He has put me in charge. In addition, I have to give account to God. I am responsible to Him someday for what goes on in this house. I have to give a report for everyone past, present, and future. (See Hebrews 13) I cannot be afraid to tell the truth and speak the truth. In the last days, they will have itching ears.

They will want to hear what they want to hear. (2nd Timothy 4:3) That is weakness.

We need to hear the truth. The truth is what will set us free. It is what is going to put us over and cause blessing in our lives when cursing is all around. I do not want the truth watered down or compromised. I want the truth because the truth will set me free. That is how Jesus lived His life, and He is our example.

See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.” (Isaiah 52:13)

Humble Yourself and Submit to God

Wisdom is submitting ourselves to God. It is strength. Being your own person, doing your own thing, and having a rebellious, independent lifestyle is not strength; it is weakness.

Have you ever watched people talk useless, senseless chitter chatter? They sound like a bunch of chickens in a hen house. They are talking about nothingness. It is not anything that will draw anybody closer to God or sharpen one’s life. It is just frivolous talk.

Why is Jesus going to be raised and lifted up, highly exalted above every name (“that at the name of Jesus every knee in heaven and earth will bow, every tongue confess”)? Because He humbled himself. For our sakes God came out of the heavens. God Himself, the Lord of lords, humbled himself and became a man so He could live and die for us to save us.

Is it too hard for us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God after all the Lord has done to save us and to make us His children? Think about. This is of cosmic proportions.

People think they are weak to submit. They think they are weak to humble themselves. That is a demonic lie.

Diana was taught that submission is all about being a doormat. No, submission is glory, where you will be exalted higher than you were before. You will be able to come into the blessing that God intended for your life.

“Just as there were many who were appalled at Him, his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and His form marred beyond human likeness, so will He sprinkle many nations.” (Isaiah 52:14-15)

What Jesus went through for all of us appeared to be weakness. Note, it was no Hollywood Jesus described in Isaiah. He was marred beyond recognition and disfigured. He did not even look like a man. Everybody was appalled at looking at Him, as well as spiritually looking at Him. They could not handle it because they were dead, but He could bring them to life spiritually if they had believed Him. Many did not like what He was saying because He was bringing heaven rather than the world. If you bring the world to people (the popular man’s church), everybody loves it. But if you start talking about sin, repentance, submission to God, changing your ways, turning away from those things and turning to God, it is not popular.

“So will He sprinkle many nations.” (Isaiah 52:15) With what? The blood of Jesus and the blessing of God. *“Kings will shut their mouths because of Him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.”* (Isaiah 52:15) In other words, the Lord will get truth to everyone.

Nebuchadnezzar, a great king of Babylon, refused to acknowledge God as the source of his kingship, and guess what he was doing the next day? Grazing like a cow out in the field, out of his mind. Then one day he came to his senses and acknowledged the Lord as the Lord, and he humbled himself. God was gracious and gave him back the kingdom and the kingship. That did not happen to many people because they lost everything because of it. Yes, they got back into a right mind, but they did not have all of the benefits.

By the time some have come back to a right mind, they have lost their family, their job, their health, and everything. But praise God, they have Jesus. Why do they have to go to such lengths? Would not it be easier to just humble themselves and do what they are told? What is the point of it if they do not obey?

Jesus freely submitted to persecution, torture, and, ultimately death in the perfect will of God for our salvation.

Give The Truth in Love

“Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1)

The arm of the Lord is the mighty strength of God.

“Who has believed our message?” (Isaiah 53:1) Do you remember the gospel is the power of God to salvation? It will cause salvation, the good news that God loves us and He has come to save us in Jesus. It is a gift of God. We cannot save ourselves, but God in His love said, “Those are my children, those are my sons and daughters, and I am not going to let them go to hell. I am going to save them, I am going to have them with me,” and He came to get us. That is love.

“Open rebuke is better than secret love.” (Proverbs 27:5 KJV) It is better to speak the truth in love so that people can grow up and come into it (Ephesians 4) than to let them just go their way and perish. When you speak the truth, if somebody does not want to hear it, he may become an enemy. Understand, he was already an enemy. People are concerned that they will lose their friends, but what is in them and what is in you are of two different worlds. Speaking the truth in love will help somebody to change and come to their senses. Somebody has to get off the fence and take a stand for God.

Luther, here I stand. He posted his thesis papers on the wall of the church, on the door of the church, and he became a target from that day forward – for bringing out “justification by faith.” *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”* (Ephesians 2:8) They were selling forgiveness of sins. A man named Tetzl charged a thousand dollars for forgiveness of adultery, 500 for lying etc. Luther could not go along with buying your forgiveness, for it is not truth. It is not what God says, for we are saved because God has come to save us, declare us not guilty by the blood of Jesus on the cross. Not by works.

Christians were trying to work their way to God, but you are either a Christian or you are not. It is one or the other. If you are a Christian, then you submit to God and His Word, and you do what He says. If you are not submitting to God and His Word, then you had better look at whether you are a Christian.

“He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him.” (Isaiah 53:2) This refers to Jesus. It is not the Hollywood Jesus – the tall, blue eyed, long flowing hair kind of woozy Jesus.

People have gotten this idea of Jesus, but He just lived life – every breath and thought –about His Father. He was not here to entertain anybody. He was not here to make people happy or make them feel good. He was here to bring life. Everything was about life and death. The Spirit of God is intense. Still, He probably had more fun in His life than anybody else because He was not bound by the rules and regulations of man, traditions of man, the fear of man, trying to feel good, concerned if someone was going to like Him or want Him, or whether they liked or did not like what He said.

Many people spend their lives walking on egg shells, and there is no substance. Jesus knew who He was; He knew where He was going. He knew what He was here to do, and He was doing it for us. He endured the contradiction of the cross for the sake of the joy that was set before Him.

“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.” (Isaiah 53:3) Yet He knew nothing in hell could stop Him from being and doing everything God had given Him to do. (All that the Father has for you will come to you.) People around Him had unbelief and sorrow. He cried at Lazarus’ grave, and the people thought *Oh, how sweet. How much He must have really loved Lazarus.* The shortest verse in the Bible is *“He wept,”* but He was not weeping over Lazarus. He came to raise Lazarus from the dead. He was weeping because of the unbelief of the people.

Jesus deliberately waited four days before He got there, and Martha said, “If you were here, Master, he would not have died,” trying to heap guilt on Him. You have to do what you do as to the Lord with

conviction. Do not let anyone heap guilt on you. David danced before all of Israel, and his wife made it out like he was just dancing to make a show of himself in front of the women. He looked at her and said, “Woman, what I did, I did as to the Lord,” and God blessed him for it. His wife was cursed since she did not receive what he was doing as to the Lord (which God had given him to do). Therefore, they had nothing to do with each other. Two different worlds, two different spirits; they had nothing in common.

God Has Something Better

Jesus was rejected, despised by everybody, and a man of sorrows – The passage is not saying that Jesus had the sorrows, it is saying He was experiencing the sorrows that go on around Him. Let me tell you from experience, though; there is a sorrow that comes with seeing people dying without Jesus and living without Jesus when you know full well that God has something better.

One day a guy came to me as we were dealing with issues in the city (nasty stuff), and he asked, “What do you think about homosexuals?” I looked at him, and the Spirit of God was on me. I answered, “I am tired of seeing people die needlessly.” The person just looked at me. It was not what he was waiting to hear. I do not judge homosexuals. God will judge what goes on outside in the world, but if people profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior, then I will step in as a representative of the Lord and say that believers do not live that kind of style – nor do believers gossip or not believe. There is no difference as far as God is concerned.

The liar will end up in the same place as everyone else that does not do what God says. The unforgiving person will go to hell. What if God loved everybody else except you, and did not forgive you? *“Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”* (Luke 6:30) That is what Jesus was doing.

God says, *“Call unto Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, things that you know not of”* – because He wants us calling to Him.

“Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was

pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Many times people do not really grasp what the cross is all about. They get tired of hearing the Word of God; they are dull of hearing. Personally, I cannot hear that story enough. I cannot hear enough about what Jesus did for me. Every time I think about it I think, *God you love me so much. You care about me so much. I do not want to go out and do those old things. I do not want to disobey you. I do not want to get into that nonsense out there, which will lead to death.* You cannot be intense enough about the love of God.

Paul said, “The love of Christ constrains me,” which means it kept him back from what was not of God, and “The love of Christ compels me.” It made him go on and tell somebody about the love of God and the goodness of God. In the same way, I have got to tell people that God has a good plan for their lives, and I must be about my Father’s business. You heard Jesus do that, you heard Paul do it, you heard all the men and women of God in the Bible do it.

Excitement and Intensity for the Lord

Step up your intensity for God. People wonder why others drift away from God. It is because they do not step up the intensity in their lives. They are more concerned about what people think about them, what kind of clothes they will wear, what kind of job they will have, or who they will marry. That is not the issue.

Jesus gives us the truth. *“Surely He has borne our griefs,”* (Isaiah 53:4 NKJV) which is physical malady, sickness, disease, *“and carried our sorrows,”* (Isaiah 53:4 NKJV) which is all the emotional realm. *“The chastisement for our peace”* (Isaiah 53:5 NKJV) was punishment for what we deserve. *“The wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23) was put on Him so we could have life with God forever.

All of a sudden Christmas becomes alive and exciting. (God come-in-the-flesh to save me.) To me Christmas is just as exciting as the

cross. I think of Jesus as He walked around doing good every day, healing the sick, touching lives with the love of God. How good is that? The Word of God comes alive to you because you see that the Word became flesh. As Jesus walked around, He was God walking around touching people, doing good, changing lives, healing the sick, mending the brokenhearted. The Lord becomes real, and He is not a figment of somebody's imagination. It is more than a nice story. It is real.

The Lord says, "I am in those who believe in Me, and I am working through you." I go around touching people and loving people, changing lives, and I am not ashamed anymore of the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God to salvation. It saved me, and it is going to save somebody else, and somebody else needs to hear about this. I start to see that my puny little existence has been given substance and reality because the living God has touched it and I am changed. I am different. I am full of the power of God and the life of God. I have answers to help people, answers to cause people to come into what God has for their life. Thus I have meaning and significance that nobody could ever get from anyplace else. Yet Jesus was despised and rejected by everybody except His Father. Now you can start to see that all you need is the Lord in your life. Everybody else becomes frosting on the cake.

You know what your future holds. You are going to do what God has given you to do here on this earth, and then you are going to be with Him forever.

"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7) *"He entrusted Himself to the Him who judges justly."* (1st Peter 2:23) He knew He was in the will of God. He was in the will of His Father. He did not have to say anything bad to anybody else. He just submitted to the whole working, being innocent. We were the ones that were guilty. He took the guilt for us.

"By oppression and judgment, He was taken away. Yet who of His generation protested? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was punished. He was

assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord makes His life an offering for sin, He will see His offspring and prolong His days and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand. After He suffered, He will see the light of life and be satisfied. By His knowledge [of God] my righteous servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong." (Isaiah 53:8-12)

When Jesus said that a house divided will not stand, (Luke 11:17) and the strongman comes in and takes from the strong man. Who is the stronger? – The one who beats the strongman and takes His goods.

Likewise in weakness Jesus approached things, but He had God as His strength. The whole world thinks it is total weakness. The guy is a pathetic loser. But they could not say that when up from the grave He came. Instead, *"Truly, He was the soldier at the cross the Son of God."* (Matthew 27:54) He must be who He says He is *"For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."* (Isaiah 53:12)

How do you get somebody to believe it is the truth and it is what happened?

If you are waiting around to love on somebody, you are a loser. There are people all over the place. You do not have to wait around to love somebody – just go love somebody. People are waiting around for all kinds of things: "When my ship comes in..." Why do not you go build a boat? Why do not you do something and quit waiting around? Ask the Lord what you should do, and then do it. If you have time off, do something around the house. Or maybe just sit, rest, praise the Lord, and relax. Enjoy somebody.

Waiting around for something to happen (and not doing anything) in the meantime is weakness. Today is the day of salvation.

Those operating in weakness always think something is “out there” and never do anything with what is here right now. Instead, make the most of today. Today is what we have to the glory of God.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Eleven
Five Areas of Blessing or Weakness

There are five areas of blessing in Jesus that He has blessed us with at the cross.

- The first area is the spiritual area. We were spiritually dead to God before Jesus, which means that spiritually we were going to hell. Hell (Gehenna) is a common term, which means separation from God forever. Those who have not been born again (have not received Jesus as their Lord and Savior) are going to be separated from God forever. Jesus said in John, chapter three, *“You must be born again.”* (John 3:7) It is not an option. It is God’s provision for life. Everyone is dying, and *“There is none that doeth good, no not one.”* (Romans 3:2 KJV) *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* (Romans 3:23) and all are perishing, but God in His great love has stepped up and come for us through Jesus (God come in the flesh to save us). *“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21 NKJV)

God rescued us and brought us back to become His children. We were lost, and now we are found. We are where we need to be with the Lord forever.

- Secondly, the mental and emotional realms have to do with the intellect, the emotions, and the will of a person. It is where your choices are made. When you are born again, your spirit comes alive to God, but before you are born again, you are dead to God. You can tell a person who is not born again to stop drinking, stop carousing, and stop lying, but they cannot without the Lord. People whose spirits are dead to God may be moral, kind, and generous, but they act, whether consciously or unconsciously, for personal gain, recognition, and acceptance. You have probably heard people say, “I am a good person, a good moral person.” Those are the hard ones to reach for Jesus because they are probably acting better than many

Christians, and yet they have not been born again. They have not received Jesus as Lord and Savior, and their life is going the way they choose and decide to do it.

The mental realm is the area the devil wants to blind because it is where the choices are made. People may say they do not feel a need for Jesus. They say it is fine for you, but not for them, or “I choose to do this, I choose to do that. Today I am going to do this, tomorrow I will do this and that.” The Word says it has to do with *the Lord willing*. I cannot choose and direct my course. I am either run by the Lord or run by the devil – one or the other. You either follow God, or you follow the devil.

Jesus told some of the Pharisees, “*You belong to your father, the devil.*” (John 8:44) And who were they? They were the religious leaders. Jesus was saying that they were not following God. If they had been following God, they would have believed in Him and would have followed Him.

- Thirdly, the physical realm has to do with your body and its appetites and cravings thereof. It has to be under subjection to your spirit.

You can experience weakness in all these areas.

- Next is the financial realm.

The Lord taught me about blessing back in the early 90’s. We did a 58 week-long series that dealt with blessing and how blessing works. The Lord asked me one time why people come to me the most. In other words, what areas do they come to me for help? I answered, 1. Relationship. 2. Finances. 3. Physical things – sickness, disease, maladies, accidents, or body functions not working properly. 4. Mental and Emotional questions [The choices you make will affect everything. “*As he thinketh in his heart, so he is.*”] *Proverbs 23:7 KJV*), Many people’s thinking is out of whack. 5. Spiritual things, like when somebody asks, “What does it mean to be born again?” I just love it when folks are perusing spiritual things, but normally they are pursuing physical things or relationship things.

When the Lord taught me about blessing, He said, "Son, the people have it backwards. They should be pursuing spiritual things first. Physical things are the lowest rung on the agenda as far as needs go, but that is what people pursue first. Jesus said, *"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"* (Matthew 6:33) what you are going to eat, drink, wear, how you are going to live, how you are going to make it.

Your job is not your source; God is your source, so if you lose your job you do not have a problem. If you lose God, you have a problem. Circumstances are intended to get you to give up your faith in God. Think how awful it is for people who do not have the Lord. If it is difficult for those who have the Lord to be strong, how much more difficult for somebody who does not.

