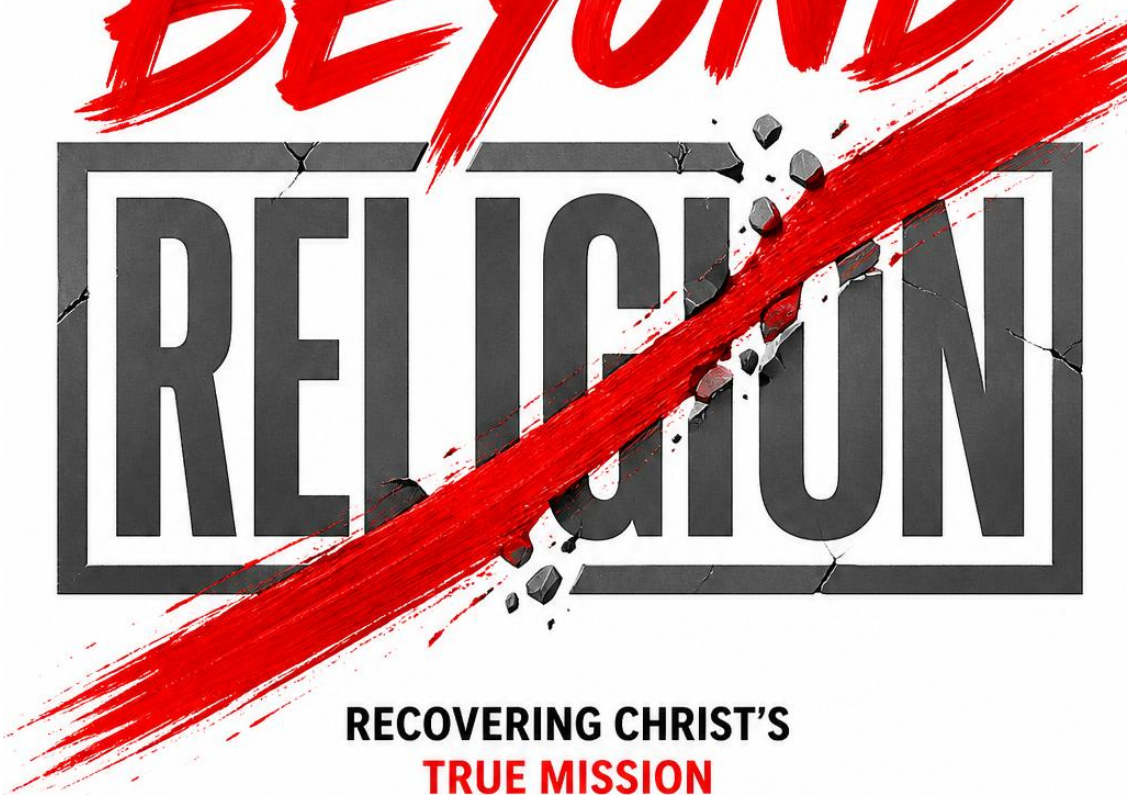


JESUS

BEYOND

RELIGION



RECOVERING CHRIST'S
TRUE MISSION
AND THE POWER OF
HIS FINISHED WORK

PAUL JOSEPH

JESUS BEYOND RELIGION

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Jesus Beyond Religion
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*This is not a call to try religion again.
It is a call to see Jesus clearly.*

**Beyond Churchianity. Beyond condemnation. Beyond the old man.
Beyond powerless faith.**

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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 — encountered was not authentic Christianity. It was "Churchianity": a hollow adherence to religious routines that carries Christian language but lacks the transforming 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 is 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:

The Skeptical Seeker: You have stayed away because you have seen hypocrisy. You deserve to know that the "junk food" version of religion you rejected is not the real feast.

The Dissatisfied Churchgoer: You show up, do the rituals, and yet find little substance. You feel the alarming deception James warned about — being a "hearer" of the Word but not a "doer." You are hungry for a faith that actually changes your life.

Jesus did not come to build a religious institution or a social club. He came to restore man to God, announce the Kingdom, destroy the works of the devil, and call people into a life transformed by His Spirit. True Christianity is not about hiding behind denominational labels or rigid religious routines. It is about receiving Christ, obeying His Word, walking in His love, and living as a true disciple.

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 the faith Jesus actually preached — a faith marked by radical love, genuine integrity, obedience, power, and a life-altering relationship with the living Christ.

Prepare to have your understanding reconstructed. We are about to uncover a message so pure, so powerful, and so revolutionary that it does not merely change your Sunday routine — it gives rebirth to your entire life.

Click [here](#) to explore more books by Paul Joseph.

Introduction

We have all been asked, “What church do you go to?” or “What denomination are you with?” as if our entire spiritual life could be categorized and filed into a neat theological folder. But what if the ultimate model for our faith is not found in a church system, a denomination, or a set of rigid rules? What if the model is simply Jesus Himself?

Maybe you have found yourself going through the motions, attending services, checking off religious boxes, yet still feeling a deep, unexplained emptiness inside. Many sincere people know that feeling. They have discovered that faith is not about perfecting a religious performance, but about entering a genuine, transforming relationship with Jesus.

That is why we need to make an important distinction: the difference between Christianity and what I call “churchianity.” It may sound subtle at first, but it is profound. Understanding this distinction can revolutionize how we understand and live out our faith.

There is a wide spectrum of practices today under the name Christianity. Some people have a clear revelation of what the Gospel truly means. Some walk in a deeply intimate and transforming faith. Others have reduced faith to a quick nighttime prayer, occasional attendance, or passive participation in church activities. This wide diversity makes Christianity difficult to define in the public mind.

Too often, people become more committed to denominational identity than to the core message and lifestyle Jesus actually taught. The label becomes stronger than the life. The system becomes more familiar than the Savior. And when that happens, Christianity gets reduced to church attendance, religious vocabulary, and outward routine instead of a life transformed by the power of Christ.

So we need to look deeper at the difference between religiosity and authentic faith.

Religiosity is like a beautiful façade with nothing substantial behind it. It is about external appearances, meticulous rule-following, and performing the right rituals. You can be doing all the “right” things and still remain disconnected, unchanged, and spiritually empty. This is what Paul warned

about when he described those who have “a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof” (2 Timothy 3:5).

