

SO YOU *THINK* YOUR MIND IS RENEWED?

BREAKING THE TRADITIONS THAT HINDER THE MIRACULOUS



CORNEL MARAIS

Foreword by Rob Rufus

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Curry R. Blake, John G. Lake Ministries

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"This book will practically equip you with clear simplicity on how to renew your mind so that the fullness of Christ which is already resident inside you as a son of God, will manifest on the outside of you."

Rob Rufus
City Church International, Hong Kong

"Your life is transformed to the degree that your mind is renewed. Cornel's book goes a long way toward removing the hindrances to that renewal."

Curry R. Blake
General Overseer of John G. Lake Ministries

"Wonderfully inspiring and motivating! All you need to know in order to heal, save and deliver! Cornel clearly shows how easy and possible it is to have constant miracles follow every believer...read it slowly!"

Wayne Duncan
Coastlands Christian Church, South Africa

*“If you are tired of men’s traditions and want to know what’s
really possible with God then I’d read this book!”*

Stephen Barker
City Church International, Hong Kong

“Cornel has the ability to express in words and shed light on those questions we sometimes walk around with for years. With amazing clarity and humility, he counters traditions that rob the church of flowing in the power of God. A must read!”

Andre van der Merwe
New Covenant Grace, South Africa

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To my Father, You have freely given us the most costly thing in the entire universe. I love you. To Jesus, You ROCK! I dedicate this book to You! To the Holy Spirit, Your comfort and help far exceed even my greatest expectations.

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Foreword

Cornel is not interested in theories, he is a practitioner. He has a curious refreshingly candid commitment to ask the penetrating question, “Does this doctrine produce Christ-like miracles or is it just another intellectual concept to stroke your religious ego?” Neither is Cornel interested in excuses, he wants answers. This front-footed demeanor is very irritating to Pharisees who have dug in to defend the traditions of man with the desperation of men who are terrified of being exposed as wrong. When I look at the travesty and tragedy of the conspicuous absence of Christ-statue miracles through most of the modern church, I say we need men like Cornel! I am not against the church using correct lighting for ambiance, smoke machines or religious upbeat services that are culturally engaging and entertaining, but my heart cries out, “Where do the masses of people take their dying children to be healed? Where do the multitudes of cripples and those blind and deaf who are suffering from

satanic afflictions and torments go? How will this slick, sometimes self-congratulating consuming obsession with culturally relevant religious entertainment and brilliant well-crafted sermons serve them? Where do they go?"

In Acts 5, they could bring them from all the surrounding towns and villages around Jerusalem and the Bible says THEY WERE ALL HEALED! Where do they go today? Behind Cornel's heart is not carnal contention but compassion. He is a man of courage and kindness. He is a man of fun, humor and humility. He is my friend. This book will practically equip you with clear simplicity on how to renew your mind so that the fullness of Christ which is already resident in you as a son of God, will manifest on the outside of you and prove that the perfect will of God is to heal all the sick, suffering, dying and raise the dead! The credibility of the author is not his words but the evidence of the many miracles God has worked

through him. I commend you Cornel!

Rob Rufus

City Church International, Hong Kong

Preface

Prov 23:7 *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.* (NKJV) Next to, “It is finished!” Proverbs 23:7 could potentially be one of the most powerful proclamations made in the entire Bible. It shows not only the limitless possibilities we have in Christ, but also that we don’t just think with our brains. Our hearts can also think. What we think in our hearts is what we believe. What we believe determines what we are. If you ever dreamed of being anything for God in His Kingdom, surely you would agree that it would be better to think His thoughts in your heart. To find out what God thinks about you, and to start thinking and acting in line with that is what will propel you into living out what He purposed for you. Your life in God’s hands has unlimited potential. In order to start walking in that potential, there are a few truths we need to absorb and think in line with first. If the truth has to set you free, it means you are being held prisoner by a lie. If you’re being held prisoner, it means that an area of your mind has not been renewed. That is why we have to break wrong thoughts and replace them with the thoughts God is thinking toward us (2 Cor 10:5). The thoughts and ideas I had about God when I got saved, in no way represents the Father I now know. I grew up in church, and to me He was this ‘being’ somewhere out there who apparently loved me, but who would send me to hell when I die unless I put my faith in His Son.

How many of you know that when you actually encounter God, your thoughts about Him change drastically? I

was a university student when I had my first supernatural encounter with Him. It started when we went out dancing one night. While making a turn, I sprained my ankle and fell. My dancing partner fell on top of me, causing my knee to dislocate. That was not fun, so don't try it at home! I had to wear a full-length Robocop leg brace for the next 6 months. During this recovery time, Rensia and I went to visit her parents on their farm, about a 5 hour drive away. We had only recently started dating and this would only be the second time I would see her parents. I knew her father preached and held evangelism outreaches, because he told the 'weirdest' and most captivating stories about miracles, casting demons out and about some 'Holy Spirit person' I obviously didn't know. The day I was to leave he asked me if he could pray for me since he believed God wants to heal my knee. I said, "Sure. That would be great." I then turned around and started walking to my car to drive home.

He grabbed me by my shoulder and turned me around, looked into my eyes and told me, "No, you obviously don't understand me, sit down in this chair." Not wanting to upset my new girlfriend's father, I sat down feeling very uncomfortable, scared and not knowing what was going to happen next. He lifted my legs and looked at my feet, showing me that one leg was about 2cm shorter than the other. Funny how in 19 years I never noticed this about myself? Then he said, "Jesus is now going to grow your leg." I used to get nervous when people lifted their hands in worship, so just imagine what was going through my head now. He prayed very differently than anybody I had ever heard, but right there

before my eyes, my leg started to grow longer. In fact it grew past being the same length as the other one. I felt an almost tingly-pins-and-needles-type sensation running down my leg as it grew. At this point he said, “No Jesus, not so far. Take it back a little.” Sure enough, it came back to where it should have stopped. I got up very quickly, hugged Rensia goodbye, got in the car and drove down that dirt farm road as fast as I could. Needless to say, I hardly made it to the first gate before I was sobbing uncontrollably. I cried for 5 hours all the way home. God became undeniably real to me. I could no longer think the same thoughts as before. “So why are thoughts so special?” Well, we are spirits who have souls and who live in bodies. The ‘spiritual you’ lives in the spiritual realities of God’s Kingdom, and is connected to the ‘physical you’ through your soul, which includes your mind, will and emotions. If your thoughts reflect the spiritual truths in our Father’s Kingdom, those realities have a channel to flow into and to be made manifest in the natural. That is why the way we think becomes so extremely important and why **WE** need to renew **OUR** minds. You are the only person who can renew your mind. Your pastor can’t, your friends can’t, your parents can’t, and not even God can renew your mind for you. Granted that God gives us revelation personally or through pastors, friends, parents or whoever, but you are responsible for renewing your own mind because revelation doesn’t automatically do it for you. The way you think is probably the single most important change you will need to make, next to believing in Christ, in order to fully walk in the grace that abounds to each of us. This book is intended for those who

desire to walk in greater measures of the fullness of which we have all received. It will encourage those who have gotten started, as well as those who want to get going. I don't want to put any performance pressures on anybody either, I only wish to encourage the wants and desires God placed inside you already.

Cornel Marais

What To Do With All This Revelation?

After realizing and experiencing the fact that God can and actually wants to heal people, I started listening to Rensia's dad preach and teach in churches all over South Africa. I was absolutely fascinated with his relationship with this 'Holy Spirit person'. I had to learn more. I copied all the notes he used to teach and borrowed all his books on the subject. I had to get to know this Holy Spirit who touched my leg and my life that day. I got to the point where I knew so much about the Holy Spirit, but I never got to where I actually knew Him as a person. Luckily for us, He wants us to know Him more than we want to, so one day while I was sitting on my couch reading in my Bible about healing, my next-door neighbor walked in. I had my Bible on my lap, was smoking a cigarette, and held a beer in the other hand. He asked me what I was doing, and I told him I was reading about Jesus and healing and this 'Holy Spirit person'. He was very surprised since he was the worship leader at the local student church and didn't know that I was a Christian. I explained to him what I then knew and understood about healing and the Holy Spirit. We never prayed or did anything else 'spiritual' that day.

The next day I was at home again when I heard a car horn blowing outside. Then I heard somebody shout my name very excitedly. I went out and stood on the balcony and saw my neighbor running up the stairs to my apartment with a big brown envelope. He seemed extremely excited. We went inside

and he pulled out X-rays of a human spine. I held the X-rays up to the light and asked what was wrong, since it looked perfectly fine to me (We were both students in the medical field, so we knew a little about X-rays). He told me those were X-rays he had taken the same morning.

He had had scoliosis since childhood and he was about to be fitted with a back brace. His doctor sent him for X-rays to check the progression of the curvature and obviously no brace was needed anymore! I was reminded instantly of Mark 16, one of Rensia's dad's favorite scriptures. "These signs shall follow them that believe." I suddenly realized what had happened. I told a person about Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the healing nature of God, and the Holy Spirit followed with a sign, confirming the words I spoke! Now I know you are probably still thinking about the cigarette and the beer. I put that in there to show that I wasn't perfect when I started out and I didn't know everything either. In fact, I still don't know everything and also still make mistakes, just like you. What does that mean? It means I have never met a perfect Christian, but I do know a perfect Christ, and since He does the healing, He doesn't need me to be perfect. You don't have to be perfect for God to heal you, nor do you have to be perfect for God to use you to heal another person. God will heal you with sin in your life, and he will use you to heal other people with sin in your life. All you need to do is believe. To believe it, you need to change how you think. Paul wrote about this in Romans, in a much quoted, but very misunderstood verse.

Rom 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (NKJV)*

Most Christians are in some way busy searching for revelation in order to renew their mind. But little do they know that they can't just take new revelation and build that upon old covenant mindsets. New and old don't mix. Jesus told us that when He said you don't put new wine (New Covenant) into old wineskins (Old Covenant). If you build new thought patterns on top of old ones, you will end up looking exactly like the majority of the church today: confused, frustrated, Gnostic and with very little, if any power. Jesus taught us that building on sand is not worth the effort, yet that is exactly what people do when they uphold traditions of man. Renewing your mind is also not as easy as having a light bulb go on above your head. You need to be rewired, so to speak. Have you ever heard the term "backward engineering"? That is when a competitor buys a rival company's product, and takes it apart piece by piece to figure out how they built it, how it's held together and how it works. This is a similar process to mind renewal. Revelation gives us the end product. We have to take that end product and use it to rewire ourselves, to figure out how we work. We all start off wired a certain way. Our default settings are old covenant. When we get born again, our spirits are made alive and we are given new default settings. Our minds and bodies still try to operate according to the old settings until we change them to reflect the new ones. Trying to live a new way through old default settings is the most unrewarding, frustrating and useless thing anyone can attempt to do. It is much easier to find out what the new defaults are and live according to them. Usually it is in this rewiring process where we miss it most often, because many Christians go on a search for truth and

revelation, only to find it. In itself, this is not the problem. It's stopping at receiving the revelation that becomes problematic.

We seek and seek and seek and inevitably we find and find and find more revelation, yet nothing seems to change noticeably. We still live in frustration, we still get confused, and we become Gnostic, believing there is that one other secret out there waiting to be found that will change everything for us. So should we look for revelation? Yes! With your entire heart search out the revelations about Jesus! But don't just look in order to say you've found revelation. Learn how to apply revelation to rewire your thought patterns, to step into or to bring into manifestation what that revelation revealed to you about the Father. Rob Rufus always says, "Revelation is an invitation to a divine encounter with God." Revelation shows you the end of a matter. Living out the end of a matter is the power encounter. You can live out revelation in many ways depending on what gets revealed, but the purpose of revelation is to set straight any knowledge that is not truthful in its representation of God, to free you from the lies that keep you bound up.

2 Cor 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (NKJV)*

The strongholds and arguments in this verse refer to inaccurate knowledge about God. What we think about Him

comes from what we know about Him, and what we know about Him determines how we relate to Him. If our thinking is wrong, we are inevitably going to relate to Him wrongly. That is why we need to bring every thought to the obedience of Christ. Originally your knowledge or idea of God might have been this angry vengeful God who sits in heaven with a bag of thunderbolts ready to zap you when your sin piles up. Then you heard that Jesus died on a cross and now you could be forgiven. That's the revelation, the end of the matter. You chose to believe it, got saved, and for a brief moment you live with joy and the wind under your wings, but then you sin again and all of a sudden your tires go flat and everything is thrown into a flurry. You revert back to your old thought patterns (the ones you didn't change) believing that God is again this angry person up there who is displeased with you because you sinned again. That makes you feel guilty, unsure of whether you have been forgiven and confused about what God thinks of you. So you go and beg for forgiveness. Your joy comes back but eventually you sin again.

The guilt and condemnation instantly flood back, keeping you on this treadmill of getting nowhere fast called legalism and religion, or by its better-known name: Modern Christianity. Out of sheer frustration you do one of two things: You either take offense at God, get angry with Him and the church and you kick your dog, or you turn to scripture to figure this thing out. If you chose option 1, don't worry: All is never lost in Christ. If you chose option 2, also don't worry: Scripture is easier to interpret than you think. The easiest way to get revelation is to **NOT** try and read between the lines.

There are more in the actual lines than between the lines. Just read the lines, **SLOWLY**. If you speed read, you tend to read everything with an ‘Oh, yes, I’ve read this, I know this’ mindset and you will end up missing vital chunks of revelation in verses you know off by heart.

Since revelation is God revealing Himself to us, it means that He purposefully gives us revelation to correct misrepresented thoughts about Him in our minds. And like I mentioned before, revelation in itself doesn’t renew your mind automatically; we still have to do that ourselves. It is also far easier to rewire before a crisis than to try and rewire when the pressure is on. It is not the time to figure out how your gun works when you are under enemy fire. A soldier trains at boot camp and on the firing range and gets so familiar with his weaponry, so that when the battle comes, he is ready. If the world is smart enough to figure out that you need to prepare beforehand, why does the church live in a state of unpreparedness? Before, I said that Romans 12:2 is an often misunderstood verse. To show what I meant, I only quoted half the verse in the beginning. Not a lot of people read or quote the whole verse. Paul actually told us why mind renewal is so important.

Rom 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)*

The reason why Paul said we need to renew our minds is so we may prove what the good and acceptable will of God is. Notice he said that we might prove the will of God, not

merely know it. Now you can argue this in different ways. One way is to say that as you learn scripture and truth, you are able to theologically prove what the perfect will of God is from the Bible. Some Christians are excellent at this and have amazing academically sound doctrine, but many don't have signs or wonders backing up what they say. Where is the power? It is important and good to know true theology yes, but good theology never saved anybody. Only the power of God saves. Academics will only take you so far, but the ability to bring heaven's reality into a person's life, proving what you say is true, is a very different story. Knowing *about* God is one thing. Knowing God and living a life of miracles with signs and wonders following is something else. We never think about it this way because the majority of Christians never even speak to non-believers about God. Imagine you are talking to a non-believer who happens to be sick. Most modern Christians would probably give you the number for a specialist doctor they know of, instead of using the opportunity to preach the Gospel. But let's imagine that instead of pulling out your 'A-list' of doctors and meds, you tell them that God wants to heal them. The first thing that pops into their head is, "Oh no, a Christian." But now you have stepped out of the boat so to speak and you start telling them scripture verses to try and prove it theologically, if they haven't run away by now. You also realize you don't know as much about God as you thought, nor where in the Bible it says what you're trying to quote, or even if it says it the way you're saying it. Don't worry. I've also been there.