The Lord said, "People need to pursue the spiritual" which is the Lord Himself. He should be your First Love. Then He said, "If they are born again, and I am their First Love, the mental will start to fall into place." Romans 12:2 – *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is"* (Romans 12:2) for your life. Balance. When the mind is working properly, then the physical will.

Many problems in people's bodies are caused by spiritual problems like unforgiveness, bitterness, and unbelief. They affect the mental realm which sends more acid into the stomach, and the digestive track starts to break down. The next thing you know, the heart is stressed out because people are panicking and trying to make things work. Instead, *"Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

When the physical breaks down, the financial realm is affected. If the financial is in place, and we are loving and honoring God, we allow the Word of God to bring peace. *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You."* (Isaiah 26:3 NKJV) That will carry over to your body so it does not break down. In the finances, we use the money God gave us as stewards of His provision. If we are

faithful with a little, He will give more. He will increase. If we are faithful with the increase, He gives seed to the sower, and we will never lack for anything for doing what God wants. As we are about His business, He will take care of ours.

- Then come the relationships.

The first four areas deal with self, but God would have us meet with people. I have seen it where guys go into serious relationships without a house, a car, a job, and are not prepared to receive a spouse. And how many gals are just looking for a free ride?

Those two types of people usually find each other. The one that wants a free ride and the one that does not have anything going. Wisdom laughs at that kind of nonsense. Have you gone into a relationship looking for somebody to meet your needs? Rather, you should want to come in as a blessing. You do not want a needy husband, and there is nothing worse than a wife who is a clinger.

God says to die to the old self with all its cravings and desires, which is strength. How weak to always be about yourself and your own needs. We do not need to look out for ourselves because God is looking out for us as we are about His business – seeking first the kingdom of God with Jesus as our Lord.

A young woman who graduated from college came to me one day and said, “Pastor, I always thought that my home life was normal until I met you and your family. I saw how things need to be, and I realized my life has been totally dysfunctional.”

It does not have to be that way. There are plenty of Christians running around with dysfunctional lives, and they do not know why. They are operating in weakness rather than in strength.

When you go for a job interview, you do not go with your hair uncombed or half a growth of beard, and you do not go in jeans. You need to look good, feel good, look sharp, and be sharp. Do not go in there saying, “I do not know why you would really want to hire me.” Go in with confidence and be positive. Go like you can do the job, coming in early and staying late, doing whatever needs to be done.

However, you do need the Sabbath off to honor God. You will do whatever is needed because you are the person for the job. You go in with expectation and anticipation, looking and being your finest, and continue in that.

Did you look your finest before you were married, but after you were married, you let it go? Before Diana and I were married, it was poetry and pros, and afterwards it was burping and picking your nose.

The Lord said the people had it backwards. Relationships are not going to work if your finances or your mental, physical, and spiritual states are out of line. If you do not have peace, you cannot bring peace to others. If you are all about yourself, it is not going to happen. Start to identify where you need to change.

Years ago the Lord told me, "Son, my people do not have the abundant life. They have life, they are saved, but they do not have the abundant life that I am bringing. The reason is they have not dealt with the five areas. They have not done anything to rise up to what God really wants to do."

Some spiritual signs of weakness are:

- unbelief
- apathy (no interest in spiritual things)
- work instead of church
- false beliefs (What you are believing will determine what you are going to have.)
- ignorance
- lack of prayer (Many times people only pray when they have a problem. Prayer is actually communication with God. What kind of relationship would you have if you did not talk with the other person? It would not be much of a relationship)
- disobedience to God's Word (You know what God says, but you still do what you want to do)
- Jesus is not Lord of all areas of your life. We can say, "He is Lord," but we have other areas where we call the shots. We have determined what we are going to do.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)

Are you doing that in *all* your ways? Many times we are leaning to our own understanding, and then we wonder why we are having problems.

Have you made decisions without even consulting the Lord? You never bothered to ask Him, you just went out and did what you thought. We are *His* servants, He is not ours. We have to ask Him about everything. The Lord does not have to answer our prayers because they are not His, they are ours.

The Lord will say, “You want to run your own life, go ahead,” and He will step back. But that is weakness. *“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.”* (Proverbs 22:25 NKJV) Children cannot make their own decisions. If you let your children do that, then you are a fool, and your children will be bigger fools. Things will not get better, they will get worse. There are third and fourth generation welfare recipients in the world because they learned their parents’ ways, and not God’s ways.

Not seeking the Lord’s wisdom, direction, and purpose is weakness. Ask the Lord what He wants, and then He will show you. *“If any of you lacks wisdom let him ask God.”* (James 1:5 NKJV)

Low church attendance is a sign of weakness. A shepherd should not have to look for his sheep. Jesus said, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* (John 10:27 NKJV) *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some.”* (Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) We are to provoke each other to love and good works. This keeps us strong.

The Lord gave me a diet for people: one worship service, one teaching service, and one opportunity for ministry each week. We are to be out about God’s work some place doing something for God. Then we read the Word daily, our daily spiritual vitamins. It will keep us strong.

When people are not interested in church, and they have other things before church and before God, then they are really out there on their own. Like iron sharpens iron, brothers and sisters can sharpen each other, encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:25). People just do not eat once a week in order to keep strong. The early church met every day. That is why they were so strong. That is why they saw miracles and signs and wonders and good things happening all the time. They were about God's business. He was their First Love. He was their life.

The one with lukewarm, compromising, convenient belief says, "It is my life, I will decide what I am going to do and how I am going to do it." Jesus says, "*Because you are lukewarm –neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*" (Revelation 3:16) The reason many have problems is they are not moving ahead with God. If they are not moving ahead, they are moving backwards because they are being pushed one way or the other way - towards God or towards the devil.

Mental signs of weakness are:

- confusion
- double mindedness
- apathy
- withdrawal
- fantasizing
- escape
- independence
- dependence
- rebelliousness
- selfishness
- poverty or thoughts of lack – applies to all areas of life
- helplessness
- hopelessness
- lack of control
- being in control. Did you find that you thought you were in control? That is a weakness. "*Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*" (1st Corinthians 10:12 NKJV) Something happens and you find you are not in control. Have you ever tried

to pull everybody into your little world and control it? It will not last because there are too many other variables working.

- impulsive, compulsive, driven. Some people's lives are driven and they have no peace. Many religious spirits drive people so that it is no fun to be a Christian; they do not want to be part of it because they have to pray seven times a day. The commandments of God are not grievous. (1st John 5:3) They are a joy. They are a delight. If you are finding that they are a burden, then that is weakness, and there is something wrong if you are not delighting in the Lord. It is an indicator that He is not your First Love. If you are feeling like it is no fun to pray, there is a thief out there in the woodpile. You should love to be in the presence of God, praying.

Anytime you feel like other people are burdens, there is a weakness in effect. God is all about helping people. He loves us, so a warning should go up that maybe you are not as spiritually tuned in as you think you are.

We always need to ask the Lord whom to help and how to help them, but if we are not even interested and we think everybody can go to hell and get away from us, there is a problem. We need to be aware of that.

Other signs of weakness are:

- unclean thoughts
- mood swings. These can be caused by a time of the month for women. These can be caused by what people are putting in their bodies which alter their emotional make-up.
- anger and/or violence, bitterness, unforgiveness, jealousy, fear, worry, stress, stubbornness, depression, competition and comparison – that is weakness thinking.
- laziness, lying, cheating, insecurity, false security. These all basically show us that God is not in the picture. You will see that wherever there is weakness, the Lord is not the one in charge, and you are out of faith. Once you are down, the enemy will not pick you up, help you, and dust you off. He will trample on you, and he will seek to beat you down even more.

All these areas are interrelated. What affects one area will eventually affect everything across the board, and it all goes back to the spiritual. What is your spiritual condition? Where are you? If you find yourself lacking, then you need to ask God's forgiveness and get into the Word of God, get back into fellowship with God's people, and act on the Word.

You do not need counseling; you need the Counselor, the Holy Spirit. He will show you these things if you get serious and ask Him. The Lord is there for you.

Physical signs of weakness are:

- being overweight
- having no energy
- being hyperactive
- fatigued
- sick
- diseased
- infirmed
- in pain
- muscle weakness
- lack of attention
- substance abuse
- indulgence (this applies to all areas of appetite)
- sleeplessness
- monthly cycle
- menopause
- additives and addictions (drugs, alcohol, sex binge, no moderation). You do not have to be a rocket scientist to know that anything you add into your body is going to have an effect on it, and whatever chemical you put in is going to do more than one thing.

There are many indicators that there is a weakness going on in your body. People are usually more conscious of their body than they are about mental and emotional things. In fact, many times people do not even really know the reason why things are going on within them emotionally, let alone the spiritually. The thief wants to steal, kill, and destroy. He has to make you weak and intimidate you spiritually,

mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. He will try to get you to either feel that you are okay, leaving God out of it, or cause you to be weak so that you just cannot do anything, where it is all over and you are losing.

Another sign of weakness:

- depression. What do you get for depression? Drugs which depress you more or they hype you up.

Some health care professionals should be ashamed of themselves for what they are giving to people. It is all about money. Some pharmaceutical companies and doctors are nothing more than drug pushers. They get kick-backs on the drugs they are prescribing. I am not saying all doctors are like that, but I suggest you find out what you are being prescribed. It is a form of weakness not to do that.

Do not just believe what they say unless you know full well what you are doing because they will say it is your responsibility to know what is going on with yourself. They are just prescribing things. It is your life.

Jesus said that spiritually speaking you should take heed what you hear. Make sure it is producing faith, hope, and love in God and drawing you closer into what God has. Stay out of what produces insecurity, unbelief, and fear, or anything that agrees with wrong thinking (is not lined up with God's Word). That is dangerous. I tell the women to stay away from bitter wives. They will put rebellion and independence into you.

Have you ever listened to somebody who is depressed? They are depressing. It is your responsibility to take heed what you hear. Have you found that more people are coming to you to ask questions and ask you for help? Are you feeling a burden where you feel like you are carrying the weight of the world? The next time someone comes to you that way, you say, "Right now, I do not need to hear it all; let's pray. Let's believe God." If they say, "I do not want to do that," then you say, "Have a nice day" because their rehearsing their issues and problems is not helping them or you.

I have heard people complain many times “all pastor does is give me scriptures.” You see, I am giving spirit and life. The problem is people do not believe God. They do not believe that that Word can heal them and change the course of their lives, their marriage, their friendships, or their job when in fact, it can change everything.

Financial signs of weakness are:

- stealing
- lack of giving or sharing
- being a spendthrift
- wasteful
- hoarding
- impulsive spending. Just because you see something to buy does not mean it is such a deal. Maybe you feel you need not just one item but five in order to stock up. When the children all leave, you do not need to shop for six.
- dishonest personal gain, not working. *“Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.”* (Proverbs 13:11 NKJV)
- love of money which is why people do not tithe and give offerings. They love money and do not want to honor God.
- being easily swindled, like making poor investments, get rich quick schemes. For every buck you put in the slot, you may win a few but they are all going back in... and more. They are not there in order to get you rich quickly. They will tell you that, but there is a chance that something might happen. Very few people walk away with anything left, and it goes on the debit side which messes up relationships, finances, health, mental health, and spiritual life. Why? You are looking to the almighty god in the one-armed bandit. Just think of what he could do with two arms.
- Fear of investing. The old expression is nothing ventured, nothing gained. The man in the bible buried the one talent he had, but the others all invested it. Fear and poverty thinking holds people back from making investments. Have you ever made an investment and got burned, so you pulled it back in? Have you ever loved somebody who burned you so you pulled back in your love? That is weakness.

Relationship signs of weakness are:

- sense of not belonging

- loneliness
- self-reliance
- jealousy
- envy
- anger
- partiality
- being abused or abusing others. Usually abused people abuse others.
- competing
- comparing
- gossiping, or judging people
- rejected, or rejecting others
- lying
- prejudice
- wanting attention
- isolation
- demanding rights
- unforgiving
- bitter
- not generous
- not friendly

These are all signs of weakness. They should tell you that something is not right in you.

Are you able to see these faults in somebody else? It is a weakness that you can see them in someone else clearly but not in yourself. You can see it clearly because you are full of it.

“Remove the log out of your own eye” so you can help somebody else. Deal with the stuff in yourself first, which is a full time operation.

Here is a little tip: The Lord is with you and He will help you.

Spotting these things when they come up, you can stop them.

Some people come to church three times a week, but they are still messed up because they do not apply what they learn. God does

not want us dwelling on weaknesses. We just need to point them out as areas of improvement.

Apart from Jesus we can do nothing. We are weak. *“It is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me.”* (Galatians 2:20 NKJV) God is working in us enabling us to will and to do His good purpose and pleasure. (Philippians 2:13)

When we realize that, we ask the Lord to forgive us in that situation, and we overcome evil with good. We can do it through Christ Jesus who strengthens us. (Philippians 4:13)

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Twelve
Faith Adjustments

Our Daily Bread

The Spirit of God is getting stronger and stronger. He is getting rid of things that are not profitable in our lives, stripping them away, and getting down to the real source and sustenance, valuable priorities in our lives.

In Proverbs 30:7-8 the king was asking two things. *“Two things I ask of you, O Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.”*

The Lord is bringing America back into balance. The violation of God’s principles can go on only so long and judgment comes. This has happened to every great nation over the centuries that has taken this path.

The king in Proverbs said, *“Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you.”* (Proverbs 30:9) That is what has happened in our nation, and that is what has happened in many people’s lives. When everything is going okay, people say, “Thanks, God; I can take it from here.” Have you ever had that kind of attitude?

Do not forget, the Lord your God who has given you all this, and yet you think that you have done it yourself (Deuteronomy 8). Pride comes before the fall.

“I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God,” (Proverbs 30:9) but you do not have to be poor to steal. The only thing that will see us through in this time is honoring the Lord. It will help people get through these times where a great separation is happening in the earth and in the church. There are people that honor God, and there are people that do not honor God.

People have believed lies and have put their trust in uncertain riches. Many have not allowed themselves to be free of falsehood and lies, saying, "Keep these things far from me."

The Lord simply says to us, "I love you; believe in Me, trust Me." He knows who we are. You cannot really do anything for God or give anything to God. He is the Lord of the universe. He created everything by speaking it forth. There is nothing too difficult for Him. He does not need anything from us.

He is not needy, and He does not want us to be needy. People can have a poverty mentality, whether they are rich or poor, where they are always thinking about themselves. When we think only about ourselves, we are missing all that the Lord has.

Get rid of a welfare mentality. Parents have a responsibility to their children. Many children have a welfare mentality, thinking that Dad and Mom are supposed to take care of them. They do not even have the concept of going to work.

The world does not owe us anything. If you do not work, you do not eat, and if you do not have work, you find work. There is work out there. There is something that can be done. Pray, believe the Lord, and ask Him to guide and direct you (Proverbs 3: 5, 6) "*Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*" The Lord spoke through His Word there, and when He speaks through His Word, He means what He says.

The man in Proverbs 30 asked for the same thing that Jesus taught us in what is commonly called the Lord's Prayer. "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" (Matthew 6:11 KJV) In other words, whatever I need today I receive it from Him. I thank Him for it in Jesus' name. "Give me this day, my daily bread." It is all about trust.

When the Lord was teaching the Israelites to believe in Him, He sent manna, which was good for one day. It was daily bread. If they stored it up, it rotted and stunk. They had to gather it, but it was God who provided it.

In other words, the Lord has a provision, but you need to go get it. When you trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge the Lord in all your ways, He will direct you to it. He will show you where it is and how to receive it. He has it for you.

In the stories of the feeding of the 4,000 and the 5,000 Jesus multiplied the loaves and the fish. The Lord did the same thing in both occasions. The disciples said, "What is this amongst so many?" but Jesus did not listen to it. He just raised it up to the Father and said, "Thank you, Father, for what I have" and it multiplied.