Jesus Himself was direct about this. He frequently challenged the religious leaders of His time, the Pharisees, who had mastered 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 used a striking metaphor. He compared those religious leaders to “whitewashed tombs,” beautiful on the outside, but inwardly filled with decay and death. Pristine, polished exteriors were concealing inner corruption. His words were sharp: “You appear righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

The Greek word Jesus used for “hypocrite” carries the idea of a 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. That is the danger of religion without life. It can teach people how to look spiritual while leaving the heart untouched.

Jesus did not come to add more complicated religious burdens. He came to fulfill the Law and reveal its true heart: love God completely and love your neighbor as yourself. Everything else flows from these two fundamental commandments. True Christianity is not the performance of religious duties. It is the life of Christ expressed through love, obedience, truth, power, and genuine transformation.

This book is not about creating another critique of organized religion. There are already plenty of voices exposing church systems, religious abuse, and institutional failure. This is something different. This is an invitation, a heartfelt call to rediscover the liberating, transforming power of the Gospel.

My goal is not to bash churches or expose individual leaders. But I will not be shy or timid about exposing the works of the devil where religious systems have been used to dilute, distract from, or bury the true Gospel. 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 removes weeds so flowers can thrive, we must examine and remove religious practices that choke genuine spiritual growth. Some traditions may look harmless, but

if they keep people passive, powerless, condemned, distracted, or dependent on a system instead of alive in Christ, they must be questioned.

This is an invitation to discipleship in its purest form: to move beyond religious checklists, spiritual performance, and social-club Christianity, and into a life of radical love, genuine service, obedience, power, and authentic relationship with Jesus.

The question is simple: are you ready to trade religious routine for the living reality of Christ?

What if it's true?

Granted, we have every reason to be skeptical about organized religion. Maybe you have 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 is real, and we are missing something of primordial value?

Here is the million-dollar question many people avoid asking: what if we are so focused on the flaws of the followers that we are missing the profound truth of the Founder?

Let's face it: many people are trying to navigate a life that often feels pointless, without clear direction or destiny. But what if there is a compass designed specifically for human life, and we are willfully ignoring it?

What if there is more to this life than we can perceive with our natural understanding? We're talking about something BIG here; we're talking about a reality where deliverance from demonic oppression is 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 confidence may look impressive when we argue from a shaky perspective, but using minor objections to dismiss the entire message of the Bible can become a serious waste of time. There is nothing wrong with asking honest questions about translation, history, manuscripts, or interpretation. Honest questions are part of a real search for truth. But to use those questions as an excuse to dismiss the entire Jesus phenomenon without serious investigation is not intellectual honesty. It is avoidance dressed up as intelligence. It assumes that our limited perspective is enough to overturn the witness of billions of seekers, believers, scholars, martyrs, and transformed lives across 2,000 years. It is like a farmer saying, “There is no such thing as a giraffe,” simply because he has never seen one in the small backyard he has never left. That boxed-in approach does not prove wisdom. It only proves that a person may be more afraid of being wrong than willing to search for truth.

Would you not give yourself the opportunity of a genuine search? Would you rather live by your friends’ opinions, by what you have been taught to reject, or would you be willing to stand alone and take the Bible as a real challenge? Find out for yourself what the message is all about. It is one book. Why should it defeat you? And if, after reading it honestly, nothing has changed and you have not come out transformed, then at least you can argue intelligently, or simply go on your merry way.

Imagine finding a single book that contains wisdom for harmonious living, principles for building a resilient family, keys to leadership, guidance for handling finances, the power of unselfish love and forgiveness, and the path to joy, peace, faith, and hope. Imagine a book that reveals the inner workings of human nature: how to discipline your emotions, strengthen your will, renew your mind, and shape your life according to the gifts, talents, and purpose God placed within 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 like a child saying he hates vegetables when he has never tasted them. I am not asking you to

inspect the mechanics of religion. I am asking you to thoroughly investigate the Jesus phenomenon. Go to the source. Take on the Bible, not as a dusty relic, but as a genuine, high-stakes investigation. Read it with this attitude: “This book is too significant for me to ignore. I will read it honestly, either to prove it wrong or to fully embrace what it reveals.”

I am not asking you to try out religion. I am asking you to seek truth, seek true love, and seek Jesus. None of these can hurt you. If even a fraction of the claims about Jesus are true, would you not want to know?

I agree that it is deplorable that many churches offer so few strong examples of obedience to Christ’s life and discipline. But to argue against Jesus only on the strength of religion is like disliking a tree because you do not like the cheap wooden chair you are sitting on. The fault is not in the resource. The fault is in the poor execution.

Be real. Be honest. Do not dismiss what you have never truly investigated. Spend the necessary time to read the source for yourself. Then, and only then, will you have the substance to either argue intelligently or stand transformed. The ball is in your court.

“Why Jesus?”

The entirety of the Bible reveals not only God’s plan for humanity, but also the reasons behind His actions. The perfect relationship established at creation was shattered when Adam and Eve rebelled against God and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As a result, corruption entered the human race, and humanity became increasingly defiant, sinful, and separated from God.

To preserve His redemptive plan, God made a covenant with a man named Abraham, promising that a chosen people, a nation set apart, would descend from him. Through time and trial, Abraham’s descendants found themselves enslaved in Egypt. God then chose Moses to deliver them miraculously from bondage. But after centuries in Egypt, surrounded by idolatry and wickedness, this newly freed nation needed order, identity, and instruction. Therefore, while they were in the wilderness, God gave Moses the Law: a comprehensive code of conduct to govern His people, keep them separate from surrounding evil, and teach them how to walk in holiness.

One reason God gave the Law through Moses was to preserve a covenant people in a world increasingly marked by rebellion, idolatry, and moral corruption. Ecclesiastes 8:11 says, “The heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” Genesis 6:5 also shows us how deeply evil can spread through the human heart, saying that “every inclination of the thoughts of the

human heart was only evil all the time.” When we look at the state of the world today, that is not hard to understand.

God was preserving a nation through whom the Messiah would come. The Law gave Israel order, identity, boundaries, and a way to remain distinct from the surrounding nations. It restrained evil, revealed sin, and pointed forward to the need for a Savior.

The Bible says that the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Notice the clear distinction. Israel lived under the Law of Moses for centuries, but when Jesus came, He did not come to introduce another legal system. He came to bring something completely different, which the Bible calls grace. The Law demanded righteousness from man through obedience, but grace gives righteousness to man as a gift. It cannot be earned, purchased, or achieved through religious performance.

