

# **Jesus Beyond Religion**

**Understanding Christ's  
True Mission  
And Commission**

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## Preface

A young man once told me, "I can't buy into Christianity because I've seen how Christians live. They look perfect on Sunday, but by Monday, they're no different from anyone else."

He was right to be skeptical, but he was aiming his frustration at the wrong target. What he—and perhaps you—have encountered isn't authentic Christianity. It is "**Churchianity**": a hollow adherence to religious routines that lacks the transformative power of Christ's actual message.

Think of how words evolve until they lose their original meaning. A "mouse" was once only a rodent; now it's a computer tool. "Windows" are no longer just glass panes; they are operating systems. In the same way, the word "Christian" has been hijacked.

It's like the difference between French spoken in Paris and the dialect spoken in Quebec. They use the same alphabet and read the same books, but the "spoken reality" is so different they often can't understand one another. Today, the "Churchianity" practiced in many pews is a dialect Christ himself might not recognize.

This book is written for two specific groups of people who are tired of the status quo:

1. **The Skeptical Un-initiated:** You've stayed away because you see the hypocrisy. You deserve to know that the "junk food" version of religion you've rejected isn't the real feast.
2. **The Dissatisfied Church-goer:** You show up, you do the rituals, but you find no substance. You feel the "alarming deception" mentioned in James 1:22—being a "hearer" of the word but not a "doer." You are hungry for a faith that actually changes your life.

Jesus didn't come to build a religious institution or a social club. He came to spark a revolution of human consciousness. True Christianity isn't about following rigid denominational guidelines; it is a profound, cosmic realignment of how we treat one another and how we inhabit the world.

My goal is to strip away the pollution and "religious additives" that have contaminated the message. We are going to move past the superficial and rediscover a faith defined by radical love, genuine integrity, and a life-altering relationship with the Divine.

Prepare to have your understanding reconstructed. We are about to unveil a message so pure and so revolutionary that it doesn't just change your Sunday—it gives rebirth to your entire world

## Introduction

We've all been asked, "What church do you go to?" or "what denomination are you with?" as if our entire spiritual journey could be neatly categorized and filed into a neat little theological folder. But what if - and hear me out on this - what if the ultimate model for our faith isn't found in a church system, a denomination, or a set of rigid rules? What if it's simply Jesus Himself?

Maybe you've found yourself going through the motions, attending services, checking off religious boxes, but feeling a deep, unexplained emptiness inside. You're not alone. In fact, you're in good company with countless others who've discovered that faith isn't about perfecting a performance, but about cultivating a genuine, transformative relationship with Jesus.

Let me introduce you to a concept I've been wrestling with and exploring: the difference between Christianity and what I call "churchianity". It's a subtle but profound distinction that can revolutionize how we understand and live out our faith.

There's a vast spectrum of practices today in what we call Christianity; between those who have a clear understanding and revelation about what the gospel truly represents, those whose faith is a deeply intimate, transformative experience, and those others whose faith is reduced to a quick nighttime prayer or passive participation in church activities. This wide diversity makes Christianity very challenging to *define*. Too often, people become more committed to their denominational identity - whether Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Lutheran - than to the core message and lifestyle Jesus actually championed.

Let's dive deeper into this concept of religiosity versus authentic faith.

Religiosity is like a beautiful façade with nothing substantial behind it. It's about external appearances, meticulous rule-following, and performing the right rituals. You can be doing all the "right" things and still feel completely disconnected and spiritually empty.

Jesus himself was brutally honest about this phenomenon. He frequently challenged the religious leaders of his time - the Pharisees - who were masters of religious performance. They fasted regularly, prayed publicly, and followed religious laws to the letter. But Jesus saw right through their external righteousness.

In one of the most powerful critiques recorded in Matthew 23, Jesus uses a striking metaphor. He compares these religious leaders to "whitewashed tombs" - beautiful on the outside, but internally filled with decay and death. Imagine that visual! Pristine, polished exteriors concealing inner corruption. His words were sharp: "You appear righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." Ouch.

The legendary Billy Graham once shared a similar perspective, saying something profound: "Church membership, leadership positions, or religious activities mean nothing without a genuine, personal encounter with Jesus. We can have abundant religiosity without true spiritual transformation". He emphasized that true discipleship isn't about external routines but about internal love and genuine heart transformation. "If your life is not transformed by the power of love," he said, "don't claim to be a Christian - you're just religious."

The Greek word Jesus used for "hypocrite" is fascinating - it literally translates to "stage actor" or "pretender". He was calling out those who performed righteousness like actors on a stage, seeking human praise instead of authentic devotion to God.

Jesus didn't come to add more complicated religious laws. He came to fulfill the old system and replace it with a radical, simplified command: Love God completely, and love your neighbors as yourself. Everything else, he suggested, flows from these two fundamental principles.

This book isn't about creating another critique of organized religion. There are plenty of YouTube channels and books dedicated to church system exposés. Instead, this is an invitation - a heartfelt call to rediscover the liberating, transformative power of the gospel.

My goal isn't to bash churches or expose individual leaders. However I don't intend to be shy or timid about exposing the works of the devil in the way he has infiltrated the organized church system. My goal is to shine a light on Christ's true mission and help believers understand their incredible inheritance in Him. I want to sound an alarm, wake people from religious slumber, and reignite a passionate, dynamic faith. I want us to see Jesus beyond the religious system. Think of it like spiritual gardening. Just as a dedicated gardener must remove weeds to help flowers thrive, we must carefully examine and trim away religious practices that choke genuine spiritual growth.

This is an invitation to discipleship in its purest form. An invitation to move beyond religious checklists and social clubs. An invitation to a life of radical love, genuine service, and authentic relationship with Jesus.

Are you ready to trade your religious routine for a compelling, transformative faith journey?

Let's walk this path together.

## What if it's true?

Granted, we've got every reason to be skeptical about organized religion. Maybe you've spent your entire life struggling to believe in God, or perhaps you walked away the moment you saw the hypocrisy and failure of religiosity. —But what if? --Just what if... Jesus was for real, and we're missing something of primordial value?

Here is the million-dollar question we're all too chicken to ask: What if we're so focused on the flaws of the followers that we're missing the profound truth of the founder?

Let's face it, everyone is trying to navigate a life that often feels pointless, without a clear direction or destiny. But what if there's a compass—engineered specifically for our life—that we are willfully ignoring?

What if indeed, there is more to this life than we can perceive in our simple understanding. We're talking about something BIG here; we're talking about a reality where deliverance from demonic oppression is actually possible, where instant healing is a tangible power, and where absolute truth exists outside of the latest lecture hall or trending TikTok debate. We're talking about a life where:

- \* There is strength in meekness.
- \* There is power in surrender.
- \* True love is a force, not just a feeling.

So, if even a fraction of those outrageous claims about Jesus are real, then by refusing to research, we are quite literally shooting ourselves in the foot by missing out on the most powerful, life-altering truth ever offered to humanity.

To ignore it all, would be like hearing an emergency broadcast about an approaching tsunami, and shrugging it off with, "Eh, I don't feel like being bothered." Wouldn't you look at that person and think, "Buddy, there's something seriously wrong with your priorities." Yet, so many people treat the very purpose for their life and their eternal destiny with that exact same level of careless apathy. The Bible calls it the stupidity of missing out! Proverbs 12:15 says that "a fool's way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise".

Our intellectual prowess may look impressive in arguing our wobbly perspective, but flexing it against the Bible over "petty arguments" may very well be an enormous waste of time and a profoundly erroneous and wasteful pursuit. To dismiss the entire Jesus phenomenon by simply nitpicking over a translation nuance, or a minor historical detail, or the fact that a bunch of ancient scribes weren't perfect copy editors, is breathtakingly arrogant. It's the ultimate pride trip: assuming you are right, and consequently, billions of seekers across 2,000 years are wrong. It's like a farmer arguing, "There ain't no such thing as a giraffe!" simply because he's never seen one in that backyard that he has never come out of. That tight-minded, boxed-up approach is not intellectual honesty; it's just plain fear of being wrong.

Would you not give yourself the opportunity of a genuine search? Would you rather go by your friends' opinions or what you have been taught to reject; or stand alone and take on the Bible as a real challenge to find out what the hype is all about? It's only one book, why should it defeat you? And, if after reading it, nothing has changed or you have not come out transformed, you can at least argue intelligently, or simply go on your merry way.

Imagine you found a single book that contained:

- \* All the secrets of harmonious living.
- \* The wisdom to raise a beautiful, resilient family
- \* The keys to being an outstanding community leader
- \* The blueprint for handling finances and making them grow
- \* The startling power of unselfish love and forgiveness
- \* The recipe for joy, peace, faith, and hope.
- \* A book that reveals the inner workings of the human nature; and how to control your emotions, and how to use your willpower effectively rather than selfishly; and how to use your mind to discipline your life into a well-defined, tailor-made future according to the inherent gifts and talents that were given to you at birth.

Would you really be so nonchalant as to miss all of that just to win a smug, prideful argument? To do so would expose an immature approach to truth—and the Bible itself calls it out in Proverbs 1:7 ("fools despise wisdom"), 18:2 ("A fool takes no pleasure in understanding"), and 29:11 ("A fool gives full vent to his own spirit"). Bro, take heed!

To argue against the Bible without having read it is as futile as the toddler saying that he hates vegetables because he's never had any. I'm not asking you to inspect the mechanics of religion, but to thoroughly investigate the

Jesus phenomenon. This is your challenge: Go to the source. Take on the Bible not as a dusty relic, but as a genuine, high-stakes investigation. Read it with the attitude: "This book is a too-glaring phenomenon for me to ignore. I will read every page to either prove it utterly wrong, or to fully embrace it."

I'm not asking you to try out religion; but seek truth, seek true love, seek Jesus! -- none of these could hurt you. If all of these claims that appear so outrageous about Jesus are real, wouldn't you want to be informed of it?

I'll agree that it is deplorable that the churches at large offer so few good examples of obedience to Chris's life and discipline, but for people to just argue Jesus on the strength of religion is a little bit like disliking a tree because you don't like the cheap wooden chair you're sitting on. The fault isn't in the resource; it's in the poor execution.

Be real, be honest, and don't be a chicken. If you're really that proud, then prove it. Spend the necessary time to read the whole thing. Then, and only then, will you have the substance to either argue intelligently... or to stand transformed. The ball is in your court.

## “Why Jesus?”

The entirety of the Bible reveals not only God's plan for humanity, but the reasons behind His actions. The perfect relationship established at Creation was immediately shattered by the disobedience of Adam and Eve, when they disobeyed God and ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge. As a result, corruption spread across the earth, humanity became increasingly defiant and evil.

To prevent complete moral collapse and preserve a special relationship, God made a covenant with a man named Abraham, promising that a chosen people—a nation set apart—would descend from him. However, through time and trial, these descendants found themselves enslaved in Egypt. God chose Moses to miraculously deliver them from bondage, however after centuries in Egypt, surrounded by wickedness, this newly freed nation was morally adrift. Therefore, while in the wilderness, God gave Moses the Law—a comprehensive code of conduct necessary to govern His people, keep them separate from the surrounding evil, and teach them how to walk in holiness.

The main reason why God gave the law to Moses was because the world was becoming so evil that man was about to destroy all of humanity. Ecclesiastes 8:11 says, *“Therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil”*. The whole world had one thing in mind... evil! Genesis 6:5 tells us that *“every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”* Not altogether too far-fetched, when we look at the state of the world today. So God had to preserve at least one nation if He was ever going to have His son born of a virgin. So, He gave His law of conduct to Moses to preserve mankind.

The Bible says that the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Notice the clear distinction. Israel had the law of Moses for 14 centuries, but when Jesus came, He did not come to bring in another legal system. He came to bring something totally different, which the Bible calls “grace”. The law was enforced through obedience, but grace cannot be enforced because it is a gift; it cannot be earned.

That's why, trying to abide by, or mixing the old law given in the old testament, with grace which came through Jesus, does not work and cannot work. The old testament is filled with the “symbols and foreshadows” pointing to Jesus and to His ultimate sacrifice of redemption. There is a specific significance in

those many illustrations, traditions, rituals and laws found in the old testament, but they do not contribute to the salvation of man. Galatians 3:11 says,

*“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith”.*

Since Jesus came, salvation is by grace through faith, only! Paul explained, *“you, who are trying to be justified by the law, have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”*

Before I go any further, I want to explain something about sin. Sin is probably the one main issue why people choke on everything related to religious faith. Most people's interpretation of sin is nothing but religious condemnation. However, most everywhere in the Bible where sin is mentioned, it refers to the sin-nature of man; that inherent nature in everyone that makes him/her a cheater, a robber, or a liar, disrespectful and disobedient. In case you don't feel like a sinner, Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, goes as far as saying that anger and insults are sins of the heart as serious as *murder* and that looking at someone lustfully is committing *adultery* in the heart. It's that sin-nature which we all inherited from Adam and Eve's disobedience, that makes it so that you don't have to teach a child to be naughty or disobedient; unfortunately, it comes naturally.

To get away from that condemnatory connotation of sin, think of it like a virus, or junk-code that corrupted the operating system of mankind after the rebellion of Adam. The cause of it was disobedience; and everyone can relate to disobedience, because we've all been guilty of it, and we all know that it comes with consequences. So if you want to put it this way, disobedience has made us all sin-full. Yes, full of sin; and we're all in need of eliminating that virus in our operating system in order to have an intimate relationship with a Holy God. And that's why God had a solution in mind: grace!

God had mercy on humanity and offered grace. The definition of mercy is: you don't get what you really deserve. But the definition of grace is: you get what you really *don't* deserve. None of us deserved grace. Grace is a gift from God. God gave His son to pay the full price for the sinful nature of man. And that's why grace operates only through faith. There is no other way to receive grace but through receiving it as a gift through faith in what Christ did to redeem us all. Ephesians 2:8, 9 says: *“for by grace are you saved through faith. And none of yourself, less any man should boast”.* God offered salvation to all men through grace because He knew that the law couldn't save anybody. For one, no one could keep the whole law.

I once heard the story of one man who used to spend much of his time telling people about Jesus on the streets of Los Angeles and he told of having this question posed to him, time and again: “How can you say that YOU have ‘the

Truth'? There are hundreds of religions in the world, and all of them think that theirs is the only right one. How can I possibly know which of them is the right one?" The man would answer: "Hundreds of religions, you say? Why, that's strange! I talk to so many different people every day, from different parts of the world, and I've heard of only TWO!" His listeners would retort, "Oh, but you MUST know that there are MANY more than that!" To which he would reply, "Not at all. I will admit that within these two different religions, there are many different sects, different beliefs and differences of opinion. But there are, after all, only TWO. The one religion consists of all those different faiths that believe that they can EARN their own righteousness by doing good deeds, by being "good enough" and by keeping different kinds of religious laws and commandments. Some try to meditate their way to goodness, others try to achieve holiness through religious devotion, yet others try to abide by a set of strict guidelines and self-improvement disciplines to obtain sanctity, and yet others pray to many deities so as to *appease* them and be in good favor with them all. This, as you must realise, comprises most of the faiths of the World. But the ONE other consists of those who know that they are INCAPABLE of obtaining righteousness on their own, and look to Jesus alone to save them."

So you see, the whole question is really very simple! Do you think you can save yourself through good deeds and self-effort and somehow earn your salvation by being 'good'?—Or do you realise that you need a saviour to rescue you from your sin-nature and mistakes?" Religions are man's search for God. The gospel is God's search for man. So if you insist on the fact that there are many religions in the world, so be it; but only one gospel, and it's not a religion. It's a kingdom; God's kingdom! In many places throughout the Gospels, Jesus told people to repent for the kingdom of God is at hand -- meaning that it is now being reinstated. And it is done through the rebirth of all those who believe in the sacrifice of Christ and accept it in ransom for their guilt and consequent judgment.

*"For by GRACE are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the GIFT of GOD. NOT of [good] WORKS, lest any man should boast."*  
 (Ephesians 2:8,9). *"not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His MERCY He saved us."* (Titus 3:5).

The law had its place in the Old Testament for a specific purpose. God used the law as a diagnostic scanner to show man his own sin-nature and to bring him to the realization that he needed mercy and a savior. Paul explained this clearly saying that *"through the law comes the knowledge of sin"* and that it was given *"because of transgressions"* (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:19).

Check out what Paul said, in Romans 5:20- 21, *"Moreover the law entered that the offense might ABOUND. But where sin abounded, grace abounded*

*much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*". The plan was, from the start, for Jesus to redeem mankind from its sin-nature and evil heart. And the law was a stopgap solution to keep man in line, somewhat.

But only God could offer salvation through Jesus; no man could comply with all that the law demanded. And this is why God's plan from the beginning was to send His Son to fulfill the demands of the law and to redeem and save mankind. "Salvation" is a total, all-embracing word. It doesn't cover only the redemption of man's sin-nature, but it also includes healing, deliverance, sonship, authority and the full inheritance that God has prepared for those who accept the sacrifice that Jesus paid to bring man back to a relationship with his Creator.

## The True Gospel: The Great Exchange!

The teaching of the “being born-again”, (meaning that we become a new creation once we put our faith in the finished work of Jesus), is the *legal* foundation of salvation and redemption. It reveals to us what God accomplished for us in Christ, beginning from His journey to the cross and culminating in His exaltation at the right hand of the Father. Once you understand how Christ has fully purchased your redemption and thereby supplies your new creation and your new identity, you can acknowledge what has been credited to your account in the realm of divine justice. And this is huge.

2 Corinthians 5:17 describes this radical transformation that occurs when a person is "in Christ,". It says ,

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, the new has come into being”.*

It results in a completely new spiritual identity where the “old man” is dead along with its sin-nature. And a fundamental change happens in a person's spiritual nature. It's not just a superficial change, nor mental adherence to a churchy theology, but a complete spiritual *rebirth*, creating a new person in every sense. Your spirit was dead and separated from God, and now your spirit is born and you are in full communion with God. In essence, this verse in Corinthians is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, illustrating that salvation through Christ brings a profound metamorphosis, enabling believers to live a new life free from the contamination of the sin-nature and of the “old man”.

Anyone who sees Jesus as yet another religious figure brings Him down to the level of Buddha, Muhammad, Krishna and all of these others “wanna-be’s”, prophets and so-called “wisemen”. But the scriptures tell us that Jesus was not only God and man, but His coming brought about the greatest cosmic change in all of man's history. He didn't bring an ideology or a philosophy, but He brought about a total transformation called *rebirth*, whereby anyone could pass from the limitations and frustrations offered by both the religious and the world's systems, to total freedom from the very sin-nature inherent to all mankind. He essentially rebooted the operating system of mankind to get rid of the virus, initiated by the biggest scammer ever, Satan, who caused the fall of Adam.

A little history here... Shortly after creation, God outlined a law whereby disobedience would result in fatal consequences. In other words, because sin is disobedience and disobedience is rebellion, it had to have punitive consequences. And that's why after the fall of Adam and Eve, there was a curse upon the earth, including upon mankind. Man had become altogether sin-full through rebellion. And, God established that sin was punishable by *death*. Why? Because you cannot reverse contamination. You might be able to slow it down, but it cannot be reversed. And that's why mankind was becoming worse and worse as it went along.

However, through the law of Moses, God made allowance for the "sacrifice" of a lamb without blemish to temporarily redeem a person's wrongdoing. So that's how Jesus came as the "lamb" of God, without sin; meaning that God Himself was going to offer a sacrifice, His own son, to fully redeem all of mankind from its flaws and ongoing corruption, once and for all.

And that's why Jesus stands alone, not as a mere religious leader, not as a guru or a philosopher, but as the one and only who paid the *ultimate* price to redeem all of mankind from its curse.

It was not only Jesus who died, but also the *sinful nature* of every man. That's why the apostle Paul highlights the fact that he also died with Christ (Galatians 2:20). He said, "*I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live. But the life that I now live, I live by the faith of the son of God who gave himself in redemption for me.*" His sinful old man was crucified and done away with, through that one ultimate sacrifice that Christ paid.

Paul's writings are key to unlocking this mystery. When he writes that he's been *crucified* with Christ, he's not using it as a metaphor, but a spiritual reality. He teaches that as Christ died in ransom for man's sinful nature, that the old man, that sin-filled man, was also buried with Him. In other words, the dreadful glitch, that fatal virus in our programming, which represented the curse in man, was finally eliminated. These statements of "being crucified and buried with Christ" carry the *legal* and spiritual weight of our salvation. They show us the framework upon which our new life in Christ is built.

Let me explain it in a way that really helped me understand the "spiritually dead" concept.

A glove was made in the image of a hand, right? With the five fingers so that a hand can fit inside the glove. With the hand in, the glove is useful; you can use it and it has a purpose, but without the hand the glove is lifeless. In the same way, we were created in the image of God, so that God can live inside of us. And with God, we come to life, we have purpose. We're filled with His power. We're filled with His strength. But without God, we're spiritually dead.

We were made in the image of God so that God could live inside of us and give us purpose.

It goes somewhat further. There was a divine *exchange* at the cross. The reality of the message of the gospel is that Christ became one with us in our sin-nature, as a man, so that we might become one with Him in His righteousness. He became what we were so that we might become what He is. He united Himself with us in death, so that we might be united with Him in life.

The cornerstone of the gospel is that great *exchange* that took place at the cross. His oneness with us in our fallen state, and our oneness with Him in His resurrected and glorified state. Ephesians 2.26 says, *“he raised us up with Him, and made us to sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”* This is not a pie in the sky, nor a promise for the future, it is a legal *covenant*, a new testament made between God and man, that we can enjoy right now. In other words, that redemption and inheritance that Jesus paid the ultimate price for, is available to us, not only when we go to a better life, but even now. He became what we were: bound, broken, cursed so that we could become what He is, free, whole, and glorified. He died so we might live.

- He was made sin so we could be made righteous.
- He became weak so that we could be strong.
- He took on shame to give us glory.
- He descended into hell so we could ascend to heaven.
- He was condemned so we could be justified.
- His body was beaten and broken so that healing would be ours.
- He was cast out of the Father's presence so we could be welcomed into full fellowship with God.

Healing, then, is not something we beg for. It is something we receive. Why? Because it was paid for. None of it is based on our performance, but on His substitution. Remember, salvation brings men back to God's plan and intention before the fall. Back to the garden of Eden where there was no sickness nor perversion.

He took our place, so we could take His. He brought back the original will and purpose of God for man. Everything He went through was for us. He didn't suffer for Himself. He suffered as our substitute. It was all part of a divine transaction. The justice of God demanded punishment of death for sin. And Jesus met that demand in full. He carried the penalty so we could receive the promise. He chose to suffer as our substitute. He carried the crushing weight of the penalty so that we might inherit the infinite wealth of the promise.

He took our place—the place of the guilty—so we could take His: the place of the beloved. He reclaimed the original will and eternal purpose of God for mankind.

That's the message of the gospel. He served the full sentence so we could walk in absolute freedom; freedom from condemnation, freedom from the sin-nature, freedom from limitations and impossibilities, freedom from everything that the curse brought to the nature of man, ensuring that where sin once reigned, grace now abounds.

## It's Free, But It's Not Cheap

So you want to know why the victory of the finished work of Jesus cannot be celebrated just an hour a week on Sunday morning? --and why Jesus cannot be framed in a religious box? Because the truth of the new identity is more than theology. It is the very core of the gospel; the greatest news that's ever hit this world.

You may have heard the analogy of a criminal being condemned in court to a life-sentence and eventual death-sentence and then Jesus walking up to the judge and paying his charge in full, thus allowing the condemned to go free. And while this is allegorically right, it goes much further than that. He didn't only pay a financial ransom but actually paid the death penalty Himself; yes, by actually dying in our stead. He bore the shame along with the full guilt; He took every beating and every disgrace on your behalf and was literally executed in your stead. He went through the full sentence for you. He paid the price in full. This was the most valuable sacrifice in all of man's history. The blood of Christ is free but it's not cheap.

If ever you question your value, just remember that you were purchased with: the most expensive value in the world, the blood of the Son of God. The blood of Jesus cries out louder than your failures, louder than your fears, louder than your past and louder than the accusations of the enemy. But that voice must be echoed by your own, meaning that you've got to accept that substitution.

Christ did not go to the cross for Himself; He stood in our place. He was crucified for us. Legally, in the minds of the Jewish people, Jesus was just another criminal; but in the mind of God, Jesus was the representative of all humanity. His crucifixion was not a political execution, it was a legal and spiritual act of *substitution*. Justice saw in Him all of humanity's rebellion, and as He hung on that cross with a crown of thorns and a mob screaming for His death, a deeper work was being done behind the veil; people saw only his physical suffering but God, the angels and even the demons saw what was happening in the spiritual realm. The divine curse was lifted.