The humiliation and failure you experienced boils down

to not being equipped properly. You might have been taught lots of Bible knowledge, but you might never have been given a chance to put it in to practice. What difference does that make? Plenty! Would you go fly a plane after having only read a book about flying? You have the book and it tells you what to do, so you don't need anybody to teach you how to fly, right? Let's see if you survive take-off... So why do Christians think just reading the Bible is the answer? The Bible is the inspired word of God, yes. It has all the answers you need, yes. It contains all truth, yes, but without the Holy Spirit teaching you it is no different from any other book you can get. Have you ever had a look at Paul's idea of preaching and proving the will of God?

1 Thess 1:5 *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. (NKJV)*

Here Paul says he not only preached words, but displayed power, and he did it in much assurance. The word in the Greek for 'much assurance' means to prove entirely, to convince completely, and to assure fully. In other words, there was no doubt left.

Preaching is one thing, but to completely convince takes a demonstration of power. I can tell a sick person it is God's will to heal them, but as long as they are sick, there is room for them to doubt, or no reason for them to believe me or God. But if I tell them and heal them, proving what I say is true, there is no room left for them to doubt.

Rom 15:18-19 *For I will not dare to speak of any of*

those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient — 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. (NKJV)

1 Cor 2:4-5 *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (NKJV)*

1 Cor 4:20 *For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. (NKJV)*

Paul makes it very clear that in order to fully, or completely preach the gospel there has to be evidence in the form of signs and wonders by the power of the Spirit. Without power, you leave room for doubt. The Kingdom of God is one of power, and it is to be preached, demonstrated and advanced in that power. Jesus Himself had this same attitude that Paul had, of preaching with power and not words alone. Where do you think Paul got it from?

John 10:37-38 *"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." (NKJV)*

Jesus told the people to not believe Him if He didn't do the works of the Father. What were the works of the Father? Well, to answer that, answer, 'What did Jesus do?' He healed, set free, delivered, and preached the Kingdom Gospel. He met

the needs of man in the power of the Spirit. Verse 38 is also a very key verse. "That you may know that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." A few chapters later, Jesus prayed that those who believe in Him to also be in the Father and in Him as They are in each other.

John 17:20-21 *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."* (NKJV)

Do you know that Jesus' prayer was answered? Becoming one with the Father in Jesus through the new birth reconciled and connected us directly to God. He is in us as we are in Christ. Our spirits are united with Him. We are actually one spirit with the Lord. A marriage between a man and a woman is a type and shadow in the natural of this spiritual event. A man and woman enter into a covenant relationship with each other and become one flesh (Gen 2:24). When we become partakers of the covenant relationship between the Father and Jesus, we become one spirit with the Lord. That is why we celebrate communion, or common union.

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

We are one spirit with Him and have been granted access to know the Father in exactly the same way Jesus does, which is intimately. Not only that, but it also gives us access to do the works that Jesus did and greater. I believe this enabling to do the same and greater works primarily comes through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, although I have seen and heard of

miracles performed by people who have not been baptized yet. I also believe there is a difference between receiving the Holy Spirit at the point of your salvation, and receiving power to be a witness for Christ with signs and wonders through the baptism of fire.

John 20:19-22 *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (NKJV)*

Here Jesus appears to His disciples after His resurrection and they become the first New Covenant Christians. After they believed, or got saved, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." We know this is the time when they got saved since in the next few verses, we are told of how doubting Thomas became a believer. He said He would not believe unless he saw Jesus for himself and stuck his fingers in the holes of His hands.

John 20:24-25 *Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of*

the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." (NKJV)

This also shows us how gracious Jesus is. He is always willing to meet you at your level of faith. The fact that the other disciples tried to get Thomas to believe proves that they already believed. Why else would you try to get somebody to believe something you don't? In Luke's account of the same event, Jesus instructs the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the promise from the Father (Luke 24:49). The promise of the Father is referring to the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-17 *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper; that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (NKJV)*

The Holy Spirit was promised to believers and cannot be received by the world, which is why He is only received through the new birth when we become new creations. So in order for the disciples to have received the Holy Spirit when Jesus blew over them, they had to have been born again at the same time. So now they are saved believers who have received the Holy Spirit, yet Jesus tells them to wait until they receive the power to be witnesses.

Acts 1:4-8 *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; ... 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you*

shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

Receiving this power through the baptism of the Spirit is very important. Jesus, even though He was always perfect in the spirit, never did one miracle without first being baptized in the Spirit. It is immediately after He rose from the Jordan that the Spirit descended on Him. After that He was led away to be tempted and then He returned in the power of the Spirit (Matt 3:16, Luke 4:1). Immediately after Jesus' baptism, His ministry exploded onto the scene. He started teaching, healing, delivering captives and training disciples. Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power to be witnesses. This meant that they would be able to provide evidence of Jesus' finished work. That brings us back to proving the gospel. Jesus knew it wouldn't help to send them out without this power, since they needed it to enforce what they were going to preach. Immediately after the Spirit was poured out, those 120 scared and fearful men turned into confident, powerful witnesses. This empowerment or baptism is available, and I believe vital to each one of us today. You can be saved without it, but why would you not want it? If we are truly serious about spreading the Gospel and being witnesses for Jesus, I think it is better that we do what Jesus said and go in the power of His Spirit. If you don't have it get it. If you do have it, start using it! To receive this power is part of the grace of God. The same grace that accepts you into the Family is the same grace that empowers you to represent the Family.

Jesus is the only person in the Gospels that is exactly like you are today. He was the firstborn amongst many

brothers. The firstborn of an entirely new race, who are known as the Sons of God! Everything Jesus gained by perfectly accomplishing what He was sent to do, was bestowed on us as joint equal heirs with Him, making us the righteousness of God in Christ.

Rom 8:16-17 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (NKJV)*

We are heirs of God and have become partakers of everything Christ has inherited as His joint equal heirs. And everything means just that. Not convinced yet? Look at the next verse. Remember to read slowly.

1 John 4:17 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. (NKJV)*

As He is, as Christ is, so are we in this world. Notice the tense used. As Christ **is**, so **are** we. As Christ is, now, at this moment, glorified, seated at the right hand of the Father, having all things placed under His feet already and having received all power and authority, so are we, now, in the world, exactly like Him. He is perfectly righteous, perfectly holy, perfectly sanctified. We are thus also perfectly righteous, perfectly holy and perfectly sanctified in Him through the free gift of His righteousness that came by grace alone through faith. These are only a couple of the thoughts which God is thinking about you, and they are the same thoughts you would do well to start thinking about regarding yourself. I

guarantee you that God has more faith in you that you will rule and reign in this life by the power of His Spirit than you do. Why? Because He knows what He made us to be, and what we are capable of through faith. We are only discovering more and more every day, and this is only the tip of the iceberg...

Grace upon Grace

John 1:16 *And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (NKJV)* There are so many truths I could choose to write about, but they all tie in together in the truth of grace. Grace is the central theme running throughout the Kingdom of Heaven. If you are a born again believer, this is what saved you, this is what governs your relationship with our Father, and this is what empowers you to be a son of God. Grace is where it all begins and thank God grace is what keeps it going too! Grace is more than unmerited and unearned favor. It is unmerited and unearned life, forgiveness, redemption, provision, healing, protection, peace, wholeness, freedom and so much more. The best thing about grace is that it is an established fact. When Jesus proclaimed, "It is finished!" He was referring to Isaiah 55 which says God's word couldn't return to Him void, if it didn't accomplish all the desires and purposes it was sent forth to do. Since Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14) He couldn't return to the Father until He did just that. Since He did return, we can have full assurance that He accomplished all the desires and purposes of the Father. Everything He was sent to do ties in with reconciling us to the Father, therefore we can have confidence that He carried our sins and transgressions

perfectly to provide us with forgiveness 2000 years before we even sinned once. In a divine exchange Jesus became sin and was punished and we became the righteousness of God through faith. I would actually venture to say our sins weren't technically forgiven. I am sure I got your attention now but let me explain before you throw my book into the fireplace! People get forgiven, not sin. Sin has to be punished. To forgive literally means to grant relief from payment. There was no relief from the payment due for our sins. The wages of sin is death, and Jesus paid with His life for all of them. Since He paid, we don't have to and therefore we receive relief from payment, or forgiveness. God didn't wave a magic wand and say "It's all ok, don't worry about it, I forgive you." Jesus carried our punishment. That is why you won't find any scripture, after the establishment of the New Covenant of Grace that instructs a believer to seek forgiveness of sin. **YOU** are forgiven once and that sacrifice is still complete no matter what sins you might still commit in the future. In Christ we have an advocate before the Father who is always testifying to the fact that He has paid for us no matter where we fall short (1 John 2:2).

2 Cor 5:17-21 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to*

Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NKJV) God restored the broken relationship between us and Him in Christ. Sin broke the relationship in the first place, so by not counting our trespasses against us He restored the relationship without our involvement. That's the great thing about grace: it was done without our involvement. You can't break a covenant that wasn't made with you. The old covenant was made between God and man. Under that covenant man had to abide by the standards God set in the Law. The New Covenant was made between God and Jesus, and He perfectly obeyed all the requirements with His sinless life. In verse 17 above, it says that the old things have passed away, referring to the old covenant. The book of Hebrews tells us exactly why it passed away.

Heb 7:18-19 *The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless 19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. (NIV)* The former regulation, or the old covenant, was (and still is) **weak and useless** because it never could, nor ever will make anything perfect. Now why would people try to live by something that doesn't make them perfect? When law and grace

get taught together, it is usually taught as salvation by grace, but that you have to obey the law after salvation to be sanctified and to live holy, to stay in God's favor. If the law makes nothing perfect, then your sanctification won't be made perfect by trying to obey the law either. In Romans, Paul explains that we get saved by grace through faith, and that we also live by faith. Not saved by grace and live by works.

Rom 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." (NKJV)* We are saved by, and live by the faith in the free gift of righteousness. In Colossians 2:6 Paul also said that we are to walk in Him, as we have received Him. We received Him by faith and so also walk in faith. If you are thinking, "Where does the law fit in? Is the law against the promises of God? How can obedience to moral law be wrong? Isn't it a good thing if I try to obey the law?" look at what Paul answered.

Gal 3:21-22 *Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

(NKJV) Basically what it comes down to is that the law is not bad in and of itself. Romans 7:12 says the law is holy and righteous. It is trying to relate to God through it, that is the problem. Paul says there is **NO** law that can give life. The purpose of the law is to show you the only option you have is faith. Since all the promises of God come by faith, the law is actually in support of the promises, when it points you to faith and not when you use it to gain self-righteousness by trying to obey it! Galatians 3:12 tells us the law is not of faith. Only faith gives life to the promises made, even the ones in the law. There is nothing wrong with doing right and moral things, but we shouldn't base our relationship with God on doing them. Let us look at it from another view. Imagine you have to choose between two kinds of blessings. The first kind you can only receive if you perfectly fulfill the requirements needed to receive it. The second also has requirements, but somebody else already met them, and chose to share the reward equally with you. Which would you choose? The second one sounds like a much better option to me.

The conditional blessing has rules and regulations you have to follow in order to receive and keep it, otherwise known as the Law. The unconditional blessing is given freely because all the rules and regulations were already perfectly kept by Jesus, otherwise known as Grace. As the righteousness of God in Christ, Jesus automatically meets every condition, rule, regulation or law there ever was or ever could be perfectly on your behalf. So what is this righteousness we keep hearing

about? Righteousness, according to the dictionary, is the state of being right, attained by acting in accordance with divine or moral law. God has perfect righteousness because He always acts right according to divine and moral law. Now I am not saying God is under law, I am just saying that righteousness is the ability to act right. All the righteousness Jesus has from always doing right, has been imputed to us. But a thing to realize is that you don't **HAVE** righteousness. You **ARE** righteousness. You are the righteousness of God in Christ. It doesn't say 'you have the righteousness of God' it says you have **BECOME** righteousness.

To the same degree that you believe this, to that same degree you will relate to God. If you don't believe this, you will always try to relate to God by trying to get your own righteousness by also acting in accordance with divine and moral law. That is called self-righteousness. Since righteousness is the basis through which to relate to God, it is easy to think we have to work and perform to obey the law to prove to God that we have righteousness. But no matter how hard we try to keep the law, we will always just end up **having** righteousness, we will never **become** righteousness. If we try to relate to God by gaining our own righteousness, we have placed ourselves back under law and then we have fallen from grace. That's right, sinning doesn't make us fall from grace, trying to be made righteous by the law does!

Gal 5:2-4 *Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have*

become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. (NKJV) When Paul wrote to the believers in Galatia, he told them sternly that they are foolish, having been bewitched to go back to try and live under the law. (Gal 3:1-2) By doing that, you do the exact opposite of what you are trying to achieve, which is to relate to God. Verse 4 above tells us that by trying to live under law, we become estranged from Christ. The word 'estranged' means to be removed from a place of love, affection and friendliness, to a place of mutual enmity, hatred and indifference. If you live estranged from Christ, He profits you nothing. He might be your savior, but you might also live estranged from Him at the same time. The love, affection and friendliness you have in grace, is of no profit in that case. Just remember that even if believers go back and live under law, it doesn't mean they've lost their salvation, it just means they might only get to know God when they die. So instead of getting to know God now, they keep blaming Him for their condemning religious existence on earth, not aware that He will welcome them back into His loving arms without making them feel guilty or ashamed.

Rom 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (NKJV)* Condemnation is what you feel when you try to become righteous through the law. It is the negative emotions that are left over after you failed to keep it

perfectly. Even if you keep the law 99% right, the 1% that you didn't do right will still cause condemnation. It's almost like rat poison. It's made out of 99% good rat food, and 1% poison. That 1% is enough to kill the rat. The purpose of the law is to show you how utterly impossible it is to become righteous through observing it. The law only serves to expose sin (Romans 7:13). That is why Jesus said lusting in your heart is the same as adultery and hatred is the same as murder. He wasn't giving us more rules to live by, but instead He was showing us how impossible it is to keep them perfectly. The more you try to keep the law better, the more it will show you how miserably you fail at it.

2 Cor 3:7-9 *But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, 8 how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. (NKJV)* These verses talk about two different ministries. The first one is the ministry of death and condemnation, which is the law and the old covenant, or the old way of relating to God. What else was engraved on tablets of stone? When you live under the law, death and condemnation is exactly what gets ministered to you. I wouldn't want to line up at that altar call. Then there is the second ministry, the ministry of the Spirit and righteousness, which is the

Grace Covenant. Grace is Jesus Christ and His righteousness freely imputed to us, the fullness of the blessing, God's unmerited favor, the new way of relating to God. One ministry is based on your ability to try and become righteous; the other is based on you being created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24) based on Christ's perfect obedience, without you having to obey one law! Now why would anybody in his or her right mind choose the first one? Grace is the means by which God accepted you no matter how big your sin was, and it's the same grace that never stops accepting you no matter how big it gets in the future. There is no depth that Christ refused to descend to in order to be able to save you. The height and length and breadth and depth of the love of Christ far exceed the height and length and breadth and depth to which sin separated you from Him. For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son. Since Jesus' sacrifice was enough for the entire world's sin throughout all of history and the future, your teeny tiny amount in comparison is not enough to even put a dent in grace. Find your identity in Him. Be established in His righteousness. Never doubt His love and acceptance. Anything that tries to diminish His love for, and acceptance of you is totally demonic and antichrist. Have nothing to do with it, except telling others to get free from it!