That is why trying to live by the Old Testament Law, or mixing the Law with the grace that came through Jesus, does not work and cannot work. The Old Testament is filled with symbols and foreshadowings that point to Jesus and to His ultimate sacrifice of redemption. Those illustrations, traditions, rituals, and laws have specific significance, 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 alone. Paul explained, “You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace” (Galatians 5:4).

Before I go any further, I want to explain something about sin. Sin is probably one of the main reasons people choke on everything related to faith. Many people hear the word “sin” and immediately think of religious condemnation. But throughout Scripture, sin is not only a list of wrong actions. It refers to the corrupted nature of man, the fallen condition inherited through Adam’s disobedience.

That sin nature bends man toward selfishness, pride, deception, lust, rebellion, disrespect, and disobedience. And if anyone does not feel like a sinner, Jesus made the issue even deeper in the Sermon on the Mount. He taught that anger and insults reveal murder in the heart, and that looking with lust is adultery in the heart. In other words, sin is not only outward behavior. It is a heart condition. That is why no one has to teach a child how to be selfish or disobedient. Unfortunately, it comes naturally.

To get away from the condemning religious connotation of sin, think of it like a virus or junk code that corrupted the operating system of mankind after Adam's rebellion. The cause was disobedience, and everyone can relate to disobedience because we have all been guilty of it. We also know that disobedience comes with consequences.

So if you want to say it this way, disobedience made man sinful, full of sin. We were all in need of that virus being removed from our operating system so we could have an intimate relationship with a holy God. That is why God already had a solution in mind: grace.

God had mercy on humanity and offered grace. Mercy means you do not receive what you deserve. Grace means you receive what you do not 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. That is why grace operates only through faith. There is no other way to receive grace except as a gift, by faith in what Christ did to redeem us all. Ephesians 2:8 to 9 says, "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." God offered salvation to all men through grace because He knew the Law could not save anybody. No one could keep the whole Law.

I once heard the story of a man who spent much of his time telling people about Jesus on the streets of Los Angeles. Again and again, people asked him, "How can you say that you have the truth? There are hundreds of religions in the world, and all of them think theirs is the right one. How can I possibly know which one is right?"

The man would answer, "Hundreds of religions, you say? That is strange. I talk to people every day from different parts of the world, and I have only heard of two."

His listeners would respond, "But surely you know there are many more than that."

He would reply, "Not really. Within these two religions, there may be many sects, beliefs, and differences of opinion. But when you bring them down to their foundation, there are only two."

The first religion includes every system that teaches man can earn his own righteousness by good deeds, moral effort, religious discipline, or keeping certain laws and commandments. Some try to meditate their way into goodness. Others try to achieve holiness through religious devotion. Others submit to strict rules, rituals, or self-improvement disciplines in an effort to

obtain acceptance. However different they may appear, they all rest on the same foundation: man trying to make himself righteous before God.

The other consists of those who know they are incapable of obtaining righteousness on their own and therefore look to Jesus alone to save them.

So you see, the whole question is very simple. Do you think you can save yourself through good deeds, self-effort, and moral performance? Do you think you can somehow earn salvation by being “good”? Or do you realize that you need a Savior to rescue you from your sin nature, your guilt, and your failures?

Religions are man’s search for God. The Gospel is God’s search for man. So if you insist that there are many religions in the world, so be it. But there is only one Gospel, and it is not a religion. It is a Kingdom: God’s Kingdom.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus told people to repent because the Kingdom of God was at hand. In other words, the rule and government of God was being reinstated. This happens through the new birth of those who believe in the sacrifice of Christ and receive it as the ransom paid for their guilt and judgment.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8 to 9). It also says, “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 like a diagnostic scanner to show man his own sin nature and bring him to the realization that he needed mercy and a Savior. Paul explained this clearly when he said that “through the law comes the knowledge of sin” and that the Law was given “because of transgressions” (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:19).

A diagnostic scanner can reveal what is wrong, but it cannot heal the patient. That is what the Law did. It revealed the problem, but it could not provide the cure. Jesus is the cure.

Look at what Paul said in Romans 5:20 to 21: “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The plan from the beginning was for Jesus to redeem mankind from the sin nature and the corrupted heart. The Law served as a temporary restraint and a

clear witness to man's need for grace. It could expose sin and restrain certain actions, but it could not recreate the heart. Only Jesus could do that.

Only God could offer salvation through Jesus. No man could fulfill all that the Law demanded. That is why God's plan from the beginning was to send His Son to fulfill the demands of the Law, redeem mankind, and restore man to relationship with his Creator.

Salvation is a total, all-embracing word. It does not cover only the redemption of man's sin nature. It also includes healing, deliverance, sonship, authority, and the full inheritance God has prepared for those who receive the sacrifice Jesus made.

That is why Jesus.

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 the radical transformation that occurs when a person is in Christ:

"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.

Through the Law of Moses, God made provision for the sacrifice of a lamb without blemish as a temporary covering for sin. That system pointed forward to Jesus, the Lamb of God without sin. God Himself would provide the final sacrifice, His own Son, to redeem mankind from corruption once and for all.

That is why Jesus stands alone. He is not merely a religious leader, guru, or philosopher. He is the only One who paid the ultimate price to redeem mankind from the 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 is made in the image of a hand. It has five fingers because it was designed for a hand to fit inside it. With the hand inside, the glove becomes useful. It can move, serve a purpose, and function as it was designed. But without the hand, the glove is lifeless.

In the same way, we were created in the image of God so that God could live inside us. With God in us, we come alive. We have purpose. We are filled with His strength, His power, and His life. But without God, we are spiritually dead. We were made in the image of God so that God could live in 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 we could be made strong.

He took on shame so we could receive glory.

He descended into death so we could be raised into life.

He was condemned so we could be justified.

His body was beaten and broken so healing would be ours.

He was cast out so we could be welcomed into full fellowship with God.

Healing, then, is not something we beg for as outsiders. It belongs to the finished work of Christ, and we receive it by faith. None of this is based on our performance, but on His substitution. Salvation brings man back to God's original plan and intention before the fall, back to the purpose of Eden, where sickness, corruption, and perversion were never part of God's design.