Jesus' spirit was taking on the weight of our cursed sin-nature and then came the darkest moment in history: the judgment of death upon the rebellious nature of all men. The fulfillment of 2 Corinthians 5:21 which explains the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ, stating that God made Jesus, who had no sin, to become "sin for us," so that believers in him could "become the

righteousness of God". Jesus didn't just carry our sins; He had to *become* sin. He was made to be the very thing that separated humanity from God.

Isaiah 53:5,6 captures this concept of the great exchange vividly. He says *"he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed, all we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way, and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all".* It was you and me who deserved death.

In that moment, on the cross, Jesus became a curse. Galatians 3:13 says, *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us, for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"*. Jesus bore the full weight of the law of the old testament and its penalties; He fulfilled the requirements of justice on behalf of the Jewish people and, by extension, all humanity.

As He hung there, sin-filled and cursed, God turned His face away. That is why Jesus cried out, *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* He didn't die of suffering, but He died of a broken heart. Those words were the voice of a son, experiencing spiritual separation from heaven. Why? Because our sin-nature brought separation, our diseases brought darkness, our rebellion brought death, and He absorbed it all spirit, soul, and body. Isaiah 52:14 gives us another powerful image.

*"His appearance was so disfigured, beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness".*

Totally and absolutely disfigured, separated, rejected and despised by God. In that moment, Jesus was utterly alone, bearing the full brunt of divine judgment so that we would never have to. He fulfilled our punishment.

Romans 6.6 adds more clarity. *"Knowing this. That our old man was crucified with him. That the body of sin might be done away with. So that, "we should no longer be in bondage to sin."* Again, the "old man" here refers to our unregenerate self. The spirit in man that was once filled with spiritual death (cursed) and under the dominion of Satan -- that part of us was nailed to the cross in Christ.

After Jesus Christ became sin on our behalf, something deeply mysterious and powerful happened. The next chapter of this divine drama is recorded in the book of Isaiah, chapter 53:3-5. The prophet writes, *"He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, like someone people turn away from. He was despised, and we didn't consider him important. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, struck down by him, and afflicted."*

The sin of every man and woman, whoever lived and will ever live, was transferred onto Him. But more than that, the sicknesses of humanity, our diseases, disorders, our inner brokenness were also laid upon him. Isaiah 53:10 states, *“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him.”* Imagine that. God was “pleased”, not in the sense of taking delight in Jesus' pain, but in the sense of fulfilling His redemptive plan. The deepest wound came from God Himself. The curse that was put on Jesus was not just human injustice being served by the religious and Roman authorities, but divine justice being served and paid in full.

If you recall, at the moment of Jesus' death, there were three main incidents that took place: a powerful earthquake, the sun was darkened for 3 solid hours, and the veil of the Temple was ripped in half from the top. That magnificent earthquake along with the darkness that lasted for 3 hours represented the great reset in man's history; a violent, supernatural manifestation of God's power to highlight the great reset and cosmic transformation, that *New Testament*, the new transaction between God and man.

And the temple veil was ripped apart, emphasizing a tearing of the old limitations and restrictions. That veil was 4 inches thick; it couldn't have been ripped by 20 men pulling with all their strength on either side. But God Himself ripped it to show that He now made Himself *accessible* for all to enter into the Holy of Holies, which was previously reserved only for the high priest to go into, only once a year.

This is not something the natural mind can fully grasp. It staggers the imagination. The apostle Paul who himself had been raised in religion, declared that *“the carnal mind cannot receive the things of God”*. But our spirits can recognize and receive it. This is why Paul, in Philippians 3:10, writes, *“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming conformed unto His death.”*

Only the sin-less lamb of God could become sin for us. The sacrifice for the redemption of sin had to be a lamb without blemish. Jesus didn't inherit the fallen nature from the fall? He came into the world without sin, from a virgin birth, without the sin-nature of fallen man, and He lived the life of perfect obedience, which was the sinless foundation for the righteousness that is imputed to us in our justification.

The Bible says that Jesus was the second Adam. And to that effect, the life of perfect obedience was the foundation for the righteousness that is imputed to us in our justification. So He had to become sin to pay the ransom for all men, He had to be condemned as a sinner. And that is why God had to put all curse on Jesus, the pure lamb, so He could die as a sinful man, so that He could redeem us from that original sin-nature given to all men from Adam.

When the Father gave up His Son, He revealed a love so profound that words fail to describe it. It is a LOVE that reaches into the darkest to bring pardon and redemption. It is a LOVE that took our place, bore our shame, and gave us glory. John puts it this way:

*“for God so LOVED the world that he gave his only son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

This is the heart of salvation. This is the full power of LOVE which birthed our new identification. Through Christ’s sacrifice, the divine curse was lifted. This is the spiritual side of Calvary’s agony.

This is why you cannot live out Christ *one hour* a week on Sunday morning, nor can you confine Him to a building. He is all in all, everywhere, and all encompassing. The same as a woman cannot be a little bit married, or a little bit pregnant, you cannot be a little bit saved; you cannot say I am a partial Christian, nor a part-time one.

Considering the price that He paid to redeem you and give you a totally new life of truth, freedom and a purposeful destiny; it is an absolute *insult* to acknowledge Him one hour a week in what appears to be nothing but a social club of good deeds, where all the money gathered for good is spent on nothing but buildings and self-gratifying programs; not the propagation of this good news to the world. There’s very little about the religious system of today that resembles the life and the message of Christ.

When you understand the concept and the purpose of the cross, the great exchange that took place, it simply encompasses your whole life. Only then can one realize that our standing before God is *secure* and nothing the enemy throws at us can separate us from God’s LOVE; not because of our “good works”, but because of Christ’s finished work. We begin to live with boldness, with confidence, and with authority. This is the power of the gospel, this is the mystery revealed, “Christ in us, the hope of glory”, and us in Christ, the fulfillment of redemption, hallelujah.

If you’re in Christ, you’re all in! This is the part that religion fails to understand. His substitution wasn’t just a religious concept but a legal covenant *signed in blood* and consequently a living reality in our lives. That’s we cannot treat it as doctrine nor see it as a skit; because God meant it to be a *revelation*. We were not just forgiven, we were included. Our old man, our sin-nature, was nailed to the cross with Him. All of that malicious signature left in man by Satan, this corrupting and parasitic anomaly—that toxic, self-replicating strain of junk-code that guaranteed systemic failure; that insidious and flawed programming, defined by its virulent and ruinous output was buried in Him. Our diseases and our curses were placed on Jesus as if they were His own. Every part of Him was crushed so that every part of us could be made whole.

That's the "rush" of the gospel. And I'm just getting started....

## Jesus Came To Restore “That Which Was Lost”

In order for me to make my case regarding why Jesus cannot be boxed into religion, I have to first explain why Jesus had to come, what was His mission, why was there a need for a divine intervention. This is going to get a little bit theological, but bear with me because the revelation is too AWESOME.

We have already covered why Jesus took upon Himself all the guilt and condemnation and curse of the Adamic race, sealed it off by His death and burial, and rose again on the third day from the dead to become the second Adam and the head of a new race; and that all those who are united with Christ by *faith* in His death, burial and resurrection, and are regenerated or born again, and therefore become the members of this new race.

God's purpose for the *new race* was to fulfill the purpose which Adam, through his disobedience, failed to fulfill. The first Adam was originally created with the in-breathed breath of God, as God breathed into a dirt-made man, and it became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). And the new race is also brought into being as each one individually is regenerated by the in-breathed breath of God, His Holy Spirit.

Remember how, immediately after His resurrection, Jesus met up with the disciples and the first thing He did, He breathed on them and said *"receive ye the Holy Spirit"* (John 20:22). This gesture signified the impartation of spiritual life and the beginning of a new creation and was foreshadowing the more complete outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He was empowering the disciples for their mission by breathing into them the same Holy Spirit that He had been empowered with; and He gave them the *power* and *authority* to continue His mission through the Holy Spirit. Jesus promises His followers that they will *"receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

Now, this is where it gets interesting. Adam was created in God's likeness and image, and in the new creation, the image and likeness of God are being restored through the work of the Holy Spirit bringing forth again the image of God in the likeness of Jesus Christ in us.

Secondly, God's purpose for Adam was for him to exercise God-given dominion or authority over all the earth. And likewise, for the new creation, God's purpose is to bring again His “new man” into the full authority and rulership of Christ.

All this was summed up by Jesus in John 20:21. *“As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you”*. We are here on the earth to fulfill the same relationship towards Christ as Christ fulfilled in the earth toward His Father. Christ lived in union with the Father. We live by union with Christ. Christ lived to do the Father's will. We live to do the will of Christ. The words and works of Christ came from the Father. The words and works of the believer come from Jesus. Christ revealed the Father to the world. The believer has to reveal Christ to the world. The parallel is absolutely exact. God's purpose for the new race is to reverse the results produced by Adam's failure. The new creation, the new race, is destined under God to reverse or undo the results produced by Adam's fall.

Check out this verse in John 3:8, it says, *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”* This is saying that Jesus came in human flesh for the purpose of destroying the works that the devil had wrought through taking the dominion from Adam. Jesus came to restore “that” which was lost.

We all know that, as a result of the fall, there was a change in Adam's nature; Adam became corrupt both spiritually and physically. Now, as a result of Christ's death and resurrection, a new nature is brought into being in the believer which undoes the corruption produced by Adam's fall. In Colossians 3:10, Paul says of believers, *“you have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him”*. So, this is what is going on in the new creation; in each one of us individually. We are being renewed, brought back into the knowledge of the Creator. His image is reproduced in us again, and we're commissioned to reproduce His likeness again.

One of the most astonishing statements made in the scripture is in 2 Peter 1:3-4 he says,

*“According as his divine power, God hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him (through acknowledging Him and His redemptive sacrifice) that hath called us to glory and virtue, whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

God's divine power and His divine nature has been given unto us, not will

give, but has given *all things* that pertain unto life and godliness. That means that in the new creation, every provision is already made, just as it was in the old creation in the garden when God brought Adam into the world; God didn't have to look around for a place to put Adam, or things with which to feed him, or anything. The whole thing was perfect. He was brought into a perfect creation, where every need had been foreseen and was already met.

This is exactly the same in the new creation in Christ. When we are created anew in Christ, we're placed into a provision which is complete and perfect. Everything is made available to us through "*exceeding great and precious promises*". The provision is in the promises of God. Everything we'll ever need is already included in the promises of God. And His promises are all in past tense, or in present continuing tense; meaning that they have already been given or continue to be appropriated to us. All we must do is to get a hold of them, and call them OURS. And that is where the power of faith comes in. God's checkbook is full of promises, and they're all signed and ready; all we must do is cash them in through *faith*.

Faith is not just for salvation, but it is also for appropriating our inheritance. We become partakers of the nature of God Himself by exercising our faith by receiving and appropriating the promises of God. Notice also, in the same verse, it says, "*Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*". The key word, corruption. That's the undoing of the work of Adam's fall, which brought corruption, spiritual and physical.

Christ's redemption delivers us from corruption (that virus that corrupted the original operating system) and makes us partakers of the very nature of God Himself. --"*In the likeness and the image of God*". Again, Christ, being divine, became also human, that the believer, being human, might become also divine.

That's the *exchange* that took place at the cross. Jesus took the evil that was due to the human race, that the believer might receive the good that was due to Jesus. He, who was divine, became human. He did not cease to be divine but He became human so that the believer, being human, might also become partakers of His divine nature. We've been recreated into the image of God.

Peter said that the Word of God is an incorruptible seed. He says that we are "*born again, not of corruptible, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever*" (1 Peter 1:23) And as we appropriate the incorruptible seed of God's Word into our lives, it reproduces an incorruptible nature. We escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. It is the most perfectly logical presentation. There is no logical error here. It is a perfect unfolding of God's logic. Jesus came to redeem "that which Adam had

lost”.

## The Authority Is Back

We've gone over how, because Adam had “lost” his divine nature, it was restored by Jesus in the new creation. The second result of Adam's fall was that Satan usurped the realm of authority which God had given to Adam. Now, as a result of Christ's redemption, the authority usurped by Satan from Adam is restored to Christ; and through Christ, that authority is made available to the new race. Authority is one of the key concepts of the new creation.

After the resurrection, shortly before His ascension, Jesus walked through the walls of the room where His disciples were, and he said,

*“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”.* (Matthew 28:18-20)

All authority has now been restored and given to Jesus. Before His crucifixion, Jesus called Satan “the ruler of this world”. If you remember, at the onset of Jesus' ministry, during the final temptation in the wilderness, Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. Satan said, *“All this authority I will give you, because it's at my disposal”.* --Why and how? Because Satan usurped it from Adam. And that's how he is called the prince of this world, or the prince of the kingdom of darkness, because he had authority on earth before Christ took it back from Him.

Paul, in Ephesians 1:20 - 23, explains what *“God wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come”.* Jesus has been exalted far above all realms of authority in the created universe. God, the Father, gave Him to be the head over *all* things.

So Jesus' death and resurrection was a legal takeover. He completely flipped the devil's script. He was the only one qualified to clear humanity's record of all its faults and corruption. He paid the impossible price so God could take back control from Satan, all while keeping God's justice perfectly intact.

This is the non-negotiable difference between Jesus and everybody else who has ever claimed “holiness “ or “deity”. Many world rulers gladly sent their own people to die on battlefields and in power grabs, using those deaths as stepping stones to make themselves famous and powerful. Then look at Christ: He surrendered His own life so that we, the very people who *caused*

the problem, could be forgiven, elevated, and set free.

That's why Christ stands alone above all whoever came before Him and ever since. No other leader or god ever died to get rid of humanity's core problem. Jesus paid with His own life so that we, His people, could be lifted up and made greater.

So check this out... Jesus, having grabbed all authority and all power, then goes on, saying, "*Go Ye, therefore*". In other words, you are to administer My authority. I have obtained all authority, but I'm going back to heaven. I will exercise My authority on earth through you, whom I have empowered and who are now My representatives and ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). In John 15, Jesus says, "*you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that you should go and bear much fruit*".

And in Ephesians 3:2, Paul explained that God revealed a "mystery" which had been hidden in earlier times, but is now made known through the Holy Spirit: that Gentiles and Jews are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ through the gospel of GRACE. And that mystery is: Christ *in* you!

There is one other powerful scripture that is exactly in line with this picture of our exaltation in Christ. Romans 5:17 says, "*For if by one man's offense, (that's the offense of Adam) death reigned over the whole human race, much more, they which receive abundance of GRACE and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ*". That's not in the next dispensation. That's right now. God is longing to share everything with everyone who believes and accepts His sacrifice. We are to reign and rule as kings in life by, and through Jesus Christ.

Whhhhhaatt? You RULE...! Isn't that wonderful? That authority is now given to the believers to exercise on His behalf. Jesus said, "*Go ye therefore*", and demonstrate my authority.

See, there's an important parallel here: Adam was created in the visible likeness of God and God gave him dominion over all the earth. He was God's personal representative, exercising God's authority on his behalf. And since Jesus regained all authority, we're God's visible, personal, deputized representatives exercising Christ's authority on His behalf. Luke 19:10 says, "*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost*". What was "lost" in the first Adam is restored in the second man. The authority and the blessings that were lost in Adam are more than restored in Christ.

The human race had become subject to demon harassment and control. Now, in Christ, believers are given authority over the demons. This is part of our

salvation in Christ. We're being delivered from the fear and oppression of evil spirits and are given authority over all evil spirits.

Sorry it took me a minute to develop all this, but this is one of the most important parts of the gospel. This is not taught in church. We are given *full authority* on earth, over all the works of the devil.

This whole concept of authority over evil spirits is something that did not exist in the old testament. Remember how people marveled at Jesus in the temple when Jesus cast out demons. It says in Mark 1:27, "*And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? What new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.*" There were many miracles performed in the Old Testament, but casting out demons was introduced by Jesus only because He had authority over all evil spirits. And through Him, we, believers, are given the same authority. As I said, not many churches teach this, simply because not many churches acknowledge this. And there is a reason for that...

## What Truly Happens When You're “Born Again”?

Have you ever looked at yourself in the mirror and thought, why do I still feel like the same person even though I gave my life to Christ? Maybe you've prayed the prayer, gone to church, even read your Bible. But deep down, you're asking, “if I'm a new creation, why do I still struggle with old habits, insecurities, or guilt?”

This is one of the most misunderstood truths in the church. And it's keeping millions from walking in the power, and in the authority given to man, as well as in the specific purpose God designed for man. You've been told you're a new creation, but you've never been shown what that really means. The new creation has nothing to do with striving, nor with religious performance, nor with pretending to be someone you're not.

The fact that the *new identity* is not revealed to so many believers explains why so many sincere, God-loving people live beneath their rights, their privileges and their inheritance in Christ. They are defeated because of ignorance. The truth is, if you don't know who you are, the enemy can always tell you who you're not.

And that's exactly what he does. His main tactic is to hide your true identity from you. Most Christians live in a tug of war between two identities, the one they read about in scripture and the one they feel and experience in their daily life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new”*. The new creation is a spiritual reality. But the problem is, Christians interpret that verse through their emotions, their behavior, their senses. So when we slip up, we say, I must not be new yet. When we feel anxious or angry or tempted, we say, maybe I'm not really saved. And then, it's no longer eternal salvation, but flip-flop salvation.

To fully understand the concept of the new birth, you must forget the notion of self-improvement, of becoming a better person through sheer force of will, or by the sterile observance of a thousand rules. That's not a rebirth. That's just a renovation of the old, a paint job on a crumbling edifice. What being “born

again” means is something far more profound, far more cataclysmic. We're talking about the genesis of a *new creation* in the human soul; a supernatural inception of the very life and divine nature of God Himself. When you are born again, the eternal life of the Creator floods the vessel of a mortal, transforming it from the inside out. It is the fulfilment of a *legal* decree, a divine *verdict*. The very life of God is breathed in you. Now that is awesome. In fact, it is super natural, virtually unreal. But not really.

Sadly , we judge the Word of God by our experience instead of judging our experience by the Word. The church has preached a sin-consciousness so long that most believers live in a state of perpetual spiritual inferiority. That's the real issue. The average Christian is more conscious of their failures than of their righteousness.

Truth be told, what became new when you got born again was not your body, it was not your soul, it was your spirit. That's the *real* you. That's the part of you that became one with Christ; the part of you that's righteous, holy, complete, and seated with Him in heavenly places right now. But the challenge is, unless your mind is renewed to that *evidence* and reality, you'll keep identifying with the old you, even though the old has been crucified. Remember the analogy of the glove and the hand. The glove is lifeless until the hand gets in it.

Colossians 2:13 shatters our preconceived notions with a powerful declaration: “*And you, being dead in your trespasses... did He make alive together with Him.*” It doesn't say “He will make you alive.” It says that you have been made *alive*. From the eternal perspective of the Father, your resurrection from death to life was an accomplished fact the moment Christ rose from the dead, and from the moment you accepted that revelation. Your spiritual death was extinguished in His death, and your new life was sealed in His resurrection. This is the grand *legal* decree, the verdict from the celestial court that grants you an eternal inheritance, not when and then, but now and here. It's like being a beneficiary in a will (testament) long before the inheritance is accessed—the wealth is legally yours now.

The instant we confess Christ as our Lord and Savior, God's verdict becomes our personal reality. The rubber of theory meets the road of existence, and the divine life of God, the very same life that raised Christ from the dead, rushes into our spirit, literally recreating us. The real man is the *spirit man*; he has a soul and lives in a body. You are not a body trying to be spiritual. You are a spirit learning to renew your carnal mind to a divine accomplishment. Once you understand that your spirit was recreated in the image of Christ, you stop trying to get something from God and you start living from what He's already done. That is the revelation of the gospel.

That's why Galatians 2.20 says, *"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me"*. Your old man died. The new you isn't a cleaned up version of the old you. It's Christ *in* you.

The sin-nature that we inherited from Adam kept us spiritually dead; a branch severed from the tree of life, destined to wither. But in this new birth, we are reattached—the very life-sap of the tree itself flows into us. Jesus explains this in John 15 saying, *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing"*. We become a living conduit of divine vitality. This is not renovation; it is full-on re-creation. God brings forth a *new you*, a spiritual entity that simply did not exist before.

For too long, we have stood on the outside of this truth, studying it from a distance like an old photograph of a sunset; we can admire the light, the colors, the composition, but we cannot feel its all-encompassing magnificence, its warmth on our skin or breathe the crisp evening air. We have remained spectators of a daunting reality meant for our full personal experience and participation.

Imagine you had a car that broke down constantly. You bring it into the shop and instead of patching it up, the mechanic gives you the keys to a brand new vehicle. But instead of driving the new car, you go back to your old one out of habit. That's what many believers do with their new identity. God gave you a new nature, but you keep trying to fix the old one. Why? Because you don't realize the exchange has already taken place. Romans 6.6 says, *"knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed"*. The old you is gone, but you have to know this. That's the key. It's not about trying harder. It's knowing it and appropriating it. Think of it as if the inherent contamination in the sin-nature of man has been absolutely eliminated. You're no longer dominated by sin. Yes, you may sin occasionally, but you are no longer defined by sin, nor identified by sin. Sin cannot negate the *permanent* righteousness obtained for you at the cross.

The Christian journey is not a desperate, frantic scramble to be good enough. It is the exquisite process of living from the inside out, allowing the inherent love, joy, and peace of God's nature to flow through us like a natural spring.

So how do you live as a new creation? First, you must renew your mind with the Word. Romans 12:2 says, *"be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* That word "transformed" has the same root as metamorphosis. It's what happens when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. You're not just changing behavior, you're discovering a totally new nature. *Right thinking* is the foundation of right believing. And right believing is the secret of victorious living.

If you keep thinking like the old you, you'll keep living like the old you, even if you're saved. Start speaking WHO you are in Christ.

Confession is more than admitting sin in church. Confession is a proclamation. It is professing and agreeing with God's Word. The Greek word for confession *homologeō*, means to “say the same thing as”. When you say, “I am the righteousness of God in Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:21), you're not boasting, you're *agreeing* with God. When you declare, “*greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world*” (1 John 4:4), you're not being arrogant, you're walking in truth. Your mouth steers your life. Proverbs 18:21 says, “*death and life are in the power of the tongue*”. You cannot rise above the image you speak over yourself.

We must stop identifying with sin and start identifying with righteousness. We're not ignoring that we occasionally sin, but we're understanding that sin no longer defines us. The new creation doesn't live from guilt, it lives from grace. Romans 6:14 says,

*“sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace”.*

You are not a sinner saved by grace. You were a sinner. You got saved (re-born) by grace. And you no longer have that sinful glitch in your programming. Now you're a saint who may sometimes sin (fall), but sin is no longer your identity. It no longer has dominion over you.

This is the *miracle* of Christianity. It is a relentless, glorious rebirth into a new kind of life—a life eternal, incorruptible, and overflowing with divine possibility. It is the end of striving and the beginning of simply being. It is tapping into a full-on inheritance. That means when you woke up this morning, you weren't just an old sinner saved by grace. You were a new creation, born of God, righteous in His sight. Not because of what you've done, but because of that new identity in Him.

The phrase, “in Christ”, or “in Him”, shows up over 130 times in the New Testament. Why? Because your entire identity now flows from your union with Him. And while the enemy can keep you from understanding that union, he can also keep you bound, frustrated, and ineffective. Saved, yes, but struggling unnecessarily. Can you see the works of the enemy in the fiber of religion?

The believer is as much a new creation as Adam was when God breathed into him the breath of life, while he was a lifeless mound of dirt. You have been created by the Spirit of God Himself. First Peter 1:23 says, “*we are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God*”. And that incorruptible seed carries the very *nature* of God. What kind of life do you

suppose that seed produces? A timid life? A fearful life? A sick, sin-bound life? Of course not! That seed reproduces after its kind like every other seed.

Look, the sin problem is settled. What we need is the righteousness consciousness that comes from God (2 Corinthians 5:21). If you woke up tomorrow and were to proclaim, "I'm not who I used to be, I'm not a slave to fear, I'm not defined by trauma, I'm not cursed, broken, or unworthy, I'm a new creation in Christ, I'm filled with His Spirit, I have His mind, His love, His authority", you would then walk differently, talk differently, pray differently, not out of pride, but out of identity. There is no emotional hype here; strictly foundational spiritual truth.

You can't walk in what you don't believe. The new creation doesn't work by feelings. It works by faith. We must stop identifying with anything less than what Jesus paid for. Don't live another day beneath your privileges as a child of God.

This *cornerstone truth*, in all its superfluous power, is what makes Christianity so incredibly AWESOME.

That's why people have walked into the water to be baptized and to partake of this rebirth for centuries, and to this day, saying "I want in". And that's why Christ is not just a religious personality. He's that stone that the religious builders rejected which has become the *cornerstone* of all humanity and a stumbling block to those who refuse Him. This verse in Psalms 118:22 was prophetic of Jesus, a powerful metaphor that speaks of that individual being rejected or overlooked by the religious leaders ("the builders") but ultimately being elevated to a position of supreme importance ("the head stone" or "cornerstone") by God.