A woman I know said she did not know how she was making it, but she does honor the Lord, gives her tithe and offering, and then somehow all the stacks of bills seem to get paid. The woman said they are *all* paid. She did not even know how it happens. She was not getting any support from anybody after the family had broken up except the Lord, and she went to work. The Lord was taking care of everything. Whatever you need today as you do what the Lord says and trust His word, He will supply.

The Faith Report

There are some attitudes that need to go with this. (Romans 12)

There is false thinking as far as God is concerned, for the world is full of lies. The world may give one report, but God gives another report – the faith report.

The faith report will cause you to do certain things. "*Love must be sincere.*" (Romans 12:9) It has to be sincere from the heart. Tough times show whether love is sincere or not. It really proves our hearts and shows what is in us. "*Hate what is evil*" (Proverbs 12:9) like unbelief in God. Our nation is going away from God, and yet there are many believers in America. The believers need to believe, otherwise we will go the course of the Roman Empire and the course of other great nations of the ages. Civilizations fell because they left God and went after other gods. The Lord says, "*Thou shall have no other gods before me.*" (Exodus 20:3)

No matter what time it is, we have to hold on to what is good and stay away from what is evil. In other words, hold on to God (and

everything that God has is good). *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.”* (James 1:17) Get rid of what is not of God in our lives and all the compromise.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.” (Romans 12:10 NASB) Brotherly love is more than gifts. We are a gift, and we need to give ourselves freely and start to appreciate one another.

You can have a wonderful life and home without all the trappings because where there is Love (Jesus), there is everything. *“God so loved the world.”* (John 3:16)

Every day is about Jesus, and if we are seeking first the kingdom of God, then everything else that God has will be added to us. Whatever the Father has for me will come to me. The gospel is good news, but it is not just good news, it is good news about Jesus. It is God loving me and coming for me to save me.

Salvation is the most thrilling thing there is. The greatest gift of God is salvation and life with Him forever, but the church has gotten so far out there you cannot tell the difference between the world and the church anymore. People like the prosperity teaching because God is going to give them stuff. Yes, you may be believing for things you never believed before and God is giving it, but it belongs to Him.

Experiencing increase in your life physically, financially, mentally, or in relationships (you may have a few more friends and you are not as nasty, selfish, and do not complain as much as you used to) shows that the Lord *has* been blessing you. Thanksgiving needs to be with blessing and the more thanksgiving the better.

In tough times people come together stronger than ever, or they drift apart. It all depends on what is in you. The Lord is the only answer for the times we are in, when other gods that people have trusted in (and the other pillars in their lives that used to support them) have all disappeared. The only One that will remain is the Lord. We must put our trust in Him alone, not in ourselves or in others.

Perhaps you did not even really know to what extent you have been self-reliant until sudden sickness happens, relationships break down, or the job security disappears. Without God you are going to die. The Lord wants to intervene and help you. All you need to do is turn to Him and allow Him to do that.

Be hospitable, *“honor one another above yourselves.”* (Romans 12:10) If you have survivor mentality where you think you can do things yourself and make them happen, you will run into a wall. You may wonder why something is not happening now when it has in the past.

“Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5) The Lord is teaching us every day. He is not only supplying physically, He is supplying mentally, emotionally, financially, in relationships, and in health. He is always supplying for His people.

As God Directs

Back when we first started Glory to God Ministries, I had left the Lutheran church and all of my benefits. We did not know where our next meal was coming from except from the Lord who supplies our daily bread. A sizeable offering came in the mailbox, and at the time there were not a whole lot of people helping us or coming to meetings. After receiving the offering I picked up the mail every day. Usually I would go once a week, but then I went down there every day. About the third or fourth day, I was about to stick the key in the mailbox and the Lord said, “Son, what are you doing?” I knew what He was talking about because I knew what I was doing (but I did not know what I was doing, even when I thought I knew what I was doing). I said, “I am getting the mail, Lord.” He said, “I am not going to do it that way this time.”

He knew right away that I was not letting on. The Lord knows our innermost thoughts. You cannot fool God about anything, and I knew what He was talking about immediately. He was telling me that He was going to do it, but not the same way. He was not going to do it the way that had worked before.

God had always told Moses to use the staff to hit the rock and the water would come out. He had done that several times. Moses used that staff everywhere to do a lot of things, but then the Lord switched it one time and said, “Speak to the rock.”

We need to hear what the Lord is directing and lean not to our own understanding. For that to happen we need to seek the Lord with all our hearts.

Moses ended up getting angry, and instead of speaking to the rock, he smacked it with his staff.

When I went to the mailbox every day for that one week, all I got was junk mail. The Lord was teaching me to hear His voice and to seek Him with all my heart and not look to a source, or a certain way that it would happen.

We need to learn to trust the Lord and believe Him for our daily bread. Daily bread does not just mean food – it has to do with spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, relationships. Whatever we need for our lives today, we need to trust the Lord. We need to seek Him and rely upon Him with all our hearts.

When we start to believe God and take the steps of faith, the Lord’s provision kicks in, and it supersedes the world. The blessing of God happens when we honor God with tithes and offerings. When we honor God’s holy Sabbath, He says He will cause us to ride on the high places of the earth (out of this world). The Lord says, *“If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world.”* (John 15:19)

Other attitudes kick in, like honoring one another above yourself because that is how God does. *“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”* (Romans 12:10) (This is an attitude of a servant’s heart).

We are here to serve the Lord. He is not here to serve us. We are here to serve people as God directs us, not as people direct us. We have to get the direction of the Lord. That means we lock ourselves up and spend time praying. We talk with the Lord. We pour out our

hearts and ask for forgiveness for looking at God as a sugar daddy, or looking to ourselves and forgetting about Him.

Have you found that when you are in trouble, you seek the Lord? Look at the Israelites. Whenever something would happen they were quick to go to God, but when everything was blessed they did not think they needed God and forgot about Him.

Refuse Depression

“Be joyful in hope.” (Romans 12:12)

Depression comes from not having any hope. One sign of weakness is depression. When you are depressed mentally, you have a spiritual problem. When you look to sources other than God, it will cause depression. Fear of man, seeking recognition or love and greatness, control, authority issues, relying on self rather than God’s grace may cause depression.

In depression you give up your hope and you do not see a future. In Jeremiah 29:11 the Lord says, *“For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* God wants to give you hope. God has already been in your future. (See Joshua 1:6 – 9)

When you have a sign of depression, it should alert you that you are outside of God’s will. You have left the Lord and are leaning to your own understanding. You let your hope drop and you have no strength physically. When the depression comes, mentally you are in a fog and confusion will set in. You want to withdraw from people and drop out of church. You start looking for something to make things happen. Some people just crawl under a rock and do not care if they live or die. Relationships are affected because of the withdrawal. People can get crabby and irritable, saying things they do not mean. The next thing you know, people avoid you so that you feel alone and isolated, and you become unprofitable to the kingdom.

Some solutions are to discipline the mind in the Word of God (meditation and action). David said, *“Why are you cast down, O my soul?”* (Palm 42:5 NKJV) He challenged the lie, the depression. Do not let it become all there is, for it will eventually affect everything in

your life because that is how we are made up – spirit, mind, body, finances, and relationships.

Have you found that when you have money, you have friends, and visa versa? That might not be such a bad thing because maybe they were not your friends. Maybe they were just around with their hand out. Tough times sort out what is real in your life and what is not real. It sorts out what kind of faith you have and what kind of faith you do not have.

“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.” So we need to do something. We need to stir up the gift of God. You can list a thousand reasons why you are depressed such as: this is not going right, it is not happening, someone is talking about me, another person is not saying anything about me, but I want them to. It is “all about you.”

“Hope in God, for I will yet praise Him.” (Psalm 42:5) David stirred up the Spirit of God.

We are going to hope in God and praise Him, for the Lord is true to His word no matter what the circumstances or situation. Many times the only reason we spend attention on something is that it is broken. “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.”

People never give a thought about their sight until they are not seeing well. Your heart has been pumping faithfully for all these years, and you never took one thought about it, or even cared for it until something happened to it.

Have you taken people for granted and thought nothing of it? Then something happens and you wonder where are they, what is wrong, why is it happening, why are they leaving? It was going on for a long time, but you were not thinking about it. Relationships are to be cherished. Nothing should be taken for granted.

I can always tell when somebody is spiritually out of sorts because they do not want to be around me. Jesus says, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”* (John 10:27 NKJV)

They do not listen to another. I know who they are and they know who I am. But when there is a break, then somebody is out of sorts.

Depression is a spiritual problem. You can pop all the pills in the world, and it will not take away your depression. That is what the world does to get rid of it, but it will not ever go away. All you are doing is masking or cloaking it. In the same way people are substituting other things besides God in their life, and it is causing problems across the board. If you are on medication or drugs, you are not as sharp as a tack, and your relationships, your perspective and everything in your life starts to get messed up.

The Word says, *“Give thanks in all circumstances”* (1st Thessalonians 5:18) not depressed in all circumstances. The Lord is in control. You think things are out of control from your perspective because you are leaning to your own understanding. You need to bring in God’s Word which is stable. You need to say you refuse the depression in Jesus’ name. Hope in God and praise God.

People are weak because they stay in the weakness and do not ever deal with things. We need to step up. The Lord is calling us up to what He has. He is not coming down again, He is calling us up. If you are settling short, it is because of you, not God. You may blame God – where is He? Why is not He doing this or that? It is a dangerous question because the Holy Spirit will start to show you why God is not doing anything.

Ignorance is bad. *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you.”* (Hosea 4:6) This means people do not want to get the understanding.

Because we hope in God, and we know our God reigns, we are going to be joyful. *“The joy of the Lord is your strength.”* (Nehemiah 8:10) When we are joyful in the Lord, we know God reigns, we have hope, we have a future, we have a purpose, being about God’s business, and we have confidence in the Lord. We do not have confidence in ourselves or anybody else.

The Lord Is the Solution

The world says you have to be confident in yourself. No, we are confident in God who lives in us. As we start to be thankful in all circumstances, we know the Lord is in control, He does not change, and He is stable. Then we become stable and we stop the yo-yo existence – one day up and the other down depending on the circumstances. By our becoming stable, our heart settles down, and our minds settle down, our body settles down. Every time we get upset, and every time we allow the circumstances of life to overwhelm us, our blood pressure will go up. Our digestive tract will have complications because more acid is going into the stomach, and it will create more problems inside.

Our minds may start to get overwhelmed because they were not intended to deal with stress. As wonderful a problem solver as we may be, God is not into solving problems. He is the solution. If we would go to Him as the solution, He will give us wisdom and understanding in what to do and how to do it. But people may not go to Him because they are overwhelmed with what is going on and are trying to figure it all out themselves. As long as we are trying to figure things out, God is not giving us any solutions.

God has no problems and there are no issues with Him. The Lord says, “There is nothing too difficult for Me.” If you try to play God, it is not going to work. Jesus, the Son of God (God Himself), come in the flesh, submitted Himself to His Father and became full man, relying on His Father in heaven. Never once do you see Jesus trying to take matters into His own hands to figure out issues. In fact, when the mother of James and John comes to Jesus and wants to put her sons on his left hand and his right when He enters into His glory, Jesus says, “That is not for me to give.” He deferred to His Father.

Remember the guy who came to Jesus and wanted to divide the inheritance between him and his brother, and Jesus asked, “Who appointed me your judge?” He told them to work it out between themselves. He never stepped in and played God, even though He was God come in the flesh. He never took Himself outside of the realm of the will of His Father in heaven to do something on His own. In fact, He said, *“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”* (John 6:38) He did not have to prove anything to Himself or anybody else.

Evidence of the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, and peace. There are no negatives, no fear, worry, or stress. Stress will affect your financial decisions and what you are going to do. When the fear of lack comes, it affects your relationships.

We cannot live off of yesterday's testimonies. We need to allow God to work a miracle in us and through us every day. Past testimonies give us encouragement and we have not gotten to the future yet. Right now is where God is and He wants to do something now. It starts with us getting some hope.

One of the first things we have to do with many people that come to us is give them hope because they have given up. *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen."* (Hebrews 11:1 KJV) Once we get the hope back into people, then faith has something to attach to.

How Faith Comes

We cannot constantly rehearse negatives. We have to take a good look at what we are doing and saying. We have to watch what is coming out of our mouths. You can tell where your faith is by what comes out of your mouth. What are you confessing?

One time the Lord sent me to pray in a church. He told me He was going to do a move of the Spirit in that place and wanted me to be there. I went and prayed, and one day the Pastor began talking about how everybody was getting the gombu (sickness) that was going around. He said, "I have got it, and my family has it, and everybody is getting it," and something suddenly grabbed my throat. I was just sitting there being obedient to God and praying, believing God and this guy starts speaking this crud on me. I said right out loud (devils do not hear you when you think, but they can tell what you are thinking by what comes out of your mouth. That thing had grabbed my throat and started choking me.) "Go to hell in Jesus' name!" Out loud, right in the middle of the service. "That is not coming on me in Jesus' name." Everybody looked at me. I said, "I just had to say this because not everybody is getting this. If you want to get it, you can have it and you can have whatever you were trying to get me to have, but I am not going to have it in Jesus' name. I do

not want it and I do not have to have it,” and the stuff hopped off me. I do not know where it hopped because I was not looking. But the hell with that. I was not going to have that nonsense on me in Jesus’ name. I am not going to put up with it.

The Lord was trying to get the people to become believers, but all they were hearing was unbelief, so God wanted to step up and say something. After the service there was a big crowd out front. (During the service I saw a little glory glow on a lady. [I see things. I am not on drugs, I am on the Holy Ghost].) The woman happened to attend some of our Bible studies at the time, so I saw that God was going to do something with her.

Lo and behold, there was a big commotion out front because this lady had fallen down the front steps, hit her head and was out cold. Blood was flowing all over, and the people were upset thinking, *What are we going to do?* I talked to the pastor and said, “This lady comes to some of my bible studies.” He knew who I was, I had asked his permission to be in the church, and we had an agreement that I was not going to do anything except with permission. I believe in being under authority, under God. He looked at me and said, “You do anything you are led to do at this point,” and so I went over and I put hands on the lady and in the name of Jesus I commanded the trauma off of her, and whatever else was wrong to get off of her. This is right after this other episode was going on in the church. They rushed her off to the hospital, with a knot on her head the size of a little plum. The Lord removed that, he removed everything and she was perfectly whole.

We have to learn these things because it does not come naturally. It comes supernaturally. You have to get out of your own understanding and allow the Lord to step in and do whatever He is going to do.

Another lady was going to have a baby who was five months along. I heard she was having trouble and might lose the baby. We went down to the hospital and prayed with her, and then the Lord had me go back the next day. When I went back, she was gone, and I wondered what happened. I found out she delivered the baby after we prayed that day, but it was not premature, it was a full term baby.

That has always freaked me out. How could it happen? God stepped up the growth process. No doctor would diagnose four months off. They have been off before, but not four months, and the momma was perfect. In fact, she was the one that showed me the baby, and I thought, Oh, my God. It was beyond my own belief. It was a creative miracle. A God-created miracle. Thank you, Lord.

“Now to him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

What does that kind of thinking do to depression? It crucifies it!

Forgiven and forgiving, enjoy Christ with others; there are no problems with God.

One time the Lord told me, “Son, there are no emergencies with Me.” In other words, when people bring Him on to the scene, then it is not an emergency anymore. It may have been, but it is not anymore.

Something happens in you when you go to the Lord. You move from trauma to faith in God, and when you make that transition it enables God to be free to work His miracle.