Breaking Traditions - Logos vs. Rhema

I want to keep building further on this grace revelation throughout this book, showing you exactly all the new things you have become and have access to in grace. All the new default settings, all the thoughts God is thinking about you, all tie back to the New Covenant. The new creation, in essence is the New Covenant, and to discover what you have become and what you are is as easy as reading the Bible with the Helper of all helpers, the wonderful Holy Spirit, who will give you the revelations that will change the way you think about and ultimately relate to the Father.

Mark 7:13 *making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do. (NKJV)* Breaking these traditions are vitally important. I'm sure you don't like to have the Word of God nullified in your life, so this is a good thing! In breaking traditions and thought patterns, we have to rely on the Word of God. The Bible is our final authority regarding faith and action. It is unchanging, inspired and alive. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ waiting to be read, but more so waiting to be lived. Lester Sumrall once said, "If you want to know the will of God, read the Bible. If you want to be led by the Spirit, do the Bible."

Psalm 119:89 *Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. (NKJV)* **2 Tim 3:16-17** *All Scripture is God-*

breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NIV) God's Word is unchanging and settled. That is why it has these 4 functions listed by Paul and he tells us the Word is a vital ingredient for equipping the man of God. Why do we need to be equipped? Ephesians 4:12 teaches that the equipping is for the saints to be able to do the work of the ministry, which is the ministry of reconciliation. So if you are in ministry or want to be in ministry to a greater degree, you need to be equipped by the Word of God. The Word is the sword of the Spirit, the only offensive weapon listed in the Spiritual Armor of God in Ephesians 6. Jesus defeated the devil in the wilderness through the word. It worked then, it will work now. Unfortunately there are also so many confusing and misleading teachings in the church about the word when it comes to *logos* and *rhema*, their meaning, use and application. *Logos* is generally referred to as the written account of that which has already been spoken by God, while *rhema* on the other hand is taught to be a word spoken for a specific occasion or God's word for you in a specific situation. Let's look at the Strong's Concordance to see what they actually mean.

Logos (log'-os) G3056

From G3004; something said (including the thought); by implication a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive; by extension a computation;

specifically (with the article in John) the Divine Expression (that is, Christ): - account, cause, communication, X concerning, doctrine, fame, X have to do, intent, matter, mouth, preaching, question, reason, + reckon, remove, say (-ing), shew, X speaker, speech, talk, thing, + none of these things move me, tidings, treatise, utterance, word, work.

Rhema (hray'-mah) G4487

From G4483; an utterance (individually, collectively or specifically); by implication a matter or topic (especially of narration, command or dispute); with a negative naught whatever: - + evil, + nothing, saying, word.

Both words are defined as utterances, neither are said to be written although *logos* is generally used when referring to the Bible or the Holy Scriptures. (Rev 22:19) *Rhema* actually also means narration, as in repeating what was said already. That sounds a lot like what is generally taught as *logos*, which coincidentally also means a divine expression regarding communication and what to do. That sounds like the average definition of *rhema*. Now I am not a Greek scholar by any stretch, but these words seem to mean pretty much the same thing. Let's see if we can get them to refer to the same thing from scripture. I have inserted the words *logos* and *rhema* in brackets to see which gets used where.

John 15:3 *You are already clean because of the word [logos] which I have spoken to you. (NKJV)* **Eph 5:26** *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word [rhema] (NKJV)* These two references are both about our cleansing, and both *logos* and *rhema* were used. Peter used the words

interchangeably too.

1 Peter 1:23-25 *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word [logos] of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word [rhema] of the Lord endures forever."* Now this is the word [rhema] which by the gospel was preached to you. (NKJV) Both *logos* and *rhema* are referred to as everlasting, enduring forever. What happened to *rhema* being a specific word for a specific time? Both are referred to by Peter as instrumental in salvation. *Logos* is also referred to as living, and so is *rhema* in Matthew 4:4 when it speaks about living on not only bread but every word of God. Both words imply the giving and sustainment of life. What about when somebody needs a word from God in a specific situation?

John 4:50 *Jesus said [logos] to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word [logos] that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. (NKJV)*

Luke 5:5 *But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word [rhema] I will let down the net." (NKJV)* Both men in these accounts received a specific word directly from Jesus for very specific situations. One man received a *logos* word while the other received a *rhema* word. Both men received the miracle for their situation. In today's modern church

world, it is generally taught that in such cases where healing and miracles are needed, you need to seek a *rhema* word. Jesus was apparently unaware of this teaching when He gave the man who sought Him out for healing a *logos* word for his situation...

2 Peter 1:17-19 *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word [logos] of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed (KJV)* Peter writes these verses in reference to being present both when Jesus was baptized, hearing the audible voice of God proclaiming Jesus to be His beloved Son, and at the mount of transfiguration when he saw Jesus in His glorified state. He says that even though He was present and heard God speak audibly twice, he still says we have a more sure word of prophecy: The Word of God. The word of God is surer than any audible voice from the heavenlies. I am not trying to diminish the audible voice of God; I am just repeating what Peter said. Why is the *logos*, in terms of the written word, a more sure word? Simply because it doesn't change.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word [logos], and the Word [logos] was with God, and the Word [logos] was God. (NKJV)* Jesus is the Word. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and since He isn't

changing, neither is the Word. Almost every cult and other religion were started by hearing a voice. It is a great privilege to hear the audible voice of God, but remember that even the voice of God has to, and is always going to line up with scripture anyway. I don't want to diminish hearing His voice either, for I hear Him speak to me every day and treasure it, I only want to stop the separation of His voice from His Word. They are the same thing and since any voice needs to line up with scripture before action is taken, that makes scripture a 'higher' authority (1 John 4:1). Since Jesus is the Word and He has all authority, it is obvious that the Word carries that same authority. If you do hear a voice, go to the Word and see if it lines up. Just make sure you go to the right scriptures in the right contexts. Deceiving voices will also line up with the Word, but they will line up with the old covenant, not the new.

2 Tim 2:15-17 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word [logos] of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer.* (NKJV) Paul writes to Timothy and tells him to rightly divide the word of truth. You have to divide the word rightly between the old and New Covenant, and not according to the little white page that the Bible Society put in between Matthew and Malachi. Paul says in verse 17 that messages which do not divide rightly between the two covenants, are merely profane

and idle babblings and they spread like cancer. Cancer can spread fast or slowly, sometimes undetected for a very long time. It never kills anybody suddenly like a heart attack does. It slowly drains the life out of people and they usually only notice it when it is already too late.

Matt 7:24-27 *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings [logos] of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these sayings [logos] of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."* (NKJV) Jesus told us in order to be wise and for our houses to stand, we are to do, or act upon the *logos* word. I will explain more about this statement in a later chapter. So is there any difference between the words *logos* and *rhema*? Yes, they are spelled differently. So what is the point of this chapter? The point is to get you to stop breaking your head over whether a word is *logos* or *rhema* before you receive it or act on it. That you don't even have to receive a *rhema* word for it to be specific for you in your situation, and you don't have to regard *logos* as an 'inferior' word that carries an option to receive it or act upon it either. Both the *logos* and the *rhema* will work if

it is believed and acted on in faith. Both are the voice of God, and both carry the same inspiration, power and authority since both are spoken by the same Spirit. The ‘difference’ between the two is that a *rhema* word is a *logos* word which you act on. As soon as you act on a *logos*, it becomes a *rhema*. So if you are looking for more *rhema* words, start acting on some *logos*.

Now I am sure some of you might think, “But the Bible doesn’t tell me which job to take, which country to live in, which person to marry.” That will depend on how you look at it. Your ‘job’ might not be what you think it is. According to God, you are Christ’s ambassador, as if He was making His appeal to the world through you (2 Cor 5:20). If you are a teacher by profession, that is not your job. That might merely be the mission field you are to be an ambassador to. It is the same with any other job. “But I will lose my job if I talk about Jesus at work.” 2 Timothy 4:2 says to preach the word in season and out, when it is appropriate and when it is not. If you do lose your job, you can always get another, and you can wear the dismissal proudly since you have then been persecuted on Christ’s behalf. Matthew 5:10 says you are blessed if you get persecuted for righteousness’ sake. “If you haven’t found a gospel worth dying for, you haven’t found a gospel worth living for.” – Curry Blake.

Which country should you live in? Jesus said to go into all the world. You don’t even have to leave your home city to do that in this day and age. You can go into all the banking world, into all the healthcare world, into all the retail world, into all the housewives’ world, into all the any world that is open

before you to go into. It doesn't really matter what 'job' you have, but preach the Gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers. Freely you have received, freely give. It doesn't matter where you live, but preach the Gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers. Freely you have received, freely give. As for who you are going to marry, God never spoke to me and told me, "Behold, I give unto thee Rensia, for she is the one whom I have prepared in advance for thee." If God did say something to that effect to any couple, awesome! But I just went to God and said, "Dad, I love this woman, I am going to marry her. And I thank You that You bless my marriage and that You are my provider." He has not disappointed us once. Sure we fight sometimes, sure we go through tough times, but our marriage is a covenant relationship and we entrust it to God day by day, every day. God's Word works. If you start acting on it, you will soon find it will work for you too. You also don't need to know the whole Bible before you act on something. Start acting on the little you have and watch God give you more and more everyday!

Old Covenant Mindset #1: The Externalism of God

Many Christians believe God is out there somewhere and we have to seek Him out, almost like He is playing hide-and-seek with us. If He was hiding Himself, why did He send us the word containing every clue and answer as to where He is? In a sense there is truth to this, but that truth changes for us as soon as we get saved. God is external until we get saved, then He comes and lives in you and promises never to leave or forsake you. He is now **ALSO** internal. If you are saved, you have found Him. A verse you are likely to hear to support seeking the Lord is Isaiah 55 verse 6.

Isa 55:6 *Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. (NKJV)*

But if we rightly divide the word here, we have to look at the context. Isaiah 54, 55 and 56 all deal with him prophesying about Jesus and the glory of the New Covenant. Isaiah 54 is the atonement prophecy. Isaiah 55 is the invitation to the abundant life of grace, and Isaiah 56 is about salvation for both Jews and Gentiles through the same atonement. So while you are a non-believer, you have to seek the Lord while He may be found. Once you find Him, you get saved. Now that you are born again, do you need to keep searching for the Lord? Where does the Bible say God is after you get saved? Immanuel, God with us. That tells you exactly where He is. He is with you, and more specifically, within you. He has been

there since the day you got saved, and around you since you were born. He found you way before you even started looking for Him.

Matt 28:20 *and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (NKJV)*

Has the age ended? No. Then Jesus is still with us. He will always be with us because He lives in us. We read earlier that we are in Him as He is in the Father, and the Father is in us as we are in Christ. So if the Bible tells us that we are one spirit with the Lord, that He is in us and we are in Him, where are some Christians seeking that they can't find Him? As long as we think God is out there somewhere, we will keep trying to get closer to Him by doing more for Him. We will sing more, pray more, fast more and do more in order to stir up emotions of accomplishment and acceptance to cover the guilt and denial that we might not fully believe He completely lives in us.

Gal 2:19-21 *For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain." (NKJV)*

Paul says Christ lives in us through our unification into His death and resurrection. Earlier I quoted 1 John 4:17, "as He is, so are we in this world." So in a sense, to seek Him now after being born again, is to search out what you have become in Him. We were created in His image and have been predestined

to be conformed to His likeness (Rom 8:28). The more we discover about Him, the more we discover about ourselves. But we don't need to seek Him thinking He is out there in the universe somewhere waiting for us to find Him. No, that's why He came to us, He knew we would never be able to find Him if He didn't come and find us. We were lost, we got found. God was never lost that we needed to find Him.

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

Some might even say, "See, we have to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness." What did we determine you have become? Aren't you the righteousness of God in Christ? I'll quickly give you 5 minutes to go and look for yourself. Oh, you found yourself already? We seek righteousness before we get saved, since that is the basis through which we relate to God, but once we get saved, we become His righteousness, and have perfect fellowship forever! But what about the kingdom, shouldn't we be seeking the kingdom? Seeking the kingdom, which has been found, now means to keep on relating to God based on Christ's righteousness and not your own.

Luke 17:20-21 *Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (NKJV)*

Where is the kingdom? Inside you. Can you look or

observe to say there it is or here it is? No. How is it inside you? Because the kingdom of God is the reign of God. The Holy Spirit is the ruling spirit in your life, if you are saved. So how do I seek the kingdom? One way is by finding out what you have become. And we already know we have become the righteousness of God in Christ. Psalm 97:2 teaches that righteousness and justice is the foundation of His throne. His throne is the symbol of His reign and kingdom. We are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. To sit on a throne you need authority. To have authority you need power to execute that authority. When you enforce and execute authority, you are reigning.

Luke 11:20 *But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. (NKJV)*

Jesus said when demons are cast out; the kingdom of God has come upon you. His rule and government always comes and destroys the yokes and bondages the devil ties people down with. Jesus prayed, "Your Kingdom come" and then went out and enforced it. You don't have to wait for the kingdom to come, it's in you. All you have to do is believe it and then take it to where it's needed and then let it out!

Matt 28:18-20 *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (NKJV)*

We were created to rule and reign (Gen 1:26). We are kings and priests forever (Rev 5:10). So the New Covenant thought pattern you have to think in line with is: The Father lives in me as He lives in Christ. I live in Christ as He lives in the Father. I am one spirit with the Lord. I am created to rule and reign in the power of the Spirit by destroying the works of the devil. The old covenant says God is out there behind the holy of holies, where no one is allowed to enter. The New Covenant says the curtain was torn in two and He came to make you His new resting place, the new holy of holies, inside us. We are the carriers of the Presence of God. We are the temple of the Holy One. We are the Body of Christ. We house His Spirit. We are the Holy of Holies! The more you see God as out there, the more you will be inclined to try and please Him through working for Him instead of with Him.

People who externalize God usually try to get God to “show up” and do everything for them. They do this primarily because if He doesn’t “show up”, they can blame shift the responsibility for failure back onto God for the fact that a miracle or healing didn’t occur. There are times when the Presence and Glory of God do manifest tangibly in ways that are amazing, new, fantastical and exhilarating, where miracles do happen seemingly spontaneous. I love the Presence of God and I love the glory of which He has made me a partaker of through Christ. I know that His Presence is ever-present in me but also that as a human being I find it very difficult to relate to the idea of a person. That is why God chooses to manifest Himself in tangible ways where we can experience the actual persons of the Trinity, not just the ideas of them. But when it

comes to ministering to the needs of others, we have been given the authority as sons of God to bring His kingdom into this earth manifestly. When we decide to take the responsibility to walk in the truth we have been led into, the authority that has been invested in us can become manifested through destroying the works of the devil in people's lives.