## Bro, You Got A New Selfie!

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”. (Ephesians 2:10)*

Okay. We should walk in those good works. We have changed bloodlines. We can't continue to define ourselves by past sin, past failure, or inherited weakness; we can't keep speaking against the finished work of Christ. God does not anoint *lies*. You can't be denying the effectiveness of the cross. That is not humility. It is pride wearing religious clothing saying “my opinion of myself is truer than God's declaration”.

Your history, your wounds, your weaknesses, or even your temperament do not disqualify you from being used by God. This is a stronghold in your mind which wears the mask of humility, but it is rooted in spiritual unbelief. It says with subtlety, “I know God is able, but I'm not good enough or I'm not usable”. And yet, that belief stands in direct contradiction to the finished work of the cross.

The problem is that too many believers still think they are trying to become something. They are *trying* to become healed. *Trying* to become holy. *Trying* to become free. The enemy thrives on ignorance. He wants you to forget what Christ has done. He wants you to feel powerless. But when you fill your heart with God's Word, when you meditate on the reality of your union with Christ, you rise above sickness and you rise above sinfulness. You rise above defeat and you rise above yourself. You start living from the victory that is already won.

Here's the unshakable truth, God cannot flow through what you continually disown. He cannot manifest Himself through a vessel that calls itself unworthy, unclean, or unusable.

God is not waiting for you to reach some future spiritual state of perfection before He can provide for you or can use you. God has called you righteous, holy, and His own, and He's waiting for you to *wake up* to your new identity and shatter that lie. The believer who knows he is a new creation and acts on that knowledge becomes a master over circumstances. That is the power the church has often missed. We have elevated effort over identity. We've taught people to do more, strive more, repent more and serve more, without first teaching them who they *are* in Christ.

Every time you see those words “in Christ” in the scriptures, translate them “as Christ”. Because that's what the robe of righteousness is. To God, you have become “as Christ”. That's all He can see in you: the righteousness provided by the finished work of Christ. Simply put: God cannot use the old ungenerate you. So forget your old man, you've been re-born. You have been brought in as a child of God, “as Christ”.

Your usefulness to God does not come from polishing up the old man. It comes from living in the new one. And until you stop dragging that *corpse* of shame, regret, and disqualification into your prayers and into your calling, you will remain paralyzed at the edge of purpose. This is where many believers live. They are forgiven, but not free. They know Jesus died for them, but they're still cowering because they do not yet know what His resurrection did in them.

*“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like ‘as Christ’ was raised up from the dead, even so we also should walk in newness of life”.*

Romans 6.4

That newness of life is a reality. It's a done deal. You are not a patched-up sinner trying to please a Holy God. You are the righteousness of God in (as) Christ, assigned with His mission, indwelt by His Spirit and empowered by His grace.

Picture this. A king adopts a peasant child from a muddy and impoverished neighborhood. He does not clean up the child only to have him live in the servants' quarters. He brings him into the palace, gives him a new name, a robe, and a seal of authority. If that child never sees himself as royalty, he will keep serving in the kitchen while possessing the authority of the throne. That is what many of God's people are doing today. They have royal robes in the Spirit, but in their minds, they are still sweeping floors. And until that image breaks, God's power remains unused in their hands.

Let's go over 2 Corinthians 5:17 again, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new”*. That's a categorical statement. Not “some” things, all things. Not a little bit saved!

It is when you confess what the Word says you are and act upon it, that God becomes real in your life. It only kicks in when you *step into it*. That is the divine order. Not behavior first, but belief. Not ministry first, but identity. Until you confess who you truly are in (as) Christ and act accordingly, you will remain neutralized, no matter how sincere your heart may be. And the devil knows this. That is why he does not fear church attendance.

The devil fears identity most because the moment a believer truly sees what Christ has done in them and begins to walk in it, the enemy's grip shatters. Your authority is no longer theoretical; it becomes visible. It becomes dangerous. The early church understood this. They were not perfect people. They were not scholars or religious elites. But they knew they had been made alive in (as) Christ. They knew they were vessels of divine purpose. And even when persecuted, they operated in power. Acts 4:13 records that the religious leaders *“marveled, and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus”*. That is the secret. They had been with Him, and that encounter redefined who they were.

But in today's church, we keep trying to do things for God instead of allowing Him to move through us. And the blockage is not heaven's reluctance, it is our resistance to believe what has already been written. Romans 8:19 says, *“the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God”*. Not the servants, not the students, the sons. Sons manifest the Father's nature. Sons carry the Father's authority. Sons speak the Father's words. And the world is waiting for them to rise up. So what must break? The old image. The false humility. The inward narrative that says, “I'm not enough”.

God has never used perfect vessels. He has used yielded ones. But yieldedness does not mean groveling. It means *agreement*. To yield to God is to agree with His Word over your identity, actions, over your emotions, over your past, and over your self-perception. That is true surrender.

You are not qualified by background. You are qualified by blood. You are not chosen because of your resumé. You are chosen because of redemption. God does not call the equipped. He equips the called. And you have been called. 2 Timothy 1:9 says, *“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time”*.

I sure hope you're getting all this. This is so INTENSE.

The believer is as free from Satan's dominion as Jesus is. That is not your future position, it's your appointed, deputized and authorized position: sonship. The disqualified orphan must die. The disqualified voice must be silenced. Because God cannot anoint your *false* identity. He will only anoint your faith in the truth. Abraham, the father of faith, was not counted righteous because he was perfect; It says that *“he was counted righteous because of his faith in what God said”*.

Simply put, it means you must speak differently, think differently, pray differently, expect differently. You do not face the enemy as a survivor. You face him as a *conqueror*. You do not shrink back or cower in the name of humility. You rise up in the name of righteousness.

And once that agreement is made, everything changes. Heaven backs your words. *“And whatsoever you bind on Earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”*. That's exactly what Jesus told Peter when He told him, and all the other disciples, that He was giving them the “keys” of the kingdom of God. The keys given to us are the authority of Christ to bind and to loose, and to destroy the works of the devil. Yes, you can open or close doors. Why? Because the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead flows through you.

This is what Satan fights most and this is what religious tradition has clouded. But now that you see it, it cannot be unseen. The enemy's tactic is to whisper with subtle distortion, “you are saved, but you're not really *free*, I still have power over you, you're not *truly* powerful. You must try harder, repent more”. These are the lies that derail even the sincere. You are not saved to sit; you are saved to save! You're given power and authority and ambassadorship to propagate the good news and to enlighten others to this awesome reality.

So no more *hoping* to be holy. You can't be any holier. In Him (as Him), you already are everything God desires. This is the mystery and the power of identification with Christ. THIS is the gospel. Christ in YOU!

We are simply waking up to the truth and walking in it. Let this truth flood your spirit, let it renew your mind, let it shape your identity. What He carried, you no longer have to carry, what He bore, you no longer have to bear. The price is paid, the victory is won, and it is all yours in (as) Christ Jesus. So be it.

## The Liberating Truth About the ‘Old Man’

If you're already convinced that your old man is no more, you can skip this chapter. But if you are a church-goer that has been soaked in this *false doctrine* of ongoing repentance and sin-consciousness, this next chapter is meant to pound one last nail in that coffin.

So many believers, sincere in heart and faithful in church attendance, spend decades in a cycle of defeat, crying out to God for victory, but never tasting of the freedom Jesus purchased. They pray for breakthroughs; they fast for deliverance. They expect a “new season” they repent over and over for the same sin. And still, the weight never lifts. The struggle continues. The fire of their early faith eventually dims into a *quiet resignation*. They believe in Christ, yet their lives show little of the triumph of the cross.

It is not that they lack desire; it is that most of the churches have told believers that the Christian life is an endless fight with their old nature, a constant wrestling match with the same sinful self they were before salvation. Their message is, you will always be a sinner saved by grace, just doing your best to hold out until heaven. This sounds humble, but it denies the power of the new birth. It keeps the believer chained to a corpse that Christ already buried.

The church teaches to pound your chest with “Mea culpa, Mea culpa, Mea maxima culpa”. So you're constantly asking for repentance as though you must earn your pardon, while the Word says your pardon is already settled. Churches still teach that repentance is transactional, as if God needs convincing. They treat it like a contract with conditions, rather than a *covenant with inheritance*. When repentance is taught that way, the soul remains troubled and identity in Christ remains shadowed. You keep trying to suppress the old man, and while you're busy doing that, the devil has a hay day.

When Jesus came and said “repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”, He was teaching people how so very simple it was to receive salvation. The kingdom of God was now open to all men through believing in the gift of grace, and to repent from all self-efforts and all self-indulgence to receive by *faith* the truth of the gospel. It is exactly what Paul warned against in Galatians when he said, “*Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*” The problem is not that God has not done enough. The problem is that most Christians do not know or truly believe what God has already done.

The church has taught the supremacy of sin instead of the supremacy of righteousness. Romans 8:1 says, *“there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus”*. No condemnation means no judgment, no sentence. Still, many believers live under a cloud of condemnation and fear of a negative verdict from the courts of heaven, because repentance has not yet shifted their mindset from sinfulness and self-consciousness to righteousness and Christ-consciousness. Redemption means being loosed from condemnation and guilt. Godly repentance produces a *living* spirit not a heavy conscience. Not fear, but freedom. Your soul rises into newness.

When you believe your old man is still alive, you live as if the cross was incomplete, as if Christ did not finish His redemptive work. You measure your progress by your ability to restrain sin, instead of resting in the truth that the dominion of your sinful nature has been broken.

Sinning is not the same as being sinful. Sinning is missing the mark, failing or falling as when you are trying to learn how to ride a bike. And that's why God doesn't condemn you for falling. But being sinful is what Jesus has redeemed you from; that horrible sinful nature that was embedded in your character ever since birth; ever since the rebellion of mankind, actually. Romans 6:6 says, *“knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed. that henceforth we should not serve sin”*. Notice the language... crucified, destroyed, no longer serving. This is a finished fact.

Yet, here is where the deception takes root. Instead of knowing this, most Christians are trying to feel it. They judge truth by their emotions. Your feelings do have a space in the new creation, but a very little one. Only if they match Christ's. And it's sad that this is not taught clearly in churches. Most believers live their Christian life through feelings. If the temptation feels strong, they assume the old man is still alive. If they fail, they conclude nothing has changed. But faith is not based on how strong the storm feels. Faith is based on what God has said.

The enemy does not care if you are saved as long as you are ignorant of what salvation accomplished. He knows that a believer who thinks the old man is still alive will fight shadows for the rest of his life, never realizing the enemy's weapon is a lie.

Picture a man in a prison. Chains on his wrists, staring at the locked door. Every day he cries for someone to set him free, but what he does not realize is that the door was unlocked the day he believed in Christ, and the chains were broken at Calvary. The only thing holding him there is the belief that he is still a prisoner. Did you know that this is the same phenomenon that happens with an eagle that was chained to a post from youth. And once fully grown and loosed from that chain, he will carry on walking around that post

and never fly. That is the state of much of the body of Christ. They keep asking God to do what He has already done. They pray for God to kill the old man when God says, “the old man was crucified with Jesus”.

Paul never taught believers to reform the old man. He never told them to manage him or keep him in check. He taught to reckon him dead. Romans 6-11 says, “*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord*”. To reckon is an accounting term. It means to count as true what God has declared as fact. It means to settle it.

You may say, but I still feel the pull of sin. Feelings do not determine reality. The old man is gone, but the mind must be *renewed* to think and act from this new identity. The thing that hinders faith is the lack of knowledge of what we are in Christ and what Christ is in us. The absence of that revelation keeps you tied to the past-- to that post. You can attend church for fifty years, read your Bible daily, and still struggle in the same bondage if you never truly believe you are a new creation.

Most Churches mix the standard of the old covenant with the new. They read David's cries in the Psalms, “*create in me a clean heart, O God*”, and pray the same way, not realizing that in Christ God has already given them a new heart. They quote Jeremiah's prophecy about the heart of stone being replaced with a heart of flesh, but fail to see that prophecy *fulfilled* in the new birth.

You are not trying to crucify the old man through your efforts; you are living from the truth that the old man was crucified with Christ 2,000 years ago. It is no longer you who live, but Christ who lives in you. So, instead of spending your energy fighting an enemy who has already been defeated, you spend it renewing your mind to agree with God's Word. You take the scriptures, not as distant promises, but as present tense reality.

You stop asking for deliverance from what God says you are dead to; and you start walking in the dominion and authority He has given you. You begin to see temptation not as proof of an unchanged nature, but as an opportunity to exercise your new *authority* in Christ. The church must return to teaching believers who they are in Christ. Without this foundation, the Christian life becomes an endless treadmill of confession without transformation.

You will think the Holy Spirit's job is to constantly convict you of your old failures, instead of guiding you into the fullness of your new life. But Jesus said, in John 16, that the Spirit would convict the world of sin, and believers of righteousness. The Spirit is not reminding you of the old man. He is revealing Christ in you.

Imagine the difference in your life if you woke every day with the unshakable awareness that you are dead to sin and alive to God. Imagine praying, not as a beggar hoping for mercy, but as a son or daughter standing in the Father's presence without shame, knowing you are accepted and beloved. Beloved means BE loved! You don't try to be loved, you are loved. Imagine that you are as righteous as Jesus because His righteousness has been given to you.

This is what faith is all about; agreeing with God's verdict over your life. When you live in this reality, sin loses its grip, fear loses its voice, and the struggles that once consumed you begin to fade. It is not that you never face battles. It is that you fight from victory, not for victory. The enemy can't bind you with chains you refuse to wear. As long as you believe the old man still lives, you have a reason to explain away your defeat. Do you confess your defeat out of a copping out? Maybe the problem is with you, you refuse to stand up in the authority given you. The choice is before you today. Will you keep identifying with the dead man, or will you step into the life of the new creation?

Romans 8:2 says, *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”*. Not will make me free, but has made me free, past tense. If you are in Christ, the struggle is not with an old nature. The struggle is to impose the truth over the lie.

## Rise Up For Christ' Sake

We've already covered how Satan isn't afraid of your church attendance. He isn't afraid of how much scripture you've memorized. What he's terrified of is that you might wake up to who you truly are in Christ, that you might stop living like a forgiven sinner and start living like a risen son. Because the moment you get a full understanding of your identity, not just as a believer, but as one who is in Christ, you become unstoppable.

The churches bear important responsibility in all this, because most believers are defeated through ignorance. As Hosea 4.6 says plainly, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* If the enemy can keep you chasing what you already have, like a dog running in circles chasing its own tail, you'll never walk in the power of it. That's why Jesus was so mad at the religious leaders. He told them, *"you not only do not go into the kingdom of God yourselves, but you stop others who want to go in, by keeping them ignorant of their rights"*.

It is sad that the full gospel is not clearly explained and taught in most churches. --That the new testament gives you a new identity, a new passport, a new bloodline, and along with it, a full inheritance, plus the authority to enforce the will of God on earth as it is in heaven. There is no shyness here. There's no defeated life here, there's no neutrality nor oh-hum here.

Imagine, if you ever start praying from your position instead of your problem, if you ever start confessing your rights instead of your regrets, the devil knows his influence over you ends. You were never meant to live this Christian life in your own strength.

The New Testament never calls you to strive. Jesus calls you to abide. Jesus said in John 15:5, *"He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. For without me ye can do nothing"*. Identity is the root, fruit is the result. And when you're rooted in the revelation of who you are in Christ, peace flows, joy flows, authority flows.

Confession is affirming something we believe. It is testifying of something we know. It is witnessing a truth that we have embraced. You cannot rise above your own confession. If you continually speak weakness, you'll walk in weakness. If you continually speak lack, you'll live in lack. But if you begin to speak the truth about who you are in Christ, something shifts in the spirit realm. Your soul begins to come into alignment with your spirit, and your circumstances begin to follow. It's not a magic formula. It's a spiritual law.

Proverbs 18.21 says, "death and life are in the power of the tongue". And "keep your heart with all diligence because from it come all the issues of life"

Don't let decades of church tradition or past mistakes keep you from embracing this irrefutable truth. You are not who people say you are. You are not your worst day, you are not your diagnosis, you are not your bank account, you are who God says you are and he says ye are complete in Him (Colossians 2:10). You don't have to feel complete to be complete. You don't have to see it yet to know it's real; anymore than you need to see your brain in order to know it's there. The spiritual realm doesn't operate by sight, it operates by faith and faith is not trying to believe; it's resting in what is already finished.

That's the message Paul laid down in every epistle and that's the message the devil wants silenced in every generation because once Christians wake up to their identity, they stop surviving and start reigning.

So go back through the Word. Start with Ephesians, Colossians, Romans and look for every place that says "in Him", "in Christ" or "through Him". Those phrases are identity gold. They're not just words on a page, they are a mirror. Hold them up and say "not because of what I've done, but because of what He's done for me". Begin to say aloud "I am who God says I am. I have what he says I have . I can do what He says I can do. Not someday, not when I feel spiritual but because Jesus paid for it with His blood, and I honor Him by receiving it". Let your confession be in agreement with heaven. Let your mind be renewed. Let your heart be settled. You are not fighting for victory. You are fighting from victory.

Christians, rise up, for Christ' sake.

## Silence Is No Longer An Option

Now let's pause a minute. If you've received this message of the gospel and have taken in the purpose of Jesus' mission, you've found the greatest, most game-changing truth in the universe. And once you know a truth this BIG, you know too much to keep it to yourself. The love of God is impossible to hide. Once you've become aware of the extent of His love, why would you even hide it? When you've made Christ the Lord of your life, it shines off you like a beautiful, undeniable aura. If you try to not reflect His love, you might as well try to hide a lighthouse in a fog bank.

There's no merit in not doing evil. If all you're trying to do with your faith in Jesus is live a squeaky-clean life, it's not gonna help the world much. It's in DOING good that you change the world around you; not just in not doing bad. It's a lot easier to nurture your private time, your own desires and plans, than it is to go out and help others. Most people are quite happy watching TV, reading more books, listening to yet another sermon, and doing their little gardening or taking care of so many little projects rather than going out to lead people to the Lord.

What good is all that to Jesus if you're all good and holy and won't dirty yourself to care for your neighbor with God's love? If we'd all be doing the good that Jesus told us to do, the world would not be in such a mess. Jesus said, "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand (is restored). Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely ye received, freely give!'" (Matthew 10:7,8)

I once met Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, and her example of living out Christ changed my life. I don't think there was one religious bone in her. She was all love, compassion and care; and she lived out that one verse which she founded her whole order upon, "As you have done it the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). She was dedicated, a woman of real faith, and she lived out what she believed. She walked out Jesus, she loved on people, and her main goal and purpose in life was for everybody to know Him. She's known for caring for the destitute and loving the unloved and the unlovely, but her gospel was far from being a social gospel only. She shared Jesus with everyone she met. She saw everybody as a SOUL that needed to be touched by and convinced of the love of God.

Jesus Himself told us exactly how to live our life. He said, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). The fact that we don’t share the TRUE riches that we have been given is nothing but a downright shame; worse than not sharing our financial wealth. The homeless person, besides needing money and food, needs someone to care, someone to talk to, someone who will show him/her how love works. And there are millions of people out there who are homeless in heart; totally lost, no vision, no purpose, and without a real family to belong to. And to know that Christ offers all that and keep it to ourselves is a full on contradiction to the gospel.

When we lived in Mexico, we lived close to the beach, and oftentimes at sunset, Linda and I would go for a walk on the beach. We met and befriended this man who was homeless. His name was Bill. And he lived in one of those little 4ft x 6ft shacks where people store sunbrellas and beach chairs. He gathered driftwood and varnished it to sell it on eBay for a little income.

One day he called us out of despair and said that the authorities were cleaning out the beach and he had to move out of his shack. He apparently was invited by a friend to live in a small room in his house, but when we drove him there with all of this stuff, it turned out that the offer had vanished. So we put Bill in a hotel room for a night until we could think this thing through. One night turned to a week and the expense pushed us to invite Bill into our own home. We made a room for him in the garage.

Bill was a Vietnam war veteran, who after the war turned into a mercenary. And boy, did he have wild war stories to tell; nearly unbelievable in fact, until he demonstrated to us, our kids and us, at the dinner table, how he was trained to kill with his bare hands. He said that if he was within arm reach of as many as a dozen people, he could within seconds, kill them all. And he said, I'll show you... and within seconds, he extended such a perfectly aimed punch at each one of our faces, just one centimeter of hitting us and with so much precision, speed and force, we got the picture!

We proceeded to tell him about how much God loved him. His argument was that God could not love him because of all the horror that he caused and the many people that he killed. But we went on loving him and reading the Bible to him. We gave him a Bible so that he could read on his own. And he started to come to the dinner table with such excitement regarding the different revelations he would get from reading God's Word. The Word just literally transformed him day by day. He stayed with us well over 3 months and was ever so helpful and useful to me. And one day, I got a call from Linda while I was in town, saying that Bill was coughing blood. So I asked her to call for an ambulance for him to go to the local clinic to be examined.

We all gathered by his bed, and it was not longer than 2 hours before Bill passed away. We found out a week later, after the American embassy contacted us, that they could not find any history, nor family on him. However, when we cleaned his room, under the mattress, was a whole pile of a dozen passports with his picture and a different name in every one of them. He was hired to travel abroad for mercenary purposes. And that's how he could never come out of the prison of condemnation he lived in. We cried when he passed away, not only because we had grown to love him so, but because we felt so privileged that God should choose such a humble home as ours to bring such a broken man into His kingdom and into his eternal reward.

Life can be so full-filling when you deny yourself and live to love others. Jesus said so in Matthew 16:25, *“For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it”*. There is a visible light that surrounds you when you walk in His love and obey His Word. We have found something worth dying for, and now we are dedicated to living for it—and sharing it.

Sharing your faith springs directly from the sheer joy of your own salvation. That means that you're so thankful that Jesus saved you that you want to share Him with others so they too can live in total joy, total peace, total fulfillment. King David knew this deep connection when he prayed: *“Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; then sinners shall be converted unto Thee”* (Psalm 51:12-13). When you truly grasp the cost of your redemption—what Jesus paid for you to enter His kingdom and live by His laws of Agape unselfish love, you can't help but exude that happiness.

It's like a young person who has just gotten engaged to the love of their life. Try telling them to keep it a secret! They are bursting with new dreams, new visions, and a new love, and they want to shout it from the rooftops. That's what witnessing is meant to be! Your own testimony is your most powerful proof. To simply say, "I was lost in confusion, anger, and depression, but now I have peace, direction, and joy," will instantly capture a listening ear. Why? Because that's exactly what every empty heart is desperately searching for.

The need is obvious. Look around: the world is confused, depressed, and burdened with offenses and fears they can't shake. They are hungry for answers in their relationships, marriages, careers and personal lives. And we, as believers, have the answers—simple answers filled with healing, true love, and true freedom.

You don't need a seminary degree; you just need a seed. You don't even need to know the Bible from cover to cover. You can drop that little seed of God's Word into an empty heart, cover it with the warmth of His love, and trust

the Holy Spirit to bring forth the miracle of new life. We plant the seed; the Holy Spirit brings the harvest. But God absolutely needs a seed to start with. The Apostle Paul's instruction to Timothy is our rallying cry: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2); that means, when you feel like it and when you don't feel like it.

We are all missionaries. Parents are missionaries, teachers are missionaries, big brothers are too. And you. Yes, YOU are too. Jesus wants to speak through your lips and use your hands and feet to spread the good news. Christ alone can save this world, but Christ can't save this world alone!

Think of the parable of the talents. We will all one day give an account to God not for what our church did, but for what you did; and you don't want to be the one who hid his talent. It is truly selfish not to share freely what we have been given freely.

And please, I am not talking about this casual christianese little quote posted on social media that says, "if you think Jesus is the Savior of the world, say Amen". That's not being a witness of Christ, that's plain wimpiness. That is not going to win a soul; to the contrary, it will most likely incite displeasure and disdain from those who read it, unless they too are christianese. Real, life-changing witnessing requires a personal, heart-to-heart connection to reach a person deep inside.

If we don't personally share the Gospel, we risk becoming just a "hearer" of the Word, and simply deceiving ourselves. As James warns: "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves... for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was*" (James 1:22-24). You see the truth, but you don't act on it, and you think "you're good"

Personal, one-on-one witnessing is the vital workout that keeps your spiritual life alive. You're not supposed to hide a light. Jesus said, "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light" (Luke 8:16). So why would you hide the truth?

Just *commit* to loving, encouraging, and lifting everyone you meet. Of course it will kill you at first, but that's what it should do; we are to die daily to ourselves. But once you start, it becomes easy, because habits take the pain out of commitment. Start by finding something good to tell someone and say it to them; start with something to encourage them, and their heart will open up for the Good News you want to share with them.