When we pray over people and we speak something beyond what they are believing for, when they make a faith adjustment and say, “That is what I want and they step up, faith is present. Faith needs to stay present because when you leave the atmosphere of faith and the Holy Spirit, the thief will come and try to steal what God did. Jesus talks about that in Luke, chapter 11.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. We have to be able to detect the weakness when it comes. Why are those weaknesses present and why are they happening? There are solutions, and we can make a change. The spirit man or woman of God should be healthy, and our spirits when we are born again are perfect. In our spirit man we are just like Jesus when He walked the earth, but our mind and our body need to be brought under control to our spirit.

Where Do the Thoughts Come From?

There is a war going on between our spirits that want to do what God says (and is who God says we are) and our minds which cannot fathom unless renewed by the Word of God.

We are sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus, but our minds tell us, "Who do you think you are?" It tells us, "What makes you think you will speak and God will do that from heaven? What makes you think that you will lay hands on the sick and they will get better? What makes you think that you are going to have daily bread? You had better figure it out because you are messed up in your head."

What is the reality? Some say the reality is what you see or what you hear, but that is not the reality. Our economy is messed up because of the greed, bad mortgages and such going on but that is not the issue. There are demonic forces that you do not see that are working in all areas. There are influences working against spirit, mind, body, finances, and in relationships.

The devil does not want you or your family happy. He does not want you at peace. Demonic influences are always trying to stir people up. Just tell them to get out of here.

When that pastor was speaking unbelief from the pulpit, a spirit grabbed me. It grabbed my throat. Have you ever had such an experience? Say, "Get off my body in Jesus' name!" Do not just sit there. Stand up and say, "No! The blood of Jesus covers me. You have no right or access to this house."

If you are just sitting there and all of a sudden you get upset at another person, you have to deal with it. The thought is not going anywhere. You have to tell it, "Get off of me in Jesus' name. Those are not my thoughts." Just because some thoughts run through your head does not mean they are your thoughts. Tell them to get out!

God puts thoughts in your head too. Do not run off God's thoughts. Why would you run off God's thoughts and believe the devils' thoughts? If you are not receiving God's Word and God's thoughts, you are not going to receive a miracle.

Many years ago there was a lady who came into the prayer line with a dislocated hip. She was carried in by some people. They brought her in and she stood in the prayer line. I went by her a few times. She was in pain, and I went to her to pray over her. She was probably in her early 70's. I told her to bend her good leg, and she tried to go down on the other leg, not the one we prayed for. She could not do it. I said, "No, I want you to do it on your good leg – the good leg is the one we just prayed over". And so, she was saying, "I cannot do that, I cannot do that," but she was doing it. The crowd was laughing and celebrating Jesus because of what was going on.

Everything that God has, we have in our spirits. What holds us back is our mind and our body. The mind has to be brought in line with what God says. (Romans 12:2) We do not have a will of our own; we have the will of the Lord. When we are out of that, we need to ask God's forgiveness and get back into it, where we belong. The law of life and health flows through our bodies in Jesus' name. Sickness has no power or place over us unless we allow it.

If you feel something coming on you, and it is not good and it is not of God, tell it to get off. There are influences that want to mess you up. Have you had a thought that you might go broke? Quickly tell that thought to get off. Everything in this nation is happening just according to plan, according to God's schedule. He has it all under control. Things have to go a certain way. If in the nation there are three righteous, those three will be saved and the rest will not. It is time for people to either go, "yes, God," or "yes, devil." It is one or the other. *"Because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth."* (Revelation 3:16) That is what is happening in the world today – there is a sifting and a sorting.

There is life and health or death and sickness in all of God's principles. There is always a counterfeit to what is true. The opposite of depression is joy. Your strength is joy. Depression takes away your joy. It takes away joy because you are not believing and hoping in God.

We are in a war zone, but all the Father has for us will come to us if we are about His business. We have to be aware that there is a thief that wants to steal, kill, and destroy all that our Father brings to us. If

we do not tell him to get out and quit allowing ourselves to be an emotional yo-yo, we are not going to have what God has for us.

“May it be done to me according to your Word.” (Luke 1:38 NASB)
Understand, *“as he thinketh in his heart so he is.”* (Proverbs 33:7)
That is why some people have and some people do not have. That is why some folk are overcoming and some are not.

We have to take a stand and decide who and what we are going to serve. It is in these times that prove what is really in us. 1st Corinthians 3 says the fire will prove everything that we based our life on and where we stand.

Believing God Always

A young girl attending our church refused to believe the eye doctors when they told her that she would never be able to see normally. She refused the report, believed God, and came up for prayer. Right there God healed her and she could see. She was tested again by the doctors and she could see perfectly. Recently she started wearing her glasses again, and she did not know why. If God does something for you, you still have to work it and testify about it. You have to tell people about what great and wonderful things God has done. You have to keep your faith stirred up. Everyday you need to thank the Lord and praise Him for what He is and what He has done.

Her sight had become blurry again. What was on her got off of her. Jesus said it comes back to the house where it was. She was afraid to come to me and discuss this issue. The thief wants to separate us, but if you believe God and trust in Him, He will give you back seven fold. Seven is a perfect number; it means you will get back perfectly what God has for you.

She regained the faith she initially had when she would not believe what the doctors told her but she believed the Lord could repair her sight. God honors your faith when you believe.

Over time the mind will “settle.” You cannot let your faith just settle but be hot. When something bad happens, everybody is quick to believe God, but as weeks and months go by people are not praying

as much, and they are not thinking about it, they are just going back to their old ways.

I have stood with people that have been in comas for forty days. I have seen horrible things over the years, and God has always been faithful. But I always wonder, where are the people that were friends and family and everybody else who were quick to believe God? Where are they as the time goes on? They are not believing God anymore because their hope disappeared. Because they did not see any quick instant changes, they think, *It is not happening*. Maybe they just need to cope with it, and accept it when it is not God's best. They settle for something short just because they cannot believe at that point. That is where their faith is, but God is saying "Step up, come on up to where I live where nothing is impossible for Me." And He says, "You put your faith and trust in me and nothing shall be impossible to you." (Matthew 17:20)

There were quite a few times when Jesus told His disciples they did not have any faith. He intended for them to get some faith by telling them that. Pride and self wants to stay earthbound. God put a spirit in you that wants to soar in the heavens, it wants to see the miracles of God. You cannot let this mind take you back down.

People get out in the world and start thinking about other things and their thoughts about the Lord are overridden by the mind and the desires of the body. We have to stir up the faith of God that is in us. We have to let our mind settle down.

The young woman with the sight problem had become angry with God and felt that before she could accept His healing she needed to forgive Him. What had happened over time was her family went through a lot. She felt she was the tough girl who always held everything in and did not tell anybody how she was feeling. She and her family were struggling, and she felt that God saw that, so she did not understand why things did not get better.

Money was such an issue right then for her family, and she saw people who do not have God who were not struggling. She could not understand why her family had to go through these things. She was also angry with her dad for not being there in the home for her.

People wonder why God can let these things go on and yet be in control of everything. The kingdom of heaven is within us, it is not out there in the world. The Lord wants His people to stand up in faith, hope, and love, and be lights for Him to the whole world. He wants us to have peace in Him no matter what is going on around us, no matter what is happening.

While the Christians were being fed to the lions, they were praising God and singing hymns and praises to the Lord while their bodies were being torn apart. This is a brand of people that He wants back into His church because this is the Bride He is coming for. He is not coming for any whimps. He is coming for a holy people set apart to His praises.

We later prayed for the young woman to understand and get stronger every day, and she would see the reality of God's presence and love, and that she could deal with whatever came her way. We asked the Lord to bring her back to that simple faith He put in her through the hearing of His Word in Jesus' name. We demanded and rebuked that spirit to get off of her and cursed all unbelief. We asked for refreshing and renewing in her spirit, mind, and body. We asked that she be whole in Jesus' name.

It was not her eyes that fogged up, it was her soul. That is where the attack was. It was going after her and eventually trying to go after her spirit to get her to give up God.

She was later healed.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Thirteen
Accountable to the Lord

Obedience to What God Says

When the Word of God states that the heavens are opening up, it means the blessings of God are now able to come to you, and that comes when we honor the Lord in the way that He says to do it.

It is not obedience to try and do things the way that you think they need to be done. The Lord is very specific about that in the Word. In the book of Malachi the people were giving one-eyed animals and animals with broken legs for offerings to the Lord. The Lord said, “I am not receiving those.” People were not giving their best to Him. They were giving the leftovers – the ones that they did not want which were of no value – but expected God to do good things. In the same way Cain’s offering was not accepted but Abel’s was. Cain’s was not what God wanted for the offering.

If we are stewards of God’s abundance, we need to use it the way He directs. It takes faith, hope, and love in God to be able to do this. The Lord says He will open the windows of heaven for you on the tithe. The offering is what you choose to give as you ask the Lord what He wants you to give.

I was meditating recently about “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands – one nation under God...” There is a movement to get rid of that. What does this nation stand for? You have to ask yourself what you stand for.

The Lord wants to bless His people, and He has given specific ways that He wants to do it. We have to obey Him accordingly. We have to do it the way He says, and we will get the best results.

Have you gotten a prescription which tells you how to take it to get the best results? Did you modify it or change it? You will not get the full effect of it. Did you take the prescription only as long as you

figured it was enough? Then you found out that the sickness came back two days after you quit taking it because you did not take it as you were supposed to?

The Lord says to continue in His Word. *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (John 8:31-32) He did not say continue for three weeks. It is a lifetime. It is not until you feel better. It is not until God puts Humpty Dumpty back together again, and “okay, I can take it from here.” It is a lifetime commitment. Have you heard the expression, “fall off the wagon”? God says stay on the wagon, and you will see blessing for your children and your children’s children.

We have the offering of our lips; the sacrifice of praise. But God is not into sacrifices but into obedience. Obedience is a sacrifice God wants, and many times it is a sacrifice. He does not want sacrifices that you think up. He wants what He tells you. This is why it is important to ask the Lord what He wants you to do, and then Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who supplies an offering will make it happen. He has even given Himself an offering name. “I am the Lord who supplies an offering.” That takes faith, hope, and love in God to operate in it.

What would have happened if David had not gone out and faced Goliath? Nobody else was facing him, but David did not have any fear. He rose to the challenge and God made him the king. Challenges are not our enemies. God is greater than whatever we face, but it is not for the faint or the coward. The faint and the cowardly never get to be the king. If you want advancement in life, you have to deal with the challenges that you face, understanding that the Lord is going out there with you.

David said, *“Today, my God is going to deliver you into my hand.”* It was not him out there with his little slingshot.

There Will Be Sacrifice

Our God is going to see us through everything in life as we put our faith, hope, and love in Him. There is nothing too difficult for the Lord. Leaning to your own understanding is unacceptable behavior.

“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” (2nd Corinthians 9:6)

You cannot sow miserly and expect a big harvest. You will have to sacrifice for a while before things start happening. When you do that, whether you are starting up a business, or starting up a family, there is sacrifice. If only the children really knew what dad and mom put into their life.

One day one of our children asked, “How are you able to do all these things now?” And Mom said, “We’re not paying for your schooling now, and our electric bill went down \$200 when you left.” There was sacrifice for many years. Somebody got blessed because somebody sacrificed someplace under the direction of the Lord.

Rewards in Heaven

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly.” (2nd Corinthians 9:7-8)

God’s ability becomes available to you when you do this. *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.’ ” (2nd Corinthians 9:8-9)*

God equates money, giving, or helping with righteousness (which is right standing with God).

“He [God] who supplies seed to the sower [us] and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2nd Corinthians 9:10)

God will increase your store of seed. He will supply and increase the store (the account).

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2nd Corinthians 9:11)

Paul went to the Corinthian church and called for an offering to bless the people in Jerusalem. As the people at Corinth gave to Paul, the gift was taken out to where God wanted it to go. When that happened, thanksgiving went up to God at the place where the Word and the gift went. That thanksgiving went up to God and in turn the sower received the blessing back. Then God gives more seed to the sower. *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together running over, will be poured into your lap.”* (Luke 6:38) All that I need comes from the north, south, east, and west. God wants to give us more than we need so we can give more out, and the more we do, the store increases. The more happens and the greater the increase of my store of righteousness before God.

God is going to give out rewards someday in Him. In the new heaven and the new earth, when He comes back, He is giving rewards out. You should want rewards on the other side. Jesus said, *“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven”* (Matthew 6:20) so there is blessing on the other side when you get there. That is a retirement plan.

Time, Talents, Treasures

There is no such thing as retiring on this earth. Get rid of that mentality. As long as I have life and breath, I am going to praise the Lord. You also need to get rid of the mentality that when you turn eighteen it is a magical number and all of a sudden you are independent. Until you are paying all your bills and taking care of your life, you are not independent.

At age eighteen you become legally responsible for everything in your life. Your daddy cannot carry you anymore, so you had better get a job. You better start believing God. Even a child is known by their ways and stands responsible before God.

We live in a permissive society where some 13 year olds have never even had a thought about getting a job. Who is going to take care of them? – their parents. Children are responsible for their own actions before God. If your children are living in your house with you, they must obey God’s rules. If they do not want to abide by God’s rules, then they need to be out of there. If they are not eighteen, then they

need to change their ways. After they are eighteen they can do whatever they want to do because they are the ones accountable to God. They can go to heaven or they can go to hell. It is their call. But somewhere along the line somebody has to make them responsible.

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves.” (2nd Corinthians 9:1`2-13) (That is what really proves whether somebody is a Christian, not that they are sitting in church praising the Lord. What shows is their giving time, talents, and treasures.) We are saved by Jesus, but faith without works is dead. Who does it belong to? What are we doing with it?

Give:

1. Time – Sabbath (God specifically says to honor Him on His holy day which is the Sabbath. It belongs to God.)
2. Talents – Ministry/service
3. Treasures – tithe/offerings (God says the tithe and offering is His too.)

God says that we are His; therefore serve Him with your spirit, your mind, and your body which belong to Him.

For Me to Live Is Christ

When you are in the Lord, you do not even think about yourself. But God wants to occupy your time with gladness of heart. *“He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:20) Is God occupying your time with gladness of heart, or are you getting caught up in the cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things?

The world wants to keep going on, but its time is short. The gig is up. Only those walking with God are going to remain. *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away.”* The Lord says that we are His chosen possession, and we will never pass away.

You are either possessed of the devil, or you are possessed of the Holy Ghost. It is one or the other, and we need to choose. *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and curses. Now choose life.”* (Deuteronomy 30:19)

When it comes time to honor God, we need to be there with time, talents, or treasures, for we want to honor Him with our lives. We want to be a light for Him because He has made us that. All that we have He gave us. God gave us the time that we have in this life, and we need to make the most of it. We want to enjoy the Lord and others. We want to enjoy spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationships. All the blessings that the good Lord has given us in Christ Jesus. It is all in Christ Jesus.

If I went home to be with the Lord today, I would be a happy guy, knowing that I had fulfilled what the Lord has given me to do, but He is not taking me before I am done. He put me here, and He is not taking me away until I am finished.

People say, “The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away.” No, that is not necessarily true. The Lord says, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”* (Hosea 4:6) I purposed years ago that I am not going to go before my time, for God determines that, not me or anybody else. Some people wanted to hurry the process, but it is not going to work.

One time the Lord spoke to me when I was having problems with people and church politics (nonsense). (Praise God we do not have that around here. We kick it out the door.) People were being selfish, and self-centered. “Do not talk to us from that Bible, talk sense to us,” they said to me. I would tell them, “That is the only sense I know. I thought you wanted a Pastor who brings the Word of God.” I was not there to entertain them.