He took our place so we could receive what belongs to Him. Everything He went through was for us. He did not suffer for Himself. He suffered as our substitute. It was all part of a divine transaction. The justice of God demanded judgment against sin, and Jesus met that demand in full. He carried the penalty so we could receive the promise.

He took the place of the guilty so we could receive the place of the beloved. He reclaimed the original will and eternal purpose of God for mankind.

That is the message of the Gospel. He served the full sentence so we could walk in freedom: freedom from condemnation, freedom from the sin nature, freedom from the curse, freedom from the limitations and impossibilities that entered through the fall, and freedom to live in the grace that now abounds through Christ.

Where sin once reigned, grace now reigns.

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 casually for one hour on Sunday morning? You want to know why Jesus cannot be framed inside a religious box? Because the truth of the new identity is more than theology. It is the very core of the Gospel. It is the greatest news that has ever hit this world.

You may have heard the analogy of a criminal condemned in court, facing a life sentence and eventual death sentence, until Jesus steps forward and pays the charge in full. That picture is right, but it goes much further than that.

Jesus did not merely pay a symbolic fine. He paid the death penalty Himself. He died in our place. He bore the shame, the guilt, the judgment, and the full weight of the sentence that belonged to us. He went through the full sentence for us. He paid the price in full.

That is why the blood of Christ is free to us, but it is not cheap.

If you ever question your value, remember what purchased you: 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.

Second Corinthians 5:21 explains the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ: "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Jesus did not merely carry our sins

as an outside burden. He was made sin for us. He stood in the place of the fallen man so that those who believe could stand in His righteousness.

This is the Great Exchange.

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, Jesus became a curse for us. 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’s penalty and satisfied the demands of justice on behalf of 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 sinless Lamb of God could become sin for us. The sacrifice for sin had to be without blemish. Jesus did not inherit the fallen nature of Adam. He came into the world through the virgin birth, without the sin nature of fallen man, and lived a life of perfect obedience. That sinless obedience became the foundation for the righteousness imputed to us in justification.

The Bible calls Jesus the last Adam. He came as the beginning of a new humanity. He became sin to pay the ransom for all men, and He died under judgment so that we could be redeemed from the sin nature inherited 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. Just 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 is the rush of the Gospel.

And I am 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 the guilt, condemnation, and curse of the Adamic race. Through His death and burial, He dealt with the old man. Through His resurrection, He became the second Adam and the head of a new race. All those who are united with Christ by faith in His death, burial, and resurrection are regenerated, born again, and made part of this new creation 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.

First John 3:8 says, “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” Jesus came in human flesh to destroy what the devil had produced through Adam's fall. He came to break the power of sin, restore man to God, and recover the authority and purpose that had been lost. 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 in Scripture is found in 2 Peter 1:3 to 4:

“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 is the exchange that took place at the cross. Jesus, being divine, became human without ceasing to be divine, so that believers, though human, might become partakers of His divine nature through union with Him. We do not become God. We become new creations in Christ, restored to the image of God, filled with His Spirit, and called to live as His representatives on earth.

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 have already seen that because Adam lost the life and nature of God through disobedience, Jesus restored that life through the new creation. The second result of Adam's fall was that Satan usurped the realm of authority God had given to Adam. Through Christ's redemption, that authority was restored first to Christ, and through Christ, made available to the new creation. Authority is one of the key concepts of the new creation, but it must always be understood correctly: it is authority in Christ, under Christ, and exercised by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 had now been given to Jesus. Before His crucifixion, Jesus referred to Satan as "the ruler of this world," and during the temptation in the wilderness, Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world. He could make that offer because Adam had surrendered authority through disobedience. But through His death and resurrection, Jesus defeated the enemy, reclaimed authority, and was exalted above every power.

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 were a legal and spiritual takeover. He completely overturned the devil's claim against man. Jesus was the only One qualified to clear humanity's record, pay the impossible price, and restore man to God while keeping divine justice perfectly intact. God did not ignore sin. He judged it in Christ, and through Christ, He opened the way for man to be redeemed, restored, and reauthorized.

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 is why Christ stands alone above every leader, teacher, prophet, and religious figure who ever came before Him or after Him. No other leader died to deal with humanity's core problem. Jesus paid with His own life so that His people could be forgiven, restored, lifted, and set free.

So look at what happened next. Jesus, having received all authority in heaven and on earth, said, "Go ye therefore." In other words, "I have obtained all authority, and now I am sending you as My representatives." Jesus returned to the Father, but He chose to exercise His authority on earth through His body, His ambassadors, His Spirit-filled people (2 Corinthians 5:20). In John 15, Jesus said, "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bear 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!

Romans 5:17 gives us another powerful picture of our exaltation in Christ: "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ." This is not only for the next age. It begins now. Through Jesus Christ, believers are called to reign in life, not as independent rulers, but as sons and representatives who live under the authority of the King.

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 reason so many believers do not walk in their new identity is that this truth has not been clearly revealed to them. Many sincere, God-loving people live beneath their rights, privileges, and inheritance in Christ because they do not know who they are. The truth is simple: if you do not know who you are, the enemy will always try to tell you who you are not.

That is exactly what the enemy does. One of his main tactics is to hide your true identity from you. Many Christians live in a tug of war between two realities: the identity they read about in Scripture and the feelings, struggles, and experiences they face in daily life. Second 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 many Christians interpret that verse through their emotions, behavior, and senses. So when they slip up, they think, “Maybe I am not new yet.” When they feel anxious, angry, or tempted, they think, “Maybe I am not really saved.” Then salvation becomes uncertain, unstable, and tossed around by feelings instead of grounded in Christ's finished work.

To fully understand the new birth, you must forget the idea of self-improvement. Being born again is not becoming a better person through sheer willpower or through the sterile observance of religious rules. That is not rebirth. That is renovation of the old man, a paint job on a crumbling building.

Being born again is far more profound. It is the creation of a new life in the human spirit. It is the supernatural impartation of the life and nature of God. When you are born again, the life of God comes into your spirit and transforms you from the inside out. It is the fulfillment of a divine verdict. The very life of God is breathed into you.

Sadly, we often judge the Word of God by our experience instead of judging our experience by the Word. The church has preached sin consciousness for so long that many believers live in a state of spiritual inferiority. That is the real issue. The average Christian is more conscious of his failures than of his righteousness in Christ.