Young David answered his own brothers who criticized him for wanting to fight Goliath, he said, "Is there not a cause?" as an indictment of their fearful spirit, lack of faith and passivity (1 Samuel 17:28). There are too many who talk about change, but are unwilling to courageously go after the Goliath that is taunting them. Once you know the truth, you are accountable. Our calling comes with great accountability: *"Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven"* (Matthew 10:32-33).

Is there not enough evil to stand up against? Jesus said that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church that stands up in bold faith" (Matthew 16:18). Truth has power over lies the same as light has power over darkness.

It goes further than that. Jesus said that at the end of days, there's going to be a judgment and we're all, individually, going to stand before the throne of God, and Jesus gives this parable about it. *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'* *"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'* *"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."* You had it by yourself to give and you didn't give it.

You've all heard, I'm sure, of David Livingstone, the missionary who really opened up Africa to the gospel, and his name is world-famous. He first became a doctor but then went to Africa to evangelize. His brother also became a doctor. So when David went to Africa, his brother thought he was doing the wrong thing, and he said, "I don't want that kind of life, I want to make a name for myself". Today, in the Encyclopedia Britannica, David's brother has one line stating he's the brother of David Livingstone. David has sixteen paragraphs.

So, in the long run, it always pays to trust God. There'll always be a step of faith. You'll always have to give up or risk something. That is what faith

requires; if you could do it in your own strength, in your own ability, in your own self-effort, you would not need faith. Jesus said you have to give up your own life. But if you lose your life, you'll find the life that God has for you, which is exciting, and definitely challenging. You will have a life that will be rich, thrilling and most fulfilling. So stop being silent about the most exciting news ever shared with you. You weren't saved for you alone. You were saved to save others.

Living all-out for Jesus leads to the most exciting life one can ever live; because it is living your God given purpose. So far, I have gone to 76 countries around the world telling people about Jesus. I speak a number of languages, I have friends all around the world. And I have stories to tell that will keep you sitting on the edge of your seat for hours. I've lived an exciting life and I have no intention to retire. I tell folks who ask me about retirement, "I'm not retired, I'm refired!" I tell young people who are interested in discipleship, "if you want to live a very exciting life, just give it to Jesus. Just say yes to Jesus, and buy a one-way ticket. The provisions are over there."

It's most likely that I've never met you personally, but I bet I can tell you quite accurately if you are witnessing your faith to people regularly or not. It's not magic. There is one simple test to find out if you are. Let me ask you this: do you have a stack of tracts in your back pocket or your purse? If so I know you're a faithful witness. If not, you need to get a hold of a bunch of tracts and carry them with you all the time, with your name and phone number for prayer, and an invitation to call you so that you can disciple them. "You mean you're asking me to be that kind of Christian?" Not me, Jesus does. Reread these verses *"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels"*. (Luke 9:26-27)

So yes, it is a choice. But when you come to the end of your life, you won't look back on many, many years that have produced nothing of permanent value. You'll have fruit that will endure for eternity. So, bear in mind, you are God's workmanship created for something special that He has for you to do. And you will never find full satisfaction until you discover that special something. Stop looking for something special. Just do what He has said to do and you'll have plenty to be happy about. *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*

## The Cross Divides The World

Many people are becoming aware of the polarization of the world. Some say that the world is divided racially or politically or financially, but in actuality, it is divided by one thing: the cross! The cross has changed everything not only on earth, but in the universe. People's entire outlook on life, their vision, their purpose, it all has to do with whether or not they've accepted the full price of redemption, or if they continue in the path of the sin-nature of man and insist on living their life as a self-made man. God has done His part. He has provided an irrefutable solution.

Remember when the children of Israel were about to leave Egypt, God instructed Moses and Aaron to have every Israelite family put on the two side posts and on the upper doorpost of their houses the blood of a sacrificed lamb so that when the angel of death passed through Egypt to strike down the firstborn of the Egyptians, he would see the blood and pass over the houses of the Israelites, sparing their firstborn.

This "Pass-over" command was a foreshadow of the blood of Christ sparing all believers from death. There lies the segregation and the polarization in the world. Through accepting and professing His blood sacrifice, we are saved from the penalty of death. 1 Peter 1:18-19 says, *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."* His shed blood has caused the curse of death to "pass-over" us. The blood does not only forgive sin, it destroys the very legal foundation of Satan's hold on mankind. It breaks more than guilt; it breaks claim. Redemption is not pardon alone. Redemption means purchase, ownership; a full transfer of authority.

This is what the enemy fears. Not merely that you are forgiven, but that you now belong to another kingdom. --That his right to accuse, to oppress, to intimidate, has been stripped from him. The blood of Jesus did not simply wash away your past. It disarmed the enemy's future plans against you. Satan has no dominion over the new creation. And what's more, you are now deputized to destroy his evil works.

By spreading the blood of the Lamb over our door posts, to be seen by all and especially by the one who administers death, we are acknowledging that our old self, the self that was enslaved to rebellion, disobedience and sin is no longer a part of us. Our alienation from God has been judged, condemned, and executed in Christ, the Lamb of God.

Most Christians would say, yes, with their lips, but their lives reveal something different. They don't show their doorposts, they don't proclaim their stance and consequently they walk on eggshells. They fear curses. They still wrestle with condemnation. They feel unworthy to pray with boldness and are hesitant to confront darkness. That is not humility. That is unbelief in what the blood has truly accomplished. You cannot claim the blood and cling to guilt. You cannot honor the cross and still call yourself cursed. You must choose. Either what Jesus did is enough or it is not. Either His blood has destroyed the hold of Satan or it hasn't.

Hebrews 9.12 says, *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us”*. His resurrection marked not just victory over death, but the inauguration of a new covenant. The seal of heaven was placed on the document of our redemption through that blood. The new covenant was then signed and sealed. Hebrews 7:22 says, *“Jesus became the surety of a better covenant”*

Revelation 12.11 declares, *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”* They overcame not by effort, not by struggle, not by long prayers or loud declarations, but by the blood, and by testifying of it. That victory is legal; it is covenantal. Satan was not simply resisted. He was overcome. And the blood was the weapon. But again, only for those who know and speak of what it has done, “by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” It's got to be on the door posts of your house. The front door, not the back door.

Visualize this, a slave who has been bought from a cruel master. The chains are broken, but the former master returns the next day and says, you still belong to me. If the slave does not know what was signed, sealed, and paid, he might return out of fear. But if he holds the legal document, if he understands the purchase price, he stands tall and says, “you have no right here anymore”. That is the power of the blood. It is your legal document and you must show it, speak it and proclaim it. It is your proof of ownership, and it must be held up with confidence. It is the receipt of your purchase.

But what happens when the believer does not know it, or speak it out? Then Satan can bluff. He can intimidate. He can deceive. Because he operates through ignorance or apathy. The blood only functions in your life to the

degree that you believe and confess what it has done. It's got to be shown on the door post of your house. --Boldly and confidently. There is no passing over if the blood of the lamb is kept in the basin. The enemy knows who understands covenant and proclaims it everywhere he goes, and who only sings about it.

Christianity is a full departure from the world. You're called to live a life of integrity and truth, a selfless life of caring, loving and sharing, and that lifestyle is bold and outspoken. And yes, it may offend not only the religious as it did in Jesus' day, but the outside world as well, since you're virtually exposing their self-centered and self-absorbed Tic-Toc lifestyle. But darkness has no power over light.

So whoever has told you that being a Christian is all joy, peace and happiness might have misled you slightly. Christianity is all that, but it's also an invitation to "die daily" as Paul puts it; to die to self and to the world. To give your life away so that others too might know the truth and see the light. Jesus said that *"whoever tries to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will gain it."* There lies the paradox of discipleship where true and eternal life is found not in self-preservation and worldly pursuits in the comfort of compromise, but in self-denial, in prioritizing Christ and in preferring your brother by sharing truth with him.

Our part is to believe it, receive it and walk in the reality of it. Identification is not merely a theological concept, it is the foundation and purpose of Christ's coming to earth. When we understand that we were crucified with Him, buried with Him, raised with Him, and seated with Him, it changes everything. It redefines who we are and it puts a spring in your step to walk it out.

We have been made righteous once and for all before God. We are no longer slaves but have been adopted as sons. That's why we can call God, "Father". And this new identity sets us free; free from guilt, free from shame, and free from that curse. We live a life free from the power of sin and free from the opinions of the world. There is enough right there to shout about it on the rooftops.

Salvation is the highest honor ever bestowed upon humanity. The Son became a man, united Himself with fallen humanity, broke the hold of Satan, offered eternal redemption, and invited us to sit down at the right hand of the Father with Him. And He stands as our representative at the highest court of heaven. We have an advocate who bears our names. His heart carries our cause continually before the Father. Hebrews 9:24 opens up a staggering revelation, *"for Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf"*. He stands there as our intercessor, our advocate, our representative.

And, in God's eyes, we are as Christ is. We are given His robe of righteousness. When we pray, it is as though Jesus Himself is praying. When we speak the Word, it is as though Christ is speaking. If the father has accepted Christ, He has accepted us because we are in Him. There is no more condemnation. We are heirs of God, joint-heirs with Christ. Our prayers avail much. Our words carry power. Our hands bear healing. Our feet walk with authority. We are God's legal agents on the Earth.

We are no longer bound by this world's values, its judgments, or its systems. We have been translated into another realm, a kingdom that is not bound by worldly limitations; we reign in life through the One who gave Himself for us; this is the glory of the new identity; the power of the blood of Christ; this is the essence of the gospel, the truth that sets us free. Christ lives in me and through me. And it's all over my doorpost, and all over my face. Unashamed and bold.

## **Honey, Did We Throw The Baby Out With The Bath Water?**

All through His life, Jesus was constantly teaching guidelines and principles to straighten out and realign all that was wrong, not only with the religious system but with the world in general. He laid out a set of concepts and fundamental truths and ethical standards, along with basic disciplines to help us live life aligned with the original purpose of God. In other words, He gave a blueprint so simple that a little child could understand it. He shared all of the different guidelines and essential rules of conduct necessary for us to live a fulfilled, happy and accomplished life.

Through His many parables, He basically depicted the universal laws to show God's will and plan from the beginning. In fact, all through the gospels, you have Him say to the Pharisees who kept quoting the old law, "you say... but I say..." He was showing that His Word and His authority was above what all they've been taught before. He even referred to the queen of Sheba who came all the way from the uttermost parts of the earth just to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and He said, "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here." He was telling them that He was the incarnate Word and wisdom of God.

But here lies a great tragedy when we decide to reject religion due to its fallacies, corruptions and trappings. We ended up throwing out the baby with the bathwater. The removal of the Bible from schools was not just a socio-political event, but a spiritual act of war. That decision was a deliberate strategic move by the devil to erase the evidence of Christ's triumph, and His teachings that align man ethics with the perfect will of God.

Herein lies the profound catastrophe of what appeared like a cultural decision: in our zeal to reject organized religion, we committed the ultimate spiritual blunder. The desire to reform or step away from flawed human religious structures was understandable, but the wholesale scrapping of Jesus' teachings and the Biblical framework was a catastrophic, coordinated tragedy, and an outright conspiracy engineered by the devil himself.

The separation of church and state, while intended as a political safeguard, was strategically exploited. When we took the Bible out of the classroom, we

didn't just remove a religious book; we discarded the blueprint for a structured, purposeful life and erased the primary evidence of a divine triumph. This was not simply a cultural, legal, or political decision, but a concerted effort planned by Satan himself. His motivation is terrifyingly simple: to conceal the irrevocable victory of the cross and effectively eradicate all public evidence of Christ's total victory over the power of darkness. We have removed the specific framework that shaped our cultural values and lost the foundational guidelines—the principles of compassion, integrity, respect and purpose—that were part of life's essential curriculum; and now we're left searching for a moral compass without the one map that once delineated the basic parameters and foundation of life's very motive.

We removed the Recipe Book that alone provided the timeless principles—the very framework that had defined and guarded western civilization for centuries. We have stripped upcoming generations of the moral and structural guidance necessary for a well-defined future and destiny. Consequently, society is now profoundly disoriented, adrift without absolutes and without truthful guidelines, and what's more, polluted by an array of false ideologies.

The enemy's tactic is clear: if he can successfully bury the documented evidence of his defeat—the triumph of Christ—then the world will search endlessly for a moral compass. The ongoing effort to smear Christ's image in culture is part and parcel of his deceptive plot, aiming to ensure that the generation searching for truth never recognizes the power contained in the very book we were convinced to discard. We're now finding ourselves adrift, searching for answers that were once right in front of us. Perhaps it's time to reconsider “that which was lost”

Let's be honest, it has created a generation of people with no truthful guidelines, no dependable principles, guided by an array of false ideologies and philosophies that has polluted our youth. By doing away with absolute truths, we have brought about the loss of moral and structural guidance in society.

We have removed the guideposts and framework for a well-defined purpose in every aspect of our lives, and consequently, not only the individual, but society in general is highly disoriented, where people cannot define gender, identities or pronouns. The sanctity of life is being reevaluated, truth has become subjective, reality has become optional and structural principles have become futile.

Parents are only now waking up to the cost of discarding the Bible in the classroom; and whatever good or wholesome principles they try to instill in the upbringing of their children at home is entirely disregarded and discarded by the educational system in the classroom. And to add insult to injury, parents

are told to stay out of it; or worse yet, the kids are asked to keep the parents uninformed because their “family values” are antiquated and therefore they’re the enemies.

## Where's The Proof?

At best, the little that those who still believe in the spiritual are left with is quantum physics or science in general. Since they don't want to have anything to do with religion, they boldly proclaim "I don't believe in religion, I believe in science". But let's not detach the two too quickly. Science is all over the Bible. And quantum physics is discovering the truth and infallibility of God's universal laws along with the mechanics of a miracle, for instance.

The study of quantum physics is what brought me back to the Lord actually. In my book, "The Butterfly Wonder", I detail my experience, when I was very disillusioned by religion and particularly christian religiosity, I became not only very doubtful of the veracity of the Bible but I questioned faith as a concept, and like Thomas, I stubbornly wanted proof.

This is basically what everybody who has discarded religion has come to. They want proof, and since that's what science provides, they're happy to just rest their search there; they defer to logic over faith. Mathematics is logical, chemistry is logical, as are all branches of science. And most believers prefer finding their "happy place" in logic.

But when we truly understand faith, we realize that it does not defy logic. Faith simply goes beyond the seen, by imposing the unseen upon the seen. Faith calls *"things that are not, as though they were"* (Romans 4:17), and they become so. --not so different from chemistry, whereby we can mix entirely different elements together to create a totally different one. Faith does not deny reality: it is not about ignoring what is currently happening, but about shifting our focus and on declaring what God's will is, and imposing it as the ultimate reality. Faith has the power of speaking into existence what God has promised. Paul elaborates on that principle in Romans 4:17. He explained how God spoke an abundant lineage into Abraham's life by telling him in PAST TENSE that He had (already) made him a father of many nations, 25 years before Abraham even had a child.

And that is what quantum physics is discovering. Words create reality. For instance: they have "discovered" that words have power to transform things; such as when you speak good things to plants, they react with growth and beauty; whereas when you speak terrible things to them, they react by withering and dying. To that effect, the Bible tells us that our thoughts, when verbalized, will define our destiny. King Solomon said "As a man thinks in his

heart, so is he". And again in Proverbs 18:21, he says that "*The tongue has the power of life and death*".

There are a multitude of principles which quantum physics is now discovering which replicate the very same principles depicted thousands of years ago in the Bible. People discard faith in exchange for "proof"; they want something tangible and evident. But in actual fact, faith is a substance as well as an evidence. That is specifically what Hebrews 11:1 states, "*faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen*". True faith actually converts hope into visible results.

One of the keys of faith is to not believe lies. In other words, faith chooses not to believe in impossibilities. We do that everyday when we choose not to believe a liar. It is as important to believe as it is to disbelieve. Faith says "I believe what I don't see, and to do so, I must disbelieve what I do see". In order to believe the truth you have to disbelieve a lie. A liar may put forth all the right arguments, but still it remains a lie and you choose not to believe him in order to enforce truth on your will.

When the 12 spies went to scout out the promised land, 10 came back with a bad report and two with a good report. What does that tell you? You choose to believe in what you see or in what is possible. The ten guys who gave a bad report only focused on what they saw; the impossibilities. Were those factual? Yes. But the two who gave a good report saw beyond the impossibilities.

Remember the apostle Paul when in prison was rejoicing and praising; whereas, you have people living in mansions and are miserable. The difference lies in the way you look at things. That's why faith is a choice. You choose to disbelieve the impossible in exchange for the possible. The enemy operates in the immediate, in the visible. And you defeat him by choosing not to believe strictly in the immediate circumstances. That's why a failure in the immediate does not determine the long run. And athletes know that principle ; they spell the word "goal" as "gold". They look at that gold medal as their goal. Daily failures are stepping stones towards long-term success.

## The Culpability Of Religiosity

Religiosity has reduced the true identity of the believer and has robbed him of the true power of faith. It instead offered only a counterfeit; rituals, traditions, and antics that are empty of substance, significance and sustenance. And that's why so many got negatively affected by religion in general. They eventually realized that all of those practices were empty of validity and meaning. All these skits and flannelgraph stories without practical and applicable significance.

Religiosity has diminished the true message of the gospel to the level of junk food; It almost looks like real food, but it's not. And consequently most people have found no nutrients or nourishment therein to sustain their life's goals. All of this empty buffoonery, fakery feigning truth, cunningly resembling fraud and deception. Consequently, they have turned to either Eastern religions, New Age or philosophy to try to come up with some kind of spiritual scaffolding to lean their life's purpose upon.

There lies the culpability of the instigators of organized religion. Jesus told the religious leaders of His day, *"You are blind guides leading the blind and both fall into a ditch."* and what's more --and worse-- is the fact that, through wrong teachings and emphasizing the mechanics and the traditions of religion, they not only do not enter the kingdom themselves, but they also have blocked the entrance-way for others to go in. Jesus put it quite sharply to the them: *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."*

Religiosity has so polluted and diluted the message of the gospel that you can no longer recognize its original purpose nor its value. It is as though there was this one massive "present" under the Christmas tree -- one of those big boxes that people sometimes use to camouflage a tiny, yet very expensive gift. And that big box which appeared empty was simply discarded as a joke and therefore useless. But in reality, it contained the most valuable, expensive and essential gift. Camouflaged in the masquerade of religiosity was actually the most valuable gift ever shared with humanity. The one and unique sacrifice that provided the most expensive, the most valuable inheritance ever given to man in all the world.

How like the devil to openly invite all believers into religiosity to dissuade everyone, or to deviate everyone's attention from discovering the glaring truth of the gospel, so as to conceal his irrefutable defeat. This is how the enemy has infiltrated the churches. This is how he has tricked all believers into focusing on the mechanics of religion in order to hide the victory of Christ. This is why the seminaries are all about theology (doctors of the law), public speaking and how to manipulate a crowd, rather than about the importance of the kingdom's message. And sadly, we send our brand new born-again babies to bathe in this dirty and polluted water.

When we returned to the US after 45 years of missionary work abroad, Linda and I continued to lead souls to the Lord. But then, we were left wondering "where do you send them for true discipleship training?" So we looked up some solid leaders of the church who were actually preaching the true gospel, and we went to visit Andrew Womack in Colorado Springs, and we asked him if perhaps he might have a list of churches that he considered true to the gospel message and where new converts could be sent to be discipled. His answer was, "unfortunately, it's hit and miss, mostly miss".

So we decided to develop our own discipleship handbook called the "Handbook For Disciples Of Jesus". We compiled all of the most important Bible verses that a disciple of Christ must know in order to base his own identity upon, and to also be able to articulate the true gospel message clearly, and walk in the authority given to us by Christ. This handbook is now translated in 15 different languages, and we have personally handed out 9000 copies of those handbooks to those we witness to, so that they get Jesus and the true gospel. You can find and download our Handbook at [hanbookfordiscipleofjesus.com](http://hanbookfordiscipleofjesus.com) or at [faithwithoutborders.us](http://faithwithoutborders.us).

## Science Is At Fault Too!

We are quick to condemn religion, but science is just as much at fault. In fact, in leaning on science for a solid scaffolding, as was promoted by the theory of evolution, we have found every branch of science that has studied the possibilities of evolution to debunk its veracity at the core. Paleontology for instance has disproved that the continuous, small, gradual changes predicted by Darwin could not be so, as all discoveries point to a sudden appearance of complex life forms; and the lack of "transitional" fossils as evidence that species did not gradually evolve.

By the same token, molecular biology and genetics have proven that if you remove even one component from the bacterial flagellum, the entire system fails, meaning it could not have evolved gradually and that the high degree of organized complexity points toward an initial "creation" rather than random chance, making evolution "improbable".

It goes further. Thermodynamics and information theory proved that evolution violates fundamental scientific laws, and is therefore casting evolution as a matter of "faith" or improbability. They've proven that the spontaneous generation of new genetic information required for evolution is mathematically impossible, requiring "a huge amount of faith."

Yet, so many carry on with undeniable faith that evolution must be true, as if science was a democracy. In other words, if enough people back up a theory, we can disregard the facts; a simple majority vote should determine the weight of its evidence, period! It's like this one guy who said, "I've already made up my mind, don't confuse me with the facts". Hmm... something is wrong with this picture.

Overall, we would have to acknowledge that in the past 30 or 40 years, the enemy has come in like a flood (Isaiah 59:19) in every nation, and in every major area of national life. In the church, in the seminary, in the places of education, the schools, the colleges, the universities, in political life, in social life, in moral and ethical standards, and even in law enforcement. In every area of this life, you could say, without exaggeration, that the enemy, the devil and his works of darkness, have come in like a flood.

If we are willing to address the topic of faith with an open mind, we will soon observe that not only religion is at fault, but so are many fields of science that have corrupted their original mission for the pursuit of other values as well. Taking an honest look at society shows that this problem is not unique to

religion. It is a widespread disease, infecting nearly every major sector of society. When profit is the driving force, science, education, medical and pharmaceutical, educational and food industries, social media are just as guilty of losing their way.

Ultimately, this is not a problem with faith or a problem with reason. It is the corrosive effect of the unregulated profit motive on human institutions. Whether in a church, a laboratory, a classroom, or a marketplace, when service and purpose are traded for sales and profit, the core message—be it spiritual truth or scientific objectivity—is inevitably polluted. Acknowledging this systemic vulnerability across all core sectors allows for a much more honest and powerful critique of modern society. In brief, the devil has infiltrated all sectors. We need a way out (or up).

But in the same verse, in Isaiah 59:19, it continues, "...the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him". --Meaning that when adversity or evil seems overwhelming, the power of the Holy Spirit is present to raise a barrier or a standard of protection and deliverance. When there are overwhelming attacks, such as waves of lies, fear, doubt, or temptation, God's Spirit comes up stronger with TRUTH than any of the enemy's onslaught. And that's why we must desire and fight for truth in every area of our life.

Most everyone fights for healthy foods in their diet. Most everyone is awakened to fighting for values in education. Society at large is awakening to the fact that the pharmaceutical industry has deceived us and we're looking for natural remedies. People have become very leery of governmental policies that corrupt fundamental and constitutional values.

So why not hunger and fight for truth not only in the physical but in spiritual realm as well.

## The Devil's 5th Column

Now, I must pause to address the churchgoer who's satisfied with his Sunday morning fix, thinking that that is all that is required to please (or appease) God.

There is a great deal in the news media today regarding how the enemy attacks Christians through outright persecution. Yet, in reality, far more damage is caused from the inside. The enemy's primary goal is not to destroy Christianity from the outside, but to corrupt it from within. This is his "fifth column"—a term originating from the Spanish Civil War to describe a hidden force working inside a city to bring it down. Because these attackers looked and sounded like everyone else, they were nearly impossible to detect.

The real danger facing the church today is not the loud voices outside trying to tear us down, but the quiet whispers within that slowly erode our foundation. It turns what was meant to be radical discipleship into a diluted, comfortable gospel. The most dangerous threats aren't the roaring lions of persecution, but the subtle serpents of deception that slip in unnoticed.

The church isn't typically destroyed by external enemies; it is hollowed out by insider compromises that water down the true message of Christ. False doctrines take root in our congregations like a slow poison that doesn't feel harmful at first. Imagine a faith that looks orthodox on the surface but lacks any real spiritual power. We have inadvertently created a comfortable version of Christianity—a "Churchianity" that dresses and sounds right but doesn't actually challenge us to change. It is like wearing a beautiful coat that covers an unchanged heart. We have learned to talk about Jesus without truly surrendering to Him.

The Gospel isn't about "polishing the old man" until he looks respectable on a Sunday morning; it is about dying to our old selves so that we can be completely remade in Him.