We want Jesus; we want the Word of God. The Lord told me, “You will not be moved by men, you will be moved by Me when I am ready to move you.” And that is exactly what happened.

The Lord runs my life. That is what I want for He is the Lord. Whether I live or I die, for me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Fourteen
Spiritual Beings

New Creations, in God's Image

Jesus said to take heed what you hear, meaning if it is not producing faith, hope, and love in God and towards God, it is not profitable. It is just emptiness.

We have a spirit, mind and body. That is how God made us to be. If you have received Jesus into your heart, you are born again. The old has passed away, the new has come. We are new creations in Christ Jesus.

It is very important to understand that we are not the old person we used to be, which was selfish and self-centered. Even the good things we did, we did to benefit ourselves, which was the motivation of the heart.

We need to start to see ourselves as that new creation that God has made us to be. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2nd Corinthians 5:17 KJV)

Part of the problem with many people is that they do not see themselves as they are in Christ Jesus. They just see themselves as that old person, for better or for worse. There is a high side and a low side to pride. Many people think they are wonderful, but without Jesus, God says you are nothing. Others have looked at themselves as weak, miserable, helpless, and hopeless which is all about self. God says to die to your self-image. *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live (the old you), but Christ lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20)

At the cross, Jesus died in order to unite us to God. He died to make us sons of God. In Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female, which means that we are spiritual beings. We cannot see our spirits,

and our bodies are clay pots made of earth, for God formed Adam out of dirt. We also consist of water and inert gas.

1st Corinthians 15 talks about the Lord coming back and giving us a new spiritual body to encase this new spirit that is within us. Before we came to Jesus, we were dead to God.

In the garden the snake, under the direction of the devil, was talking to Eve saying, “Did God really say that you would surely die if you disobeyed Him and participated in this?” She said, “Yes, that is what God said.” Whenever you are questioning God’s Word, there is a devil close at hand, and the flesh is moving in unbelief. The world itself moves in unbelief. The devil believes there is a God and He knows what God can do, but He refuses to believe it and submit to it. Eve did not die physically, she went on living, but her spirit died to God. Adam’s spirit died as well. That is why you must be born again of water and of the Spirit. (John 3:5) You must receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, which is God’s provision to make your spirit alive to Him.

Jesus said, “The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full.” He knows there are lots of people walking around that look like they are living, but, as far as God is concerned, they are dead. They are dead spiritually. If you are dead spiritually, you will not be with God. You are separated from Him, and that is why God in His great love for us came Himself, gave Himself a body, born not of the will of man or of the flesh of man, but born of God. God was Jesus’ Father, and Mary was a carrier. She carried the seed of the Father in her. Since the blood type is determined by the dad, Jesus had God’s blood in Him.

That is what the Lord says about us: *“Yet to all who received Him [Jesus] to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”* (John 1:12-13)

We are born of an incorruptible seed. Your new spirit in Christ Jesus has never done anything that you used to do – never smoked, drank, caroused, been selfish, self-centered, rebellious, or independent. God’s spirit lies within us.

At the creation, God was talking with Himself and He said, “*Let us make man in our image.*” (Genesis 1:26) God created man in His image. Man lost God’s image when he disobeyed Him in the garden. But in Jesus, God’s image has come back to us. We are created in God’s image just like Adam was before He fell. Pure and holy.

In Christ Jesus

We have to see ourselves the way that God now sees us through Jesus Christ. God sees us holy and blameless, without sin. The blood of Jesus washed away all our sin and has made us clean before God.

Hebrews 10 says that I can come boldly before the throne of grace because of the blood of Jesus. We can come with full assurance and confidence because of the blood of Jesus. There is no separation. We can go right up and sit on our heavenly Father’s lap through what Jesus did for us on that cross.

God does not want us separated from Him. He wants us to come to Him, even though, “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” (Romans 3:23) *There is none that doeth good, no, not one.*” (Romans 3:12 KJV) That is why everyone needs Jesus. He is God’s only way to salvation. It is God’s only way when that final judgment comes and the Lord comes back in the heavens.

Many people mock and laugh about that because they do not believe it. In the same way they used to laugh and mock Noah for building a big boat out in the middle of the desert, but when the waters came down from the heavens and up from the earth, people were not laughing anymore. When it got waist deep, they started to scramble, when it was up to their chest they tried to swim. Then it was all over and only those who believed God were saved. In the same way, fire is going to come and destroy everything in the heavens and the earth, and God will make a new way, a new heaven and a new earth. Not of human decision, or a husband’s will, but born of God.

When we are in Christ Jesus, there is strength to face everything. Jesus never had any weakness in Him. All the things He faced were the same things we face, but he had no weakness. Jesus is in us

now. We are crucified with Christ, the old me is gone, dead, and buried in water baptism, the old me went down under the water. And when I came up, like Jesus was raised from the dead, I am raised to a new life with God. It is the outward sign of what happened inside of me when God made my spirit come alive to Him. The real me is spirit. I have a mind that needs to be renewed by the Word of God so we think the way God thinks, and we have a temporary body which encases it all. We will get a permanent body one of these days. God will give it to us when the dead in Christ rise to meet the Lord in the air. Then those that remain will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and will rise to meet the Lord in the air as well at the judgment time.

See Who You Really Are

You are not natural. (John 1:12) *“Yet to all who received him [Jesus] to those who believed in His name...”* It is faith in the name of Jesus that causes a person to become born again, to be transformed out of the darkness into the kingdom of God’s dear son. He came to His people, but they did not receive Him, yet to all who received Him (to those who believed in His name), He gave the right to become children of God.

People squabble about rights. The only right we had was to have nothing; we had a right to nothing without Jesus. All the squabbling is about nothing because apart from Jesus we have no rights. In Christ Jesus God gave us the right to become His children because of what Jesus did for us. We are God’s good workmanship. (Ephesians 2:10) *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God—not of works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* (Ephesians 2:8-10) We are created to work the works of God and bring Him glory. We are His good workmanship. He began the work in us and He is faithful to perfect it and complete it. (Philippians 1:6)

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6) God is working in us perfecting us into His image. God is working in me. When you stand in front of the mirror, you can say, “Whoa, look at that good work that God is doing in me!” Acknowledge what the Lord is doing. Do not

ever demean yourself and do not ever try to puff yourself up. Your old self is dead. We have to bring this body under control daily. We have to bring it under subjection to our spirits. Do not let your head override your spirit. Learn to follow God's direction. *"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord."* (Proverbs 20:27 KJV) He does not talk to your brain. He talks to your spirit in that quiet voice. Doubt comes from your mind, not from your spirit. Your mind is the source of your intellect, your emotions and the will. That is where you make your choices and decisions. That is why the devil blinds the mind. He cannot blind your spirit. He is working on your mind to get you to think that you are not who God says you are.

You are a child of God, not born of your mother or father, but born of God. Jesus said in Matthew 10, *"If you love father, mother, son, or daughter more than Me, you are not worthy of Me."* As much as we love our parents, the real life has come from God. We are to always honor and respect our parents, which is commandment number five. If you think this is commandment number four, you have man's arrangement of the commandments. *"Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you..."* (Deuteronomy 5:16) It is the first commandment with a promise. Your parents are the first authorities that God put in your life, and as you honor the authority, you honor God. We are created to bring glory to Him.

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing." (John 14:12)

For centuries people have wondered "What am I here for?" "What is my purpose in life?" "Who am I?" Do not go to the world to find that out, and do not try to figure it out yourself. The Lord already has a plan for your life. He knew you before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1). He knew you were going to come onto the scene in this time and age. He knew you would be reading this word now. The Lord has ordered the steps of the righteous. They are already laid out before us. God has a plan.

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'." (Jeremiah 29:11)

He does not specifically fill in a lot of details because it is a walk of faith. Every day is a new day.

Live and Speak Like Jesus Did

“I walk by faith, each step I take by faith.” All we need to know is that God has a plan, and we are called to trust Him and lean not to our own understanding, to acknowledge him in all our ways and He will direct our path.

I learned about that as a young boy and started doing it. That is all I do. I just trust my Father in heaven, and I take each step by faith each day. That is how you live in the spirit in the moment. God is working it out. It is like the company that said, “Just get on the bus, and leave the driving to us.” I think they got that idea from God. In other words, no worry, no fuss, no mess; just trust and let’s go.

God’s plans for us are for good, not for evil. Plans to prosper, give hope and a future. Sure, slow, steady steps equals God’s success. His will and His purpose accomplished. The sure steps are based on His principles, and we live by God’s Word. *“Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”* The Word of God has become my food. It has become my source. It is my nourishment.

Yes, our bodies need food, but there are some things that are better for the body – things that God intended for people to eat. God did not make deep fat fried food. It is all about taste. If you take the deep fat fried skin off, the chicken will be good for you. Man has distorted things. The Lord even put dietary regulations in His Word as to what is healthy for people to eat and what is not healthy. God said to eat vegetables and He said to eat meat.

Many people think that God said to eat only vegetables, but after the flood God said we could eat meat as well. But He said what kind to eat. The big fat shrimp live where the sewer hits the sea. They are scavengers. They eat the crud. “Crud in” will give “crud out.”

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become sons of God” (John 1:12 KJV). *“Born not of blood, nor of the will of*

the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:13 KJV) God intended us to become sons and daughters of the Most High God with all the rights and privileges thereof.

“He who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,” Jesus said, *“that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* (John 14:12-13 NKJV) God created us to walk the earth like Jesus.

I have spent years and years just looking at what Jesus did and what He said. Why He did what He did. Why He said what He said because He is in me, and He wants to walk the earth again. He can because I am completely possessed.

You have probably heard about the counterfeit where the devil possesses people. You are either possessed by the Spirit of God, or you are possessed of the devil. It is one or the other. There is no middle ground. You cannot serve two masters. “He or she who sitteth on fence getteth stuck.”

“He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also.” (John 14:12 NKJV) Jesus healed the sick, He cast out devils, He changed the weather, He raised the dead, He calmed the sea, He multiplied the fish and loaves of bread.

The church has been taught that was because of Jesus being the Son of God, but any believer in Jesus’ name will do that. In the end of Mark 16 it says *“In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* (Mark 16:17-18 NKJV) Nothing can harm them in the name of Jesus. We have to get back to who we are and quit believing a lie. The church has taught unbelief for years. They have taken away the power of God’s Word, teaching people that they are just human. They say there is a sovereign God up there, and we are here, and He may heal me, He may not heal me – whatever the will of the Lord is. It is an excuse for unbelief, piously wrapped in unbelief because they do not know what the Word of God is. “Lord, if you want to heal me.., if you do not, that is okay. I will

accept it.” “A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways and cannot expect to receive anything from God.” (James 1) They do not teach you that one. They say it is okay to be double minded because we do not know what the will of the Lord is.

What God Has Prepared for Us

“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.” (1st Corinthians 2:6) The people of this world apart from God will come to nothing. *“No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom.”* (1st Corinthians 2:7) The church has taught that we cannot know the will of God, only God knows the will of God. That is Old Testament. *“A wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.”* (1st Corinthians 2:7) God wants us to know, and He has destined us for His glory. He wants us to know His glory, to have His glory. His glory is His presence. He wants to glorify us like He did Jesus.

Remember Jesus said, *“I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.”* (John 17:4). *“I have given them the glory that you gave me.”* (John 17:22) This has been hidden, but God has destined it for our glory before time began, before the foundations of the world were laid. Before time even began God had this plan. The problem is people think too much. We cannot grasp what God is even talking about here.

Everything in our lives have been based on time. You celebrate a certain birthday, you were born at such-and-such a time, on such-and-such a date. That was not really when you were born, that was when you showed up. God knew us before the foundation of the world. He destined us for this time and this purpose.

I say I was born for adversity because I deal with it and I overcome it in the name of the Lord. Whatever is coming has to bow to the name of Jesus. God wants to do things through us at this time that we have not conceived, understood, or thought about until now.

“None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1st Corinthians 2:8) However, as it is written, *“no one has heard, no ear has perceived,*

no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him." (Isaiah 64:4) The church quotes that verse, and they stop there and say, "That is where humans are. That is all we get..."

"What God has prepared for those who love Him." (1st Corinthians 2:9) I want to know what God has prepared for me, but I have to love the Lord with all my heart, my mind, and my soul. We were destined to praise and worship Him. We are not ashamed of the Lord, His Word, or His ways.

People who believe the verse in Isaiah 64 or 1st Corinthians 2:9 will never see, hear, or know what God has conceived and what God has prepared for those who love Him because they are going to Him with unbelief. They are saying, "God is too high, and He will not ever talk to me." So they do not seek Him, and if they do not seek Him, they will get a blank page.

God told me years ago, "Son, my people have life, but they do not have abundant life." He was talking about the church worldwide. We bring the Word to the nations of the earth, and that is what God called us to do. He said, "I want my people to have abundant life. I want them to know who they are and all that I have in store for them and through them." (Jeremiah 1) We need to build the kingdom of heaven.

The church is always saying God is out there, but God is in us. He is in our hearts and wherever we go, we bring Him with us. We bring heaven to people.

If you love somebody, you want them to know that you love them do not you?

Have you ever loved people from a distance, but you never really told them that you loved them, and they ended up going off into the sunset with somebody else? You never demonstrated the love, never showed it, you were just peeking at them, thinking about them, maybe writing poems or doing a diary about them, but they never knew it. God is not like that. He wants us to know He loves us. He wants to demonstrate it up close and personal.

I laughed when Diana told me, “Thank God that I am not God.” God carries the burdens, He carries the pressures, He makes the judgment calls. If you were God, there might be a wake of disaster around you.

I like movies like *Bruce Almighty*. Those are Holy Ghost films. Some people do not believe in that, because it is from Hollywood, but just think about it for a minute. If you were God, what would you be doing? You would think, *I can have that. I can do anything and have anything. Whoa, I had like this and this and this.* Then you would speak it forth and bring the moon down for your little romantic endeavors while causing a tidal wave on the other side of the earth.

People do not look at the consequences of their decisions and are not concerned about anything but the moment. They do not know what is going to happen as a result of what they said, or a result of what they did. Whatever we speak on earth, God will honor. So we had better be watching what we say.

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.” (Mark 11:22-23)

What is coming out of your mouth? Are you blessing or are you cursing? Are you speaking life or are you speaking death? Are you speaking poverty or are you speaking provision? Are you speaking faith in God? If you are not speaking faith, hope, and love in God, everything you speak is unprofitable, worth nothing, and allows the devil to steal, kill, and destroy.

*“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him. **But God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.** The spirit searches all things even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him. In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the spirit of God.”* (1st Corinthians 2:9-11)

The Holy Spirit wants to direct us and show us what God wants to do in the earth, and how to do it. He will give wisdom and understanding. Most people never get beyond praying God's wisdom for their own life. The Lord searches all things. He knows even the deep things of God, and He will reveal those things to us.

Our steps are ordered of the Lord. With God there is no such thing as coincidence, or chance that something happens. The Lord orders your steps and directs your path. You are His child. His plans for you are for good, not for evil. It is not about you, it is about you being aware that God wants to advance His kingdom in you and through you wherever you go, whatever you do. What you say, God is ordering those words too.

In the Word of God there were seasons where God did not talk to the people because of their unbelief, sin, and rebellion. That is when Samuel came on the scene. They had not heard from the Lord for years and years.

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
(Colossians 3:17)

We need to go full throttle to the finish. We do not need to baby ourselves to the finish line. We are going out in glory the way God intends it. Live life to the fullest the way God intends to His glory – all out. None of this compromise. No excuses, no mamby pamby, whimpy weak nonsense.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Fifteen
God's Truth

Kinds of Blessings

Think about your financial blessings. Every day you have daily bread, you have a roof over your head, clothes on your back, food on your table, gas in your car, a car, refrigerator, and a toilet that flushes. Such is God's care.