The manifest Presence of God to me is more than a tingling up and down my spine or a shake-rattle'n-rolling. I do love those experiences where I am so overwhelmed by the love of the Father that I can't help but laugh, fall or cry. To have joy wrap around me and refresh me and meet my needs in Him so that I can be less focused on myself when somebody else needs me to minister to them. As much as I love those intimate encounters with God, there is a purpose behind them that reach far beyond sensations that cause more sensationalism than anything else. The evidence of an encounter with God is that you resemble Jesus more afterwards, that you have been freed from something that has hindered your growth into the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ. Without that, you missed the whole point of the manifest encounter. In regards to the Presence of God and ministry, it is great to minister when His tangible presence is there, but I don't have to have the manifest presence of God in a place before I am enabled to do something for Him. Your spirit is 100% present wherever you go. Since your spirit is one spirit with the Lord, He is also 100% there in spirit. God loves to work through us instead of in a vacuumed void. God can work miracles without us being involved, but I believe He would much rather work those same miracles through us, because that proves His Word which we

preach, that we are the righteousness of God in Christ.

If God works through us, then we technically become the manifest presence of God wherever we go, whether He shows up tangibly or not. Some believers don't want to do anything for God without His manifest presence being there, and when He does manifest Himself, all they seem to be capable of doing is rolling around on the floor. A part of the body has become so self-indulgent with the lavishness of God's Presence and Glory that they have begun to neglect the seriousness of our commission. They flock from conference to conference looking for the next "fix" of glory, to get drunk on new wine. New wine is delicious and wonderful, but unfortunately I've heard Christians brag and boast about how drunk they got. Almost like the disciples arguing about who is greater. When believers get so focused on the sensations of the Presence that they neglect the hurting, sick and dying around them, they are missing the heart of God even though they are fully engulfed in His presence.

If we start acting like sons of God, with or without His manifest presence, we will see more displays of power through us, instead of waiting for power to just manifest at random while we are there and then trying to take the credit for it. And by acting I mean healing the sick, casting out demons, setting the captives free, and enforcing the Kingdom. Do what the manifest presence of God would do. Do what the sons of God were created to do. So many people stand around in prayer meetings asking God to come and manifest Himself, to heal the sick, to display His glory. Do you know what that sounds like? God told us to heal the sick and cast out demons and prove His

will. Now we stand around and ask Him to come do it. That's like asking your teacher to do your homework. Why did the Spirit empower us, if we have to wait for Him to 'show up'? Sure, the disciples in Acts prayed to God and asked Him to stretch forth His hand with mighty signs and wonders, but then they went out and ministered to people and the signs and wonders followed them everywhere. Am I saying we have the power? Yes! Don't ask God to do something He has already done, or to do something He told you to do...

Acts 1:8 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (NKJV)

"But I don't feel like I have power?" Luckily I am reading to you from the New King James Translation, and not the New Christian Translation. It says we will receive power, not we will feel like we have power when the Holy Spirit has come upon us. I once heard Curry Blake say that it seems like the anthem of the modern church has changed from "Amazing Grace" to "Hooked on a feeling." We want to feel the power, feel the anointing, and feel the atmosphere. I believe the anointing and power cannot be felt in that way. I say that firstly because nowhere in the New Testament does anybody say feel, they all say believe. We live by faith and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7). The anointing, and the power of the anointing is spiritual in nature and has no feeling. You can't feel your spirit, so you likewise can't feel the anointing that is a spiritual reality. "But didn't Jesus 'feel' power leave Him when the lady with the issue of blood touched Him?" Not technically since

the Bible says He *perceived* that power had left Him. One of the meanings of the Greek word used in that verse does imply feeling, but not many translations ever use that word.

Most translations use perceive, know, or that He was aware that power had left Him. Don't confuse having power with being led by the Spirit either. The Spirit leads us into truth. When we act on that truth, with or without promptings, we are following a leading. God has at times used feelings and emotions to lead me to minister to people, but never to reinforce that I have been anointed. God can communicate to us and lead us through any of the 4 mediums available, spirit, soul, body or an external source. We can't feel our spirits, so a spiritual leading is not going to be 'felt', but would rather be based on the nature and will of God, the truth into which we have been led. We can sense emotions, so leadings through the soul can be felt. Jesus was moved with compassion and healed the multitude (Matt 9:36). He also got angry and cleared the temple. Sometimes I feel a sensation in a certain area of my body, and when I ask, there is usually a person present with a problem in that same area. That is like a physical word of knowledge I would say. Other times a sickness would just come to mind and you just know that you know there is somebody present who has that problem. Sometimes external things can also provide a 'leading.' If I can see the symptoms of a physical sickness on a person, I don't have to ask God if He wants to heal the person, I **know** God wants them to be healed. When Jesus saw the woman who was bent over for 18 years, He called her to Him and healed her. When He saw her, and not when God gave Him a 'prompting' (Luke 13:12). The

fact that she was a daughter of Abraham was enough for Him. The fact that Christ died for all should be enough for us too. A great scriptural example to support not “*feeling*” the anointing is in the life of Samson. We all know the story well, but we read the words too fast. God made an oath with Samson that He will be with Him as long as his hair remained uncut.

Judg 16:6 *So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you." (NKJV)*

People think of Samson as this big muscle bound weight lifter, but I believe he more likely represented a scrawny, thin weak guy. If Arnold Schwarzenegger was to lift a 200kg weight, we wouldn't ask “Where does his strength come from?” It doesn't take much to see it comes from his muscles. But if a thin 50kg man picks up a 200kg weight, I would also wonder where his strength came from. Delilah and the Philistines couldn't figure out what made Samson strong. That is why she had to ask him, and if you can remember, three times he lied to her, and all three times he defeated the Philistines that tried to ambush and kill him. Even knowingly lying about it, outright sinning, didn't make the power or anointing ‘lift.’ He was having a sexual relationship outside of marriage with a heathen prostitute, yet still the anointing remained on him. The condition for the anointing was not his holy life, but merely uncut hair. What is the condition for the anointing on our lives? Faith in Christ. You can wear your hair anyway you want to. His anointing abides in us, lives in us, and never leaves us (1 John 2:27). But look at what is written about Samson the fourth time. Three times he lied and kept the anointing, once he

told the truth and lost it. Figure that one out!

Judg 16:19-20 *And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. 20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist [knew] not that the Lord was departed from him. (KJV)*

Samson tells her, “I will go out as before, as other times, and shake myself.” What is he talking about? I think he was basically saying that he knew how to stir himself up, and would do it just like he did before. The anointing has always been there for him, available for use at his own will. He didn’t have to do anything to bring the anointing. It says in verse 20 that he didn’t know the Lord had departed from him. If *‘the Lord with him’* or the anointing on him had a feeling associated with it, don’t you think he would have felt that it wasn’t there anymore when he shook himself? He appeared to not be too worried about *“feeling anointed”* and that is why he ran out to face the Philistines. He didn’t base his actions on promptings or feeling the anointing. He just acted according to what he knew He always had and which had never failed him before. This time the anointing wasn’t there, because the covenant was broken. Can our covenant be broken? No, and technically you don’t have a covenant with God either. He made a covenant with Jesus and made you a partaker of the benefits of that covenant, based on Jesus’ obedience. The only way for the covenant to be broken is for Jesus to disobey God and sin.

Samson's hair is like a type and shadow of Jesus' righteousness. His anointing had nothing to do with his ability to live holy, and neither is our anointing subject to our ability to live holy. If we are *always* or *only* waiting for a 'feeling' before we act, we are restricting the anointing because we are in doubt. If we have to wait for a feeling to prove to us God is there, then that means we don't believe He is there with us always. Don't wait to feel anointed before you act anointed. Doing that is again blame shifting responsibility unto God. "I wanted to pray for that person but I didn't because I didn't feel the anointing, or there wasn't an atmosphere for healing, or I wasn't led to minister to them." If we are arguing like that, then we should be God, more than God should be God, because apparently we have more compassion to want to help people than He does. We wanted somebody who was sick to be made well, but since we didn't *feel the anointing* we figured we didn't have to do anything. God has anointed us, we have power and authority. We are sons of God. Act like one for a change, not because you are trying to earn blessing or righteousness or salvation, but just because that is who you are and because the love of Christ in you, loves the world you are in so much.

Show the world God cares by loving the world like Christ. He is in you to love through you. All you need to do is believe it and act on it. If you get a *'feeling'* do it, if you don't, **DO IT ANYWAY!**

Mark 5:36 ... "*Do not be afraid; only believe.*" (NKJV)

Old Covenant Mindset #2: Servant Mindedness

John 15:15 *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (NKJV)*

There is a big difference between a slave, and a son who serves. Jesus was speaking to His disciples, telling them that He sees them as friends, not as slaves. A slave is a person who doesn't know what their master is doing. But as friends and sons, Jesus has made known to us what the Father is doing. If you aren't sure what the Father is doing, it might be because you still think with a servant mindset. If people **only** sit around 'waiting on God', it only shows that they don't know what God is doing. I don't want to bring condemnation in saying that either, but merely want to show that this mindset will keep people in bondage just like slaves, endlessly trying to please their master. There is nothing wrong with having a servant heart, but a servant mindset is an old covenant mindset. A slave has to be told what to do and if they don't obey, there are consequences, which are definitely not good. The way servants relate to their master is not based on a love relationship. Instead, it is based on their performance and their ability to do what their master required of them. A son doesn't see their father as a master lording over them. A son relates to their father out of love. We are sons who serve, not slaves.

Gal 3:26-4:3 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. 4* 1 *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. (NKJV)*

It is clear to see from these verses that we are sons of God in Christ and heirs with Him as the seed of Abraham. But in verse 1 of Chapter 4, Paul says an heir is no different from a slave as long as he is a child. He didn't say they are slaves, he just said that as children, they don't differ from slaves. In other words he is referring to our spiritual maturity. As long as we are children, or babes in Christ, we are no different from slaves. Slaves, according to Jesus, are people who don't know what their master is doing. In other words, slaves have to be told what to do. Without being told what to do, a slave will not do anything out of fear of doing something wrong which will upset their master, destroying the relationship they have built with him. This is the typical servant mindset: You always wait for God to tell you what to do before you do anything. You are also so afraid when you do something, thinking that if you do it wrong, God is going to be upset with you. If this is how

you think, your whole relationship with God is based on how good you feel after you have done something for Him. Servant minded believers are very often performance junkies. They base their relationship with God on their ability to do, or not do, His will. New Covenant sons don't base their relationship on their own performance, but know that they are the righteousness of God in Christ. In regards to doing the will of God, New Covenant sons know the will of their Father and don't have to wait to be told what to do.

Luke 17:7-10 *And which of you, having a servant ploughing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? 8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'* (NKJV)

Jesus is teaching about an unprofitable servant. What makes a servant unprofitable? According to Him it's when a servant only does what they are told to do. But that sounds like it would make them profitable, accountable, obedient and trustworthy? How then can doing what they're told make them unprofitable? It is simply because they had to be told. No initiative or responsibility was taken. There is nothing wrong with acting on something we're told to do, but it's when we

only obey when we are told specifically, that we become unprofitable. Waiting on the Lord is not about sitting around while time goes by until God speaks. Waiting is a verb and refers to a waiter working in a restaurant. If you say you are waiting on the Lord, it should actually mean that you are doing something for Him. Imagine you are the manager of a restaurant and you have two waiters working for you. Both know the responsibilities of the job. One never does anything unless you specifically tell them to do it. The salt shakers will stay empty until you tell him to refill them. The other one acts on the responsibilities he knows and just does them automatically. Which waiter is profitable? Obviously the one who automatically does what is expected of them. He is profitable because he doesn't need constant supervision. Mature sons don't need constant supervision, babes in Christ on the other hand, do. Who can you leave alone by themselves, a child or an adult? So in order for us to be profitable, we need revelation of God's never changing will so that we can line up our will with His, and just do as occasion commands (1 Sam 10:6-7). Start taking the responsibility to act on truth instead of waiting for a burning bush. If you get to the point where you are doing the will of the Father without Him having to specifically tell you to do it, you will resemble a mature son. If you always wait to be told what to do, you will resemble the unprofitable servant. So the key here seems to be knowing what the Father is doing. This is what Jesus said is the difference between slaves and friends. So what is God doing? He is doing His will. What is His will? This last question in itself is also an indicator of a servant mindset. A person who doesn't know the will of God is

not thinking in line with the New Covenant. But for clarity's sake, let's tell you the will of God so you never have to question it again.

2 Cor 5:18-20 *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (NKJV)*

Tim 2:3-5 *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (NKJV)*

God's will is reconciliation. It is His will that the world be reconciled to Him in Christ. He desires ALL people to be saved. They get saved through the reconciliation bought by the blood of our Mediator, Jesus Christ. Notice that we have been given this ministry of reconciliation. To reconcile a person's spirit to God is salvation. Reconciling their soul is deliverance and reconciling their body is healing. This gives you the perfect will of God in all situations as a minister of the New Covenant. If a person is not saved, it is God's will to save them. If a person is in bondage or under oppression, it is God's will that they be delivered from those demons. If they are sick, it is God's will that they be healed. You can never be outside of

the will of God when you are getting sinners saved, setting captives free, or healing the sick. You also don't need a special prompting from the Spirit to do this since any leading is going to line up with the Word anyway, so you can't go wrong doing the Word in the first place. A special leading is also only going to tell you how to do something, not what you were supposed to do in the first place. It might be to spit on the ground and put it on the blind man's eyes, it might be to touch them by the hand the next time. In both cases healing was the goal, but different methods were employed.

Paul's mission trip to Macedonia in Acts 16 is a good example of this. He was going about preaching the Gospel, planting churches and going to where the Gospel hasn't been preached yet. Then one day, when trying to get to Asia to preach there, he was forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go into Asia. Does that mean God didn't want Asian people saved? No, because that would mean He lied when He said He desires all men to be saved. Paul was acting on the great commission to go into the entire world.

The Holy Spirit was not in violation of that, He just knew things Paul didn't. Paul was busy doing the general instructions when God just gave him a specific order. Through a dream, the Holy Spirit revealed that they should go to Macedonia. Paul obeyed and went there instead of Asia. Through what happened in Macedonia, the whole of Asia was opened up for Him to preach there, showing again it was God's will to reach Asia after all. Later, Paul even wrote to churches sending them greetings from the 7 churches in Asia, which included Ephesus and Galatia. He got a specific leading while

he was busy doing the general word.

He wasn't sitting around waiting for a specific leading, but when he got one, he obeyed it. Most Christians are waiting for specifics without even bothering about the general. Waiting for instruction is a servant mentality. Following instructions until otherwise notified, is the making of a good soldier. Not knowing and understanding the will of God is also the root of doubt. I say this because hope doesn't heal people, faith does. Let me explain. If you see a sick person and you want to pray for them, but you are not sure if God wants to heal them, you are in doubt. If you don't know the will of God when you minister, you will always minister with doubt mixed in with your faith. Your chances are 50/50 at best to get what you pray for that way. Hope says, 'I will pray for you, let's hope God will do something.' Not knowing is being a child, which is like being a slave according to Jesus. Faith says, 'Christ died for you too, you were also healed by His stripes, so what is happening to you now is not right and needs to be set right now', without thinking twice. Do you see the difference? A Christian with a servant mindset, who doesn't know the will of God, operates out of doubt, or at best hope. This would mean that it is not easy to have faith beyond your knowledge of God. Studying the new creation and new covenant, will reveal enough of God to you to accomplish anything He has asked of you. But in order to do that, you need to grow up to the point where you are 100% sure about the will of God. I will deal with old covenant mindsets regarding maturing and equipping believers in another chapter.