One of the most dangerous lies we've embraced is the idea that following Christ is just a simple addition to our existing life—like adding a nice decoration to our home without renovating the foundation. We've been told we can accept Jesus without any real transformation. It's a message that sounds appealing: "Come to Christ, and nothing in your life needs to fundamentally change!"

But that's not the heart of the Gospel. Christ doesn't want to be an accessory to our life; He wants to be the entire foundation. He isn't interested in being a part of our plans; He wants to be the center of everything. It's not about improving ourselves a little, but about dying to our old self daily and being completely remade.

If a church is ever overcome, it is rarely from without. History shows that persecution and martyrdom actually pour gasoline on the fire of true Christianity. Just look at the aftermath of Charlie Kirk's martyrdom. The way the enemy defeats us, individually or collectively, is from within. If there is a "fifth column" of deception or compromise in our hearts or our churches, we are in danger of being neutralized. The enemy is clever enough to realize that as long as he can keep this internal compromise alive, the church cannot do what God designed it to do: cast down the kingdom of darkness.

One of the main pollutions instigated by the enemy is the turning of Christianity into a "religion"—a distorted system of human effort to earn what God has paid for and given freely through grace. The Gospel states that God's grace is a free gift of redemption through Jesus Christ, which cannot be earned or merited. The Apostle Paul spoke with fury to the Galatians because they were trying to mix the self-efforts of the old law with grace. They don't mix. Trying to "earn" your way to God is a slap in the face of the Cross; it suggests that Jesus' sacrifice wasn't quite enough.

The poison of a "works-based" gospel is that it inevitably breeds a spirit of superiority. When we believe our standing with God is earned through tradition or morality, we naturally look down on those we perceive as "lesser." Jesus dismantled this entire system in the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14). The Pharisee didn't pray to God; he prayed to his own ego, reciting a resume of his fasting and tithing. He looked at the broken tax collector with disdain. Yet Jesus declared that the tax collector—the one who beat his breast and begged for mercy—was the only one who went home justified. A humble spirit seeking mercy is worth more than a lifetime of pious performance fueled by pride.

Religion, when divorced from the Gospel, becomes a counterfeit that leads only to pride and self-righteousness. This "self-effort" religion is a cage. It demands we stay "squeaky clean," which no human can do. It turns the Christian life into a frantic exercise in "polishing the old man" until he looks flawless, only to discard people the moment they lose their shine. Furthermore, we often ignore Jesus' warning: "Judge not, that you be not judged." We are quick to point out the speck in a brother's eye while ignoring the plank in our own. It is a tragedy to demand perfection from others while we ourselves survive daily on the grace we refuse to extend to them.

The true Gospel leads to mercy and forgiveness, not condemnation. When you realize you are saved purely by grace and not by your own "spick and span" resumé, you lose the right to be self-righteous. You become a person who forgives because you know you've been given an inheritance you didn't deserve. Religion, by contrast, is a human-made system of rules that replaces the grace of Christ with an agenda of condemnation. For centuries, this hollow performance has often been the world's only representation of Christianity—and it is a heartbreakingly poor representation.

Make no mistake: there is no neutrality in true Christianity. We do not compromise with the enemy or waffle on the Word of God. We stand on the supreme authority of Scripture. But if our "stance" lacks the mercy of Christ, we miss the heart of the message. We are to forgive as we have been forgiven. That message is baked into

the "Lord's Prayer" and is, in fact, the only point Jesus further emphasized from that template prayer (Matthew 6:14-15).

The organized church has sometimes turned God into a celestial servant—a divine vending machine to make us comfortable. We choose what we like in the Scriptures and disregard what makes us feel uncomfortable. We call it a "relationship," yet often without commitment on our part. We have inverted the relationship, expecting God to revolve around our desires instead of us revolving around His will. But God isn't here to serve our happiness; we are here to serve and glorify Him. To turn the Creator into a divine butler is a subtle form of idolatry; it's putting ourselves on the throne and asking, "How do I want things to be?" rather than "God, what do You want?" Our modern approach has become dangerously self-centered. We pray like customers making demands rather than humble servants. We want a God of the "American Dream" who ensures our success while we remain unwilling to share the radical, revolutionary life of Jesus with the world. Why don't we follow Jesus rather than religion?

The real call of the Gospel is radical. It is about complete surrender, about dying to yourself and being raised to a new way of living. Christ wants to be Lord of everything—not just a part of a Sunday routine. Tragically, we have created a version of Christianity that produces converts who never truly become disciples; a bride "just a little bit married" or "just a little bit pregnant."

Partial obedience is deceiving because we think we are "growing," but God exposed King Saul's partial obedience as outright disobedience, even likening it to the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15).

It is not sufficient to sing the songs and talk the talk; our hearts must be changed. To put it plainly: as disciples of Christ, we have been commissioned to change the course of history, to be "lightbulbs" in a dark generation. We cannot keep playing religious games, pretending to be gladiators because we attend the game as spectators.

The Holy Spirit doesn't move through committees or comfortable programs; He moves through broken, surrendered hearts. God is calling us to something deeper, more authentic, and more transformative than mere religious performance. Let us stop "playing church" and start living as the Bride of Christ—fully committed, radically devoted, and unashamed of the Gospel that changed our lives. It's time to move beyond the pew and into the life we were actually created for.

Hold on, I'm not done....

When we returned to the USA after 45 years as missionaries and sought places for new converts to be discipled, we wrote the Handbook For A Disciple Of Jesus ([www.handbookfordiscipleofjesus.com](http://www.handbookfordiscipleofjesus.com)). We offered it to church pastors for their "discipleship programs," only to be met with the question: "What program?" Discipleship is often not even on the radar in most churches.

There is little focus on changing the community through *soul-winning*. That is sad. It's not at all the way the early church operated. Let's be honest, if there's no discipleship, it isn't the Christianity of the Bible. The most dangerous moment is when lies become so familiar that they sound like truth—when we become comfortable with an adulterated gospel. A person who knows they are sick will seek help, but someone who thinks they are fine will never seek healing. As Jesus said in John 9:41, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

Have you noticed how worship has subtly shifted from awe of God to a celebration of ourselves? It is easy to slip into thinking about what we want and what we feel, forgetting what He expects of us as ambassadors of truth. When we reduce God to a cosmic cheerleader, we lose the deep reverence—the holy fear—that strips the cross of its transformative power.

The early apostles approached God with trembling and complete surrender. Faith is more than intellectual agreement. Countless people "agree" with Christian teachings but have never knelt in genuine repentance or yielded their will. Real faith burns with passion and obeys God's Word.

The tragedy is that many will passionately defend biblical truth while their own lives contradict it. True Christianity is revealed not inside the church, but outside. (I've written about this in "Beyond the Pew", available at [www.faithwithoutborders.us](http://www.faithwithoutborders.us)). Throughout history, it has been easier to play religious games than to change. It is easier to kneel at an altar than to become a living sacrifice; easier to sing songs than to crucify selfish desires.

Outward religion becomes a mask. It lets us look godly without the "inconvenience" of becoming like Christ. But God is not impressed by ceremonies that do not flow from a broken heart. When religion becomes a costume, it provides a false sense of security. Our conscience is quieted by routine, and we believe everything is fine while the world rejects a "cheap substitute" of the real thing.

Paul warned that in the last days, people would have "itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3-4), seeking teachers who tell them what they want to hear rather than following sound doctrine. Jesus warned that the "love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). We have become a culture that measures success by popularity and size, but truth has never been determined by a majority vote. Jesus Himself was abandoned by the masses.

The lyrics of the song by Casting Crowns, "Start Right Here," capture this perfectly:

We want our coffee in the lobby / We watch our worship on a screen  
 We got a Rockstar preacher / Who won't wake us from our dreams  
 We want our blessings in our pocket / We keep our missions overseas  
 But for the hurting in our cities / Would we even cross the street?  
 ...But church if we want to see a change in the world out there / It's got to start right here / It's got to start right now

...I'm like the brother of the prodigal / Who turned his nose and puffed his chest  
He didn't run off like his brother / But his soul was just as dead  
What if the church on Sunday / Was still the church on Monday too?

Christianity is defined by standing up for truth. Acts 4:13 tells us that when the leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John, they recognized they had been with Jesus. Boldness should be the first sign of a relationship with Him. However, today, we tell ourselves that staying silent is kindness; but this approach buries truth under a mountain of apathy. We often confuse love with indulgence and gentleness with weakness.

But truth wounds before it heals. When the church trades the sword of truth for the velvet of feeling, it loses its ability to transform. We can convince ourselves we are being Christ-like when we are actually just being timid. Holiness isn't judgemental cruelty, and truth isn't condemning harshness, but they are also not wimpiness. Jesus was full of compassion, but He never excused evil.

We have been commissioned to change the course of history and realign the heart of man to the will of God. The Holy Spirit moves in broken, surrendered hearts, not just in well-managed programs. Our challenge is to stop "playing church" and start living fully committed to Christ. Partial obedience is no obedience at all. Let us embrace radical, whole-hearted devotion today.

## The War Is Still On!

There is a war going on every single day, not in the streets, not in the courts, not in the government offices. The battle is in the mind. That war is not fought with swords or guns, but with thoughts. Every day God's enemy tries to conform you to this world, to press you into a mold of fear, doubt, and compromise, or else into a mold of neutrality.

There's a war going on and you are in it, part of it, and fighting it, whether you know it or not. The truth is, what you say inwardly is shaping everything about your outward life. Jesus explained this universal law when He said to the Pharisees who were trying to impose religious principles on His disciples by condemning them in the fact they were eating without washing their hands. His reply was, *"it's not what goes into your mouth that defiles a man but what comes out of your mouth"*. In other words, your thoughts get translated into words, and your words are seed containers that will eventually define your life.

Plainly said, the same as we reap what we sow, we will also reap what we say. James 3:11 describes this in the context of a rhetorical question, stating, *"Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?"* followed by the answer, *"So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh"*. This metaphor illustrates that a person's words should be consistently pure. Just as a natural spring produces either fresh or salt water, but not both from the same source, you should not speak blessings and cursings upon your life. Both are seeds.

Why is this important? Because, unless your thinking is right and you are dwelling on truthful concepts, it will affect your whole life and destiny. Have you ever caught yourself in a moment where you're standing on the edge of opportunity but instead of moving forward, your own mind begins whispering, "you're not ready, you're not good enough. You always mess things up." It's not your environment that stops you. It's not your background. It's not even the enemy out there, it's your own thoughts.

The most powerful opposition you'll ever face is not external, it's internal. You see, we often talk about spiritual battles as if they're all out there in the world,

but the most relentless war is the one happening between your ears, in the inner self. Your mind is either a tool in the hands of God or a weapon used by the enemy against your destiny. And here's the twist. Your own mind can become your biggest enemy when it is not surrendered to truth. But God didn't leave us defenseless. He gave us a divine strategy.

In Romans chapter 12:2, it says, *“do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing, and perfect will.”* That means transformation doesn't start with your job, your bank account, or even your relationships. It starts with your thoughts.

This is a truth that has the power to change the way you see everything. Don't let your carnal mind use you against your new recreated identity. Paul puts it very plainly when saying, *“the carnal mind is enmity against God”* (Romans 8:7). It means that the natural, fleshly mind of a person, is in active opposition and hostile to God because it is not, and cannot be, subject to God's law or will.

The mindset which is focused on earthly and fleshly desires, resists spiritual things and hinders a relationship with God. However, when you're born again, you're given a new mind; the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), so as to be able to see things with spiritual and truthful concepts; whereas the carnal mind of the “old man” focuses on fleshly desires and worldly pursuits and is therefore inherently opposed to God and cannot be subject to His law of unselfish love. The “spiritual mind,” is guided by the Holy Spirit and leads to life and peace. You were not created to live at war with yourself. You were created to walk in agreement with heaven.

The mind is a battlefield of belief. And to control its steering wheel, we were given one of the most powerful and precious gifts; willpower. Through the multitude of choices that we make everyday, we get to decide our own fate. And that is why this is all very important. Because whether you like it or not, you're in a war of thoughts, of words and of wills. And the ultimate purpose of Christ's redemptive sacrifice was to empower us with truth and with authority so that we could all win that war.

Watch your thoughts; they will become a loop playing in your head that you can't seem to escape? You try to focus. You try to worship. You try to smile. But deep inside, it's noisy. You're worn out, not from what's happening around you, but from the constant battle within. You don't have to live imprisoned by negative thinking. God has already provided tools, divine, practical, powerful tools for mental victory.

If you're gonna win in life, really win, you need to understand that the real war is in your belief system. Our thoughts are not just ideas floating around. They

are blueprints and when repeated, they carve a stronghold in our minds. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:4, *“for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds”*. The spiritual fight is against strongholds, which are deceptive mental or emotional patterns, arguments, or beliefs that elevate themselves in our mind, against the knowledge of God. These mental strongholds are like fortresses built on lies that aim to take minds captive.

Every choice you make, every action you take, every habit you form, it all flows from your dominant thoughts and this is why the enemy doesn't really have to destroy you, he only needs to deceive you. If he can twist your thinking, he can steer your future. The Bible doesn't tell us to fight the enemy with fists, it tells us to take every thought captive. In 2 Corinthians 10:5 Paul says *“we demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*

That means you have a choice: you don't have to believe every thought that walks through the door of your mind. You don't have to agree with your fears, you don't have to obey your insecurities, you were given WILLPOWER to fight compromise. That's right, your will has power. Your decisions become the rudder of your life.

Even though we may be endowed with talents and gifts and all that is needed to live an abundant and fruitful life, we can sabotage it all simply by thinking “you don't deserve this”. Thoughts soon coagulate into reality and may keep us in cycles of delay and defeat. It is only when you put up a fight and decide to stop accepting lies that your identity begins to declare what God said about you instead. Then everything starts to shift. Not because the world changed, but because your mind did. Similarly, you may be sitting here today feeling stuck but you are not stuck, you are just being held hostage by a mindset that God never gave you. You were never meant to live in mediocrity bound by fear, guilt, shame or limitation. You were created to operate in a world of possibilities. *“All things are possible to him that believes”* (Mark 9:23)

So here's the hard truth: while your mind is a battlefield, it's also the place where God wants to build His kingdom and He starts by tearing down every lie and rebuilding you with His truth. You are only one renewed thought away from a brand new life. And that is why you must be very careful regarding what you take in from the news or from social media. Those lies are all carefully crafted to transform you.

A lie can become a lifestyle. It starts small with an insecure thought whispered in the silence of your struggle and before you know it, it becomes the script you live. That's how people convince themselves that they are sick. It all

usually starts with just one little doubt, one little fear. They're all subtle. Most of the battles we fight never reach the surface, they don't make noise, they don't leave bruises, but they bleed us dry from the inside out and here's the thing; they happen in the most difficult of moments. It can start with a feeble moment physically or emotionally, a rejection, or an unforgiveness, a failure or a moment of weakness; maybe you didn't get the job, maybe you were overlooked again and the enemy was right there ready with that deadly suggestion "you're not capable".

But here's the truth that crushes that lie. David in Psalm 139:14 declares "*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made and your works are wonderful*". Let that sink in, you are not average, you are not a mistake, you are a masterpiece crafted by the hands of a God who makes no errors. Fearfully made, meaning he took his time, and you carry divine beauty and a refined and defined future; you don't need to earn people's approval. Your identity is not rooted in performance, it's grounded in your design. That truth alone can break chains if you dare to believe it.

## How To Read God's Word --God's Mirror

Wow. We have covered a lot already. I could leave you here and you'd be fine. But there's more, and I can't let you go without it.

When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Most people see their past, their flaws, their failures, their shortcomings, and they try their best to camouflage the awful truth. But what if I told you that God has a mirror too, and when you look into it, you don't see who you used to be, you see who you've become in Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory."* Did you catch that? Paul says when you read God's Word, you're actually looking into a mirror. You not only see the image of Jesus, but it transforms you.

That means what you're seeing in Him, you're also seeing in the new you. You are in Christ, and He is in you. You reflect Him. And the more you look at Him, the more you become like Him. Now, this is not about looking within and finding some vague inner power in introspection. This is about being rooted in Him. When you accepted Jesus, your old self died, and you emulate Him.

Most people read the Word of God as admirers and spectators. But that won't change you. You must see Christ, His lifestyle, His teachings, His truth and His principles as yours. And let all of that transform you into His image. You no longer see sin, you see righteousness. You don't see weakness, you see power. You don't see distance to God, you see closeness. When you truly look at Jesus, not just as your savior, but as your reflection, you'll stop striving to become someone and start living as who you were destined to be and have now become.

That's why looking to Jesus reveals your true identity, and how this simple revelation can completely transform how you think, pray, and live. Because until you see yourself the way heaven sees you, you'll live beneath your spiritual rights.

Your spirit was recreated. You were joined to the Lord and became one Spirit with Him. *"But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him"* (1 Corinthians 6:17). So when God sees you, He sees Jesus. And when you look into the Word, you see the same thing, Jesus in you. The Bible is not just

a book of principles and disciplines, it's a mirror. And every time you read it, God is trying to show you what you now look like in the Spirit.

If you read the word of God in the light of what you used to be, it'll create confusion. You will look at what the Bible says, but you won't see it in your life. So you'll assume it's just symbolic or else, something reserved for the super spiritual. The New Testament is an actual revelation of the believer's rights. And when you read it correctly, you're not just reading about Jesus, you're reading about you, who you've become in Jesus. For example, when the Bible says, "*as he is, so are we in this world*" (1 John 4:17). That's not an exaggeration. That's reality.

In your Spirit right now, you are righteous, holy, loved, accepted, powerful, and filled with the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. But if you don't look in the mirror long enough, you'll forget. James 1:23-24 says that "*the person who hears the Word but doesn't do it is like someone who looks at himself in a mirror, then walks away and forgets what he looks like.*" That means your spiritual memory is tied to your spiritual reflection. If you don't keep looking, you'll go back to acting like the old you, the one that died.

The Word is the mirror of the recreated spirit. When we look into it and see who we are in Christ, then we act accordingly. That's the secret. Transformation doesn't come from trying harder. It comes from the revelation of Christ in you. You become what you behold. And when your eyes are fixed on Jesus, not just as your savior, but as your reflection, you start thinking like Him, speaking like Him, loving like Him, walking in power like Him. You're not actually copying Him, you have become like Him. You've been made a son of God, so you're a spitin' image of Jesus.

So how do you live this out? How do you actually see yourself in Christ every day? It starts by looking in the right mirror. Not the mirror of your feelings, because how you feel that day will become your identity. But the only mirror that tells the truth about who you really are is the Word. The Word shows you what your Spirit looks like now that Jesus lives in you. And that's why reading the Bible is not about checking a box. It's about seeing who you've become. When you read, "you are more than a conqueror", don't just quote it. See it. Picture it. Believe it. That's you.

When you read "you are the righteousness of God in Christ", don't shrug it off. That's the mirror talking. When you read, "the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you", let that hit you. That's not hype. That's your new normal. That's God's mirror that's reflecting back your new nature. When we look at Jesus, we're actually visualizing God's will for man.

Jesus is the prototype of the new creation. He's the blueprint. He shows us what life looks like when a man is filled with the Spirit and completely

surrendered to the Father. That's why the gospels are not just stories to admire. They're models to imitate. When Jesus healed the sick, it wasn't just to prove He was divine. It was to show what spirit-filled humans can do. When He walked in peace, when He forgave quickly, when He prayed boldly, that's your mirror. That's what you now have access to because He lives in you. In fact, not just in you, but through you, if you will let Him. The more you look at Jesus, not just as your example, but as your reflection, your life rises to match that image. You stop saying, "I'm just a sinner" and start saying, "I'm a son". You stop saying "I'm weak" and start saying "His strength is made perfect in me". You stop begging God to come near, and you start enjoying the fact that He already lives inside you. This is what it means to walk in Christ, not trying to become, but being who you already are through Him.

Religion is comfortable with guilt and shame, and with ongoing repentance; because it promotes self-effort and performance. Religion is about control and restraint. But grace introduces a mirror that says you are who He says you are, whether you feel like it or not. And that kind of truth threatens systems built on shame. But once you've looked into God's mirror, you can't go back to spiritual amnesia. You've seen yourself in Christ and nothing else will satisfy.

So open the Word, not to study, but to see. Find verses that describe your identity in Christ and read them slowly. Speak them out loud. Let your mind catch up with your spirit. And every time you're tempted to look at your old reflection, remind yourself that that person is dead. "I've been raised with Christ. And when I look at him, I'm looking at me because I'm in Him and He's in me".

## God Is Not Worried About Your Brokenness.

Have you ever felt the suffocating grip of your past? The constant replay of mistakes, the sting of regret, the gnawing whisper of shame? These are the loudest lies in the human heart; they shout "defeat!" and relentlessly tell you there is "no recourse." They create a haunting reel of everything you wish you could undo, every painful decision you've made, every way others have hurt you. And in their aftermath, you feel handicapped by your history, limited by your hurts.

Many of us are looking for an escape, a way to mend what feels broken. And often, our society points us toward the path of modern psychology. But what if, in seeking healing there, we sometimes find ourselves trapped in a different kind of prison?

Modern psychology, for all its good intentions, sometimes preys on our deepest vulnerabilities. It has, in some ways, perfected the art of profiting from inner pain, keeping people tethered to their trauma instead of setting them free. Think about it: how many times have you heard someone say, "I'm just a product of my environment," or "My past dictates my present"?

And sadly, it has greatly contributed to the breaking down of families because it points the guilt at parents. Obviously, all parents have made mistakes. There's no recipe book for parenting. And most parents' only example is the one that they've witnessed from their own parents. And they replicate some of the mistakes that were made in their upbringing. However, psychological therapy preys on those parental mistakes and calls for the child to blame the parents for his/her dysfunctional behavior.

This narrative is constantly reinforced. By relentlessly highlighting misfortune, dissecting every wound, and applying clinical labels—"broken," "dysfunctional," "anxious," "depressed," "a victim of...", we end up convinced that this diagnosis *is* our identity. We become defined by our circumstances, our failures, or the actions of others towards us. Children, especially, are susceptible to being permanently labeled, often internalizing these pronouncements as their ultimate truth.

This constant focus on the "wrong" in our upbringing can inadvertently cement a victim identity, making us believe we are forever handicapped by our history and excused in our uselessness. It can leave us feeling that our only recourse is to blame the circumstances of our past and the people who may have had a negative influence on us. We stay stuck in an endless loop of analysis, often without finding true liberation.

Here's the critical question: Does dwelling on the wound truly heal it, or does it keep it festering? When psychology meticulously catalogues our brokenness, does it provide the path to wholeness, or does it just give us an eloquent explanation for why we're still hurting?

The danger is that this relentless dissection of pain can overshadow the very thing that offers genuine release: FORGIVENESS. Not just forgiving others, but finding forgiveness for ourselves, and understanding that a power greater than ourselves is ready to offer it freely. God's solution is simple: Grace rewrites your story. Where the therapist offers a permanent label, God offers a permanent transformation. This is where divine grace steps in to rewrite the story that the world tried to close on your identity.

Did you know that Jesus refers to unforgiveness as murder. (Matthew 5:21-26) And that is so sobering. We don't realize that unforgiveness calls for revenge and revenge calls for murder. And that is the unspoken reality and guilt of modern psychology. By causing people to identify their pains, you also cause them to want to aim that blame which leads to unforgiveness which leads to revenge. And revenge and unforgiveness imprisons its victims whereas forgiveness calls for freedom from that pain and accusation.

In Isaiah 1:18, God is offering a total remake of your past, your pain and your remorse. He does not ask you to wallow in a diagnosis or blame your environment; He offers to wash the record clean. He isn't interested in your 'victimhood'; He is interested in your victory. God's solution is "simpler" and "permanent," positioning grace as the ultimate antidote to the "broken" label. Forgiveness is the bridge psychology often misses. Psychology often focuses on trying to dissect the past, whereas the Gospel focuses on atoning for it and moving forward.

God isn't asking you to pretend it never happened. And He's definitely not demanding endless self-analysis or a dissection of every past trauma. He's offering to clean it, to heal it, and to turn it into a testimony. He's not interested in your "victimhood"; He is intensely interested in your victory.

Your worst mistake doesn't cancel your calling. Your past does not own your future. God's mercy goes deeper than your deepest mess, and His forgiveness is more powerful than any label. He forgives you and urges you,

in turn, to forgive as well – to shed the burden of holding onto past hurts, whether they were inflicted by others or by your own choices.

You are not merely a product of your environment, your genetics, or your upbringing. You are a divine creation, capable of incredible transformation. Don't let shame, guilt, or the endless cycle of analyzing past wounds define you.

It's time to stop looking at your scars and start looking at the One who heals them. It's time to embrace the profound truth that you can be washed clean, made new, and empowered to live a life not dictated by your past, but driven by grace. Your story is still being written, and God wants to hold the pen. He wants to rewrite the narrative of your life, from brokenness to triumphant victory?