Truth be told, what became new when you were born again was not your body and not your soul. It was your spirit. That is the real you. That is the part of you that became one with Christ, the part of you that is righteous, holy, complete, and seated with Him in heavenly places. But unless your mind is renewed to that reality, you will keep identifying with the old you, even though the old man has been crucified. Remember the analogy of the glove and the hand: the glove is lifeless until the hand gets inside it.

Colossians 2:13 gives us a powerful declaration: "And you, being dead in your trespasses... did He make alive together with Him." It does not say He will make you alive someday. It says you have been made alive. From the Father's eternal perspective, your passage from death to life became available through the resurrection of Christ, and it became your personal reality when you received Him by faith. Your spiritual death was dealt with in His death, and your new life was secured in His resurrection. This is a divine verdict, a legal and spiritual declaration that grants you an eternal inheritance, not only someday, but now.

The instant we confess Christ as Lord and Savior, God's verdict becomes our personal reality. The theory becomes experience, and the divine life of God, the same life that raised Christ from the dead, enters our spirit and recreates us. The real man is the spirit man. He has a soul and lives in a body. You are not a body trying to become spiritual. You are a spirit learning to renew your mind to what God has already accomplished in Christ. Once you understand that your spirit has been recreated in the image of Christ, you stop trying to get something from God and start living from what He has 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." The word "transformed" carries the idea of metamorphosis, like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. You are not merely changing behavior. You are discovering and expressing a 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 will keep living like the old you, even if you are saved. That is why you must start speaking who you are in

Christ. Confession is more than admitting sin. Confession is agreement with God. 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 are not boasting. You are 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 are not being arrogant. You are walking in truth. Your mouth helps steer your life. Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” You cannot consistently rise above the image you keep speaking 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, and you were saved, reborn, by grace. Now you are a saint who may still stumble, but sin is no longer your identity. It no longer has dominion over you. The old sinful programming no longer defines the new creation you have become in Christ.

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 still 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.” That incorruptible seed carries the nature of God. What kind of life do you suppose that seed produces? A timid life? A fearful life? A life bound by sin and sickness? Of course not. That seed reproduces after its own kind, like every other seed.

Look, the sin problem has been settled in Christ. What many believers need now is the righteousness consciousness that comes from God (2 Corinthians 5:21). Imagine waking up tomorrow and declaring, "I am not who I used to be. I am not a slave to fear. I am not defined by trauma. I am not cursed, broken, or unworthy. I am a new creation in Christ. I am filled with His Spirit. I have His mind, His love, and His authority." If you believed that, you would walk differently, talk differently, and pray differently, not out of pride, but out of identity. This is not emotional hype. This is 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).*

We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, and we are called to walk in them. We have changed bloodlines. We cannot continue defining ourselves by past sin, past failure, inherited weakness, wounds, or old labels. To keep speaking against what Christ has made us is not humility. It is unbelief dressed in religious clothing. It is saying, “My opinion of myself is more true than God’s declaration over me.

Your history, wounds, weaknesses, and even your temperament do not disqualify you from being used by God. The belief that says, “God is able, but I am not good enough or usable,” may sound humble, but it often becomes a stronghold in the mind. It stands in direct contradiction to the finished work of the cross. If Christ has made you new, then your past does not have the authority to cancel what God has spoken over you.

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 are already convinced that your old man is no more, you may be tempted to skip this chapter. But if you are a churchgoer who has been soaked in sin consciousness, religious guilt, and the idea that repentance means endlessly re-earning God's pardon, then this chapter is meant to drive one final nail into 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. The problem is that much of religious teaching has trained believers to think the Christian life is an endless fight with the old nature, a constant wrestling match with the same sinful self they were before salvation. The message becomes: you will always be a sinner saved by grace, just doing your best to hold out until heaven. That may sound humble, but it denies the power of the new birth. It keeps the believer chained to a corpse 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 heyday.

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 this is where deception takes root. Instead of knowing what God has said, many Christians keep trying to feel it first. They judge truth by emotion. Feelings are real, but they do not define spiritual reality. If 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 sitting in prison with broken chains beside him and an unlocked door in front of him. Every day he cries for someone to set him free, not realizing that freedom has already been provided. The only thing holding him there is the belief that he is still a prisoner.

That is the state of many believers. They keep asking God to do what He has already done. They pray for God to kill the old man when the Word says, "Our old man was crucified with Him." The issue is not that freedom is absent. The issue is that the mind has not yet been renewed to the freedom Christ already purchased.

Paul never taught believers to reform the old man. He never told them to manage him, negotiate with him, or keep him in check. He taught them 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. Temptation does not prove that the old man is alive. It proves that the

mind must be renewed and the flesh must not be allowed to rule. The old man has been crucified with Christ, but the believer must learn to think, speak, and act from the new identity. What hinders faith is often the lack of revelation concerning who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us.

Much religious teaching mixes the language of the old covenant with the reality of the new. Believers read David's cry, "Create in me a clean heart, O God," and pray it as though nothing changed through the new birth. David prayed that before the finished work of Christ. But in the new covenant, God has already given the believer a new heart. The prophecy of the heart of stone being replaced with a heart of flesh has been 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 copped 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 is no defeated life here. There is no neutrality, nor is there any ho-hum here.

Imagine what would happen if you started praying from your position in Christ instead of from your problem. Imagine if you started confessing what Christ has given you instead of rehearsing your regrets. The devil knows that when you begin to live from your union with Christ, his influence over your thinking begins to break. You were never meant to live the Christian life in your own strength.

The New Testament never calls you to strive in your own strength. Jesus calls you to abide. He 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, and fruit is the result. When you are rooted in the revelation of who you are in Christ, peace flows, joy flows, and authority flows.

Confession is affirming what we believe. It is testifying to what we know. It is agreeing with a truth we have embraced from God’s Word. You cannot consistently rise above your own confession. If you continually speak weakness, you train your mind to expect weakness. But when your confession agrees with God’s Word, your soul begins to come into alignment with your spirit, and your life begins to follow the truth. This is not a magic formula. It is 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”

Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” The Word also says, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Do not let decades of church tradition, past mistakes, or old labels keep you from embracing this 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 you are complete in Him (Colossians 2:10).