Have you found that God cared enough for some things that you are using right now, are very happy to be using them, and they are all working? That is God's provision.

Your attitude is important. There is so much to be thankful for. Have you received a health blessing recently? Have you received a relationship blessing? A good relationship gets better and the not so good-ones will too.

Have you had peace in the midst of commotion? How priceless... and it came from the Lord. It is part of God's provision and His goodness to us. We need to acknowledge it.

Have you been growing spiritually? Are you seeing that you are different than you were before? As you are growing in the Word of God, and you keep that Word of God coming, all kinds of great blessings start happening.

Jesus said, "*All that the Father gives Me will come to Me*" (John 6:37). This has been resounding in my heart and head. It just cuts right through everything, and then the peace and the confidence of God comes.

Truth and Trust

The opposite of doubt is confidence. The opposite of unbelief is belief. Have you had doubts? You were not unbelieving, but you were doubting and questioning. You need the truth. The truth will give you confidence, and it will remove the unbelief. It will remove the doubts. The truth will remove the doubts because then you know.

“Now I know” the angel said to Abraham, “I know now for a fact what you believe.” (Genesis 22:12) God already knew, but the angel did not know because he was standing right there, ready to do whatever the Father directed. When you know the truth, the truth will make you free.

Truth and trust go together because truth comes from the root of trust. It actually produces that confidence. *“I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He [the Lord], is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”* (2nd Timothy 1:12) When you know your life is committed to God, then you trust that He will take care of it, order it, direct it, guide it, and instruct you in the way you should go – and give you whatever you need along the way.

We cannot allow negativity, bitterness, doubts and unbelief to creep back in. We need to build ourselves up in the Word of God in the most holy faith, and move ahead. If you are not moving ahead, you are moving backwards for there is no standing still in life. You are either moving ahead in God, or the devil is pushing you back and you are going backwards. You are either moving ahead in the faith, or you are moving backwards into unbelief.

Stir up the gift of God in you and do not let life overwhelm you. When depression or heaviness tries to come on you, throw it off. If you have had a setback, do not stay there in it, for God never lets you down. He is faithful even when we are not faithful. He is speaking the truth even when we are believing a lie. He is the truth, the way, and the life. Tell the devil to go to hell and get about God’s business.

Once you know the truth that the problem is not with God, then you need to take a look at yourself and what you are believing. What are you doing with your faith? It is easy to blame other people, and blaming yourself does not do anything. If you are not doing the right thing and do not get out of it, you stay in the blame and shame. Get out of the pit and move on, but first you may need to make some adjustments.

Your faith, hope, and love need to rise up. Use your tongues and stir up the Holy Spirit in you. Get in the Word of God and know the truth.

Since a young boy, I always wanted to know the truth. I found that only God has the truth. Only the Word of God has the truth. People are like the 30 blind men describing an elephant. Many times God's truth does not make sense to the natural man, the natural mind, or the natural way of thinking.

Truth in Relationships

Back in the early 90's I took a stand that I was not going to allow the thief to ruin any more relationships in my life. In other words, I purposed to love everybody and not allow anything to separate me from them anymore. I spent two years seeking to work things out with people. It takes work to have good relationships. Marriage takes work, understanding, forgiveness, caring, and self-evaluation. It takes a lot of getting on your face before God and believing for one another.

A guy came in one time about his marriage, and I looked at him and asked, "You do not really want this marriage, do you?" He said, "No." I told him that we were wasting our time and that until he really wanted his marriage to work, it was not going to happen. That was Holy Ghost counseling. I spoke the truth to him in love. The problem was not with the wife, the problem was with him because he was not in it with all his heart. If you are not in it and moving forward, you are out of it and moving backward. You do not just stay there.

I do not listen to what I think about myself because it is either inflated or deflated. Quite often it is too much thinking about self. I need to think less about me and more about God. I do not listen to what anybody else says about me either. It is their opinion, through their glasses, and they may not be seeing clearly.

Perhaps you started believing what someone said about you, and it was not even true. I only go by what my Father says about me. A guy once spent some time railing on me because he had his own agenda. When he got done with his little tirade, ranting and raving, I looked at him and said, "I am sorry, Bud, but my Dad in heaven does not talk to me like that." I know when my Father is rebuking me, correcting me, instructing me, guiding me, and directing me, and he does not talk to me like that. In fact, He never raises His voice to me. I mean, I get the "still small voice." It does not take any more than

that to break my heart and change me. He does not rant and rave and yell at me, saying all kinds of demeaning, discouraging words. My Daddy never does anything but encourage me even when He is correcting me. We have to understand this. It is so important because we have been abused.

The devil is a murderer. He is a liar. He is an abuser, and he tries to tell us lies about who we are and what we are about. There is no one that God cannot save (and has already saved). It is just that people need to receive the gift of God. It is God's loving kindness that leads people to change. (Romans 2:4) We need to know the truth, and the truth will set us free. We will find the truth as we continue in the Word of God.

Have you thought a lie about yourself, but you did not really know it until you got into what God thinks and how He looks at you? There is not anybody who has done such rotten stuff that God cannot change that person. He can make a thief a giver. He can make a gossip a spreader of the Word of God. There are some people that I tell things to because I want it spread all over town. The Holy Spirit will speak the truth to us and show us what is actually causing a lot of our problems.

A guy once told me, "Well, you think you are God's gift," and I said, "Hallelujah." I am a gift from God. I got that from the Word of God. God said He gave gifts, and He mentions "... *the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service.*" (Ephesians 4:11-12) God through this gift can bring out His best in your life.

God is in us, and when we learn that and know that, then we will not buy into all the other nonsense that people say about us, like "You are just a mere mortal, a mere human." Humus is dirt, but we are not dirt bags. We are created by God in His image, and He created us as His good workmanship (Ephesians 2:10) to do His works of faith in the earth to advance the kingdom of God. We were born, not when we showed up on the scene, but in the heart of God before the foundation of the world. God formed us and created us. That means eternal in the heart of God.

Your tombstone may show the day you were born and the day you died, but God knew you before you showed up here on earth, and He had a good plan and purpose for your life. People look for their identity, trying to find out who they are, what they are here for, or what their purpose is, and God has it all already laid out. All you need to do is realize the truth, enter into it, accept it, believe it and start to act on it. We are here to glorify God and build the kingdom of heaven.

The Lord is in us. Therefore, we are the God man. We are “Godish.” Ish in Hebrew means man. We are God-men and God-women, and that is how you want to be known. You are not merely human. In ignorance Christians use that excuse all the time. They do not know they have the power over sin in Christ Jesus. They have not gained God’s insight, truth and understanding about who they are. God does not want any separation from Himself.

You are not psychotic, where part of you serves God and part of you serves the devil. You have done dumb stuff before, but you are still wise. You simply may not have operated in the wisdom or power that is yours.

Law of Life and Health

Of course I did not know what I know today. My first 25 years of life were in and out of hospitals with sickness, maladies, and diseases. I have not had any of that in 34 years because the Lord taught me how to supersede and override it. The law of sickness and disease is overridden by the law of life and health. Once you learn the truth of God you do not have to have those problems anymore.

John Lake ministered in Africa in the 1900’s during the plague. They wanted to get him out of there, but he said, “No, I have got to do what the Lord has given me to do.” He told them to take a sample of his blood and a blood sample of the people that had just died and put it on a glass slide. When they looked through the microscope, what was in John Lake’s blood destroyed what was in the blood of the person that had the plague. It overrode it. Why? The law of life and health was in him. God was working in him.

These are truths of God that we have to understand and learn. No sickness or disease can live in my body anymore in Jesus' name because the law of life and health is superseding the law of sickness and death. It is supernatural.

People will say it is crazy or too far-fetched. Yeah, God cannot be reached by man. This is God truth that He wants to do. When we believe it, by the leap of faith, then God will start to work it in me. But it is not me leaping to God, it is God doing this for me. How? In Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ at the cross. God come in the flesh to save us.

You can believe for healing or not. It does not mean you are not a Christian if you do not believe it. It just means you are going to be a Christian who will be sick and diseased, and have problems.

This is a big stretch, but God in us has already stretched it. *“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing.”* (John 14:12) So I am going to do the same works Jesus did: heal the sick, cast out devils, raise the dead, and bring health, peace, reconciliation in relationships and life to people.

God in Us, Live by His Faith

1st Corinthians 13 is the love chapter: *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”* (1st Corinthians 13:4) It should be you in Christ Jesus because it is talking about God's qualities. We are faith, hope, and love. Forgiving is not a difficult thing to a believer because when we are operating in God we are forgiveness.

Jesus on the cross: *“Forgive them, Father, they do not know what they are doing.”* (Luke 23:34) That is who we need to be. We should be lovers, forgivers, and “hopers.” We hope when nobody is hoping. God gives hope where nobody has given any hope for anything.

Abraham hoped against hope. It was impossible for him to have a child, and God gave him a promise of having a son. It was impossible for them. They were old, and Sarah was barren. There was no way for it to happen, but God made a way where there was

no way. Why? It was something God wanted. What God wants is going to happen in spite of us.

God will make a way for whatever He wants to happen. Nothing in hell can stop it, so where do we go from here? Faith. When people say, "I do not have the faith." I say, "Who told you that? God is in you. If you believe that, then you have faith, hope, and love because that is all who God is."

It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me. The anointed one. We are anointed of God because He is in us. We are not weak, poor, miserable, wretched, and helpless. We have the Almighty One living in us. It is the Lord. We are possessed with the Holy Spirit.

When I say I am god, I am not saying like the 'new age teaching' that I made myself that way. I am saying God made me this way. I am His good workmanship, (Ephesians 2:10) created by God. I was created in His image, and through Jesus it came back to people because they lost it with Adam and Eve. They fell from their position in heaven. Adam and Eve were completely perfect, never lacking in anything, just like Jesus was when He walked the earth—perfect in every way. They lost that because they chose to go their way instead of God's way. You cannot have both. Be not deceived. You cannot serve God and serve yourself.

"It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me and the life I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God." (Galatians 2:20) We live by God's faith. The devil does not want us to know that. He wants us not to get involved in looking at what the Word of God says. He wants us believing lies. Jesus said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move." (Matthew 17:20) "If you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that those things which you say will come to pass you will to have whatsoever things you say. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." (Mark 11:23-24)

It is totally foreign to the natural mind. Therefore you have to renew your mind with the Word of God so that you will not become conformed to the world, but be conformed to the image of God so that

you might know what is the good and pleasing acceptable will of God for your life and for those around you. (Romans 12:2) What God wants you to be and what He wants you to do, and who you are in Christ Jesus. It is in Christ Jesus that all this happens, and that is why we should not want to be separated from Him.

“The life I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God.” (Galatians 2:20) We have God’s faith, hope, and love, and there is nothing too difficult for Him. He laughs at the problems in the earth. They are nothing to Him. He is just waiting for somebody to call upon Him.

One time God told me to step out of the ring. “Get out of the way so I can get in.” I was trying to figure things out, and He said, “Get out of the way, son; let me in.” When He got in, then the whole problem disappeared. The Lord just took care of everything like He does. We cannot do anything ourselves – that is foolishness. We need to grow up and let God start to work. We are co-laborers.

Some people are taught that God is a Sovereign God; that is, He does whatever He wants to do. If that were the case, then why would Jesus come in the flesh and tell us, *“whatever you ask for prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”* (Mark 11:24) If God is just a sovereign God and He does what He wants to do, He would let me in on this. He shows me what to do and what He wants, and then I ask for it. I speak it forth, but I have to ask first what He wants, and then allow Him to work.

Some say they do not know what the will of the Lord is. Why do not they read the Book? Why do not they ask God? Why do not they acknowledge Him in all their ways and let Him direct the path. I do not see Him appointing you vice-God. But there is a whole lot of difference between junior and senior.

We are co-laborers with Christ. God wants us agreeing with Him, and then He will make it happen. We have His love, patience, kindness, gentleness. We do not boast about ourselves; we boast about the Lord, and we prefer others more important than ourselves. *“Love bears all thing, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”* (1st Corinthians 13:7 NKJV)

What Separates Us from God

No bitterness or ill-will can stay on us. God does not hold any of that. It separates us from God and from who we are. How can light and darkness co-inhabit? We cannot hold bitterness or resentment towards somebody.

Do you know a gossip hates people? They are not saying good about others. They are not believing for that other person. They are just digging up dirt and spreading dirt. They are not born of God, and that is why it says no gossip will enter into the kingdom of heaven. They are not born of God's Spirit. God is encouraging us every day, and even when He disciplines us, instructs us, guides us, rebukes us and corrects us, He is encouraging us into the right way we should go.

If we are being bitter, hateful, or gossiping, lying, fearing, worrying, and cheating, we are not entering into blessing. It cannot come to us, and it is not because God does not want it to. It cannot flow out of us to somebody else.

Fear is all about self and being afraid of losing. *"What I feared has come upon me."* (Job 3:25) You are going to lose.

The Lord says we are faithful. You can be unfaithful to yourself or others. (1st Corinthians 4:2) *"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge."* (Hosea 4:6)

Verse 1 – *"Men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with secret things of God."* (1 Corinthians 4:1) God has entrusted us with secret things. We know truths that God has revealed by His Holy Spirit.

People do not know about the law of sickness and health. They do not know that unbelief will lead to allow sickness. There are devils trying to afflict people, and it was not that somebody sinned that caused what happened to them. There are thieves that want to steal, kill, and destroy. Other things we have done have caused problems for us. You may have done something that opened up a door to a thief in your life, but sometimes there are just nasty people that do nasty things.

I recently heard about a guy who was hit by a drunk driver on Christmas, and the driver left the site and ran away, leaving the guy there with a mashed up car. Thank God, he was not hurt and is fine.

Other people die, and hopefully believe in Jesus so that they go to be with God. Other people feel they have finished what God has given them and they are out of here even at young ages. Ultimately this life is not all there is. Many people try to hang on to this life. I do not want to hang on to this life. I want to hang on to Jesus, and when I am finished with what God has given me, then I want to leave. But it is when God determines I am finished, not me.

God Remains True

Jeremiah prayed a couple of times, “Lord, take me out of here.” How would you like to preach for 40 years, and nobody believed you or received anything you had to say? The Lord told Jeremiah at the beginning (before those 40 years went down): “Nobody is going to believe or receive anything you have to say, but I have saved you from the faces of people.” They tried to kill him many times, and God always saved him so he could finish what He had given him to do.

If God is for me, which He is, then who or what can be against me? If you have ever tried to defend yourself, you were being unfaithful to Jesus and to yourself. He says, “I am your defender. I am your protector. You do not have to try to save yourself.” Did you find that nobody believed what you had to say anyway? Your friends always believe you, but the others do not even care about you. You can try to write the story correctly but they will not be interested. They would rather have the dirt on you, and if the devil does not have any dirt on you, he is going to make dirt on you. He is going to lie.

But you know who you are, so it does not matter what they say or what they do about you. If you thought that everybody was thinking about you, the truth is nobody really thinks about you because nobody really cares out there. Those who love God love you and will be faithful to you.

Even the twelve who had rejected Jesus eventually became faithful. God made them faithful. He began the work, and sometimes we have to catch up with the work that He is doing.

Have you seen God take away your heart of stone and give you a compassionate heart? You changed. Only the Lord can do that. You cannot even do it for yourself. Once that heart is hard, only the Lord can get through with His love to change things.

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1st Corinthians 4:2)

You have been given a trust, and God will help you to prove faithful. The Father is all about faithfulness. He is faithful even when we are not. He remains true.