Philippians 1:6 reminds us to be confident of this that

*“he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”.*

Did you catch that? God finishes what He starts. You are a work in progress, not a failure; He's not intimidated by your weakness, He doesn't walk away when it gets messy. What He began in you, whether it started as a whisper of hope or a radical transformation, He will finish. This is a divine promise! So don't give up on yourself when God hasn't. Don't close the book on a story He's still writing.

So be honest, what lie has held you hostage the longest? Is it the belief that you're not enough, that you'll never truly change, that what you've done is unforgivable? Whatever it is, you must call it out! --Because you can't conquer what you're unwilling to confront.

Too many of us are tormented by thoughts we've never taken the time to recognize. We just let them swirl around like background music, shaping how we feel, how we act, and how we live. But listen to the wisdom of Proverbs 4:23, *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* In Scripture, the heart refers to the inner mind, the seat of your thoughts and emotions. If everything flows from that place, then you better believe the enemy will try to poison the source. But when you guard your heart, you become aware of what's entering and circulating, you begin to reclaim your power.

Every toxic belief, every anxious spiral, every condemning voice needs to be caught at the door. You ask yourself where is this thought coming from and is it from God, because if it's not rooted in truth, you don't have to let it stay. And once you've recognized the thought you have to replace it and not with empty

optimism or surface-level motivation, but with the enduring power of God's Word. John 8:32 tells us then *"you will know the truth and the truth will set you free"*. Truth is your weapon; it's not just information. It's transformation.

God is not afraid of your brokenness. He specializes in turning shattered pieces into stained-glass stories of grace. Just remember, if you don't stand on truth you'll sink in lies. Don't just reject the lies, replace them with truth. Even if your feelings haven't caught up yet, choose to stand on truth, because when the truth of God's Word enters, freedom follows. You were made for victory, and the solid ground of victory is TRUTH. And you were made to live free in the renewing power of God's mind-shaping truth.

Have you ever wondered why the strongest people in the Bible weren't always the most confident, the most "together", or the most mentally stable?

Sometimes we assume that great faith means never struggling in the mind, but that's far from the truth. In fact, some of the most powerful moments in scripture happen not when someone stood on a mountaintop, but when they were flat on their face in mental and emotional turmoil. Moses didn't see a leader in himself, he saw limitations, but God saw destiny. God didn't wait for Moses to become eloquent before using him. He used him as he was and perfected him along the way. God isn't looking for perfection. He's looking for surrender. It's not about your background. It's about what God is birthing through you.

God doesn't call the perfect. He perfects the called. Every single one of the people that God used had legitimate reasons to disqualify themselves. But God called them anyway. And what changed the trajectory of their lives? It wasn't that they became superhuman. It was that they surrendered their thoughts to God's voice. They stopped listening to fear, to shame, to the lies. And they started responding to truth. When your mind bows to truth, your life rises in purpose.

A lie will always try to build a stronghold in your mind, because the devil uses insecurity to blind you to the greatness within you. But truth tears down lies; so when your thoughts tell you "I'm a failure", you replace it with "I am more than a conqueror through Christ". When your mind says I'm so alone, you speak "God will never leave me nor forsake me". Truth has to be louder than the lie.

But, you ask, isn't this brainwashing? Let me put it to you this way; would you rather have your brain washed or your mind polluted by the world? Let's be honest. This is where the rubber of faith hits the road of action. The contrasting promises of God won't always feel true at first; you might declare victory but still feel defeated; you might speak peace but still feel anxious. But don't stop.

This is where persistence becomes power. Joshua 1:8 gives us the blueprint. *“Keep this book of the law always on your lips, meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it then you will be prosperous and successful.”* Did you catch that? It's not all to meditate on God's word day and night, you must speak it. Not once, not occasionally, but constantly! That is God telling Joshua “be sure to stay brain-washed”. Because repetition rewires the mind. What you rehearse, you begin to believe and what you believe, you begin to live out.

Every time you speak truth, you silence a lie. Only God's Word has the power and the truth to guide you through a life of wholesomeness and integrity. Just look around you. God's enemy has infiltrated every aspect of today's society. From the pharmaceutical system whose aim is not to heal but to keep you sick for financial purposes; the food industry which is in cahoots with the medical industry; the government whose preoccupation is not the good of the people but the pockets of those in control, and the educational system which robs our youth of creativity and ingenuity and creates slaves for the powerful. And yes, the religious system which not only extorts the people but confuses the masses into oblivion through diluting the power of gospel. The book of Revelations explains clearly how the devil has deceived the whole world. (Revelations 12:9)

So aligning your mind with the mind of Christ isn't just a plausible option, it's a decision and a commitment towards freedom. All the guidelines and principles for wholesome life are in God's Word. Knowing that God's enemy has no legal right to dominate us anymore, changes everything. We must stop identifying with our symptoms and start identifying with our Savior. Our story is not sickness, but healing; not guilt, but righteousness. Not defeat, but victory. We are not trying to become what God has already made us. We are simply waking up to the truth and walking in it.

## Powerless Churchianity

It's such a tragedy that Christianity should only be represented by churchianity nowadays. The most you can say is that it resembles a "do-little-good" club, but there is no resemblance whatsoever to the early disciples. And it's not because God is withholding, not because the power of the Spirit has diminished, and not because the devil is somehow stronger than he used to be, but simply because what has already been given is not being received and appropriated. What has already been purchased is not being possessed. And what Jesus called the birthright of every believer, power, authority, boldness is lived out by only a few.

Most Christians have been taught to admire power, to respect it, even to pray for it, but never to expect it in their daily lives. And so, they live as observers of what should be their own inheritance. The Church has often trained believers to seek God's power as if it were an elusive reward, a special anointing reserved only for the chosen few, the missionaries, the ministers, the miracle workers. But this teaching is fundamentally unbiblical.

The Scriptures declare that power is not a distant hope, but a present reality. Luke 10:19 records Jesus saying, *"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy."* That promise wasn't given to spiritual elites. It was given to disciples, ordinary men, born again, spirit-filled, walking in delegated authority. But most Christians never walk in that kind of power because they do not believe it belongs to them. They see themselves as weak, waiting for God to move, when in truth, God is waiting for them to rise.

They pray like beggars when in actuality, they are sons--royal personalities. They plead for healing with a wimpy "if it be thy will" when all throughout the Bible God is called "the healer" and they forget that Jesus never once refused healing. They ask for strength when the very Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives within them. Romans 8:11 says, *"If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He shall also quicken your mortal bodies."* The reason for the weakness of the Church is her ignorance of what she is in Christ. Hosea 4:6 says, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* But

notice how God clarified the issue in the rest of that verse; it says: *“because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee”*. That kind of wilful ignorance has consequences.

If believers do not know their identity, they cannot walk in their authority. When they believe they are still broken, weak and incapable, God cannot use them. When they see themselves as unworthy, they will never speak with conviction. When they think they are merely forgiven sinners rather than new creations, they will never confront darkness with confidence. Power begins with the new identity.

Imagine a lion raised among sheep. He is strong. He is fierce. But he believes he is weak, fragile, and slow. So he behaves like them. He hides like them. He eats like them. That lion does not need more strength. He needs a new mind. That is what the church needs today. Not more fire from heaven, but more believers who realize the fire is already within. 2 Timothy 1.7 says, *“God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.”* Unless you believe this, you will never walk in it.

Many Christians have accepted a lie without question. “I must wait until I am strong enough, clean enough, or spiritually mature enough for God to use me in power”. But that is not the gospel. The gospel says you have been made clean by the blood, empowered by the spirit, and seated with Christ in authority and call it humility. Ephesians 2:6 declares that *“God hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”* You are not trying to earn your way into power. You are positioned in it right now. The problem is many have confused emotional weakness with spiritual reality. They feel unworthy. They assume God's power must be withheld until they feel stronger. But God does not operate by your feelings, nor through your carnal strength. He operates through your faith.

True faith acts on the Word regardless of appearances. That is the kind of faith that walks in power. It does not wait for goosebumps. It does not wait for perfect conditions. It stands up, speaks boldly, lays hands on the sick, casts out devils, and fully expects the results God promised.

And still most Christians will not walk in this power, because most churches simply deny this power. They've adopted the secessionist mentality. They dare not say that all those scriptures aren't true, rather they say that the power and the miracles "ceased with the early disciples". If that is so, it is only because the church took on powerless doctrines.

So those churchians have been conditioned to spectate, not participate. They've been trained to sit under anointing, but not to carry it. They admire bold believers, but rarely imitate them. Yet James 1:22 warns us, *“Be ye DOERS of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”* That

deception is subtle, but deadly. It convinces you that hearing truth is enough, when actually the power only flows through obedience.

Picture the early church. These were not scholars nor theologians, they were fishermen, tax collectors, mothers and tradesmen. Yet Acts 4:33 says, *“With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”* What set them apart was not education; they knew who they were. But they also knew what they carried. And they refused to stay silent.

Power followed boldness; not arrogance, not pride, but boldness born of revelation. If you are waiting for a voice from heaven, a flash of light, or a spiritual title before you walk in power, you are waiting for what God already gave. The Word is enough. The spirit is within. The authority is yours. Mark 16:17-18 leaves no room for doubt. *“These signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils, they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* Jesus said that those signs (miracles) would accompany believers; meaning anyone who simply believes that it is true and possible. Not pastors. Not prophets... Just plain vanilla believers.

Still, this power will remain dormant in most believers' lives. Why? Because they are double-minded. One foot in the world and one foot in the church. James 1:6-7 warns about being double-minded, it says: *“the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord”*. You cannot say, I'm just a powerless sinner, and expect to walk in dominion.

You cannot wallow in unworthiness and expect demons to obey you. You cannot pray wimpy prayers and expect mountain-moving results. God honors faith, not pity. And faith requires a renewed mind. That renewal comes through God's word. Romans 12:2 says, *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is; his good, pleasing and perfect will”*. This transformation enables believers to discern and understand God's will, which is described as good, acceptable, and perfect.

That means you must actively reject every thought that says you are powerless. You must replace every tradition that says miracles are rare. You must meditate on the Word until your heart believes it more than your eyes see. Faith sees the possible and imposes it unto the impossible. *“With God all things are possible to him that believeth”*.



## Christianity Is Not A Religion

Christianity is the life of God in a man. If that life is in you, then power is in you. Not to impress, not to perform, but to reign. Romans 5:17 declares, *“They which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life.”* That reign is not symbolic. It is not future; it is now. And it is meant to be visible. So why is this power missing from so many Christians’ lives? Because power demands responsibility. It demands a willingness to act along with a heart of compassion to care. It won't come without your desire to walk in power. Love was not put in our heart to stay, in fact, love is not even love until you give it away. Once you know the truth, you're accountable. And if you hide it, you are responsible.

Walking in power means to speak even when it's uncomfortable; to lay hands even when others doubt; to confront darkness even when you feel small. Most prefer comfort over courage. But comfort never births power. Only surrender does. And that surrender must be to truth, not to fear. It is time to stop being impressed by the early church and start imitating them. The Spirit that filled Peter and Paul is the same Spirit that fills you. The commission that sent them is the same one that sends you. The name they spoke is the name you bear. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He did not change with the apostles. He has not changed with time. His power has not faded. Plus, He's not a respecter of persons; if He used them He'll use you.

But only the convinced will walk in it. Only the fully persuaded will speak like it, pray like it, and live like it. And that persuasion must come now, because the world is waiting. It is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. Romans 8:19 says, *“The earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”* Not for the platitudes of religion, but for the manifestations of power. If your faith in Christ doesn't lead to a lifestyle of discipleship, then you must question your salvation. Remember, you can't be a little pregnant or a little bit married, any more than you can be a little bit saved. There's no such a thing as being a bit Christian. Christianity isn't only commitment, it's a covenant.

So ask yourself, what am I waiting for? God has done His part. The Spirit has been poured out. The authority has been delegated. The Word has been given. The victory has been secured. The time for timidity is over. Still, most

will never walk in power, because most will never believe it is theirs. But decide not to be one of those “most”.

You have heard. You are accountable. And the Spirit within you is ready. So what is the next step? What is the doorway into a life that walks in power daily, consistently, and boldly? There is a mystery hidden in plain sight, a truth so few recognize. And it's all connected to the victory of Jesus. His victory does not only forgive you, it turns you into a conqueror. What that means will shake your understanding of spiritual warfare and awaken you to something far greater.

Don't settle for religion. Christianity is not a dormant religion, churchianity is a kingdom. The Kingdom of God re-established on earth. Choose Jesus and live out your faith.

## **If You're Still Fighting For Victory, You've Missed The Gospel**

There is a kind of struggle that sounds spiritual, but is, in truth, rooted in ignorance. It appears noble. It wears the clothes of commitment. It often sounds like, "I'm just fighting to stay faithful", or "I'm pressing on, trying to get the victory". That kind of stance reveals a tragic misunderstanding of the gospel itself? Not because it lacks sincerity, but because it lacks revelation.

You see, many believers have been taught to wage war for something that was already won. They are standing at the edge of the promised land, sword in hand, still waiting for permission to enter, unaware that Christ has already opened the gates and called them righteous, healed, and triumphant; this is not a small misunderstanding. This is the difference between living under the burden of religion and walking in the power of sonship.

The church has, for generations, taught believers to press in for victory, to fight the good fight, but often with a distorted view of what that fight really is. Well-meaning Christians are told to do more, pray harder, fast longer, bind, loose, and battle the enemy with relentless intensity, in self-efforts; as if Jesus did not already strip him of his authority. But the gospel declares something astonishing. Colossians 2:15 says that "*Jesus, having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*" This was a total, complete, irrefutable and irreversible victory. Yet many still live as though the enemy holds power over them, as though the cross barely dented the devil's kingdom. And now it is up to us to finish what Christ started. That, my friend, is not the gospel. That is a glorified self-effort cloaked in spiritual language. And it must be confronted.

His righteousness gives you right-standing with God, but it also gives you fearlessness in the presence of the adversary. If you knew that the enemy has no legal claim over you, how would you pray? If you understood that healing is your inheritance, how would you approach sickness? If you truly believed that you are seated with Christ in heavenly places, according to Ephesians 2:6, would you still cry out as though he were distant? The gospel is not that we must climb to God. It is that God has reached down and granted us sonship, and from that place we speak, live, and walk in victory. We are not

on a journey to become accepted. We are not pressing toward a finish line of approval. We are starting from victory, walking it out and enforcing it.

The Father sees the finished work of Christ in our faith. He sees us as perfect. He sees the finished work of Christ in us; that's what robes us. That is the basis of our boldness. That boldness is based on a legal agreement. When you agree with God's word, you are no longer opposing grace with self-effort. You are magnifying grace by your surrender.

Now, do not misunderstand. The Christian life is not passive. But the true battle is not to gain victory. It is to remain in it and to enforce it. It is the fight of faith, meaning that we must take a stance of faith in what God has said, and not budge. 1 Timothy 6:12 instructs us to "*fight the good fight of faith*", not as if the outcome is uncertain. The real fight is to stay convinced of what Christ has already done.

The policeman carries authority. He represents the law. And you respect him and obey him because of what he stands for. He may be new on the job, but that does not change a thing. You still must submit and obey. The devil is in the same predicament. He must obey the highest authority and the final Word - - Jesus Christ. When you stop striving for victory and begin living from it, everything shifts. Your prayers take on boldness. Your mind becomes stable. Your emotions submit to truth. Your authority is no longer based on how you feel, but on who He is in you.

## The Dangers Of “Religious” Faith

There must be in the heart and mind of every believer a clear and uncompromising distinction between believing and and what is called “mental assent”. This distinction makes all the difference between victory and defeat, between fruitfulness and barrenness, between spiritual life and religious form. The consequences of this confusion often leave well-meaning Christians bewildered, disillusioned, and spiritually inert wondering why the promises of God seem so real on paper but so far from their experience.

Mental assent is the “intellectual” acknowledgment of a statement or idea as being true without a deeper, personal commitment or action. It's the difference between simply agreeing with a concept and truly believing it in a way that affects your behavior and choices. While one may agree with a statement, they do not necessarily act on it or integrate it into their life. The belief remains on an intellectual level and doesn't lead to practical application. Faith goes beyond mere agreement; it involves a profound trust and a willingness to act on that belief, even when it might be difficult or counterintuitive.

Mental ascent or what I call “religious faith” is what Jesus was referring to when He said, *“Do not be just a hearer of the Word, but a doer. If you are a hearer only, you're building your house on the sand and it will fall. But if you are doer, you're building your house on the rock and while the storms may come, it will not fall but stand”* (Matthew 21:28-32). Believing the Word is acting on the Word. It is not a passive agreement. It is not emotional excitement. It is not intellectual nodding. It is a decision which leads to a move. It is surrender in action. When you believe the Word, it causes you to speak it, to move on it, to expect results. Faith never sits still. Faith never rests quietly in the abstract. It steps out. It embraces. It acts.

Religious faith on the other hand is far more deceptive than outright unbelief. Unbelief is easy to identify, but religious faith wears the clothing of belief. It sounds spiritual. It quotes Scripture. It affirms the truthfulness of God's Word with eloquence. It nods during sermons. It underlines verses. It even prays eloquent prayers. And, believe it or not, they're often the “Amen corner”. But they never act. They stand outside the bakery, so to speak, admiring the cake

in the window, savoring the aroma, imagining the taste but never going in to receive it.

Religious faith is passive agreement. At most, it is the “rah rah” of the spectator, but he won't ever get in the game. It acknowledges the truthfulness of the Word. It even admires the integrity of the Word. But it never allows the Word to govern action. And therein lies its fatal flaw. -- To admire the Word is not the same as to trust it with your life.

Faith does not say, “yes, I know God can heal”. Faith says, “God has healed me. I receive it now”. Religious faith says, “one day I will be free”. Faith says, “I am free now because the Word says so. Religious faith waits for circumstances to change before it rejoices. Faith rejoices before the manifestation because it knows the Word is enough.

Let's be clear, hope is not faith. Hope is important. It gives direction to the soul and lifts the eyes to something better. But hope is always rooted in the future. Faith, by its very nature, is in the now. It says, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for*”. Hope can inspire and aspire, but only faith can receive. Hope imagines. Faith lays hold. Hope sees the promise out there. Faith pulls it into the present. That is why so many pray with fervor but receive so little. They are hoping that someday God will intervene. They are mentally agreeing to the truth of scripture, thinking that if they agree long enough, results will come.

But God has not asked us to agree with His Word intellectually, He has asked us to believe it with the heart, and act upon it; that is the faith that pleases Him. Faith is not passive; passivity lies quietly, it dreams, it recites, it rejoices in theory, but, it does not step out, it does not risk, it does not speak boldly in the face of contradiction, it does not take possession; it lives in admiration, not appropriation. Passivity has kept many people sick, discouraged, or bound. Not because they lack sincerity, but because they lacked true Bible faith. To believe the Word means to treat it as final authority, in every situation, it means the Word dictates your speech, your choices, your expectations, your interpretation of symptoms, and your vision of the future. It means you do not wait for evidence, you act on the Word as though it alone is all the evidence you need.

Faith doesn't test the waters, faith walks on the water, faith doesn't sit down and say, “I believe someday my breakthrough will come”. All this preaching in churches about how “your breakthrough is soon coming” in the “next season” is nothing but religious wishes. True faith stands up, and says, “I take my breakthrough now in Jesus name, because the Word has declared it”. Faith doesn't beg God to do what He already said; He did in Christ, faith simply receives.

Believing the Word is not merely recognizing its utter truthfulness; it is taking it to be your very own now, it is possessing the promise, it is acting as though it is already done. It is saying, “this Word is for me, I take it now, I refuse to see myself outside of this truth, it is mine”. Anything less is not faith. Faith walks on what appears like thin ice as if it was 10 ft deep.

God does not honor spectators, He honors participants; He honors those who trust His Word enough to act when it seems foolish to others. The very act of obedience to the Word is what demonstrates that you believe it. He is honored by our acting on the Word. Nothing brings more joy to the heart of the Father than to see His children rise up in bold daring faith, believing He is able, in the face of opposition, praising Him before the answer comes, calling those things that be not, as though they were, just because He has spoken it. Every act of faith echoes back into eternity, and brings glory to His name.

But, He is dishonored, yes, dishonored when we merely give mental agreement to His Word while refusing to act upon it; He is dishonored when we admire His promises like museum artifacts instead of using them, like weapons. He is dishonored when we say, one day I'll be healed, or I hope this Word works for me, or, maybe God will help me someday, while refusing to lay hold of what Christ already provided. That is not humility, it is straight up unbelief dressed in religious language. He is dishonored by our passivity when we rejoice during sermons, highlight scriptures, say amen in church, but do nothing different when the trial comes.

Faith is not tested in a pew, it is proved in the pressure of life, and it is there when the winds blow and the waves rise; that's when the difference between true faith and mental assent is most seen. That is why Jesus said, “*he that believeth hath*”. Not he that believeth will one day receive, but he that believeth has now; present tense possession. You either believe and have it, or you don't believe and are still waiting. If you believe, you have. When you believe, the Word becomes more real to you than what you see, feel, or hear. Neither the symptom, nor the emotions can dominate your faith. The circumstance does not dictate. The Word becomes the final word. The Word becomes your sight, your guide, your judge, your authority.

Jesus is glorified not when we struggle and weep in defeat, but when we rise up with confidence. And take Him at His Word. Every time you speak the Word with confidence, every time you resist the enemy by declaring truth, every time you step out when it would be easier to sit back, Jesus is glorified. He is glorified by your believing obedience.

Contrary to what many believe, God does not find glory in our suffering. He does not take pleasure in our waiting outside the door. He wants us to come boldly, to receive freely, to walk joyfully. He is glorified when the Word bears

fruit in our lives. That is the evidence that we are His disciples. John 15:7 reveals the secret of fruitful living. Jesus said, *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever you will, and it shall be done unto you. For in this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, and by so doing, ye shall ye be my disciples”*. Not just that we attend church or memorize scripture, but that we bear fruit. And faith, real Bible faith, is what produces that fruit.

What kind of fruit is He speaking of? The fruit of answered prayer, the fruit of faith, the fruit of acting on the Word, and receiving results. Notice the connection, *“abiding in Him, and His words abiding in you”*. That is not a casual relationship. It is not an occasional glance at the Bible or a once-a-week reminder. It is a life saturated in the Word. It is a spirit aligned with divine truth. It is a heart so full of the Word that when pressure comes, the Word comes out, when His Word lives in you, when it abides, when it governs, when it rules, your prayer's shift!

We must refuse to live in the shadow of the promise. We must step into it. Possess it. Speak it. Walk it out. We must let our life become a living testimony to the fact that God's Word is true and it works. There must be no confusion in our mind anymore. Religious faith and intellectual agreement have robbed the church long enough. It has allowed sickness to linger, fear to remain, and defeat to look like spiritual humility. It has pacified believers and made them content with partial truth and undefined victory. But now you know: only ACTION releases faith. Only FAITH bears fruit. Only FRUIT glorifies the Father. So make the distinction clear and permanent. Choose faith.

Don't try to believe, don't “try” to walk on water. just act on God's word. Don't have a double confession so that one moment you confess, “yes, He heard my prayer, I am healed, or I have the money”, and then begin to question how it is going to come and what you ought to do to get it. Your latter confession destroys the first. A wrong confession destroys prayer and destroys faith.

Don't trust in other people's faith, have your own. Do your own believing, have your own faith as you have your own clothes. Act on the Word for yourself, don't talk doubt or unbelief. Never admit that you are a “doubting Thomas”; that is an insult to your Father. Don't talk about sickness and disease, never talk about failure. Talk about the the absolute integrity and veracity of God's Word, and of your utter confidence in it.

“Why call ye me Lord, Lord?” Jesus was talking to the man who talks very religiously but does not do the Word. You cannot build faith without practicing the Word. You cannot develop a prayer life that is anything but words unless the Word of God actually has a part in your life. You must do the word.

One may be a teacher of the Bible, he may know the book from Genesis to Revelation, but if he does not walk by faith, he lives in the realm of theology; head stuffing, a doctor of the law, but not walking out its truths.

Prayer life is valuable only in the measure that the Word in my lips is a living thing. It lives only as I practice it. If one is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, *“he is like a man beholding his natural face in a mirror, and he goes away and straightway forgets what manner of man he is”* and his confession defaults back to what he sees in his circumstances. He forgets that he is the new man in Christ. He is a member of the body of Christ. He is a son with a legal standing and the ability of God, and yet he lives like a common man. When a crisis comes, he is hunting for someone to believe for him. True, he can pray. He is quite adept at that, but his prayers are but empty words when he might have them filled with faith. Born of a real fellowship with the Father, he is a hearer that forgetteth, a believer that is not a doer, a professor without living and walking out the Word.