You do not have to feel complete to be complete. You do not have to see it with your natural eyes to know it is true. The spiritual realm does not operate by sight. It operates by faith. And faith is not trying hard to believe. Faith is resting in what Christ has 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, and Romans. Look for every place that says “in Him,” “in Christ,” or “through Him.” Those phrases are identity gold. They are not just words on a page. They are a mirror. Hold them up and say, “Not because of what I have done, but because of what He has 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 agree 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’s sake.

Silence Is No Longer an Option

Now let's pause for 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 through you like a beautiful, undeniable aura. If you try not to reflect His love, you might as well try to hide a lighthouse in a fog bank.

There is more to following Jesus than simply avoiding evil. If all you are trying to do with your faith is live a clean private life, you will not impact the world much. Jesus did not only call us to stop doing wrong. He called us to do good, love people, serve others, heal the hurting, and proclaim the Kingdom. It is often easier to stay comfortable with private routines, personal plans, another sermon, another book, or another project than it is to step out and touch people with the love of God. But faith that never moves toward others is not yet fully expressing the heart of Christ.

What good is it if we appear holy but refuse to carry God's love to our neighbor? If the body of Christ truly lived out the good works Jesus commanded, the world around us would feel the impact. Jesus said, "And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely ye received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7 to 8). The Gospel was never meant to stay locked inside private spirituality. It was meant to move through us into the world.

I once met Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, and her example of living out Christ changed my life. She did not merely talk about love. She embodied it. She lived with compassion, care, and visible faith. The verse that shaped her work was, "As you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me" (Matthew 25:40). She cared for the destitute, loved the unloved, and served those many people would rather ignore. But her Gospel was not merely social work. She shared Jesus with the people she met. She saw every person as a soul who needed to be touched by 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 along the shore. We met and befriended a man who was homeless. His name was Bill, and he lived in one of those little 4 ft. x 6 ft. shacks where people store sun umbrellas and beach chairs. He gathered driftwood, varnished it, and sold 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 had been invited by a friend to live in a small room in his house, but when we drove him there with all of his stuff, it turned out that the offer had vanished. So we put Bill in a hotel room for a night until we could think things through. One night turned into 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, became a mercenary. And boy, did he have wild war stories to tell, nearly unbelievable, in fact, until he demonstrated to us and our kids at the dinner table how he had been trained to kill with his bare hands. He said that if he was within arm’s reach of as many as a dozen people, he could kill them all within seconds. Then he said, “I’ll show you.” Within seconds, he extended a perfectly aimed punch at each of our faces, stopping just one centimeter short of hitting us. With so much precision, speed, and force, we got the picture.

We proceeded to tell him how much God loved him. His argument was that God could not love him because of all the horror he had caused and the many people he had killed. But we went on loving him and reading the Bible to him. We gave him a Bible so he could read on his own, and he started coming to the dinner table with such excitement about the different revelations he was getting from God’s Word. The Word literally transformed him day by day. He stayed with us for well over three months and was always so helpful and useful to me. Then 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 an ambulance so he could go to the local clinic and be examined.

We all gathered by his bed, and within two hours, Bill passed away. We found out a week later, after the American embassy contacted us, that they could not find any history or family connected to him. However, when we cleaned his room, we found a whole pile of passports under the mattress, each with his picture and a different name. He had been hired to travel abroad for mercenary purposes, and that may be why 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 much, but also because we felt so privileged that God would 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 fulfilling when you deny yourself and live to love others. Jesus said 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 you are so thankful that Jesus saved you that you want to share Him with others, so they too can live in total joy, total peace, and 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 to 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 cannot help but exude that happiness.

It is 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 new love, and they want to shout it from the rooftops. That is 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 is 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 cannot shake. People 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 do not need a seminary degree; you just need a seed. You do not 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 do not 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 cannot 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 we did. And you do not 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 casual Christianese little quotes posted on social media that say, "If you think Jesus is the Savior of the world, say Amen." That is not being a witness of Christ. That is plain wimpiness. That is not going to win a soul. On the contrary, it will most likely incite displeasure and disdain from those who read it, unless they too are fluent in Christianese. Real, life-changing witnessing requires a personal, heart-to-heart connection that reaches a person deep inside.

If we do not personally share the Gospel, we risk becoming just hearers of the Word and 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 to 24). You see the truth, but you do not act on it, and yet you think, "I'm good."

Personal, one-on-one witnessing is the vital workout that keeps your spiritual life alive. You are 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 is what it should do; we are to die daily to ourselves. But once you start, it becomes easier because habits take the pain out of commitment. Start by finding something good to tell someone, and say it to them. Start with something that encourages them, and their heart will open up to the Good News you want to share with them.

When young David's own brothers criticized him for wanting to fight Goliath, he answered, "Is there not a cause?" This was an indictment of their fearful spirit, lack of faith, and passivity (1 Samuel 17:28). There are too many people 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 to 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, just as light has power over darkness.

It goes further than that. Jesus said that at the end of days, there will be a judgment, and we will all individually stand before the throne of God. 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 helped open 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 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 that he was the brother of David Livingstone. David has sixteen paragraphs.

So, in the long run, it always pays to trust God. There will always be a step of faith. You will 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, and through 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 will find the life God has for you, which is exciting and definitely challenging. You will have a life that is rich, thrilling, and most fulfilling. So stop being silent about the most exciting news ever shared with you. You were not saved for yourself alone. You were saved to help 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 have lived an exciting life, and I have no intention of retiring. 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 is most likely that I have never met you personally, but I bet I can tell you quite accurately whether you are witnessing your faith to people regularly or not. It is not magic. There is one simple test to find out. Let me ask you this: do you have a stack of tracts in your back pocket or your purse? If so, I know you are a faithful witness. If not, you need to get hold of a bunch of tracts and carry them with you all the time, with your name and phone number for prayer, along with an invitation to call you so you can disciple them. "You mean you are 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 to 27).

So yes, it is a choice. But when you come to the end of your life, you will not look back on many, many years that have produced nothing of permanent value. You will 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 will 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 the world is divided racially, politically, or financially, but in actuality, it is divided by one thing: the cross. The cross changed everything, not only on earth, but in the universe. A person's outlook on life, vision, purpose, and eternal direction are all affected by whether he has accepted the full price of redemption or continues in the path of the old sin nature, insisting on living as a self-made man. God has done His part. He has provided the solution through Jesus Christ.