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you enabling you to will and to do His good pleasure.”
(Philippians 2:12)

Our first tendency is to break faith with people when they act like total jerks. Why should you bother to believe for them and stay in there for them because they are just out of this world crazy? God steps up in you and says, “I loved you while you were My enemy. I loved you and I came and I gave myself for *you*.”

He stepped out of the heavens and came to the earth for us. I do not know a whole lot of people who would be at the top and then go down to the bottom to become a servant to help others, but that is what Jesus did. Love is never looking for something back. There is no wrong motivation or selfish motivation in God’s heart. He just flat-out did not want to see His children go to hell and be eternally separated from Him.

God does not need us, but He loves us. Whenever you need somebody or something, you have a false god. You need the Lord, and He already gave Himself for you, which means you are not needy anymore, you are loved. That frees you to become faithful to love others.

If you have cut yourself off from others, the Lord is faithful and He will help you to become different. We are faithful in Christ Jesus. God works in us enabling us for His will and purpose to be accomplished. Faithful means that you are in my life come hell or high water, good times or hard times. No matter what is going on, we are together forever.

Once we understand that, there is no more of an attitude of throwing away people or yourself. We do not trash the good work of God. When you talk badly about yourself or dump on yourself, the Lord says you are talking trash about Him and what He is doing in you, about who He made you to be. He did not make us trash.

We are holy; we are children of God in His image. We are not garbage. Love will actually bring out God's best in another person as He brings it out in us. We cannot keep believing the lies about ourselves that says we are superior or we are inferior. There will always be somebody smarter, somebody stronger, richer, more talented, gifted, or better looking, which is the world's way of thinking.

Be About God's Purpose

To the contrary I do not compare myself with anybody else. I do not need to. God made me His child, and you cannot get any higher than that. You cannot get any better than that. We do not need to compete with anybody else. That is the world. All that the Father has for us will come to us. We do not have to go out and try to compete and compare, struggle and strive. We just need to be obedient to do what the Lord directs us to do. We cannot do that if we are caught up in arguing, strife, and trying to compare, compete, and challenge others.

Have you ever talked down to somebody in order to make yourself feel good? That is not of God. It is not who we are. We would be stooping to a lower level than who God made us to be, and why? What does it give you? – Nothing.

“The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”
(James 1:20 NKJV) Getting angry is not going to accomplish God's purpose. In fact, it will make you say and do something that the Lord

is going to have to repair. You will end up asking His forgiveness and people's forgiveness for what you did.

Are you still beating yourself up for something you did "back when?" Ask the Lord to forgive you for beating yourself up about it. You need to forgive yourself in Jesus' name.

It was not the new you that did that, but you allowed your old self to come up and do it. The devil knows this. If you are walking around in guilt and condemnation, faith cannot rise in you. *"Today when you hear his voice harden not your heart."* (Hebrews 4:7) Do not allow yourself to get hard towards God. Allow faith to rise up, hope to rise up, and love to rise up because that is who you are.

Philippians 4:7 talks about the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. It talks about rejoicing in the Lord always. Do not worry about things. Let everything be done in moderation. The Lord wants to get rid of all excess, and He is bringing everything into balance. You can see that happening in America. Instead of 500 percent profit, people are getting 100 percent profit.

I was praising God one day that the price of steel went down 50% from what it had been six months before just as we began a building project.

We get used to a certain way of doing things; a way of life. Just because a brand name is on something, they bump the price up on it. It is the same with a pair of jeans. Sew God's name on there. God says, *"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."* (John 14:13)

When you give everything to God, you do not worry, and you give everything to the Lord in prayer. (Philippians 4:7) You have access to the Father. When you were an unbeliever, you did not have access to the Father. But the day you believed in Jesus and received the love of God (what He did for you), and you believed that He did that for you to make you a child of God; access to the Father was given to you. *"Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it,"* Jesus said in John 14:13.

You can come; you can give everything to God in prayer. *“Acknowledge me in all your ways”* the Lord says. (Proverbs 3: 5, 6) *“I will direct the path.”* I have direct access to the Father. *“Come boldly before the throne of grace with full confident assurance of faith because of the blood of Jesus.”* (Hebrews 10) You can go directly to the Father because of the blood of Jesus. Jesus said to go to the Father directly. (John 16) You do not have to go through any mediator, like Mary, Peter, Henry or Uncle Sam. You can go night or day directly to the Father God in the name of Jesus. You have access in the name of Jesus.

The Bible says to do it with thanksgiving and appreciation. You know God is there and that He gave you access to come to Him. You are coming in the name of Jesus and you know that you receive whatsoever things you ask. You are not doubting in your heart. The thief wants to produce that doubt to steal from you what God has. But the truth will get rid of the doubt.

The Peace of God will See You Through

Jesus says to come with faith and thanksgiving. Come believing and come with thanksgiving, and God will in turn give His peace which surpasses all understanding. It is beyond the mind. Even though the circumstance and the situations may not have changed yet, you have the peace. People wonder why are you so peaceful. You have the peace because *“And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform”* because He is not a liar. He is not a man that He should lie nor the son of man that He will change His mind. *“Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”* (Numbers 23:19) That is who God is.

Start to realize who your Father is, and how God is making you into His image. We have changed through believing in Jesus and now we are changing. This is called sanctification. It means that God has made you holy and He is making you holy daily.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your heart, your spirit, and your mind in faith in Christ Jesus. When we are in Christ Jesus, all that God has for me, in me, and through me is happening. I know with full confidence that from the north, south, east, and west the blessing of God is happening in my

life. Even when bad stuff comes (what is intended for evil), God will turn for good.

Remember Joseph. He was betrayed in his life, and yet he did not allow it to get inside of him. He knew God had a plan for his life, and God's plans are for good, not for evil. When Joseph spoke to his brothers many years later, he said, "What you intended for evil God intended for good."

You will start to look at life and situations differently because there is not anything bad that happens in your life that God cannot turn for good. He will see you through. The peace of God will see you through everything because you are not going to come unglued. Even when you do not believe completely, the Lord is still working, making you a believer. But you have to allow it to happen, and the only way that is going to happen is through faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. You cannot sit, sleep, and shut your mouth and eyes, feeling sorry for yourself. You have to allow God to work.

Belief vs. Unbelief

There was a boy who was constantly being thrown into fire or water because a devil was trying to kill him. The daddy had been everywhere and nobody could do anything for his son. He went to the disciples and they could not cast the demon out. They could have cast it out, but they did not because they had been arguing about who was the greatest. Three of the disciples had gone up on the mountain with Jesus, and the others had to stay below. The action was happening down below as well as up on the mountain. They had the opportunity to work the works of God and set the boy free, but they could not do it because they were in strife. They were not about God's purpose.

Jesus came down and said, "*Faithless generation, how long must I be with you?*" The man said, "*If you can do something, Master, heal my boy.*" Jesus answered, "*If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.*" The dad then made one of the most profound statements of truth in the Bible: "*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief*" (*Mark 9:24*) to go away. In other words, "I came because I am believing, but I have unbelief. I have been everywhere and nobody

has helped me. I cannot get any help. I do believe, but help me get rid of this unbelief.” Jesus told the demon to come out the boy, and it shook him, threw him down, and came out of him.

Later the disciples asked, “Why could not we cast out the devil?” Jesus said, “because of your unbelief.” Strife is unbelief. When you believe, you do not have to strive. You do not have to think about who the greatest is. If you are believing, you do not think about yourself being taken care of, or your position. You are believing God. You are about God’s purpose.

As you are about God’s business out the front door, He takes care of yours through the back door. We start to know this is all part of who we are in spirit, which is the real us. People spend all their time and attention on their bodies or minds. We need to be in the Word of God. If we are not believing God, then we need to get the Word in us so that we can start believing God. Wash out all the crud and change the filters by sitting in a Holy Ghost spot with the Word of God blasting it.

The Lord said, “Do not be dull of hearing.” Have you ever noticed when you are reading the Word of God, you start to fall asleep? That happened to me recently, and I had to tell that stuff to go to hell. Get off of me in Jesus’ name. It was trying to make me so sleepy. “Cannot you stay up with me one hour?” the Lord asked the disciples, “and pray with me? I am at the most critical point of my life and you are sleeping. Cannot you stay up one hour?”

The devil and the flesh did not want them to stay awake. You have to crucify the flesh. Say, “Body, in the name of Jesus, you are whole. You are not sleepy. Get up and get about God’s business.” Stir up the Spirit of God in you and rise up if you are going to see the results that you want.

Many people cannot handle the truth. The truth was, the disciples could not cast out the devil, and Jesus said, “Because of your unbelief.” Have you ever been offended because somebody said that you were not believing? You were not believing, but your pride and self got offended. Well, that is why they like that teaching about a sovereign God. Nothing falls on them being expected to do anything.

They are not responsible. God is creating faith in you so you are responsible if you do not allow God to produce the faith.

Why would you rather fear, worry, and try to make something happen? Where is talking to God and checking in with Him? It says when you pray, believe you have received and you will see it if you do not doubt. *“Be it done to you according to your faith,”* Jesus says. (Matthew 9:29)

You should be encouraged to know that you have what you are believing for. I remember when the Lord told me, “Son, you are not believing for enough,” (and I was believing for a lot). God wants us to do more than we think about or ask for. And He is able and willing to do it according to the power that works in us. (Ephesians 3:20) Our minds tell us, *No, that cannot happen,* and your spirit is saying, *Yes, it can, and yes, it will.* Your mind is saying, *No, it will not because I am going to get stubborn and independent about this, and I do not really want that because it is God doing it.* The old, unrenewed self says, “I will do it my way.”

God’s Qualities in You

When you start to understand spiritual truth and the fact that God wants to do all this, why would you want to step up to do something? The best thing you can do is humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and say, “Lord, I will root you on. I will give you the praise. I will worship you, honor you, thank you, and praise you. I will allow you to do your good and perfect work in me, through me and in the earth. Because it is not by my might or my power, but by your Spirit that things get done.”

“The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your heart and mind in faith in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

The fruit of the spirit is in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. You do not need any more patience because it is already in you. It came with God, and it is His patience. God is patient with us, and we have it all. We need to exercise it and get past the unrenewed mind. We have to get the Word of God in there through faith and patience. I will inherit all the promises of God – some things right away and other things over time.

Patience involves trust in the Lord and truth. The only way we can be patient is to have the truth to know this is the will of God, and it will happen just like God said.

God gave us a vision many years ago. There was more to it than just a building – it was a city of habitation (Psalm 107), a place where people could come from all over the world to receive from God. It is not so much the place, as it is what goes out of the place that touches the lives around the world. The Lord said they would come with all kinds of situations. They would be in different places spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, or in relationships, but the Lord would give them what they need.

Facilities simply facilitate what is happening. That is it. No more, no less. Heaven is our home, and Jesus may come back before we get done with anything else. Israel is going at it right now. They know how to fight war, they know how to battle. They do not mess around. If you are going to war, you do it and end it. You make a quick work of it and that is it. The whole world is getting stirred up, and we are getting close to the time.

The fruit of the Spirit is in us, like love and joy. Have you ever thought you needed more joy? You do not need more joy because you already have the joy of the Lord in you. Just get past your mind because it has been dwelling on the circumstances.

Have you ever received a strange Christmas gift, and you did not know what it was? I enjoyed the movie where a guy purchased a lamp shaped like a leg. But he liked the lamp, did not he? He bought himself a present. Nobody else could figure it out. Sometimes folks cannot figure out why you like what you like, but, understand, they are not you. We need to just understand that God has a purpose for the way He made every person. People always judge things as good or bad, but sometimes it is just different. Many times people are afraid of what is different because they are not used to it.

We have love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness, which is all undeserved. In other words, a person does not deserve kindness, but it is an act of God. God is kind. His loving kindness leads people to change. (Romans 2:4) Now His kindness consists of His

goodness, His patience, and His tolerance. Patience will help tolerance, and goodness will cause good things to happen.

God puts faith in us. He is trusting that the good work He has begun in us, He will be faithful to perfect what He wants to do. We are going to allow Him to do His work, and God is counting on us to let him do His good work in us. He is trusting that when the dust settles, we will end up with Him. He is trusting that we will forgive the person who wrongs us. He is believing that we will love the person who is unlovable. He is believing that we will speak the truth rather than lie.

People lie out of fear and out of worry. It is actually out of unbelief. God is trusting that we will be able in whatever circumstance, situation, to allow His wisdom to come forth and to make that situation turn out to be a God situation rather than a problem. He is not concerned about problems. He does not even see them. People are concerned about problems, but God is the solution. There is not anything that He cannot change to good. That produces hope and then faith has something to attach to and produce.

“Only good and perfect gifts come down from the Father of lights.”
(James 1:17) It does not matter what is going on all around the world, I know the plans God has for us are plans for good, not for evil, plans to prosper, to give hope and a future.

If there be two or three righteous people in a nation, the Lord says, those two or three will be saved. The rest of the nation can go the way they choose to go. But for the righteous, God’s plan stands sure. What matters is what is going on inside in your head. You have to get the Word of God in there.

People need to know who they really are. They need to know how God sees them. We have to start to see ourselves the way God sees us. We are children of the Most High, destined for the throne with God in Christ Jesus. It is very important to understand this.

We can have stability in the Lord. We do not have to be like yo-yos. We do not have to be up and down, high and low. We are rooted and grounded in the faith, not wavering by anything that is going on around.

THE GOD MAN
SPIRITUAL
Chapter Sixteen
Passion

An All-Out Commitment

Our Lord is here in us, with us, around us, and for us. He is not against us. He is not on Pluto or Mars. God wants us to go out in His name and share the blessings that He gave us.

The Lord told me years ago, "Son, never lose the passion for the compassion." What you are doing in life that will be significant is where your passion is. What is your passion? What has God dropped in your heart? That is what you want to do.

If you are married, you need to have passion; it will keep you married to the same one. Whatever you do, do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God.

People are afraid of passion. They are afraid of somebody that is "all out." Passion intimidates many people. One time a woman who was watching our program told me that she thought I was subliminally giving her love messages through the television. I thought, *What is with this subliminal stuff? God does not hide His love.* "No, I was not saying that I am leaving my spouse for you. I believe in commitment, accountability, and responsibility. That is love, and I bloom where I am planted. I am faithful." That is what God is all about.

God loves you with an everlasting love, and you are growing to love others with an everlasting love. We are all out committed to each other, and when you live life all out committed to people, that is when they will come to know Jesus. They will see some consistency.

Why do people lack? Sometimes people need to realize that they may be doing some things and have some belief systems that are actually causing them to lack.

God gave life for passion. He said, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly [passionately]."* (John 10:10 NKJV) That

is somebody that loves life and loves the author of life. The Lord is the author of life and He passionately cares about us and loves us. He does not operate half way. If you have a halfway commitment or a halfway love, you do not have love. There is something I call the spark. I watched my son. He had many wonderful friends and people that were precious in his life, but I never saw the spark. I was waiting to see the spark because where the spark is, there the passion is.

Have you ever noticed that about yourself? There is something that lights you up and gets you excited. Perhaps you hit upon something in a conversation that people were really interested in and excited about, and all of a sudden their whole face changed. They got animated about their interests, and you just could not quiet them down. They were so excited and so happy.

There is a key to everybody's heart. There is something they really like and get excited about. In order to find out, you have to get to know people. You have to spend some time with them, unless of course the Holy Ghost drops the information in, and you bring it out, and then they light up. Have you found that you need a little spark in life every now and then? People can get really dull if they do not have any fire about anything.

Boredom is a state of mind. If life is dull for you, it is because you are not putting anything in, and God has given you something to put in, and maybe you just need to find it, and find out what it is.