As sons of God, we are to serve mankind by reconciling

them to God. When you find the sick, heal them. When you come across the oppressed, free them. When you see the naked, clothe them. When you find the poor, help them. Do unto others as you would have others do to you. If you were sick, would you want somebody to heal you? If you were oppressed would you want somebody to deliver you? If you said yes to any of these, then you know the will of God regarding sickness and deliverance, and are to do that unto those that come your way, without having to run to God for permission. In essence the 'do unto others' is a commandment. And before you think I am getting into works by saying it is a commandment, I am not. Don't feel pressured or guilty because of it, just know that any commandment in itself has an inbuilt leading, or else it would be a suggestion.

If it was a suggestion, you can't have faith towards it because you couldn't be sure if it was God's will. But since it is a command, it reveals the will of God and we can now have faith that we have been empowered to execute that will. Ministering healing, deliverance and salvation to people is always commanded, never needing a feeling or confirmation or leading. Why is the whole world groaning waiting for the manifestations of the sons of God? Because the world is sick, oppressed by the devil and lost. The Sons of God bring the realities of the Kingdom of Heaven to this fallen world, setting free and saving as they leave a wake of liberty, joy and peace because God lives inside them, Jesus lives inside them, the Holy Spirit lives inside them and unites their spirits with the Lord's. Their anointing abides, and they have power and authority over every demon and to cure all manner of disease.

You are a son of God. Believe it. Live it. Take the glory back to Jesus.

Old Covenant Mindset #3: Identification of Office

This mindset is not an obvious one. It is very closely related to the externalism mindset I already discussed, but this mindset has got more to do with your view of yourself, than your view of God. To explain it, I want to make use of a natural example. Let's take former US President Bill Clinton. He occupied the office of President. When his term was finished, George W. Bush took over the office. After him came Barak Obama, and after him will come yet another. This has been happening for hundreds of years all the way back to the first US President, George Washington. What is the common denominator between all these men? Personality? Family? Money? Gifting? No, it's office. They all occupied the highest electable position of authority and power in the United States. They all, at the time of being in office, had the same authority and responsibility. Now I want you to take that and compare yourself to Jesus. Are you Jesus? No. Do you occupy the same office as Him? Yes. Does the same office have the same authority and power to accomplish its set responsibilities? Yes. Do I have any scripture to back this up? Read on... To explain the meaning of the word 'Christ' is no new teaching. Almost any Christian can tell you what it means. But just to make sure, I will quickly go over it again since the meaning of this word is pivotal in explaining this old covenant mindset. Christ literally means anointed, or the Anointed One. The word is derived

from another Greek word which means to consecrate to an office. In the Old Testament we find numerous places where kings and priests were anointed into their office. Usually a prophet would pour oil over the persons head and declare what the stipulations of that office are. The anointing with oil was usually just symbolic or representative of something that has already taken place in the spiritual realm.

1 Sam 10:1 *Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?" (NKJV)*

Samuel just anointed Saul to the office of King over Israel. But look closely at his words: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you." God had already anointed Saul to the office of king. When and where did the first anointing happen?

1 Sam 9:15-16 *Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, 16 "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me." (NKJV)*

God did the first anointing simply by Him deciding what Saul is to be and He did this in the spiritual realms. Samuel physically anointing Saul had nothing to do with the fact that he was already anointed by God to be king. Samuel merely declared something that was already true. So which anointing carries more weight? Obviously it is the one from God. His anointing doesn't give you what you need to have, because

that would externalize the anointing. God's anointing makes you into who He wants you to be, internalizing it. Saul became king. That was who he was until the day he died. No amount of right or wrong doing on his part could change the fact that he was king.

1 Sam 10:6-7 *"Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you."* (NKJV)

Five verses later Samuel says the Spirit of the Lord will come upon Saul. So what came first, the Spirit or the anointing? The anointing came first. The consecration into an office always precedes the outworking of that office. It's just logical. Barak Obama couldn't fulfill the duties of president until he was elected and sworn in. He technically got elected the moment he received that one vote that gave him majority. But he didn't come into that office until all the votes were counted and the winner was announced. So him becoming the next president through gaining majority is like God deciding Saul is the king. The media announcing the winner is where we see Samuel pouring oil over Saul's heads.

Obama didn't immediately have the authority and power to back up his new office. He first had to be inaugurated. That is where the Spirit comes on Saul to empower him to be able to do what is demanded or expected. Also note how Saul was to perform the duties of this office. "Do as the occasion demands, for God is with you." If the occasion demands healing, heal. If it demands freedom, deliver. You should know where I am

going with this by now from the previous chapter. Look at Jesus' first sermon after being baptized and coming back from the wilderness.

Luke 4:18 *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;" (NKJV)*

If you read His words slowly, you will see that the Spirit came upon Him because He has already been anointed. The anointing he received is the consecration into His office. When did he receive the anointing? He was born with the anointing. The point I am trying to make is that anointing in the broad sense of the word just means to occupy an office, or to be appointed to an office. When the president gets sworn in, he comes into office. Once he is in office, he automatically has the authority and power to back up what he represents. The office of president doesn't change. George Bush didn't have more or less authority than Abraham Lincoln. The only thing that changes is the person in the office.

Matt 26:64 *Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." (NKJV)*

Jesus said this in response to the high priest asking Him whether He is the Christ, the Son of God. As the Son of God, as part of the Trinity, Jesus has always occupied the highest position of authority and power. But He humbled Himself into

the likeness of man, having all His divinity restricted (Philippians 2). It was in this form, as the Son of Man, that He again took back the authority lost by Adam. It was in His state of being man that He ascended to the highest position of authority and power through the cross. What He spoke to the high priest came into fulfillment, as we can read in Mark.

Mark 16:19 *So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. (NKJV)*

Jesus sat down at the right hand of God, on His throne. Now the question we need to start asking is, “What is our office?” To answer this is simple. Look at Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.

Eph 2:4-7 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)*

God has seated us in the same place as Jesus. This is actually talking about the fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by Jesus before.

Matt 25:34 *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' (NKJV)*

Who is at the King’s right hand? Those who are

blessed and heirs of the kingdom. Those mean more than one person. Jesus is the one sitting at His right hand, but we are seated with Him in heavenly places, so also at the right hand. It is referring to you! It's the same place. So what position do the persons at the right hand of God have? What is their office? I don't want to just come out and say it. I want you to see it for yourself, so let's read another scripture.

Heb 1:1-5 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? (NKJV)*

The writer of Hebrews says a lot of things in his introduction. He firstly tells us again that Christ is the heir of all things, He is the exact reflection of God's nature and character, He has all power, He cleansed us from our sin and He sat down at the right hand of the Father. So we are back at sitting at the right hand. "To whom of the angels did He ever say, You are My Son." Who sits at the right hand of God? His Son. The qualification for sitting down at the right hand of the Father is

to be His son. Jesus is the Son, but in Him we are all sons of God. We are joint equal heirs of God in Christ. We are the sons of God. A son of God is who and what you are, no matter how much good or bad you do. I have already written a lot about being sons in previous chapters. This chapter is to show that an office comes with authority and power, or else it is of no value. The coming into office is the point of anointing; the empowerment comes through the Spirit. The higher the office, the higher the authority, so obviously the highest office holds all the authority.

The highest office is at the right hand of God where we are seated with Christ. If you don't see yourself in that position as a son with all authority, you will always think you lack authority and power. The closer you identify with being a son of God and what that means, the more you will realize what authority you have and walk in it. If you are never sure if you have enough authority, you will never have faith towards doing anything in authority. Every devil you face in opposition will tell you that you don't have enough authority to cast them out. And if you aren't established in your sonship, you will immediately doubt by trying to check whether you have enough authority and power. At this point you become very vulnerable to try to act more holy and righteous in order to gain favor and blessings, or to get more anointing. You **ARE** anointed and you **HAVE** the authority and power as sons of God. The only thing that is hindering you is you not believing who you are. You are the righteousness of God in Christ. You are His son, in whom He is well pleased. The responsibilities of the office of 'sons of God', is doing what you see the Father

do: Reconciliation. I know I've said this before. I have to say it over and over. I am not trying to get you to do more works, I am just trying to get you to the point where you realize and believe you were created and predestined to perform great works for God.

Eph 2:8-10 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)*

You cannot be saved, justified or made righteous by doing good works. That only happens by faith. When you were reborn, created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24), you were also created in Christ Jesus for good works, and prepared beforehand to walk in them. Never do works to be accepted, to be holier, or to be justified. That is dead works of the flesh and law. Do by faith the works you have been predestined to do because you already are righteous, holy and justified and you have the authority and power to do them. Jesus said those who believe in Him will do the same works as He did, and even greater works. **It is your destiny** to work the miracles of God to His glory, to His honor and to His praise, **NOT your obligation**. If you think like a son of God, you will start to believe you are a son of God. If you believe you are a son of God, you will start to act like a son of God. If you act like a son of God, you will start to conform to the image of Christ, the Son of God.

Old Covenant Mindset #4: The Recognition of Lack

This mindset lack is probably one of the most prolific in our modern Christian church. It is very closely related to externalism of God and the identification of office, but this mindset poses a limiting factor on the outworking of faith. This is one of the biggest mindsets we need to destroy, because it will keep us on a powerless religious treadmill if we continue thinking this way. Jesus didn't ever recognize lack during His life. You can go read the Gospels yourself and try to find a prayer, petition or a request He made to His Father for more power, more anointing, more faith, more protection, more authority, more provision, more whatever you want to put more in front of. In fact, the only recorded instance where Jesus recognized lack was when He said there are too few laborers in the field! I find it very strange when I always hear people in church asking for more, especially if what they ask for has spiritual implications. Why do we keep praying for more when our example, Jesus, never once prayed like that? Jesus always had enough power to perform miracles. He always had enough authority to teach and to command evil spirits to leave. He always had enough faith to move the mountains of sickness and disease He came across daily. The reason why we have this mentality of lack is because we tend to relate more to the disciples, instead of Jesus.

We see ourselves as Disciples of Christ, and so

automatically when we read the Gospel accounts, we imagine ourselves as being like one of the 12, instead of being like Jesus, because we have the externalism mindset of not identifying with Him. Remember, He is the only person in the Gospels that represents exactly what you have become as the new creation. The disciples didn't become what you already are until Acts 2! The problem with associating with the disciples is that they recognized lack wherever they went. They always said things like, "Lord, increase our faith!" "Lord, protect us from this storm." "Lord we don't have money to pay temple tax." "Lord, we don't have food to feed this multitude."

The list goes on and on. I am not saying there never existed lack in Jesus' life, but He never recognized it or reacted based on the lack. When they needed money to pay tax, there was a lack of money, but Jesus didn't recognize a lack of provision. You don't find Him fasting and praying and binding the spirit of poverty and loosing the provision of God, as if it could be bound up. No, He just tells Peter to go fish. When they were in the storm, the disciples didn't recognize the protection of God, but instead trembled and feared for their lives, actually accusing Jesus of not caring. Jesus awoke and had no inkling of a waver about the protection He had. Out of that He commanded the storm to be still. When multitudes were hungry, there was physically not enough food because the disciples looked at 5 loaves and 2 fish and about 20 000 people, counting women and children too, and the math just didn't add up. Jesus didn't even ask God to multiply the food! He just thanked God for what they have received and started sharing it. He operated out of thankfulness to and total dependence on

His Father, and out of the recognition of the provision that comes from heaven.

That is a good principle to get hold off: If you want or need exponential increase, thank God for what you have and start giving it away! It is in the giving away that the multiplication manifests. And interestingly, the multiplication happened in the hands of the disciples, not in Jesus' hands. Almost every time the disciples recognized lack and brought it to Jesus, He got angry with them and rebuked them. This is one of the two things that made Jesus very angry: The recognition of lack by His followers, and making the temple into a den of thieves, which was also really symbolic of demons and sickness inhabiting our bodies, the living temples of God. Even after Peter walked on the water, he got a rebuke. Here a man had just mustered up the faith to defy the laws of gravity for a couple of meters, and Jesus rebuked Him for sinking because he started recognizing the problem instead of keeping his focus on the Provider. If you recognize lack, you will always look to your problem and not to your Provider. Why do we tend to recognize lack? It is because we look to the need instead of the resource. If you look at the recourses of heaven, the need will be incomparably small. It is because we look to what we think we have, instead of having faith in what we have become. We think external supply instead of new creation.

God specializes in calling us to do humanly impossible feats. It is humanly impossible to walk on water, turn water to wine, to heal multitudes of people of every known disease, to work miracles on command. But for God, nothing is impossible.

Scripture tells us in Matthew 17:20 that through faith, nothing is impossible. Believe what? Believe God. Believe Him when He said he would be with you. Believe Him when He said signs will follow you. Believe Him when He said laying your hands on sick people will cause them to recover. If you can do something for God in your own ability, there is no faith involved. Believe Him when He said you can do all things through Christ. That is a key verse. You can't do all things through you. You can do all things through Christ. Is there any ounce of lack in Christ? Any power? Any anointing? Any authority? Any gifting? No, so through Christ you have access to all that God has resourced to meet any need you may come across.

Eph 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (NKJV)*

You have been blessed with every single blessing that God, in His infinite wisdom and knowledge, could think or dream up to bless a person with. This one scripture is enough to support my whole case. To understand it, you need to know what a blessing is. It means nothing more than to speak well of someone or something. When you bless somebody, you speak words over him or her. Blessings are not bad, negative words, they are edifying, encouraging and empowering words spoken with the conviction that what you say will come to pass. Now, you can surely believe that what God says comes to pass? If not, just look out the window at creation. Not only did He speak everything into being, but after He spoke it into being, He blessed it. It is also important to note that saying, "Bless you" is not really pronouncing a blessing. When God blessed

the creation, He said, “Be fruitful and multiply.” His blessing is a divine command for that which He created to become more and to do so increasingly. He can’t bless in any other way, because no increase means curse.

Think about that for a moment, God blessed, or commanded increase and multiplication of every good thing He could think of to say about you, and backed what He said up with His power. Those things all exist, as the verse says, in the spiritual realms. To bring the blessings into manifestation, all that is required is faith. Quickly think of anything you know you have asked God for more of. Faith? Power? Anointing? Provision? Protection? Health? You can probably list more than this right? Now, which of these were excluded when God blessed them in Christ? None of them! In who are you and to who have you been united in spirit? Jesus. He is the one over whom God pronounced these blessings or commands of increase. Once you get born again, you come into Christ and become a co-equal heir of God. So everything God has said about Jesus, is now imputed to you freely. You automatically step into every blessing God has bestowed upon His Son without you having to do anything but believe it. Let’s look at a few more scriptures briefly to just see how wide the applications of these blessings actually go.