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. His right to accuse, oppress, intimidate, and dominate has been stripped from him in Christ. The blood of Jesus did not simply wash away your past. It disarmed the enemy's claim against your future. Satan has no dominion over the new creation, and what is more, you are now authorized in Christ to destroy his evil works.

By placing the blood of the Lamb on the doorposts, the Israelites openly identified with the sacrifice that spared them from judgment. In the same way, when we confess the blood of Jesus, we acknowledge that our old self, the self enslaved to rebellion, disobedience, and sin, no longer defines us. Our alienation from God was judged in Christ. The old man was crucified with Him, and the blood now stands as the sign of our redemption.

Most Christians would say yes with their lips, but their lives reveal something different. They do not show their doorposts. They do not 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 has not.

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 only victory over death, but the inauguration of a New Covenant. Through His blood, redemption was sealed. Hebrews 7:22 says, “Jesus became the surety of a better covenant.” That means our redemption is not fragile, temporary, or uncertain. It is covenantal, blood-bought, and secured in Christ.

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 human effort, religious struggle, or spiritual noise, but by the blood and by testifying of what that blood had accomplished. That victory is legal and covenantal. Satan was not merely resisted. He was overcome. But notice: the blood and the testimony go together. The blood must be believed, spoken, and displayed. It has to be on the doorposts of your house, not hidden in the back room.

Visualize this: a slave 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 may return out of fear. But if he understands the legal document and knows 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. It is your proof of ownership. It is the receipt of your purchase, and it must be held up with confidence.

But what happens when the believer does not know it or speak it out? Satan can bluff. He can intimidate. He can deceive because he operates through ignorance and apathy. The blood of Jesus is already powerful, already sufficient, and already complete. But the believer walks in the experienced reality of that victory to the degree that he believes, receives, and testifies of what the blood has done. It must be shown on the doorposts of your house boldly and confidently. There is no Passover experience if the blood of the Lamb stays in the basin. The enemy knows who understands covenant and proclaims it, 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 told you that being a Christian is only joy, peace, and happiness gave you an incomplete picture. Christianity is all of that, but it is also an invitation to die daily, as Paul puts it: to die to self, to die to the world, and to give your life away so others may know the truth and see the light. Jesus said, "Whoever tries to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." There lies the paradox of discipleship: true and eternal life is found not in self-preservation, worldly pursuit, or comfortable compromise, but in self-denial, prioritizing Christ, and loving your brother enough to share the 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 is why we can call God "Father." And this new identity sets us free: free from guilt, free from shame, and free from the 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 from 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 in 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, and 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 and 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. This is 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 is 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 deeper catastrophe: in our zeal to reject flawed religious structures, we began rejecting the biblical framework itself. The desire to step

away from human religious corruption may be understandable, but when the teachings of Jesus are thrown away with the corruption of man-made religion, society loses something priceless. The enemy does not need people to hate Jesus openly. He only needs them to confuse Jesus with the failures of religion until they reject both.

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 had provided timeless principles for life, family, character, justice, and purpose. For centuries, those biblical principles helped guard the moral structure of Western civilization. But when those foundations were dismissed, upcoming generations were left with less clarity, less moral direction, and fewer dependable guideposts for a well-defined future. The result is a society increasingly adrift, confused by competing ideologies and unsure where truth can be found.

The enemy's tactic is clear: if he can bury the public witness of Christ's victory, then people will search endlessly for truth while ignoring the very source that reveals it. The ongoing effort to distort Christ's image in culture is part of that deception. A generation searching for meaning may never recognize the power contained in the very Book it was taught to dismiss. We now find ourselves adrift, searching for answers that were once right in front of us. Perhaps it is 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, many people who still believe in spiritual realities are left reaching for quantum physics or science in general. Since they want nothing to do with religion, they boldly proclaim, “I do not believe in religion. I believe in science.” But let us not separate the two too quickly. Science, when rightly understood, observes the order, design, laws, and principles God has placed in creation. And in many ways, modern discoveries are beginning to echo truths the Bible has declared for centuries.

The study of quantum physics is actually what brought me back to the Lord. In my book, *The Butterfly Wonder*, I detail my experience. I had become deeply disillusioned with religion, especially Christian religiosity. I became doubtful of the Bible’s truthfulness and even began questioning faith as a concept. Like Thomas, I stubbornly wanted proof.

This is basically where many people who have discarded religion end up. They want proof, and since science provides measurable evidence, they are content to rest their search there. They often defer to logic over faith. Mathematics is logical. Chemistry is logical. The branches of science are built on observable patterns and order. But the mistake comes when we assume that only what can be seen, measured, or tested is real.

But when we truly understand faith, we realize that it does not defy logic. Faith goes beyond what is seen because it rests on the Word of the unseen God. Faith calls “things that are not, as though they were” (Romans 4:17), not because man creates reality independently, but because faith agrees with what God has already spoken. Faith does not deny reality. It does not pretend that present circumstances do not exist. Instead, faith shifts its focus from the visible problem to the higher reality of God’s promise. Paul explained this in Romans 4:17 when he showed how God spoke Abraham’s future in the past tense, calling him the father of many nations long before Isaac was born.

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 refusing to believe lies. In other words, faith does not give impossibility the final word. We do this every day when we choose not to believe a liar. It is as important to disbelieve lies as it is to believe truth. Faith says, “I believe what God has said, even when what I see appears to contradict it.” In order to believe the truth, you have to reject the lie. A liar may present arguments that sound convincing, but a lie remains a lie. Faith chooses truth and brings the will into agreement with God’s Word.

When the twelve spies went to scout out the Promised Land, ten came back with a bad report and two came back with a good report. The ten focused only on what they saw: the giants, the obstacles, and the impossibilities. Were those facts real? Yes. But Joshua and Caleb saw beyond the facts into the promise of God. That is the difference faith makes.

Remember Paul in prison. He was rejoicing and praising God, while many people today can live in mansions and still be miserable. The difference lies in how you look at things. Faith is a choice. You choose not to let immediate circumstances define the final outcome. The enemy operates through the immediate and the visible, but faith looks beyond the immediate and agrees with what God has spoken. A failure in the moment does not determine the long run. Daily failures can become stepping stones toward long-term victory.