Man's testimony: *I have a farmer friend from the Oxnard area which is about a three hour drive. To him our church is like the pearl of great price, it is something really precious to him. I met him about 10 years ago when we were doing business. Over the years we continued doing business, and we developed a friendship. The seed was planted several years ago about coming to church and knowing the Lord, and the Lord put it in his heart last year that he needed some help. There was some spiritual junk going on in his background and there were dependencies, so he came to church on a Tuesday night and got blessed. He was prayed over, and was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Lord healed his knee that had been chronically messed up (he did not even ask during prayer time for healing), but it was in*

his heart, it was in his mind, and he heard the message on what God can do.

He came down in the summer time to an Oceanside service and got the healing on his knee. He came from a Catholic background and they do not teach about healing, but when he got healed, his heart opened up to the things of God. The door was just wide open, and he said he wants everything. He read Satan's Defeat, which was very important to him because there was that spiritual junk going on in his family. The healings came forth. He planted seed to a construction worker recently who had been working in his house where he was always grumpy and irate even at the family members. The man prayed with him and all of a sudden he came in happy and joyful, like a burden was taken off. Even his family members had asked him what happened to the guy. He has been here with a few of his family members, but the seed has been sown in him and he is planting seed out there now too. It is growing like that mustard seed that has been planted and now it has grown into a big old tree.

What Salvation Includes

One of my passions is going to church because I just love being with God and the people of God. I have a passion to see the Lord demonstrate His love for them. The only way He is going to do that is if somebody allows Him to do that to them and to do it through them to others.

It is the same faith you have to receive salvation that you have to receive healing, finances, and all the other good things of God. Money can come to you from the north, south, east, and west. God's provision will come. It may not be cash, but it may be in other forms that God gives us – things that we need for life, health, and blessing. Daily bread is coming. It is important to know and understand this.

God wants all His people to be about the work of the Lord. The Lord hears our prayers and He answers them. Salvation includes healing; it includes reconciliation in relationships, and healings of finances. Mark 11:24 says, *“Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”* You have to desire it, you have to want it. You have to believe that when God says, “I give seed to the sower,” you are the sower and the Lord will give you the seed.

He will give you an offering. Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who supplies an offering.

Our part is to believe that God is going to supply an offering. Your offering is not for you to use, but to give. When you give first to the Lord, then the Lord gives back to you – pressed down, shaken together, running over shall God cause people to give to you. It comes a full cycle. (2nd Corinthians 9, Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:8) These are three witness.

We are here on this earth to be about God's business. When you received Jesus and salvation, God gave you the entire package. It is like He gave you the whole equipment kit. You have everything you need for life, health, provision, and blessing to do what the Lord has given you to do.

A baby rattlesnake gives you the whole load when it bites you. The older snakes only give you a shot. Have you ever noticed when you were a baby Christian you were just unloading God on everybody? You were so excited, but when you got more mature in God, then you got dull and you lost the spark, the passion, the desire. The same thing can happen in a marriage – a few days, a few months later you were not as excited. There is something wrong with that.

Woman's testimony: *I had a condition called emphysema, and the doctors only gave me three months to live. When I came up for prayer, five years ago, and pastor asked me what I wanted, I said, "I had like to be able to breathe on my own". I was on oxygen and nebulizers. The Lord said to me through the pastor, "That is not what you want. You want to have the lungs of a little child." Then I said, "That is what I want." After the prayer of faith was done I went to the doctor, and they ran me through a whole series of tests. I had to get on treadmills and do all kinds of exercises. They took another x-ray of my lungs because I could exercise and breathe very well doing what I could not do before. The technician came out and said, "You are not going to believe this!" I asked, "What does it show?" And he answered, "Do you realize you now have the lungs of a little child?"*

This is the love of God. He looked at this woman, and He said to her, "You do not just want to breathe out your last days." He had a whole

lot more for her. She was not finished here yet. The Lord taught me many years ago that I should pray for people that they may be able to finish what the good Lord has given them to do in their lives, and when they are done, they are out of here.

Not only did the Lord give her the ability to breathe, He gave her new lungs. She was 67 at the time. The Lord stepped it up. He said, "What you *want* are the lungs of a little child." The Lord was saying, Step up your faith right now, and do it quickly, or you are going to die. You are going to miss out on what I want to do through you." You cannot play around with stuff.

If you have ever seen the Spirit of God minister through people, it is effortless, it is a flow, it is a passion, it is a love, and many times it is totally off the wall. God is saying something and doing something that people will miss if they do not have spiritual ears to hear. They will miss it because it is so natural and it flows so easily and is not a "thus saith the Lord."

It was a simple: you want the lungs of a little child. When God did that, He gave her what she needed to receive. He sent forth His Word and healed. When she was prayed over, all I said was "Jesus." Some people pray prayers because they try to talk themselves into faith. But there was not any of that. It was just, "Jesus," and plop she went down under the power, and that was it. Then the testimony came back later.

The Abundant Life

When did God do it? – Before the foundation of the world was laid. It was in the heart of God. He knew the outcome of that. At the cross Jesus completed the work. "*Be it done to you according to your faith.*" (Matthew 9:29) She did not have the faith for that until God spoke the word, and when He spoke the word that she could have the lungs of a little child, she received it with little child faith and said, "Yes." She did not expect it, but when she heard it she knew it was what she wanted.

Then passion rose up. Faith and passion go together. When you believe something, that is it. It is not, *Maybe it will, maybe it will not.* This is why many people have received salvation. The Lord told me

years ago, “Son, my people have received salvation, but they have not received the abundant life that I have come to bring.” They have life, they did not have one before they received Jesus, but they have not received the abundant life because they have never gone beyond. God gave us the gift of salvation. All we had to do was receive it. Now, we need to do something with it. The problem is not with faith, it is with understanding. It is a lack of knowledge. *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”* (Hosea 4:6)

If you really believe that God will supply all your needs, you would be giving offerings all the time. If every time you put something in there, you believed that God was going to cause a blessing to come back, why would you hesitate? Why is it that people do not think it is important? God says He loves a hilarious giver. Cheerful is not passion. Hilarious is passion.

The reaper will overtake the sower. If you want to reap quickly, then get that seed into the ground. The quicker you get it in, the quicker the harvest can come.

Something happens to people’s faith. I have watched it for many years. It grieves my heart. It grieves the Spirit of God. When God says, “I have set before you a smorgasbord. Here is everything you need for life and health and blessing to go out and do the work of God. Come on down and get it,” and people just sit there and do not even respond: How sad.

We used to supply a meal after services for people who went out to the nursing homes and witnessing teams, but the people so concentrated on the lunch that they forgot the whole purpose was to go out about the ministry of God for the rest of the day. They had come just for the food. As soon as it was just about food, that was the end of it. You have got to get to know me and God a little bit. If we are not about the intended purpose, then we stop it. Jesus once said, *“Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.”* (John 6:26)

Release your faith. When you honor God, God causes a return to come, but do not give just to get. It is simply the way it works, for

God set it up that way. Nobody is smart enough to come up with such a good system. The economists have not even begun to come up with such a good system. But understand, it works by faith in a Living God.

Spiritual Aspects

People have received their salvation, but they do not really have a clue about what the new heaven and earth is going to be like. When Paul went up to the third heaven and came back, he did not say a word about what he saw or did up there. We have everything that is written and that is all we need to know.

Heaven is going to be wonderful: no more pain, no more sorrow, no more suffering, no more negative nonsense that we have in the earth. No striving, no competing, no flesh, no selfishness, no violence, and no vengeance. It will be the lion and the lamb lying down together.

People say that the lions were not hungry when Daniel was in the lions' den. But what happened to the people who got thrown in there the next day to know whether or not those lions were hungry. The Bible says they tore them apart and ate before they hit the ground. When Daniel sat in there, the lions were all just walking around him.

Jesus said, "Blessed are they who have not seen yet still believe." We need to know who we are in Christ Jesus. Most people dwell on their relationships, their finances, and their health (physically and mentally), and the spiritual aspect never gets much attention. That is why people do not grow up the way God intends because they do not do anything spiritually. Church becomes an option, offerings become an option, obedience to God becomes an option – and that is trouble.

It is a sign that somebody is spiritually weak. We have to do something. We need the Word of God and we need the ministry of the Holy Spirit, which will help us to grow up into all that God has intended for us to be and so that we do not stay infants in Christ.

Paul exhorted the people in Hebrews. He said, "*By now you ought to be teachers.*" (Hebrews 5:12) He was saying they ought to be about God's business and purpose. Be doing what the Lord wants you to do with your life.

There is a living, loving God who wants to do something good for somebody. There are people who have their faith in gods that cannot talk (they are deaf, dumb, and stupid). They cannot do anything for them. The people have their whole life passionately believing in what will not happen.

You Will Have What You Believe

“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.” (Proverbs 23:7 KJV) If you do not know who you are in Christ Jesus, and what God has for your life, you will never come into all that He has. You will live a selfish Christian life, where the only reason you go to church is for the Word, or you like the praise and worship, or you have to make it for the prayer line because you need something.

If you say that you do not have that much of a testimony because you were never a drug addict, alcoholic, sex pervert, cheat, liar, greedy person or thief, you *have* a testimony. You do not have to have all of that to have a testimony. It is a testimony to not have all of that. You do not have to pass down garbage to your children, and they will not have extra baggage to overcome because you taught them ways that were of God by word and by example.

It is possible in Christ not to sin. That statement may freak out the Christian community, but 1st John 2:1 says it clearly – In Christ Jesus, God has made us holy before him. The majority of the Christian community still thinks they are a bunch of sinners saved by grace. You *were* a sinner, and you *were* saved by grace. It was the gift of God. Not by your works or your efforts, but it was the gift of God that saved you. (Ephesians 2:8, 9) But the Lord says, *“Work out your salvation,”* (Philippians 2:12-13) *“for it is God who works in you, enabling you to will and to do God’s good pleasure.”* God is in you. You are saved.

The kingdom of heaven is within you now, and that upsets some people because they are still thinking, *I am just human*. If you are just human, you are not going to be working any miracles, are you? You are not going to speak life into situations. You are not going to know that when you pray, heaven and earth moves and things start to happen. You are not going to know that God is absolutely confirming

your word with signs and wonders following because it is not your word you are speaking but His word.

I spent years just to know that when I spoke the name “Jesus,” God was going to do something for somebody. It took years to believe God in that way. One day everybody I touched got healed. It did not happen overnight, but it did start happening. When you pray, God is going to do things. I had to learn how it works by getting all the facts and understanding.

The gift of healing was operating that day when the lady’s lungs were instantly healed, but most of the healings happen through the working of faith. He sent forth His Word and healed them, they believed it, they received it, and they saw it.

I will never forget the day the Lord told me to believe for “right now” results. I had been praying for the sick. The people were getting healed over time because I was believing that over time they would all get healed. For instance, glaucoma after one year – gone. That day in the prayer line, the Lord said to me, “Son, believe you are going to see it right in front of you, right now.” It was a knee injury, and so, I made an adjustment, and I saw right then and there that person’s knees were instantly healed by the Spirit of God. What did that do? It loosed the gifts of healing. I was operating by faith, “*Lay hands on the sick and they will recover.*” (Mark 16:18 NKJV) It can be done immediately or over time.

Many people are believing to see things healed over time not instantly. But they have come to the point of faith that they are believing that they will get better.

That You May Not Sin

1st John 2:1 (NKJV) says, “*My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin...*”

We do not have to sin. In Christ Jesus, God forgave us all our sins. He actually took our sin nature, our separated-from-God nature, and took it away from us, and He put His nature, His heart, and His love in us. There is no separation between us and God anymore in Christ Jesus.

Before Christ was in our lives, we were sinners. Now we are not “poor, miserable, wretched sinners” (which was on page five of the liturgy) anymore. I can no longer confess such a statement before the congregations like I did in the denomination I grew up in. Because of the blood of Jesus, I am the righteousness of God in Christ, and I cannot identify with a sinner anymore. God has made me the righteousness of God in Christ. I am not separated from God anymore, and therefore I could no longer say that. I could not lead the congregation in confessing that we are all sinners because I have been sanctified, declared holy by the Lord, justified, and declared not guilty. (1st Corinthians 6) I am a new creation in Christ Jesus. (2nd Corinthians 5:17)

“Jesus who knew no sin was made sin for me.” (2nd Corinthians 5:21) He took my sin nature on Himself, and He gave me His right standing with God, so I cannot run around saying that I am just a poor, miserable, wretched sinner. My Lord gave His life for me, shed His blood for me, died for me to take away all my sin – past, present, and future.

In my spirit I am right with God, and my new spirit knows no separation from Him, but my mind and body need work. My spirit does not sin, and if I should sin, I have an advocate (a defense attorney) before the Father. The Lord says if I am faithful to confess my sin to God, God is faithful and just to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. But I am not a sinner. My mind may not be renewed by the Word of God, and I may still be believing that I am a sinner, even though God has made me a saint.

If you believe you are still a sinner, you will go out and sin because that is what sinners do. Men are thinking that they are mere men. We are God-men now. The self-man is dead. That old you is dead, and daily you have to keep putting it under your feet because it will try to rise up.

But that is not you. Paul said, *“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do”*. (Romans 7:19 KJV) *“O wretched man that I am! Who can save me from this body of death?”* (Romans 7:24 KJV) You have to go on to chapter 8: *“Thanks be to*

God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1st Corinthians 15:57) But as long as you keep believing you are a sinner, you are going to keep sinning.

The Lord is not out there on Pluto or Mars, although He is there too. He is in us enabling us to will and to do His good pleasure which He has just told you to work out in verse 12 of Philippians chapter 2. So you have Philippians 2:12 and 13. And God is working in me. Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* God has a plan for your life – what He wants to do in you and through you.

Faith, Hope and Love

We are God’s good workmanship, so do not ever let yourself or somebody else put you down. *“Since you then be risen with Christ set your mind (your heart and your affections) on the things above.”* (Colossians 3:1) I have a passion for the things of God. Like Jesus, *“I come, O Lord, to do your will.”* (Hebrews 10:9) I live to do the will of God, that is why I am here. My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me. That is what I am all about, and I am passionate about it — that God loves me and He loves you and He has all this wonderful stuff for us.

One time there was a fellow up in the prayer line, and I asked him what he wanted. He said he wanted to quit smoking. I looked at him and said, “No you do not.” He started laughing and said, “Yeah, you are right, Pastor, I do not want to. My wife wants me to.” I said, “When you are ready, you come back, the Lord will help you take it away.” A month or two later he returned and said, “Pastor, I want to get rid of the smoking,” and I said, “Okay, the Lord will do it,” and the Lord did it.

If we are going to have the abundant life that Jesus came to bring, we have to believe that God is in control. We must have passion for the faith, for the hope, for the love. We have all of that in us.

Have you ever thought you did not have enough love because you were having trouble forgiving somebody? If you did, you were believing a lie. Have you ever thought you did not have enough joy? You have joy, you have peace. You have to cast down the lie. You

have to exorcize it and get it out of there. You are not alone. The Lord says He will never leave you nor forsake you. You have patience. God says you have His patience, for He is in you working. If you have ever thought that you did not have self-control, that is a lie too.

God says the fruit of the spirit is His Spirit working in the new spirit He gave you. (Galatians 5:22) You have God's self-control. If you have had self-control off and on, it is *your* self-control, not God's self-control. God has control of situations. When you start to believe that, then you will see changes and things will start to happen. When depression tries to come, say, "No, I have the joy of the Lord in Jesus' name. Rise up, joy of the Lord, in Jesus' name." When those negative things try to come, say, "Thank you, Father," for you have the blessing of God. Everything not of God has to get off of you. The blood of Jesus covers you. Pray in the Holy Ghost.