## Sense Knowledge Won't Cut It

Think about the early church for a minute. Most of the people who got healed back then weren't even believers yet. They weren't people who were born again or spirit-filled. They weren't part of the church at all. Many were Jews who didn't even believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Others were complete heathen, idol worshipers, people with no real knowledge of the true God. And yet, they received healing. Because healing was God's method of advertising. Yes, that might sound strange at first. But it's true. Healing was God's way of revealing Himself to the natural, unrenewed mind. It was His way of saying, I'm real. I'm here. I care about you.

You see, people who live by their senses, those who only believe what they can see, touch, feel, hear, or smell; those who don't respond to biblical arguments, won't sit down and read a theological book. They probably won't walk into a church either. But when someone lays hands on them and they get healed. --When a long-standing illness vanishes suddenly, they pay attention! Healing becomes a sign, a signal, a proof, a divine advertisement. That's what Jesus did when He walked the earth. He healed people not only because He had compassion, but also because it was a demonstration of the Father's love and power.

In a world that was dominated by logic, feelings, and sensory experience, Jesus was an intrusion into the sense realm. He wasn't born in a castle. He came as a man living, breathing, walking in flesh yet filled with the life of God. And when He spoke, demons fled. When He touched people, leprosy disappeared. When He commanded, storms obeyed. That was God stepping into the natural world and saying, I'm not distant, I'm not absent, I'm here. And when the church was birthed, it wasn't just a quiet little group of philosophers or theologians. It was a firestorm. Believers were healing the sick, casting out devils, raising the dead, and preaching with boldness. The early church was a supernatural invasion into the domain of men who only believed in what their eyes could see.

But now, sadly, things have shifted. Today, through sense knowledge theologians have invaded organized religion and taken it captive. Let me say that again. Instead of the church invading the world with the supernatural power of God, the world full of sense knowledge has infiltrated the church.

What do I mean? I mean that many in the church now only “study” God's Word and live as though God is distant unless their feelings say otherwise. They believe God loves them when life is good. They doubt His presence when they can't feel Him. They believe in healing only if the doctor confirms it. They believe in righteousness only if they feel holy. Friend, that's bondage. That's not the life Jesus came to give us. The sense realm is the natural man's realm. That's the man who only trusts in what can be sensed. He won't believe he's healed unless he sees a change in his body. He won't believe he's free unless he feels free. That kind of man can never fully walk in faith because he is controlled by his senses.

God doesn't operate by the senses. He speaks spiritual truth. He declares the end from the beginning. He says you're healed before you feel healed. He says you're righteous before you stop sinning. Why? Because He sees you through Christ. He sees what's already finished. And guess what? He expects you to see it too, not with your eyes, but with your faith. That's why when Jesus came, it was a miraculous intrusion into the realm of the senses. He disrupted the natural order. He didn't play by the world's rules. He walked on water. He fed thousands with a few loaves. He spoke to dead bodies and they came back to life.

And when he left, he didn't stop that invasion. He passed it on to us. Mark 16:16-18 makes this so clear. *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. But he that disbelieves shall be condemned. And these signs shall accompany them that believe”*. Did you catch that? Signs follow believers, not just apostles, not just preachers, believers, everyday-people like you and me. That means the supernatural is supposed to be our normal. Healing is supposed to be our message. Miracles are supposed to be our introduction. But you know what's been stealing this from us?

Your confession either imprisons you or sets you free. It's that serious. Every word that comes out of your mouth is either backing up what God says or siding with what the enemy says. There's no middle ground. And this isn't about pretending. This is about agreeing with God. When your confession is strong, when it's bold based on the Word and matched with action, it brings God on the scene. Let me say it plainly. A strong confession backed by corresponding action activates the power of God. It's like flipping a switch. You speak what God says. You act like it's true and heaven backs you up. But when you waver, when your confession goes back and forth, when you say one thing today and the opposite tomorrow, you invite confusion and defeat. A vacillating confession lets circumstances take the lead. And once circumstances start calling the shots, faith is sidelined.

That's why Hebrews 10 23 tells us, *“let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering. For he who promised is faithful”*. Holding fast means you

don't let go, even when your body hurts, even when the report is bad, even when the bank account is low. You say what God says, period.

Now let's get even more specific. A confession that's inspired by Satan is dangerous. It might sound harsh, but it's true. Think about it. If Satan is the author of sickness, and the Bible is clear that he is, then what happens when you talk about YOUR arthritis, or you call any sickness YOURS? You say, "I ALWAYS get sick during this time of year. It runs in my family. I'll probably have it too". You've just signed for a package that Satan delivered to your door. Imagine the devil sending you a box labeled "disease", and you go ahead and sign your name on the delivery slip. That's what a negative confession is. It's agreeing with the enemy. It gives him legal ground. You've just handed him the receipt.

But now, think about the opposite. What if, instead, you say, "*Surely he hath borne our sickness and carried our diseases*". That, right there, is God's receipt. It's your proof of ownership, your evidence that healing belongs to you. It's your spiritual document that says, "this disease doesn't belong to me. Sorry devil, wrong address". Jesus already took it. See the difference? Your confession is powerful. It's like a steering wheel for your life. If your words are always negative, always defeated, always focused on what the senses say, then your life will follow that path. But if your words are lined up with God's Word, bold, unshaken, full of faith, then your life will start to match God's promises. You can literally talk yourself into healing by speaking the truth of the word, not just once, but consistently, daily, continually.

That's why the Bible says, "*let the redeemed of the Lord say so*". "*Let the weak say 'i am strong'*". There's power in saying. There's authority in speaking. Confession is not a ritual. It's a lifestyle.

Here's another truth. A positive confession dominates circumstances. But a weak, wavering confession lets circumstances dominate you. You've got to make a decision. Will you let your environment tell you what's true? Or will you stand on God's Word and make your environment submit to truth? Your confession is what God says about your disease. It's not what your relatives say. It's not what you feel. It's not what your past experience says. It's what God says. And God says, *by his stripes you were healed. I am the Lord that healeth thee. No plague shall come near your dwelling. I will take sickness away from the midst of you.* So why say anything else? A negative confession strengthens the disease. It gives it room to stay. But a faith confession the kind that agrees with the finished work of Christ weakens the disease's hold. It drives it out.

Bottom line, your confession can either heal you or keep you sick. Let that sink in. This is why it's so important that the words of your mouth agree with

the faith in your heart. You can't speak fear and expect healing. You can't freak out and expect deliverance. Your lips and your heart have to be in sync. What your mouth says should be a reflection of what your heart truly believes. And that belief must be grounded in the word. So, what do we do? With all this, we make a decision. A quality decision. A no-turning-back kind of decision. We decide that from this day forward, we will only speak what God says. We will reject the words of fear. We will refuse to side with symptoms. We will say no to the devil's packages. We will hold fast to our confession. Because in doing so, we invite heaven to invade our lives again. Just like in the book of Acts. Just like when Jesus walked. Friend, this is how the church must take back its power. This is how the believer lives in victory. This is how healing becomes our reality. Not just occasionally, but consistently. It's in your mouth. It's in your words. It's in your confession. And the good news, you can start right now.

## **Walk In Authority !**

The new creation is a miracle of God's genius. It is His workmanship. Ephesians 2:10 says, "*We were created anew in Christ Jesus with a purpose.*" The moment we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, something extraordinary takes place. We are recreated, a transformation more significant than the creation of the universe happens in us. We receive the life and nature of God Himself. 1 John 5:13 confirms it. "*These things I have written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.*"

Eternal life is partaking of God's own nature. Peter reinforces this in 2 Peter:1-4, "*whereby, He hath granted unto us His precious and exceeding great promises, that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature*". Think of that. You, who once were lost, alienated from the life of God, have now become a sharer in the divine nature. Jesus illustrated it perfectly when he said, "*I am the vine. Ye are the branches*". John 15-5. The very same life that runs through the vine flows through the branches. You are no longer a withering branch trying to hang on. You are a branch overflowing with life.

That divine life in you bears the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, faith, kindness, patience, goodness, gentleness and self-control. And against such there is no law. Meaning that there's no restriction in doing good. And you have God's Word abiding in you. Colossians 3:16 urges us, "*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.*" Why? Because the Word is not only instructional. It is transformational. The Word not only educates your spirit, but it quickens it, it makes it alive. It is the Word of God's Spirit. It admonishes, corrects, trains, builds, and strengthens. Acts 20.32 reveals its power. "*Now I commend you to God, and to the Word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified*".

The Word of God is not mere doctrine. It is dynamic. It contains within it the same creative force that shaped the heavens and the earth. When you speak the Word, you are releasing divine ordinances. When you declare, "I am a new creation in Christ", you are not reciting a creed. You are expressing an eternal truth from the very lips of the Creator. When you command sickness to leave in the name of Jesus, you are not begging. You are exercising your spiritual authority. You see sickness as an insult to the sacrifice of Jesus .

Jesus healed the sick with commanding words. He spoke peace to the storm with words. He raised the dead by saying, *“Lazarus, come forth”*. It wasn't a begging prayer. Those were the Father's words spoken through Him. Now those same words are in your mouth. Speak them, live them, let them transform you, your circumstances, and the world around you.. You have the name of Jesus. The authority of the name of Jesus has been entrusted to the church. John 14:13, 14, *“whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do...”*. This is not supplication. It is dominion. This is the same name Peter invoked at the beautiful gate when he said to the lame man, *“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk”*. That authority has not faded with time.

It is as effective now as it was then. That Name belongs to every believer. You may not have used it, but you have the legal right to it. Jesus said, *“all authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth”*. Matthew 28:18, 19. Go with His name. Go with His power of attorney. Mark 16:17, 18 declares, *“In my name they shall cast out demons... They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”*

You were never meant to live a defeated life. The age of miracles is now. The God who performed miracles through Christ desires to do so through you. The world is groaning for the manifestation of the sons of God... Let Him manifest Himself through you. Let His name be glorified through your actions.

On the day of Pentecost, that promise was fulfilled. When we were born again, the Spirit made His home in us. This is no small thing. God Himself has taken up residence within us. 1 John 4 says, *“Greater is he that is in you than he that is in you than he that is in the world”*. This is a staggering truth. *“The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you”* (Romans 8-11). The same Spirit who hovered over the deep in Genesis 1 now empowers your mortal body. Philippians 2-13 echoes this, *“For it is God who is at work within you”*. He is not dormant. He is active, working, empowering. The issue is not whether God is willing to work through you. But whether you will allow Him to.

We have become so focused on our weakness that we have forgotten His strength. The church has too often walked in spiritual poverty while housing infinite wealth. God longs to heal, deliver, restore, and save through you. You have the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 is perhaps the most radical verse in the New Testament. *“Him who knew no sin. He made to be a son of God”*. He is the begotten Son of God. And we have His life in us. We are not mere human beings. We are not living on our behalf. We're not righteous by behavior, but righteous by nature. 1 John 2:29 states that *“if someone knows that Jesus is righteous, they can be sure that anyone who practices righteousness has been born of God”*. You are not trying to become righteous. You are righteous.

Justification is not a process. It is a pronouncement. You have been declared righteous. What does this righteousness accomplish? It gives you the right to use His name. It gives you boldness in prayer. It gives you mastery over Satan and his works. It gives you access to the Father anytime, anywhere. To do righteousness is to act from your new nature. It means you speak to mountains, you cast out demons, you walk in divine love, you live like Christ because His life is in you. You have God's wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:30 says *“It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption”*. Did you get that? Wisdom is not just information. It is divine strategy. It is supernatural insight. It is the ability to use knowledge correctly. Knowledge is not merely education or experience, but action. You are only limited by the willingness to believe and to act. Jesus operated in divine wisdom. He knew what to say, how to say it, and when to say it. That same wisdom is in you. Colossians 2:2,3 says that in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Therefore, wisdom is in you. Walk in it, let God loose in you. The imprisoned God must be set free. He longs to express Himself through you. He desires to touch the world through your hands, speak through your mouth, and walk through your feet.

Do not live another day imprisoned by fear, ignorance, or religious tradition. You are not a mere human. You are a God-indwelled, word-filled, name-empowered, righteousness-conscious, wisdom-walking new creation. Now let God loose in you and turn your world upside down.

## Pray Like a Son, Not a Beggar

Have you ever felt like your prayers just bounce off the ceiling? Like you're crying out, hoping God hears you, but deep down you're not sure He will? What if I told you that this feeling comes from praying the wrong way? Not because you're sinful or not spiritual enough, but because you've been trained to approach God like a beggar instead of a son. We must learn how to pray not as someone hoping to be heard, but as someone who's already accepted, because that's who you are in Christ. And when you truly grasp this, your prayer life will shift from desperation to confidence, from striving to resting.

Most Christians still beg God even after receiving sonship; we must approach God the way Jesus did, with boldness, not fear. Let's face it, most of us were taught that prayer is pleading. We've heard phrases like "storming the gates of heaven", "bombarding heaven with prayer", or "crying out until God hears us". We say things like, "Lord, if it's your will, please just hear me this once. I'm not worthy, but maybe you'll have mercy." And we think that this is humility. But in reality, this kind of prayer reveals something deeper. A mindset that sees ourselves as outsiders, trying to earn God's attention. It's the voice of an orphan, not a son.

Those few words in your prayers are quietly cancelling your breakthrough. God is not withholding anything, heaven is not reluctant, but these words reveal a misunderstanding about your position in Christ, about the nature of faith, and about the heart of God Himself. It exposes a lack of faith; and "without faith you cannot please God". And until that misunderstanding is corrected, your prayers will feel powerless, even if they're sincere.

You see, the enemy knows he cannot stop God. He knows he cannot stop the finished work of the cross; but what he can do is subtly undermine your confidence in what Jesus has already accomplished. And he often does it through well-meaning, religious-sounding language. This is why it matters how you pray. Not because God is grading your grammar, but because your words reveal what you truly believe. Proverbs 18.21 says, "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue*". And James tells us that "*a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways, and let not that man think that he shall receive*

*anything of the Lord.*” That's not God being harsh, that's God warning us. Faith cannot operate where doubt is entertained.

When Jesus healed the leper in Matthew 8, the man said, “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.” Now notice, he didn't question God's power. He questioned God's willingness. That's where many are today. They know God can, but they're not sure He will. And what did Jesus say? “I will”; meaning “I am always willing”. He corrected the uncertainty. He established once and for all the will of God regarding healing. The moment we say, “if it be thy will”, we destroy faith. All throughout his Word, He said, I will. I will. I will, and “by whose stripes you were healed”, not might be, not could be, were. That means healing is not a matter of God's decision. It's a matter of our reception.

When you say, “if it be thy will”, what you're really saying is, I don't know what you want, Lord. And that's dangerous because it neutralizes your faith when His Word says, *“let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace”*. Boldness is not arrogance. Boldness comes from knowing your covenant.

Psalms 103:3 says, *“he forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases”*. God is not confused about his will. He's not hiding it from you. He revealed it in his Word and he sealed it with the blood of his son.

The posture of faith is not begging, not bargaining, but receiving and thanking; standing. That's how Jesus prayed. That's how the apostles prayed. And that's how you are called to pray. Now, some might say, I just want to honor God's sovereignty. And yes, we must always honor his Lordship. But hear me carefully. God's sovereignty is not threatened by His own Word. In fact, He has magnified His Word above His name, and His Word declares His will. When you pray in alignment with His Word, you're not dishonoring Him. You're honoring Him by believing what He said.

Let's go deeper. Mark 11:24 is one of the clearest instructions Jesus ever gave about prayer. He said, *“what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”* That doesn't say ask and then wait to see if it's His will. It says, believe you receive when you pray. That's a present tense, faith-filled expectation. You simply believe at the time of praying, and you stand on your prayer, Our prayer life will never rise above the level of our faith in the Word. That means if you're unsure of the Word, you'll be unsure in prayer. And if you're unsure in prayer, you'll be unsure in expecting the answer to your prayers.

That's why Satan works overtime to keep you uncertain, because uncertainty paralyzes the believer. But faith is certain; It does not go by feelings, but by scripture. Romans 10:17 says, *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”*. That means the cure for weak prayer is not more emotion, it's more revelation. If you're struggling to pray boldly, don't look inward. Look to

the Word. Let the Word build a foundation under your feet until you can stand and say, I know it's God's will to heal me. I know it's God's will to provide. I know it's God's will to restore my family. And I refuse to pray like a beggar when He has called me a son.

Galatians 4.7 says, *"wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son."* You are not a stranger knocking on the door. You are a child sitting at the table. And children don't say, "if it be thy will", they say, "thank you, father." That's what Jesus modeled. Before raising Lazarus from the dead, his prayer was: "I thank you Father that you always hear me" (John 11:41-42). And that's what we must practice.

Now let's make it practical. If you've been praying, "Lord, heal me if it be thy will", I encourage you to change it today. Instead, say, "Father, I thank you that healing is mine according to Your Word. I receive it now in the name of Jesus". If you've been saying, "Lord, meet my need, ... if it be thy will", I encourage you to change it today. Rather, say "Father, your Word says You supply all my need according to Your riches and glory. I receive that provision now".

Faith does not pray in uncertainty. It prays in confidence. 1 John 5.14 and 15 says, *"this is the confidence that we have in him that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he hear us, we know that we have that we desired of him"*. Did you catch that? We know, not guess, not hope. That's what the Word gives us, confidence. And when confidence returns to our prayer life, breakthrough will follow because God has not changed. His promises have not expired. His power has not diminished, but He moves where faith is present. Faith is the currency of heaven. Without faith we cannot please God. And faith is present where the Word is known and used.

Here is a hard saying: God cannot answer your old man's prayers. Unless you come to God dressed in your robe of righteousness, He can't receive you. You're not a beggar. You're not a victim. You are not forgotten. You are a joint-heir with Christ. You are a partaker of divine nature, and it's time to let your prayer life reflect that identity. That's what Jesus purchased for you. So don't speak as if you're far away. Speak as one who's been brought near.

Remember this, you are not trying to earn the blessing. You're not trying to get God's attention. You already have it. You are in Christ and in Him, you are complete. Now pray like it, speak like it, live like it, and let the breakthroughs flow. Speak the Word. Agree with the Word. Stand on the Word. Because that's where power flows. That's where victory lies. And that's where your breakthrough begins.

Think of a soldier who enters battle already convinced he is defeated. He second-guesses every move. He hesitates. He hides. That is how many Christians live. But righteousness gives you a different posture. It is the breastplate in Ephesians 6.14. Protection for the heart, the core, the identity. Without it, you are exposed to every fiery dart (lie) of the enemy. But with it, you are armored in truth.

When you see yourself as righteous, you begin to live righteously. That is how you become unshakable. Now hear this. You are not righteous because you feel righteous. You are righteous because God said you are. Isaiah 54.17 says, *“Their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord”*. That means your failures do not unmake it. Your bad days do not undo it. Your tears, your stumbles, your regrets, they may break your heart, but they do not break your standing, because your righteousness is not rooted in your behavior. It is rooted in Christ's obedience.

Romans 5:19 makes this clear, *“By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous”*. Not your obedience; His. So why does this matter so deeply? Because until you are convinced of your righteousness, you will never pray with boldness. You will never resist the devil with authority. You will never minister to others with confidence. You will always feel like a beggar knocking on heaven's door, instead of a son seated in heavenly places. And the longer you live beneath that lie, the more powerless your Christianity becomes. You may be sincere. You may be moral. You may be active in church, but you will live like a peasant and a servant instead of a son.

## Constipated Prayer

In my early days as a Christian, I too had misunderstanding problems with prayer. I heard about “battle prayer”, and we tried it. We stormed the throne. We cried aloud. But somehow or other it didn't bring the results, and I wondered why. Then we heard about “praying through”. And we tried hard. We prayed through our problems. I don't know how to graphically express the frustrations that so many of us have had in prayer. I call it “constipated prayer”-- all that pain and frustration with little result. After a while, I discovered that it was all “works” on my part and the part of those whose footsteps I had followed; that holding on to God until the answer came or praying “hard” were expressions which came from the realm of the senses. It was sense knowledge trying to solve a faith problem, a spiritual problem.

Then suddenly it occurred to me that we hadn't been acting on the Word. Instead, we had worked on the problem. I had read the Word and then tried to force God to do something. We had forgotten that *“no Word from God is void of power, and He watches over His Word to perform it”*. The name of Jesus had not yet functioned, and we didn't come to the realization of John 15:16. *“Whatsoever ye ask of the Father in my name. I will give it you”*. I had never fathomed the secret of Jesus' teaching about His name. And it began to dawn on me... We had prayed to Jesus. We had prayed to the Holy Spirit. We had prayed to God.

But now we came to the place where I saw I should pray to the Father “in Jesus' name”, meaning as if I were Jesus, in Jesus' stead; because the Father sees only Jesus in us. God sees us wear the robe of righteousness that Jesus gave us, and that's what He acknowledges. I realized that Jesus had given me the power of attorney to use His name, to come to the Father in His stead. Remember in the parable of the supper, there was this one man, at the end of the parable, who did not have that robe of righteousness, and he was cast out.

That revelation changed my whole attitude about prayer. John 16:26, 27. *“In that day ye shall ask in my name, and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you. For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father”*. That's intense right

there... Jesus said that you won't need Me to represent you, because in the Father's eyes, you will be just like Me, "for the Father himself loves you, --the same as He loves Me-- because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father"

This changes the perimeters of prayer. It brings us into intimate contact with the Father in Jesus' name. *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, if ye shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it you in my name. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name. Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be made full"*. I wonder if you're getting this... Jesus is saying, "the problem is, you're not coming to the Father in the same way that I come to the Father, as a SON!" Prayer is based upon the simple ground of coming to the Father "in Jesus' name". He is saying, hitherto you have asked nothing in My name (as if you were Me), but rather in your own supplication and in your emotions and your self efforts... Use My name, come to the Father in My name, in My stead. Use the robe of righteousness, your new identity in Me. Then, the Father sees Me in you.

In Hebrews 4:16, we're invited to come "boldly" to the throne of grace. The Greek Word "grace" means love gifts. Then the throne room is a room where love gifts are given lavishly to those who love Him. So I am invited to come boldly, fearlessly, as a son in the Father's presence. You see, there is no "battle" prayer there. There is no praying "through". I am there in His presence to make my needs known and He's eager to hear and to grant.

Then, the question came up about prayer being "according to the will of the Father". I made this sweet discovery that I actually was appointed and ordained to take Jesus' place here on the earth, and that I was carrying out the plan of redemption in bringing lost men to the saving knowledge of Christ, setting the captives free, healing the sick; doing the same kind of work that Jesus did during His earth walk. Then He comforted me greatly by giving me 1 John 5:14-15. *"This is the boldness which we have in Him"*. I like this other rendering: *"This is the freedom that we have in his presence; that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him"*.

Let's keep this going... This is so cool! We know that Jesus was the will of the Father manifest. He said, *"I came not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me"*. He climaxed it by saying, *"I always do the things that are pleasing to my Father"* (John 8:29). Then if we do the same things that Jesus did, plus the things that He has taught us to do, we can be sure that we are in the Father's will. And if we are in His will, then we are certain that our prayers are answered. But just in case you still think that you're not good enough, or not representing God's will enough, remember that God's Word is God's will.

God has explained His will extensively in His Word. So using God's Word when praying makes it so that you pray according to His will. So take your place fellowshiping with Him and we talk things over with Him according to His Word.

But you say, “don't you think sometimes it is necessary to pray all night? Jesus did!” If we knew the nature of Jesus' prayers during those night sessions that might help us. If you have needs enough that it would take a whole night to cover them all, then you should take the night. However, most churches who call for an all-night prayer meeting close their doors at around 11:00 p.m. because everybody has emptied out their prayer bags by then. If you pray without ceasing, meaning you're always in communication with the Father, you wouldn't need to have a loooong prayer list that requires an all-night prayer. You can, though, if you want to just fellowship with Him and worship Him all night. Jesus did.

But wait, you say, “don't you think that we should keep on praying until our prayer is answered?” No, I think instead, we might thank Him for answering our requests. Once you have ordered something from Amazon, you don't keep calling customer service. Rather, you're rejoicing and telling your friends that you've purchased such and thus; you're excited about it.

Unbelief becomes insistent, thinking that by works of some kind, it can force God to answer. Faith on the other hand is perseverent. There's a big difference. Perseverance reflects a stance, you're not budging even though the schedule of the answer may be delayed. Insistence is nervous that it may not come through. Remember, God cannot lie. *“He watches over his Word to make it good.”* The man who trusts Him is absolutely as safe as Jesus was when He trusted his Father in that boat on the tempestuous sea. Again, pray as a son, not a beggar.