Heb 10:14 *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (NKJV)*

You have been perfected. In regards to you, and I mean your spirit because that is who you really are, every single thing about you has been perfected. The tense in this verse tells us the event happened in the past and therefore nothing

can change the fact that it happened already. Positionally in Christ, you are perfect. Conditionally, here in the natural, you live out that perfection according to your faith in your position as the righteousness of God in Christ. Forever, tells you how long this perfection is going to last. How much lack can you recognize in perfect?

Col 2:10 *and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (NKJV)*

You are complete in Him. Incomplete means there are parts missing. Since you are complete, there are no parts missing, no lack whatsoever. I love this word ‘whatsoever’. It is one of God’s favorite words. He even used it when He said, “Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in My Name, He shall give it to you.” Why? Because you are **that** highly favored by Him. Once you are in Christ, then in the eyes of the most powerful Creator of everything, you are the most highly favored being to ever be loved by Him and He has given you of His fullness. There is nothing you can need that He hasn’t already provided for. He loved you so much He went to your future to check what you will need and went back and made sure it was provided for you in the sacrifice of Jesus.

Col 1:19 *For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, (NKJV)*

All the fullness of God was pleased to live in Jesus. Fullness, again, leaves no room for lack. “But hang on, this is talking about Jesus?” So? If all the fullness of God lives in Jesus, and Jesus lives in us, then through Jesus, all the fullness of God lives in us too. Who are we the same as? To whom have we been united? Who lives in us as He lives in the

Father as the Father lives in us? If God lives in you, He is pleased with you. If He is pleased with you, He dwells in you. That is a catch 22 situation you don't want to get out of! In Him there is only fullness, overflowing fullness. Good measures, pressed down, shaken, stamped together, to make room for even more of the fullness.

Eph 1:7-8 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace & which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, (NKJV)*

His grace, His unmerited favor, was not just given to you, but it abounds towards you. In other translations, abounded is translated as lavished upon. Over and above the need. Lavish means to produce in excess and to bestow upon profusely. It was also done out of His riches, which are inexhaustible. That is why where sin increases, grace increases all the more. You can't sin enough to exhaust the grace abounding towards you. If you have grace over and above the need, do you lack anything in grace? Since grace also means favor, and you can't sin enough to exhaust grace, it means you can't sin enough to fall out of favor with God. Galatians 5:4 says you fall from grace through seeking to be justified through the law and your own self righteousness. If you think in terms of money, then in grace, for every hundred dollars you might need, God has given you a billion dollars just to make sure.

Eph 1:22-23 *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who*

fills everything in every way. (NIV)

You have to read this verse slowly. God put all things under Christ's feet, and gave Christ to be the head of the church, which is His body, which is the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way. Does this speak about church as in people gathering in a building? Definitely not! God never intended church to be **'a building'**. It was a building under the old covenant, now His church is **'a people'**. Christ is the fullness of God given to us, His body! My body houses the fullness of me. Everything I am is in my body. In the same way, we are Christ's body. His body houses His fullness. Everything He is, is in His body. Everything He is, is in you!

Eph 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)*

We are God's workmanship. That means we are a product of the work of a perfect workmen. Perfection cannot produce imperfection. If perfection could produce imperfection, perfection would cease to be perfect. So when God recreated you, you were made perfect and complete, housing the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Not only that, He made you with a purpose, to do good works, and included in you everything you will ever need to accomplish that purpose. And the good works aren't obeying the law; they are bringing reconciliation to the world. Heal, set free and deliver! You were fearfully and wonderfully made. Who was full of fear when you were created? Not God, but the principalities and powers you were created to crush in Christ. Who was full of wonder? All of heaven and the entire angelic host who earnestly look into this

grace by which God has made us one in spirit with Christ (1 Peter 1:12).

I know this sounds so wonderful but you might be thinking, “Yes, we see it in scripture but not in our own lives.” We always seem to be walking in less power, faith and anointing than what I just explained we have. Why is that? Let me explain by taking human birth and comparing it to spiritual birth. Almost everything in the natural is a type and shadow of the spiritual. After you got born, did you evolve into a human, or were you 100% human since conception? You weren’t a frog or an ape in the womb, you were human. As a newborn infant, you were human in every single aspect. All that happened since birth was growing up. You gained knowledge, experience and mass. It took you almost 1 to 2 years to discover your legs are for walking, and that accelerated your journey of discovery exponentially. I am trying to do the same thing here, because the majority of Christians in the church still haven’t discovered their legs! You were born 100% human and that percentage has not changed since conception. You are still 100% human, you have just matured, or grown up into the image of an adult human. Likewise, when we are born again, we are 100% completely sons of God. Now we too go on a journey of discovery getting to know our Father, getting familiar with His voice, growing up into the stature of the fullness of the measure of Christ. Inevitably when we talk about growing up into Christ, we are going to get to very highly debated areas in church. Usually if something is highly debated, there is something there that the enemy doesn’t want you to know. If you know it, you can walk in it. If you walk in it, you are

stepping on him and advancing the kingdom.

Stop looking at yourself as incomplete, imperfect, and lacking. You don't lack anointing, you don't lack power, you don't lack authority and you don't lack anything else either. You might only lack the confidence, will and determination to walk in what you have. Confidence, will and determination are components of your soul. That part is not redeemed yet. You have to renew those parts to want to walk in it, and to make the choice to walk in fullness. You made the choice to receive the fullness by faith. In the same way, you make a choice to walk in that fullness by faith.

Col 2:6 *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (NKJV)*

How did you receive Christ? You made a choice to believe Him. How do you walk in Him? You have to make a choice to believe Him. As you have received, so walk. In the same way. This will always bring you back to faith and faith alone. To will something is to want to do it. To be determined is to not give up. To be confident and bold is to be sure of yourself and what you know. You need to meditate on who you are in Christ, becoming so rooted and established in His righteousness, that nobody can ever confuse you by saying you are incomplete.

Philem 6 *that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)*

To have effectual faith, is to acknowledge every good thing that is in you in Christ. Find out what those things are in scripture and declare them over yourself as often as you

remember until your mind is renewed to the truth. I have written an example which you can use to start with, but make it your own. Just note that it is not saying these words exactly that carries power. This is not an incantation. Believing the words and getting convinced of the truth is what makes your faith effectual.

I am the righteousness of God in Christ. I am seated in heavenly places at the right hand of God. I am a son of God. I am the head and not the tail. I am above and not below. My God always works everything together for good. He always causes me to triumph. I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. I lack nothing. I have power and authority over every devil. I can heal the sick. I can set the captives free. I can raise the dead. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in me. I am anointed and predestined for the good works God created me to walk in. I can do as occasion demands because God is ALWAYS with me! I am God's ambassador in this earth. As Christ is, so am I in this world!

Old Covenant Mindset #5: With or Without?

We have touched a little on this mindset and it flows out of where we ended with the previous chapter. Walking the faith walk. Doing God's will. There are two mindsets that govern this walk and they will determine how you approach doing the will of God. In the acknowledging declaration of the previous chapter, there might have been 3 declarations you felt uncomfortable with. "I can heal the sick. I can set the captives free. I can raise the dead." You were probably thinking, "I can't do that. Jesus can raise the dead and heal the sick, not me." Though that is completely true, that is a mindset that will stop you from doing any of those three things.

John 15:5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."* (NKJV) This is Jesus talking, and He didn't teach the old mindset, we just read too fast! The old mindset is this: I can't do anything without Christ. That is totally true, but that is not how you should think. If you keep thinking I can't, I can't, I can't, you will never because you will believe you can't. According to your faith be it unto you. Read what this verse says slowly. Without Me, or without Jesus, we can do nothing. What is the opposite of without? With, of course. Now read the following verses.

Matt 28:20 *I am with you always, even to the end of the*

age. (NKJV) **Heb 13:5** For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (NKJV) **1 John 2:27** But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, **you will abide in Him.** (NKJV) Matthew and Hebrews clearly tell us Jesus will never leave us. That means He is always with us. If He is always with you, why would you keep saying "I can't without Him?" 1 John speaks of the anointing and that it abides, which means to live in. The anointing lives in you, which means for the anointing to 'lift' the Holy Spirit would have to separate from you and you would no longer be one spirit with the Lord. The anointing and the Holy Spirit is in essence the same person. You probably haven't thought about the anointing actually being a person, but here it says the anointing teaches us concerning all things and truth. In John 14:26 Jesus says the Holy Spirit will teach us concerning all things and in John 16:13 He says the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth, will guide us into all truth. Now 1 John attributes the same things to the anointing, so the way I see it is, if $A + B = C$, and $A + B = D$, then $C = D$. Basically, if the Holy Spirit teaches, and is true, and the anointing teaches and is true, then the Holy Spirit and the anointing must be the same person. Not a thing, since the Holy Spirit is not a thing but a person in the Trinity. Since we are then never without Him, what

should we be thinking?

Phil 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (NKJV)* Stop thinking “I can’t” and start thinking “I can!” When you think “I can’t without” you are automatically going to look at yourself and your shortcomings and you will recognize lack. ‘Without’ also externalizes God and will make you work for more of whatever you need through prayer and fasting and self righteous nonsense. You will see all the areas where you don’t measure up to Jesus. When you start thinking, “I can because He is with me always”, you will start looking to Jesus and His ability and fullness. Jesus perfectly measures up to Himself. Since you are one spirit with the Lord, and His Spirit measures up perfectly, you also perfectly measure up as the righteousness of God in Him. Jesus is the one working through us. How many demons was Jesus unable to cast out? How many sick were left sick after He touched them? **NONE!** When we lay hands on the sick, we aren’t doing the healing. Our part stops at laying hands in faith if you want, after that, Jesus steps up and does what only He can do through His Spirit. He is made strong in our weakness.

I don’t want to give you a god-complex with all this writing about one spirit with the Lord, exactly like Jesus, same authority and all, I just want to encourage you to the point where you will stop making excuses, start taking responsibility and step out as the sons of God you were created to be. Do not feel condemned about having any of these mindsets. Just

break them and get on with helping others. Sons of God do their Father's will. Sons of God are not cowardly, fearful, timid reactional people; they are bold, strong, courageous proactional people who glorify their Father by doing His will. You are bold, courageous and proactional. You are a revealed son of God.

The devil has lied to you to get you to think otherwise. Thinking old covenant will always make you reactional, meaning you wait for something to happen before you do anything. Don't wait for cancer to hit your home before you learn about divine healing. Go and fight cancer in other people until you overcome, if it ever does hit you then, you won't have a problem overcoming it for yourself. Jesus never told anybody who came to Him, "Sorry, I can't." The only use of the word 'can't' in the kingdom of God is when He says, "I can't see your sin!" Learn how to grow and develop into the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ. Get equipped. Devour the word. Read slowly. Believe what the Word says you can do, and do what the Word says you can do. You are a son of God. I have said it before that the whole creation groans, waiting for the sons of God to be made manifest (Rom 8:19-22). Manifest means to make tangible in the natural that which is in the spiritual. The only way to do that is by faith. Find out what you are and be all that you were created to be. That is what gives God glory, for that is true worship, in spirit and in truth.

Growing up into Christ

Becoming mature in Christ and growing up into the fullness of the stature of the measure of Christ. Where do we start? It looks like such a daunting task. Don't worry; you learn to crawl before you learn to run ultra marathons. Luckily for us, the Holy Spirit is the best coach to help us get from where we are, closer to who we are. When dealing with growing up, you will always hear something about 'milk' and 'meat', and rightly so, since that is what scripture tells us is used in growing us up. Confusion usually sets in with regards to what each represent, and how each is obtained. You will usually hear people say things like, "That was a real meaty preach." I am going to show you that there is no such thing as a 'meaty' sermon. I am even going to show you that only hearing sermons can only grow you to a certain level. Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Tim 3:7 that there are those who are ever learning but who never come to the full knowledge of the truth. Sermons and books and Bible studies will no doubt give you a lot of important knowledge and revelations, but that in itself will only mature you to a certain point, since they are all milk. It is one thing to have knowledge, but it is a whole different thing to know what to do with that knowledge.

1 Cor 3:1-3 *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food;*

for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. (NKJV)

Paul, writing to believers, tells them that they are not spiritual, but carnal, or worldly, and so can't give them solid food, but has to give them more milk. He actually says that he gave them milk before, wants to give them meat, but says they are not able to handle it yet, so he is going to give them more milk. This is in the beginning of his letter to the Corinthians. The Bible translators put chapters and verses into the letter, Paul didn't. He also didn't change his mind half way through writing one letter. He said he was going to give them milk and that is what he did. 9 chapters later he writes about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Now think for a moment, if he just said that they need milk because they are immature, and that he is going to give them milk, the rest of this letter is only that, milk. So even what he wrote about the gifts, is still milk! We think of the gifts as advanced stuff for mature believers, but Paul says, "Here is some milk about the working of the Holy Spirit and His gifts so please drink and grow up." There is nothing wrong with milk, but if you stay on milk, you stay in infancy. Paul compares infancy in Christ to being carnal and worldly, to not being spiritual. So what is milk? Milk is the word. Milk is teaching of the word. Milk is knowledge. This whole book of Corinthians, in fact, the whole Bible, is only milk. There is no meat in the Bible. I know you want to throw my book in the fire again, but please hold on.

1 Peter 2:1-2 *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as*

newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, (NKJV)

Peter also talks about milk here, saying to desire the pure milk of the word. The Greek word for ‘word’ here is *logikos*, which is rooted in another Greek word, *logos*, which we have looked at extensively. *Logikos* means reasoning based on the written word. Peter says the word is pure milk, and we should desire it so that we can grow thereby. Unfortunately, the church hasn’t gotten off the bottle yet. The vast majority is still drinking only milk. When we were young, we drank milk until we reached a certain age. Then we started eating other food to help us grow. We didn’t stop taking in milk, since milk is used to strengthen our skeletons, which gives us form, function and stability. In the same way, we drink milk as infants in Christ, but we grow up and start taking in meat and solid food, but never fully letting go of milk, since the word is our skeleton, our support, and our strength. It is what gives us form and function. But we need to move on to meat. We cannot only always just drink milk. Ask any mother what happens when you give a child too much milk. They vomit it up. Even adults can physically only take in so much milk before they themselves start vomiting.

Heb 5:12 *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. (NKJV)*

The writer of Hebrews also talks about this milk and meat issue. He tells the people he is writing to, that they should have been teachers by now but they are in need of milk again.

He calls the ‘milk’, teaching them about the first principles of the oracles of God. The word ‘oracles’, in the Greek is the word *logion*, which means what God has said. *Logion* is also derived from the root of the word *logos*. So again, we find that the word is milk only. Now some would say that the writer is talking about the first elementary teachings on the word, and that the deeper stuff would be the meat. Let me just remind you that Paul wrote about the gifts and workings of the Spirit in a letter and called that milk.

Heb 5:13 *For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. (NKJV)*

This verse tells us what a person who only takes in milk looks like. He is a babe, one who is unskilled in the word of righteousness. How many want to venture a guess to what the Greek for ‘word’ is in this verse? If you guessed *logos*, you are right! A babe is unskilled in the word. Notice that it doesn’t say a babe doesn’t know the word. This is where reading slower helps. It says babes are unskilled in the word. Unskilled means unable to do, or not able to do well, to be inexperienced or ignorant. Here is the first clue to what meat is so far.

Heb 5:14 *But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (NKJV)*

Obviously we understand so far that milk is for babes and solid food for mature believers and the writer of Hebrews just confirms that again. But he goes further and tells us what a mature believers looks like. They are those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

By reason of use. The key words here, and in the previous verse, are 'unskilled' and 'use'. Both are about doing something. To understand why this is important, we have to go to one of the most famous parables Jesus ever taught. I mentioned this earlier, but let's look at it more closely.

Matt 7:24-27 *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (NKJV)*

If you read slowly you would have noticed that both heard the word, meaning both got milk. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). So in fact you are technically looking at two believers here, not a believer and an unbeliever like we normally think. Both heard and received faith. Remember, any teaching on the word, even this book of mine, is always milk. You cannot be taught meat. So if both heard and got milk, what made one wise and the other foolish? What made one grow and the other one not? Verse 24 and 26 say the wise are those who hear **and do**, and the foolish are those who hear and **don't do**. So the difference is not in hearing, it is in doing. Unskilled, reason of use, exercise, all those words are about doing. In essence, to mature you have

to act on the word. To act on the faith you receive from hearing. You get meat by acting on milk, just like you get *rhema* by acting on *logos*. James tells us faith without action is dead. That means the faith on which you never act, never produces fruit. The word teaches you and grows you in knowledge. You act on it and receive meat which grows you up further into the image of Christ. The word is the will of God, and doing the will of God is the meat. Jesus even taught this to His disciples.

John 4:5-8 *So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. (NKJV)*

Jesus' disciples left to buy food. While they were away, a woman from Samaria came to draw water and Jesus struck up a conversation with her. He tells her about the living water He has to give, and proves it by a display of power by telling her about having had 5 husbands before and even that the man she is with now is not her husband. After some more talking she is convinced that He is the Messiah and runs to tell everyone. Just then the disciples come back with the food they bought.

John 4:25-34 *The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her,*

I that speak unto thee am he. 27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What sleekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? 28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? 30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him. 31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. 32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. 33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? 34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. (KJV)

In verse 31 the disciples want Jesus to eat, but He tells them He has meat that they don't know about. They even ask amongst themselves, "What is He talking about? Why did He send us to buy food for Him if He has food? Who went to McDonalds?" Then in verse 34 He tells them His meat is to **do the will of the Father**. If that was how Jesus got spiritual meat, that is how we are going to get it too. It is also very important to understand that doing something which you think is the will of God, and which in fact turns out not to be His will, will not mature you. Pure milk, or pure truth, gives you pure will to act on.

Living under the law is not God's will for you. If you try to act on a scripture that places you under law, you will not mature into the fullness of the stature of the Christ. Find out God's will, do His will. Since I already spoke about His will in

an earlier chapter, you should know what I am talking about when I say do His will. Reconciliation, set free, save, heal, and deliver. Do unto others as you would have others do to you. I am sure you only like to have good and right done to you, so doing right and good to others is the will of God. There are things that you can do in the natural that are good and right, but to do God's will, to do what He sees as good and right, to heal, to set free, and to save, supersedes the natural and He empowers you by His Spirit to do good and right according to His will. You cannot do the works of God without the power of God, and thankfully we have concluded that we are never without the power of God. Going to church Sunday after Sunday, only ever gives you milk, unless the environment allows you the opportunity to do something, and by doing I don't mean sitting and listening. If your church, for example, teaches on healing, do they just teach you the doctrine, the milk, or do they get you to the point where you are praying for the sick? And I don't mean you stretching out your hand while the pastor prays. I mean you actually doing the ministering. If not, you are not being grown up. You cannot live out your Christian life through your pastor. He is there to equip you, not to be the grown-up for you. Jesus didn't spend years with His disciples before sending them out. They got on the job training, growing and learning by doing. That is what discipleship is. It is like our modern day apprenticeships.

Eph 4:11-13 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till*

we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (NKJV)

Paul clearly teaches that apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are given as gifts to equip believers for the work of ministry. Work means doing. So they should be equipping you to do the work, which is to do the will of the Father, which is to reconcile men to God. They are equipping you to do it yourself. You have been given that ministry. If the fivefold ministry is only feeding you milk, you are not being grown up to maturity. But in their defense, they are only there to teach you, if you don't get up and act on it, it is not their fault. Yes, they can institute greater or lesser environments for you to get involved, but ultimately it comes back to you. What did you do with the milk? Did you act on it, or are you content with somebody else acting on it while you watch. Somebody else acting on milk doesn't provide you with meat. You will only be content until that storm comes. Then comes the fall, and great is that fall.

That doesn't mean you fall and go to hell or that God failed, it means everything you built up doesn't help you because you never acted on it, even if what you built up was pure truth. You might believe in divine healing with all your heart, but you will never see anybody healed if you never act on what you believe. You won't see healing if you don't go out and find sick people and lay hands on them. Find out what the word says, do what it says. The essence of growing up can be summed up in these three words: "Be. Know. Do." Coincidentally, these three words form the basis of the

leadership model of one of the most successful armies in the world. Be all you can be. Know what you need to know. Do what needs to be done.

I want to use a natural example to end off and make this even clearer. Think back to when you first learned to drive a car. For about 16 years before, you have driven in cars, but somebody else always did the driving. In 16 to 18 years of driving with somebody, you never learned how to drive. That's why you need to start ministering yourself. You going along for the ride while your pastor drives, won't grow you up to be able to drive yourself. When you decide to learn to drive, you get given a book with all the information about road safety and how to drive and how your car works. You study that book and learn the milk about driving. Were you able to drive after reading that book? Not by any stretch, right? The moment you got behind the wheel the first time, all that information flew out the window. Somebody had to tell you step by step to push in the brake and clutch, put the car in gear, to slowly release the clutch while stepping on the accelerator slightly. For a brief moment the car started moving forward but then shook horribly, spluttered and died. Once you got over the initial clutch accelerator balance, you were able to drive in a straight line. Braking was the next problem. Every time you tried to slow down, you came to a screeching halt and the car died again. Then came turning, after which actually getting out of the parking lot and onto the road. Finally, you went onto the highway and after gaining lots of confidence, you graduated from mom's car to dad's car.

Do you still nervously think about looking in mirrors,

using indicators, and when to change gears? No, that now happens automatically. But the fact remains that you never learned to drive a car from a book or by just being in a car. You learned by getting behind the wheel. The book was milk, getting behind the wheel and driving turned the milk into meat. You also had to practice before you were confident. That is why Paul said mature believers exercise. They practice over and over until they know exactly what and how to do the will of God. That is a process and that is why it is called growing up into Christ. My point is that you have to exercise the will of God to the point where doing it becomes automatic. If you have to think about doing it, you are not automatic yet.

I sometimes find myself praying for sick people while watching television. An ad will come up with a sick person or about some disease and I almost automatically stretch out my hands and pray. When you stand in front of a sick person, you can't afford to have to think about what to do, you have to know what to do and do it. And that's not difficult at all. Lay hands and expect and believe they will recover. That person is relying on you to be the hem of Jesus' garment. The difference between being taught and being trained is that when a situation arises, people who are taught usually know what to do, but people who are trained will do what needs to be done. Is your church just teaching, or are they actually equipping you to do the work of the ministry? If you desire to do the work of the ministry but you are not being equipped at your local church, just start acting on what the Word says you can do. The Holy Spirit is the one who will guide you into all truth. Once you receive revelation of the truth into which you have

already been led, act on it, live it and become it! In other words, don't just preach healing, be healing. A dying man doesn't need a sermon, he needs a Healer. You are in the world so Christ can be that Healer through you. Go on, stretch out your hand...

An Introduction to Divine Healing

In the next few chapters, I will explain basic principles about divine healing, and also break many traditional beliefs about this vital ministry. This is one area where there exists so much confusion in the church and therefore people have been tossed around so much by every wind of doctrine because they don't know the will of God, the new creation or the New Covenant. Many also don't search the scriptures themselves to see if what they are being fed from the pulpit, is actually truth and gospel.

Heb 10:24 *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. (KJV)*

The writer of Hebrews says we should consider one another and provoke each other unto love and good works. Provoke is a strong word, meaning to make somebody feel angry or indignant. If you got angry about things that I have said, I didn't mean to upset you, but breaking traditions makes us angry because we realize we have been lied to. But there is another angle I want to show you in this verse. Provoke unto love and good works. Get angry and indignant to the point where you love and do good works. That sounds very strange. How does getting angry help in loving others and doing good? It all depends on who your anger is focused on.

Imagine for a moment you have a baby, peacefully sleeping in their cot. Along comes a man and suddenly starts hitting your baby. Because you love your child, it makes you

so angry that you rush to defend them. If that makes you angry to the point of acting on it to stop it, why don't we treat sickness and oppression the same way? Why don't you get angry when you get sick? Why don't you get angry when the devil smacks your family around? "I get very angry when he does that!" you might say. But who do you get angry with? Most people get angry with God. "Why did you let this happen God!? What did I do to deserve this God!?" God is not the one you need to be angry with. Focus your anger on the devil, go over into action and stop him stealing your inheritance.

Acts 10:38 *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. (NKJV)*

Jesus healed all those who were sick. This verse says that they were sick because the devil oppressed them. Jesus was anointed to heal them because God was with Him. Are you anointed and is God with you? YES! Then you too can heal those oppressed by the devil. Notice that it is not God who oppresses with sickness. God doesn't make you sick. God doesn't use sickness to teach you anything either.

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

The anointing, the Holy Spirit, is what God uses to

teach us. If you say sickness is God's way of teaching you, then you are saying the Holy Spirit is a disease and the anointing is a sickness trying to destroy your life. Can you see how stupid that reasoning is? If sickness is from God to make you a better person, why do people go to the doctor to get rid of it? Technically they are then in sin and in rebellion against God who is trying to make them better people. Ridiculous! And if it is 'right' for God to make us sick to teach us things, then why don't you inject your kids with cancer or aids to make them into better persons? Jesus taught in Matthew 12:25 that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. That means that if God is making sick and Jesus is healing, that there is an inter-Trinitarian division and therefore the Kingdom of God would not be able to stand. That would mean God is bi-polar, confused, one day this way one day that way. Scripture clearly teaches He is the same, yesterday, today and forever!

1 John 3:8 *...for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (NKJV)*

Jesus was made manifest to destroy the works of the devil. That was one of His stated purposes in coming to earth like He did. Since Jesus is the express image of God, reflecting perfectly God's nature and character, this verse also tells us God's will regarding sickness, oppression and any other demonic work in your life. Sickness, disease and oppression are the works of the devil which Jesus came to destroy. He defeated the devil as a baby, in the wilderness, at the cross and through the resurrection. Jesus still wants to destroy the works of the devil in your life, and in the lives of those around you.

You have been partnered with Him in the ministry of reconciliation to destroy the works of the devil. Since it is God's will that the devil's works be destroyed, do you need permission to destroy his works? NO! Authority gives us pre-permission, and you have all authority in Christ. Jesus never asked God whether or not He wanted a certain person healed or not. He just did it. He never spoke to God about any person's sickness either.

He spoke directly to the sickness because He knew sickness and disease were demons, perverse beings with personality, intellect and emotions, rebuking and commanding them to depart. Rebuking the devil is not saying to him, "I rebuke you!" To rebuke somebody, you have to tell them what you want them to do. So to rebuke the devil, you have to address him and tell him to leave in the Name of Jesus. Think of him as a stubborn dog who doesn't want to get out of the living room. Talking nicely to it is not going to work. You need to raise your voice and let the dog know you mean business. In the same way, you might need to raise your voice initially to let the devil know you are serious too. Jesus commanded with authority. You have to command with authority too. What is the first thing a dog does when you tell it to go? It wants to check if you are serious so it comes closer to you, crawling low to the ground. Then you tell it the second time and they usually know then that it would be better for them to obey because next comes the rolled up newspaper. The devil also needs to learn that you are serious. In Acts 19:15 a demon spirit spoke to the seven sons of Sceva saying, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" Why did the devil know

Jesus and Paul? Because they consistently dealt with them in the same way. If Jesus healed one day and the next day allowed a sickness to stay, then healed again the next day, the devil would be very confused about Jesus' authority. If you consistently deal with the devil the way the Bible teaches you should, he will also learn who you are and respond accordingly when you rebuke him. That means you need to treat all sickness the same, whether it is a headache or cancer or an ingrown toenail. Rebuke it, declare freedom and don't back down! So am I saying it is always God's will to heal? Yes! Your headache is not less important than somebody else's cancer. You might even think, "Well, I am saved, so I will just suffer now and when I get to heaven it will be dealt with." The Greek root for the word 'heal' is the same Greek word used for 'save'. Scripturally, if it is God's will to save all, it is also God's will to heal all. Heal and save are the same word in the Greek and therefore the same thing in essence. Healing was provided for in the atonement sacrifice, and since the atonement is what reconciles us to God, healing is part of that. If you got saved, you also got healed. There is absolutely no reason for any believer to be sick whatsoever!

Isa 53:4-5 *Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. (NKJV)*

This is the prophesy Isaiah made concerning the atonement Jesus would come to make. He has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows. Griefs and sorrows in the Hebrew language translate into sickness, disease, pain, and affliction. By His stripes we are healed. Healing was provided for at the whipping post, technically before Jesus even went to the cross, and 2000 years before you even got sick once.

Matt 8:16-17 *When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses." (NKJV)*

This shows the fulfillment of that prophesy by Jesus. He took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses. This was still before the cross. Look at the change after the cross. Remember "It is Finished"?

1 Peter 2:24 *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. (NKJV)*

By whose stripes you **were** healed. 'Are healed' in Isaiah changed to 'were healed' after the cross. Healing is a done deal. God did everything to provide for your healing. He doesn't have to be convinced or manipulated to release healing for anybody. He already released healing for all sickness and disease. All we need to do to have our healing manifest is to have faith that we are healed. All we need to minister healing to others is also to have faith.

Acts 3:6-9 *Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of*

Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them — walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. (NKJV)

Peter and John healed the lame man at the Gate Beautiful. He asked for money but instead they healed him. Nowhere do they ask him what sin he is in, whether he has unforgiveness in his heart, or whether he even wants to be healed. They also didn't talk to God about it first, they just did what was right. And they did it by commanding the man to do the opposite of that which he couldn't do. All the people saw the man walking and praising God. But then the people started asking questions.

Acts 3:12 *So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (NKJV)*

The people marveled at Peter and John, thinking they had their own power or godliness to perform miracles. But look at Peter's response to what healed the man.

Acts 3:16 *"And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." (NKJV)*

The Name of Jesus and faith in the Name of Jesus made

the man well. What saved you? Faith in Jesus, right? What heals you? Faith in Jesus. You believed on Jesus and were saved, so believe on Him and be healed. Fasting and praying and good works never earn healing. Faith alone brings into manifestation the realities of the spiritual word. Only believe. Nobody can earn healing through works. Why would you want to if it has already been earned on your behalf? Everything that needed to be done was done perfectly by Jesus, so you have to just believe it, enter into His rest, and be healed. Rest means to stop working. Stop trying to work for your healing, just believe and receive. This is the will of God, that you be in health, that you be whole in every part of you. Spirit, soul and body. My prayer is that even as you are reading these words about God's will that your healing be made manifest! Go on declare it now:

"I WAS HEALED BY THE STRIPES OF JESUS AND I AM FREE! ALL INFIRMITIES AND SICKNESS LEAVE MY BODY NOW IN JESUS' NAME!"