There's another barrier of doubt and uncertainty that sits silently in the hearts of many believers. It doesn't shout, it doesn't rage, but it whispers quietly, shaping how we pray, how we expect, and how we see ourselves. It is the very thing that keeps millions from walking in the power, intimacy, and assignment that God has ordained. It's what the church has often told people to “wait on God”, to yield more, or surrender more. God does not operate in the same time schedule as we do. In fact, He does not operate in time. And the answer may be delayed because the blessing will be bigger. When a toddler presents a request to the parent, the parent may plan to answer his/her request in a much bigger way, with bigger and greater blessings. Consequently the timing may be affected.

## **Your Healing Was Paid For!**

We must not leave any part of our being out of the holy nature given us; this redemptive transaction. If our spirits were forgiven but our bodies left broken, the work of Christ would be incomplete. But God's plan was to redeem us wholly. When the heart grasps this truth, disease loses its power. It cannot dominate us any longer. If all curses were put on Jesus at the cross, including sickness, then Satan no longer has the legal right to put that sickness back on us.

This was quite a revelation to me which I discovered only later in my Christian life. I was taught that sickness was something that God used to “deal” with you. But God didn't include sickness in the garden of Eden, it came through the fall of Adam. Therefore sickness and sin have the same origin. They both come from Satan's rebellion against God and his hatred for everything God loves, including you. When you study Jesus' ministry, you realize that He dealt with sickness the same as He dealt with demon possession; He cast them out. Jesus' attitude toward sickness was one of uncompromising warfare with Satan. He didn't negotiate with disease. He didn't accommodate illness. He didn't try to find the “good purpose” that God might have in someone's suffering. Instead, he healed all who were sick.

No one ever came to Him for healing who did not receive immediate deliverance. There's not a single recorded instance in the gospels of Jesus turning away someone who genuinely sought healing. This was because Jesus understood the true nature of sickness. It was oppression from the enemy. And he had come to destroy the works of the devil.

Did Jesus ever suggest that someone's sin might be serving a “good purpose” in their life? Absolutely not! Jesus dealt with sin decisively, completely, and immediately. He forgave sins but He delivered people from demonic bondage; He set captives free. Forgiving sin is not the same as allowing sin. He forgave the lady caught in adultery, but He told her “go and sin no more”. And He dealt with sickness in exactly the same way. He healed diseases. He cast out infirmities. He delivered people from physical bondage.

Jesus dealt with sickness as He dealt with demons because He understood that they all come from the same source and require the same solution: the

authority and power of God's kingdom breaking into Satan's domain. This understanding leads us to an inescapable conclusion. If disease and sickness are of the devil, and we have clearly seen that they are, then there is only one attitude that believers can take regarding them. We must follow in Jesus' footsteps and deal with disease exactly as Jesus dealt with it. In the great commission, He deputized His disciples to go into all the world, cast out demons, and lay hands on the sick, so that they may recover.

We can't be neutral about sickness any more than we can be neutral about sin. We can't accommodate disease any more than we can accommodate demons. We can't make peace with illness any more than we can make peace with the devil himself. This doesn't mean we're harsh or unloving toward people who are sick. Jesus was full of compassion for those who suffered.

We defeat disease with the authority of the finished work of the cross. Using the name of Jesus, we can declare freedom from every form of satanic oppression, including disease. Yes, we still live in mortal bodies. We feel pain, we grow old, we encounter weakness, but these bodies are now carriers of divine life. Romans 6:14 declares, "*sin shall not have dominion over you.*" In the same way, sickness and pain shall not dominate our lives. The power of Satan was broken at the cross. Sickness is not just a medical issue; it is spiritual in origin. It entered the world through the rebellion of man. The world sees sickness only in physical terms, but God sees the root of sickness as the spiritual, broken connection between man and his Creator.

And so, God heals us through His Word. Psalms 107:20 says, "*He sent his Word and healed them*" and it refers to the power of God's divine declaration to bring physical, emotional, and spiritual healing to those who cry out to Him in faith. The "Word" is seen as God Himself, His spoken commands, and Jesus Christ who came to bring wholeness and rescue people from destruction. His Word goes deeper than medicine. His Word speaks to our spirit. It restores our identity. It builds our faith. It shows us who we really are in Christ as new creations, filled with His life.

Healing begins in the spirit. When your spirit receives the truth of redemption, your body begins to follow. Healing is not just a result of prayer. It's a revelation. When you fully understand that Jesus bore your sickness, you defeat it with boldness and vehemence, you no longer accept it as your default portion. You see it as trespassing on territory that belongs to Christ.

Remember, Jesus didn't just die to forgive you. He died to include you in His victory. We were crucified with Him not symbolically, but legally. God saw us in Him. Our sins were there. Our diseases were there. Our poverty, our shame, our despair, they were all there. And when Jesus died, they died with

Him. When He was buried, they were buried too. When he rose, we rose in victory. We were made alive in Him. We were justified in Him. We conquered the enemy in Him. We were raised up and seated with Him in heavenly places. This is not future theology. This is present reality. It is ours now. The Holy Spirit reveals it to us through the Word. And when the Word enters your spirit, it sets you free. No more struggling; faith becomes a reality, not just a dream.

## Faith-Pregnant Words

What if the words coming out of your mouth are the very reason you're not getting better? Sounds strange, right? But according to Scripture, your words are not just expressions; they're containers of power. They're not harmless or neutral. They're creative. And sadly, many believers are unknowingly speaking sickness, weakness, and fear into their own lives, even while praying for healing.

When you learn how to confess God's Word the way Jesus and the early church did, you'll start seeing results that religion can't explain. King Solomon put it this way, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue"* (Proverbs 18:21).

Jesus himself said in Mark 11:23, *'Whoever says to this mountain, Be removed and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes what he says will come to pass, He shall have whatever he says.'* Notice he didn't say you'd have what you pray. He said you'd have what you say. Confession brings possession. Not because you're manipulating God, but because you're finally agreeing with Him. He was teaching that we are given authority over circumstances.

Remember when the centurion came to Jesus for the healing of his son, he told Jesus that he was not worthy for Him to come into his house, but He could say the word only. And Jesus marveled! He turned around and told his disciples, "I've never seen so much faith in all Israel". In other words this centurion understood how faith works. It works alongside authority. You command what you want.

The right confession is the bridge between the legal work of redemption and the vital experience of it. Jesus already paid for your healing, peace, and deliverance, but it doesn't become real in your life until you agree with it and command it—confess it, not just once, not just when you're desperate, but daily, consistently, boldly.

Many Christians believe in healing and pray for it, but they keep talking about their pain, the diagnosis, the symptoms, and the fear. And what happens? Their words create a mental environment that keeps them sick, even when

healing is available. Your body is listening. Your mind is listening. Your spirit is listening. And most importantly, heaven is listening.

When your words agree with the Word of God, power is released. But when your words agree with symptoms, culture or fear, you empower the very thing you're trying to be free from. Confession is not denial of the facts. This is where people get it twisted. We're not saying to ignore reality. We're not saying "just pretend you don't have pain". Faith doesn't deny the facts. It declares what God said in spite of the facts; the fact might be that you feel pain. The truth is, Jesus took that pain at the cross. The fact might be that the doctor gave you a dreadful diagnosis; the truth is, Jehovah Rapha is your healer.

So find healing scriptures and stand on those promises. Stop reinforcing sickness. Stop calling that sickness, yours. Don't say 'my cancer' or 'my migraines.' Say, 'This condition is illegal in my body. I've been redeemed from the curse.' Confess healing and strength over your body daily, continually, even when you feel fine. Don't wait until crisis hits.

Faith's confession is partnership with God's Word. Think of it like planting seeds. You don't expect a full harvest after planting once. You water, nurture, and watch it grow. Confession is the faith act that puts God's Word to work. When you confess God's Word, you're not trying to get God to do something—you're responding to what He's already done. It may require persistence and endurance, because the devil doesn't want you free. But that doesn't negate the fact that you'll get what you believe for. You don't get all muscled up the first day you go to the gym. But if you stay with it, results are inevitable.

What words have you been speaking over your body, your mind, and your future? Are they filled with life, or are they quietly agreeing with defeat? Today can be the day you shift your vocabulary and, in doing so, shift your health. The power is not in your feelings. The power is in your words. When your words match God's Word, healing has no choice but to come.

## Words Create!

I never knew the “why” of faith until I read Hebrews 11:3. *“By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the Word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which do appear”.*

I never truly understood what gave it meaning, where it stood in the scheme of God's divine structure, or why it was so central to the life of the believer. It was this single verse that unlocked an understanding that reshaped my perception of spiritual power, divine authority, and the mechanism by which the invisible becomes visible.

Like a sudden flash of lightning, the mystery of Genesis 1 unraveled in brilliant clarity. The statement, “in the beginning God created”, became more than a historical or theological; it was a revelation. The emphasis was not just that God created, but how he created. How did He create the world? It was by words of faith. “By FAITH, the worlds were framed”. His words were not empty declarations. They were containers of divine creative power. When God said, “let there be”, those words carried faith that produced reality. His invisible word manifested the visible world. His words carried within them the essence of faith, the “assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. That insight changed everything. It illuminated the unshakable truth that words, when spoken in faith, create; they birth new realities, just as seeds do. And that same divine mechanism of faith, expressed through words, is the basis of the believer's faith.

Jesus knew the power of faith-filled words. Jesus, the Son of God, operated with this understanding constantly. He was not bound by the natural because he was always functioning from the spiritual. He healed the sick with words. He didn't need lengthy rituals or lengthy prayers. With a word, diseases fled. With a word, broken bodies aligned. With a word, minds were restored. He raised the dead not by laying on elaborate garments or pouring sacred oils. But with words, “Lazarus, come forth”.

Even the elements submitted to His voice. On the raging sea, he said simply, “Peace, be still”, and nature obeyed. Why? Because His words were pregnant with faith; faith's words. They weren't emotional outbursts or dramatic speeches. They were decrees from the spirit realm, enforced through faith.

The apostles walked in the same pattern. Peter, having walked with Jesus, understood this same principle. When he said to the layman, "*in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk*", it wasn't mere speech. It was the discharge of authoritative faith through words. It was a declaration backed by the authority of heaven. It was a discharge of faith expressed in words.

Paul, too, stood before demon-possessed individuals, and declared, "*Come out in the name of Jesus Christ*". And the demons had no choice but to obey. They weren't simply using words, they were using words born of faith. These were not hopeful phrases or positive affirmations. These were faith's words, words ignited by revelation, authority, and spiritual conviction. And those words produced divine results.

We, too, are called to speak faith's words. When we received Christ and were born again, contrary to what most believe, we didn't just join a religion, we stepped into a divine lineage. We became partakers of God's very own nature. We became sons and daughters of God. And how did this happen? By believing in and acting on words. The gospel was preached to us. We heard the word. We believed the word. We confessed the word. And the miracle of the new birth took place. Just as the universe was framed by God's word, our spiritual lives were reborn by acting on His word. We are faith men and women; born into a new creation through the same principle.

Now, we are meant to live, breathe, and speak faith's words; not fears, not doubts, not emotions, but faiths. When we speak faith's words, we produce faith's results. And this principle is not reserved for spiritual giants. It is for every child of God. Faith in my faith.

The first time I heard the phrase "faith in my faith", it shook me. It made me stop and reflect deeply. What did it mean to have faith in my own faith? Why did it seem so unfamiliar? And then it dawned on me? Most people don't. Most believers have faith in someone else's faith. They believe that their pastor's faith is powerful. They believe that the evangelist's prayers work. They write letters to ministers in distant countries, asking for prayer not because prayer is wrong, but because they feel theirs won't reach heaven.

They simply don't trust in their own standing before God. Why? Because they don't believe in their faith. They don't believe in what Christ has done for them, and even less in what Christ has done in them. They see themselves through the eyes of guilt, failure, and unworthiness. They have heard so many messages of condemnation that it has become their second language. They believe in their unfitness more than in God's finished work. They believe they are too weak, too sinful, too immature in their faith. So they write themselves off, and as a result, they disqualify their faith.

But God has no favorites. He is not a respecter of persons. Every person born into His family is equally redeemed. The moment you were born again, your redemption was just as complete as any minister's. You were not given a lesser version of the blood. You were not handed a diluted version of grace. The same Jesus that died for Paul died for you. Satan was conquered for you personally. Jesus didn't just defeat Satan in a general way. He defeated him on your behalf. You can say boldly, "He was delivered up for my trespasses. He was raised for my justification". That's not a collective hope. It's a personal reality. You can confess with confidence. "He has delivered me from the authority of darkness. He has translated me into the kingdom of the Son of his love. In Him, I have the redemption and the remission of my sins."

Christ was your substitute. Let this truth sink deep into your spirit. Christ acted in your stead when he stood against Satan and stripped him of all authority. You were in Him. You were not a spectator. You were represented. When He died, you died. When He was buried, you were buried. When He rose again, you rose again with Him. This is not imagery, it is spiritual fact. A definite legal decree.

You have to have faith in your faith. Say aloud, "in Christ, I conquered Satan. I stripped him of his authority. When Jesus rose from the dead, I rose with Him. I now sit with Him in heavenly places, far above principalities, powers, and every name that is named". Let that be more than head knowledge. Let it become heart-revelation. The moment you take your place and begin to walk in your God-given rights and privileges, heaven responds. The spirit of God in you begins to stir. Your words begin to carry authority. Your life begins to reflect divine dominion. You have the same life as Jesus. The life you now have is not your old life fixed up. It's God's own life. *"He that hath the Son hath the life"* (John 5:12) You have Jesus. Therefore you have the divine nature. Now you can say, "I have taken Jesus Christ as my Savior. I have confessed him as my Lord. I possess eternal life, I am a new creation, born in Christ Jesus, I have God's ability within me, I am equipped to do the same works that he did, he has called me to have his spirit, I have his power. Greater is he that is in me, than he that is in the world".

You're not trying to get this, you have it, the spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives inside you, that same power is active in you, if only you'll believe it and speak it.

This is one of the most liberating truths in all of scripture, you are the righteousness of God in Christ, not because of what you've done, but because of what Christ did, *"him whom no sin God made to be sin on your behalf, that you might become the righteousness of God in him"* (1 Corinthians 5:12). You can say without fear or shame, I have become the righteousness of God in Christ, there is now no condemnation for me because I am in Him. This

righteousness is not a feeling, it's a position. It's a standing before God that allows you to come boldly to the throne of grace without guilt, shame, or inferiority, as though sin never existed in your life. That's what righteousness means.

You are His child, born of His Spirit, created in His image, filled with His nature. He is your Father, and He calls you righteous. You have the right to use His son's name as His son or daughter. You have a legal right to do so. So, yes, you can have faith in your faith.

That name is not reserved for pastors or missionaries. It's not reserved for people with titles. It's given to every believer, including you. No one has a better right to use the name of Jesus than you. When you speak that name, heaven moves, demons tremble, sickness weakens, circumstances shift. All authority is in that name. Now declare this with confidence, "whatever I ask in His name, He will give it to me. I take my place fearlessly. I lay my hands on the sick and say, "in the name of Jesus, be healed. Disease, leave this body. Demon, depart and never return".

You are not begging. You are not hoping. You are declaring in the authority of the King of kings. *"These signs shall follow them that believe. In my name, they shall cast out devils. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"*. He said this to you. Take in His word. It's your inheritance. It's your right as a child of God. Faith dominates. Faith reigns. You are not weak. You are not helpless. You are a faith man, a faith woman, a living expression of the new creation, empowered to speak the words of God and see them come to pass. So speak, declare, create, and reign...in Jesus' name.

## Faith In Your Own Faith

Think of having faith in your own faith. Imagine the thrill, the overwhelming joy, the sacred confidence of having your own prayers, answered not merely hoping they might be, not merely echoing someone else's faith or leaning on another's spiritual strength, but walking in the light of answered prayer because your own faith was activated.

Think of what it means to experience that deeply personal and unspeakably glorious moment when you know beyond question that heaven has heard your voice, not because of some external merit, not because a mighty preacher laid hands on you, but because YOU, little old you, believed; because you dared to take God at His Word, because you stood in your rights in Christ and spoke the Word of faith, and it came to pass.

The vast majority of Christians go through life without ever having a single prayer answered by their own faith. At best, they have to rely on someone else's faith. What a tragic neglect of the inheritance that belongs to us; most have been beggars at the gates of grace, when they were actual heirs; watchers, when called to be participators. Most Christians have never learned to believe for themselves, they depend habitually on the faith of others; they know how to utter words in prayer, but they are often powerless, lifeless words, devoid of faith; in brief, they are not praying in the New Testament sense at all.

Prayer, as the Bible teaches, is not the recitation of spiritual phrases, not the repetition of holy sounding language. True prayer is born of faith. And faith is anchored in righteousness and powered by the Word. And it is always answered. For prayer to be real in the new covenant, it must be saturated with confidence in the finished work of Christ and the believer's place in Him. The Father has planned, yes, purposefully, lovingly planned that all His children should walk in this kind of faith; not just a few, not just the apostles or ministers, but all every single believer should live in the realm of answered prayer.

Have you ever truly pondered that glorious passage in Mark 16:17,18? *“These signs shall accompany them that believe. In my name shall they cast out demons. They shall speak with new tongues. They shall take up serpents.*

*And if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover*". This is not spoken to the apostles alone. This is not reserved for spiritual elites. These signs follow the believing ones, the ones who believe, the newborn believer, the freshly redeemed man or woman, the one who has just confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior, the one who has just received eternal life. In that very moment, in that very hour, they become equipped. Heaven moves into them.

The Spirit of God indwells them. They begin their combat with unseen forces, not as helpless victims, but as authorized agents of heaven. And what do they do? Someone is sick. Someone is tormented. Someone is bound. And boom, they exercise their rights, not timidly, not uncertainly, but boldly. They command in Jesus' name. They speak with heaven's authority. They resist Satan. They release healing, they bring deliverance.

That is the New Testament believer, that is you, if you will only dare to believe. Acts 22:32! says, *"and now I commend you to God, and to the Word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them, that are sanctified"*. Ah, the Word of His grace is the unmerited, lavish, limitless favor of God which is able to build you up; it builds you up in faith, it strengthens your inner man, it fortifies your spirit, it edifies your soul, it enlarges your capacity, it brings you to maturity. And not only that; it delivers to you your inheritance, all that Christ bought and paid for, becomes real in your life through that WORD; you step into your rights, you walk into your inheritance, you begin to live as one of the sanctified ones; the Word does all this.

The dream of the Father is to have sons and daughters who are mighty in faith, confident in righteousness, and unshakable in identity. He wants you to become conscious not occasionally, but perpetually of who you are in Christ, conscious that you are the righteousness of God, conscious that you are redeemed and that you are in dominion; conscious that you are not the sick triad, trying to get healed, but the healed standing in your rights.

Isaiah 32:17 declares, *"the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness, and confidence forever"*. This prophecy is for believers; the work of righteousness that God performed in you when you were born again, has brought peace to your heart. That peace is the divine stability, a holy assurance, and the glorious effect of this righteousness, in confidence forever; not just during a worship service, not just when others are watching, but forever!

Romans 8:1 lifts this truth to a higher plane; it says , *"there is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus"*; free, free from guilt, free from fear, free from the shadows of the past. You live in rest, you walk in

confidence, your heart has entered into a divine quietness, the still waters of faith. You are not troubled, you are not tormented, you are not tossed to and fro; you are anchored, rooted, established, you know who you are, you are a master, a victor, a son, a daughter, a king and priest and to God. You lay hands on the sick and they recover simply because the Word declares it, you speak to demons and they flee not because you shouted loudly, but because you spoke in the authority of Jesus' name.

Faith is not emotional, it is not a spiritual high, it is a settled knowing, a calm firm assurance; you live now in the effect of your confidence in Christ. You walk no longer as a slave, but as a master; you are no longer a victim, but a conqueror, you are no longer wandering in darkness, but walking in light; you no longer talk about privileges, you live them, you enjoy them, you operate in them. You speak and things change, you declare and mountains move, you pray and answers manifest; you are living the faith life, and best of all, you have your own faith, yes, at last, you have your own faith.

You are no longer borrowing. You are no longer second guessing. Just like the GPS girl says, "You have arrived". You're home. You have stepped into that blessed place where John 15:5 becomes your daily reality. *"I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same beareth much fruit. For apart from me ye can do nothing"*. You abide in Him, and He abides in you. You are one with the vine. His life flows in your veins. His Word flows from your lips. His works are revealed through your hands. You bear fruit, the Jesus kind of fruit, love fruit, faith fruit, healing fruit, authority fruit, and the world is changed by it.

John 15:7 is no longer a mysterious verse. It is your present reality. *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you."* You ask and you receive! You speak and it is done. You declare and it comes to pass. Why? Because you are abiding. Because the Word is living in you. Because you are no longer trying, you are living. The Word on Jesus' lips healed the sick. That same Word on your lips does the same. And you understand John 16:23,24. *"In that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, I say unto you, if ye ask anything of the Father, he will give it you in my name"*. The word "ask" means demand, not in arrogance, not in rebellion, but like a child taking what belongs to them, like a customer presenting a check at the bank. Your faith demands what has already been provided, and heaven honors it, because Jesus backs it up.

You now know what James 1:22-24 really means. You are not merely a hearer of the word, you are a doer, you don't look into the mirror of the Word and forget, you see who you are as a new creation, born from above, infused with God's life, you act on the Word; you speak the Word, you live the Word, you do the Word, and the Word always works.

You are now in a different class, you are not like the old you, you are no longer powerless, you are empowered, you are no longer trying to get around mountains, you speak to them, and they move. You face life with a song of triumph, you remember every morning what manner of man you are, you live out Colossians 3:16, *“let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly”*. The Word is not a visitor, it is a permanent resident in you. It has become your daily bread, and the Spirit of God builds that Word into your very consciousness, and Christ Himself lives in you, and you proclaim Galatians 2:20, *“it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me”*. You walk in Colossians 2:6,7, *“as therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted, grounded, built up, overflowing with thanksgiving”*.

You are now walking among the redwood spiritual giants, men and women full of God, radiant with love, fearless in faith; you belong to the miracle class, the love class, the dominion class. You are now fully established in the truth and you have your own faith that works miracles.

***back-cover***

THE JESUS REVELATION

--What Happens When We Quit Playing Church

The world is tired of "Churchianity." Are you?

We've all seen it: the Sunday morning costume, the rehearsed smiles, and the hollow rituals. We call it Christianity, but for many, it has become a superficial performance—a "junk food" version of faith that satisfies the ego but starves the soul.

The Jesus Revelation is a call to stop playing the game. It is a journey for the skeptic who is tired of the hypocrisy and the believer who is bored with the pews. It's time to rediscover the Man who didn't come to start a religion, but to spark a revolution of human consciousness.

In these pages, you will discover:

\* The Great Misunderstanding: Why the "dialect" of the modern church is often unrecognizable to the Jesus of the Gospels.

\* The Monday Test: How to bridge the gap between "hearing" the word and actually "living" it.

\* Radical Integrity: How to trade rigid denominational rules for a transformative relationship that redefines your entire existence.

Jesus didn't come to build a religious institution; He came to bring about a cosmic realignment of what it means to be human. When we strip away the "rubble of ritual," we find a message so pure and so revolutionary that it has the power to give rebirth to our lives—and our world.

Stop playing church. Start living the revelation.

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Back cover

JESUS vs. RELIGION

Recovering the Revolutionary from the Rubble of Ritual

Is it possible to love Jesus but lose interest in "Churchianity"?

For the skeptic, the modern church often looks like a performance—pristine on Sunday, but indistinguishable from the rest of the world on Monday. For the church-goer, the experience often feels hollow, a "junk food" version of faith that offers religious ritual but lacks real-world transformation.

In *Jesus vs. Religion*, the masks are stripped away to reveal a staggering truth: Christ didn't come to build a religious institution; He came to spark a revolution of human consciousness.

Just as languages can be lost in translation, the original message of Jesus has been buried under centuries of rigid denominations and superficial habits. This book is a guide to unearthing that message. Through a sharp look at the "alarming deception" of modern religiosity, you will discover:

- \* *The Churchianity Crisis*: Why the religion we see today is often a different "dialect" than the one Jesus spoke.

- \* *The Monday Test*: How to move beyond being a "hearer" of the word and become a "doer" whose life carries genuine substance.

- \* *Radical Reconstruction*: A path for both the un-initiated and the mis-initiated to find a faith defined by radical love and systemic integrity.

It's time to stop settling for a diluted version of the Gospel. Whether you are a seeker looking for the truth or a believer starving for more, prepare to have your understanding reconstructed.

The ritual is over. The revolution begins now.

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Paul Joseph has written a number of books, along with over 400 daily devotionals and they're all accessible on his website: [faithwithoutborders.us](http://faithwithoutborders.us). Your participation can create ripples of transformation across the world. When you invest in sharing the gospel, you become part of a beautiful chain reaction of faith, teaching, and discipleship that spreads from person to person. If you like to contribute, go to <https://share.google/ucY65NI2nRSEy8zjq> To find out how.

Blessings, always, and in all ways...