Just to recap,

1. It is always God's will to heal every kind of sickness and disease just as much as it is His will to save a person from hell.
2. God NEVER uses sickness to teach us or make us better persons. (I am not saying you can't learn from it, but don't say it is God's way of teaching)
3. The devil is behind all sickness and disease since destruction of the body falls under the category of sin and death, all of which are his works according to John 10:10.
4. You cannot earn healing. Not through fasting, praying, or good

works. Jesus earned it already on your behalf. Just believe it!

5. Healing was provided in the atonement further proving it is God's will to heal just as much as to save. Since it is in the atonement, we have a right to be healed. Healing is not our privilege, it is our right. Jesus didn't suffer and die for you to have the privilege of maybe being healed. He died so you could be well!

Divine Healing: Two Ways to Get Healed

There is actually only one way to receive anything from God, and that is by faith, but there are two ways of having that faith. The one way is to have it yourself. This is the best way to receive from God. If you can't, or struggle to have faith for yourself, then the second way is to go to somebody who can have faith for you.

Faith For Yourself

This is the best faith to have by far. It is much better to be able to receive healing and stay healed through your own faith than to have to keep running to another person to believe for you. A good example of this is the lady who had the issue of blood.

Luke 8:43-44 *Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. (NKJV)*

In Luke's account, and he was a doctor, he tells that the woman had been suffering for 12 years. She had spent her livelihood, all her income, on doctors' bills, but they could not help her in any way. How many people do you know of that go to doctors and spend thousands and thousands and get little or no help? She came behind Jesus and touched His garment and got instantly healed. This was a healing miracle. Look at Mark's account of the same event.

Mark 5:25-29 *Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. 28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." 29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. (NKJV)*

He also tells us the woman spent all her money on doctors. He actually goes as far as to say she suffered under them, and actually grew worse due to their treatment. This makes me think about medicine and all its negative side effects. Verse 27 shows this lady had her own faith. In Matthew's version, he explains it better by saying "She decided in herself, 'If I only may touch His clothes.'" This lady decided in herself how she was going to be healed. She heard about Jesus, and realized that he could and wanted to heal her. She decided in herself, or believed, or had faith that her healing will happen if she can touch His clothes. That is what she believed, that is what she acted on, and that is what happened. According to your faith be it unto you. Had she just decided in herself that God could heal her without her having to touch His clothes, it would have happened that way. Note that nobody prayed for her. Nobody laid hands on her. Nobody even knew she was there. Not even Jesus. The next verse shows that very clearly.

Luke 8:45-48 *And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said,*

"Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" 46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." (NKJV)

Jesus asked who touched Him. He didn't know who it was. This breaks so many wrong teachings on healing. One of which is God's timing for your healing. God always wants to heal you now. There is no purpose in you being sick for one second longer. Jesus didn't even know who got healed. The power of God is that mechanical, or predictable. He just realized power had left Him, and had to inquire as to who drew it out. The woman had her own faith. She drew life out of Jesus by her faith. Not everyone in the Bible who Jesus healed had faith for themselves. Jesus actually had to have faith for most of the sick people He came across. That is the second way to have faith.

Faith For Others

When you are unable to have faith for yourself, you can go to a person who you know is able to have faith for you. Most of the sick people in the Gospel stories came to Jesus and asked Him to heal them. Many churches teach that the sick person has to have their own faith in order to be healed. This is one tradition the church has perpetuated for very long. They

usually use it when they fail to see somebody healed, to put the blame for lack of power back on the sick person. If people had to have their own faith for healing, then Jesus was by far the luckiest preacher to ever walk the earth. There was the time He preached to 5000, only counting men. If you count women and children, you could easily number that crowd around 20 000 as I've mentioned before.

Matt 14:13-14 *When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. (NKJV)*

He must have been very lucky to preach to a crowd of almost 20 000 born-again, Spirit-filled, grace-established, word of faith people, all of who had no generational curses, no doubt, no sin and whose time it was to be healed that day. If you think about it, not even one person in the Gospels can fit that description. All those people were unsaved, living under law, didn't have faith, were idol worshippers, legalistic, formalistic, ritualistic, sinful people and Jesus still got them all healed. You never hear Jesus tell somebody, "Sorry, you don't have enough faith, go sit under some more teaching and come back when you get faith." If we can't have faith for other people, what is the use of any ministry? What is the use of intercessory prayer? If we can't have faith for others, how do we pray for a person in a coma, or a blind deaf mute, or a dead person to be raised? How do we pray for babies or young children if you have to rely on their faith? We get people

healed on our faith, not theirs.

If a person comes to us for prayer and doesn't get healed, it is because we didn't have faith. It is a sad fact, but it is true. Romans 14:32 teaches us that anything not done in faith is sin. So if the argument is true I *can't* have faith for somebody when I pray, won't I be sinning since I am not doing it in faith? That just doesn't make sense. But don't get hung up on failures either, if you fail, admit you made a mistake, get into the word and get rid of your doubt. Then go back to that person until you see them healed. Never leave a person hanging. Jesus even prayed for a blind man more than once. You might need to pray 10 times before you see the breakthrough, but most Christians give up after the first time it doesn't happen and say, "It must not be God's will." If it is not God's will to heal you, then He lied when He said by the stripes of Jesus you were healed. If it isn't His will to heal you, Jesus suffered for nothing.

Luke 17:5-6 *And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. 6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. (KJV)*

Read Jesus' words carefully. The apostles asked Him to increase their faith. Do you see Him lining them up like in an altar call and praying for them to impart faith to them? No, He says, "**If you had faith** as a grain of mustard seed..." We all know about the mustard seed faith. The smallest measure is enough to accomplish the greatest feats. The modern backwards church turned that around to make us believe the

most faith is needed for the smallest miracle. If the least faith is always enough, how can we tell somebody they didn't have enough faith? The smallest amount would see them healed. It's because we read too fast. Read it again, but this time only read the first 4 words: "If you had faith..."

Jesus basically told them that it is not about how much faith you have, but whether or not you have **ANY**. If you **HAD** faith. If somebody doesn't get healed, it is not God's fault. It's a lack of faith on our part. Who had faith for Lazarus to be raised from the dead? Dead people can't have faith. Jesus had it for him. Who had faith for the Roman Centurion's servant? The Centurion came to Jesus and asked Him to heal his servant. There is no mention of the servant's faith. Jesus said the healing is based on the soldier's faith for the servant. Another interesting case is the demon possessed boy and the disciples' failure to get him delivered. The disciples were having great results in healing and in deliverance because just a few chapters back they came back rejoicing that demons were subject to them in Jesus' Name. When Jesus gave them power and authority in Luke 9:1, He actually gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure any manner of disease. But now, faced with the demons in the boy, demons over which they had authority, they could not cast them out.

Mark 9:14-25 *And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. 15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. 16 And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" 17 Then one of*

the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." 19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" (NKJV)

Many teach that because the disciples couldn't do it, it shows that it wasn't God's will to heal the boy then. If that was true, Jesus shouldn't have been able to get the boy free either, but Jesus did get the boy healed, proving it was God's will to heal him then. Also, there is no mention of the boy's faith. It does talk about the father's faith. He said unto Jesus, "Lord, I

believe, help my unbelief!” The father of the child openly admitted to having doubt. Do you see Jesus saying, “Oops, sorry, you just voided your faith, God can’t help you now.”? No. Jesus still healed the boy. He healed the boy based on His own faith, not on the father’s. If He had to base it on the father’s faith, the boy should have been at best healed 50% only, since the father believed and doubted. According to your faith be it unto you. You never see anybody who Jesus ministered to only half healed. They were all totally healed. This story actually shows that not even doubt stopped the power of God to deliver the boy from his demons. So much for an atmosphere of faith! Now I know what you’re thinking, “What about where Jesus couldn’t do any mighty works? Wasn’t that because of doubt?” Let’s look at that quickly.

Mark 6:5-6 *Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. (NKJV)*

Jesus couldn’t do mighty works because of their unbelief or doubt. Just to get a few things straight, let’s back up a little and read the previous few verses. The people who quote this never start at verse 1. If they did they might actually notice something interesting.

Mark 6:1-2 *Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him,*

that such mighty works are performed by His hands!"
(NKJV)

“And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands?” How does this fit in to he could there do no mighty works? Here the people are astonished at His teachings and marvel at the mighty works He did. What mighty works wasn't he able to do if the people marveled at Him doing mighty works? It also says He healed a few sick. I bet you he healed 100% of the sick that came to Him, **so he still healed ALL who came to Him.** If I go into a city with a thousand people and only 10 come to me for prayer, I would also say that not many mighty works were done. When they came to Him, He had faith for them. When He taught them, He was trying to get them to have their own faith, to believe on Him, and act on it. Some didn't want to believe Him and they took offense at Him. Their offense made them not go to Jesus for their healing. Your unbelief will stop you from going to Jesus for your healing, too.

As I have mentioned, it is always better to be able to have faith for yourself. Jesus knew that and He tried to get people to that point. When you get to the point of being able to have faith for yourself, you will find it even easier to have faith for others. Jesus wanted to get people to the point where they have their own faith. That is the 'mighty works' that weren't done in my opinion. You can have faith for yourself to be healed. When you minister healing or deliverance to somebody, you are to have the faith for the person you are ministering to. If it is their faith, why do they need you to pray for them? If it is their faith, why do you take to glory when they

get healed? Since it is your faith, you need to make sure what you believe. When I learned this and started believing this, I saw an immediate increase in my success rate when ministering to people. Over the first few months, some very notable healings and miracles included a 3 hour old new born baby who was in ICU on a heart lung machine. She was stuck in the birthing channel for over 2 hours and had to be resuscitated by the doctors. She was taken off the respiratory aids within 24 hours of me ministering to her. Within 72 hours she left the hospital with no problems or side effects whatsoever. The doctors said she would have heart and breathing problems for the rest of her life. Whose report shall you believe? There is no way to get a 3 hour old baby to have faith. I had to have faith for her.

Another time was when God healed a Muslim woman and her unborn baby, 12 000km away in Africa. They were both healed of being HIV positive. Her sister came to me and actually asked me to only pray and ask God to not let the HIV transfer to the baby. I prayed, without consent of the person I was ministering to, without her even knowing I was praying, and she still got healed. And she is a Muslim too! How many traditions does that break! The Muslim lady phoned her sister the next day with the wonderful news, without her sister even having to ask her how she is doing. She went to two doctors who both tested her and the baby HIV negative. My own sister, who for years has had stomach problems, was set free from that. She was in London, almost another 12 000km away and I ministered to her through Skype. I only spoke to her again after some time, and when I asked her how her stomach

was doing, she actually had to think about it, because she didn't even realize she got healed and had been pain free ever since I prayed for her.

Other healings included back pain, neck pain, headaches, short legs growing, hip and joint pains disappearing, various deliverances from depression, anxiety, fear and worry, nausea, dizziness, colds, flu, diarrhea, a broken leg, cancer, laryngitis, migraines and a lady who has lived with constant pain for 12 years was instantly set free. I am not ashamed to admit I am not yet at the point of seeing all healed, but I am getting closer and closer the more I exercise and mature in this area. If you stopped praying for sick people because they didn't get healed, would you see any more healed? Believe God. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you!

I know most of you at this point want to know what to pray, how to minister or something to that effect. Firstly, there are no methods in the kingdom. There are principles, but no methods. Don't rely on methods. I will give you some principles that you can apply, but the only thing that works is faith. Nothing else. When a sick person comes to you, or when you go to them, you are not there to speak to God. You are there to minister healing. Ask them what the sickness' name is, or if there is no name, what symptoms they have. DON'T let them give you their whole medical history sob-story. They will talk you out of faith! Ask them what they can't do. If they for example can't lift their arm above shoulder level,

you can use that to test whether healing occurred. Get them to lift and see how far they get. Then minister, then check

again. Once you have a name or symptom, tell that sickness to leave. Attack it aggressively in Jesus Name. If there are many problems or symptoms, you can go after each one, or just attack the spirit of infirmity in general. Do that by declaring the sickness has no right. Declare and pronounce the person free. At some point, lay your hands on them too. DON'T push people over! Tell the problem or sickness what you want it to do (leave, come out, go out etc.). Next, tell the body of the person what it should do, (liver be healed, function properly, realign, etc.). Then, if possible, get the person to do what they couldn't do again. If they can now lift their arm higher, there is healing taking place. Continue ministering the same way until all symptoms leave and then give the person time to testify of the healing.

Example prayer: (Please don't use this prayer as a method, rather get accustomed to the principles and speak from your heart, rather than from a page.)

Sickness/symptom/spirit of _____, you have no right to be in (person's name). He/she is free and has been healed by the stripes of Jesus. Your power is broken, your work is destroyed and I command you to leave NOW (lay hands here, and let go after a second or so) in Jesus' Name. (Body/organ/system), be healed now and function properly as God intended.

Conclusion

After saying and writing all that I wanted to say, it is my hope that you don't think as many old covenant thoughts as you used to, and that you have lot less traditions nullifying God's word in your life. If you have ever had the slightest thought or unction to want to do something great for God, my advice to you is to just do it. Go out and be what you were created to be. Throughout this book I urged you to only believe. I hold by that. Without faith it is impossible to please God. When you believed in Jesus, God was pleased and He hasn't become displeased since. Grace is, was and always will be the way God relates to you. Read the Word to discover all you can about this wonderful grace covenant. Speak to people who know about it, find out as much as you can, learn all there is. Spend as much time as you can in the presence of God. Sense His constant, never fading, ever increasing glory presence in everything you do. God has more faith in you that you will conform to the image and likeness of Christ than you do!

Mark 16:15-18 *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 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."
(NKJV)

These verses got me started on the most wonderful journey of my life. Actually, they got me started on my life. A life in which I have seen God do amazing miracles. A life that has seen the devil crushed countless times. A life filled with peace, joy and hope because of knowing the one true living God. You can have the same things in your life. You can live a life overflowing with the life of God, His love and power flowing in you, but more importantly, through you. If you are saved, you are ok. There are multitudes of people who are not yet saved. Your life can rewrite history for them. Your life can make a difference. Your life can mean something when you live for God. You will never look at your hands the same way, when you realize those who you touch will live, and those who you don't touch, might die. Jesus is in you waiting for you to touch somebody so He can touch them with His life. Only Believe! I am going to end off with Mark 16 again, but I have changed some of the words to make it more personal when you read it. To make you realize that He said it to you too. The more you think like this, the more you will believe it! The more you believe, the further away impossibilities will flee from you. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you! Only Believe!

And He said to me, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. I believe, I am baptized and I am saved; there is now no condemnation. And these signs will follow me because I believe: In His Name I cast out demons; I speak with new tongues; I will take up serpents; and if I drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt me; I lay my hands on the sick, and they recover."

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

Jesus – Mark 9:23

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