The Culpability of Religiosity

Religiosity has reduced the true identity of the believer and robbed him of the true power of faith. It has instead offered only a counterfeit: rituals, traditions, and antics that are empty of substance, significance, and sustenance. That is why so many people have been negatively affected by

religion in general. They eventually realized that many of those practices were empty of validity and meaning, filled with skits and flannelgraph stories, but lacking 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 is not. Consequently, many people have found no real nourishment in it to sustain their life's purpose. They encountered empty performance, religious fakery, and a system that resembled truth while offering little substance. As a result, many have turned to Eastern religions, New Age spirituality, or philosophy, trying to build some kind of spiritual scaffolding to support their life's purpose.

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." What is worse is that, through wrong teaching and by emphasizing the mechanics and traditions of religion, they not only failed to enter the Kingdom themselves, but also blocked the entrance for others who were trying to enter. Jesus put it sharply to 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 many can no longer recognize its original purpose or value. It is like a massive present under the Christmas tree, one of those big boxes people sometimes use to camouflage a tiny but very expensive gift. At first glance, the big box appears empty, so it gets discarded as a joke and considered useless. But in reality, it contains the most valuable, expensive, and essential gift.

That is what religiosity has done. Camouflaged beneath the masquerade of religious performance is the most valuable gift ever given to humanity: the one unique sacrifice that provided the most expensive and valuable inheritance ever offered to man.

How like the devil to openly invite believers into religiosity in order to dissuade them, or to divert their 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 believers into focusing on the mechanics of religion in order to hide the victory of Christ. This is why seminaries often focus on theology, doctors of the law, public speaking, and how to influence a crowd, rather than on 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 we send them for true discipleship training?” So we looked up some solid church leaders who were actually preaching the true Gospel, and we went to visit Andrew Womack in Colorado Springs. We asked him if he might have a list of churches that he considered true to the Gospel message, where new converts could be sent to be disciplined. 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 establish his identity, articulate the true Gospel message clearly, and walk in the authority given to us by Christ.

This handbook has now been translated into 15 different languages, and we have personally handed out 9,000 copies to those we witness to, so they can understand Jesus and the true Gospel. You can find and download our handbook at handbookforadiscipleofjesus.com or at faithwithoutborders.us.

Science Is At Fault Too!

We are quick to condemn religion, but science has also been used in ways that deserve scrutiny. Many people lean on science as a solid scaffolding for unbelief, especially through the theory of evolution. Yet even within scientific fields, there are serious questions about whether random, gradual processes can fully explain the complexity, order, and design we see in life. Paleontology, for instance, has raised questions about the expectation of countless gradual transitional forms. Many discoveries point instead to complexity appearing in ways that are difficult to explain through slow, small changes alone.

By the same token, molecular biology and genetics have exposed levels of organized complexity that are difficult to explain through blind chance alone. One commonly discussed example is the bacterial flagellum. Critics of gradual evolution argue that if key components are removed, the system no longer functions, which raises questions about how such complexity could have developed step by step. At the very least, this kind of organized complexity should make us pause before dismissing creation as intellectually unreasonable.

It goes further. Questions from thermodynamics, information theory, and probability have also challenged purely material explanations of life’s origin and development. The issue is not merely whether living organisms change over time. The deeper question is where the organized information,

complexity, and functional design in living systems came from in the first place. To many honest observers, the idea that such complexity arose without intelligence requires far more faith than they are willing to admit.

Yet many still carry on with unwavering faith that evolution must be true, as if science were a democracy. In other words, if enough people support a theory, the facts can be ignored and consensus becomes a substitute for evidence. But truth is not established by majority vote. One man once said, “I’ve already made up my mind; don’t confuse me with the facts.” Something is wrong when a theory becomes so protected that honest questions are treated as threats.

We must acknowledge that in recent decades, the enemy has come in like a flood (Isaiah 59:19), not only in religion, but in many major areas of life. We see confusion in education, politics, social life, moral and ethical standards, law enforcement, media, and even in institutions that once claimed to serve truth. Without exaggerating, we can say that the works of darkness have pressed into nearly every area where truth, conscience, and moral clarity matter.

If we are willing to address faith with an open mind, we will soon observe that not only is religion at fault, but many fields of science and public life have also lost their way. 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, power, ideology, or control becomes the driving force, science, education, medicine, pharmaceuticals, the food industry, media, and social platforms can become just as guilty of abandoning truth.

Ultimately, this is not a problem with true faith, and it is not a problem with honest reason. It is the corrosive effect of pride, profit, control, and deception on human institutions. True science is not the enemy of faith. Science rightly used observes the laws and order God placed in creation. But science misused can become another idol, another system that claims authority while refusing to bow to the Creator.

But in the same verse, Isaiah 59:19 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, a standard of protection and deliverance. When there are overwhelming attacks, such as waves of lies, fear, doubt, or temptation, God’s Spirit rises stronger with truth than any of the enemy’s onslaughts. That is why we must desire and fight for truth in every area of our lives.

Most everyone fights for healthy foods in their diet. Most everyone is awakened to the need to fight for values in education. Society at large is

awakening to the fact that the pharmaceutical industry has deceived us, and many are 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 realm, but in the spiritual realm as well?

The Devil's 5th Column

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

There is a great deal in the news media today about how the enemy attacks Christians through outright persecution. Yet, in reality, far more damage is caused from within. 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 only the loud voices outside trying to tear us down, but the quiet whispers within that slowly erode our foundation. The enemy turns what was meant to be radical discipleship into a diluted, comfortable gospel. The most dangerous threats are not always the roaring lions of persecution, but the subtle serpents of deception that slip in unnoticed.

The church is not usually destroyed by external enemies. It is hollowed out by internal compromises that water down the true message of Christ. False doctrines take root like a slow poison that does not feel harmful at first. Imagine a faith that looks orthodox on the surface but lacks real spiritual power. This is how "Churchianity" is created: it dresses right, sounds right, and uses familiar language, but it no longer calls people into surrender, transformation, and the living power of Christ.

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 have embraced is the idea that following Christ is simply an addition to our existing life, like placing a religious decoration in a house whose foundation remains untouched. We have been told that we can accept Jesus without any real transformation. It is a message that sounds appealing: "Come to Christ, and nothing in your life needs to fundamentally change."

But that is not the heart of the Gospel. Christ does not want to be an accessory to our lives. He wants to be the foundation of everything. He is not interested in being added to our plans; He wants to become the center of our whole life. This is not about improving ourselves a little. It is about denying self, renewing the mind, surrendering fully to Christ, and living from the new life He has already given us.

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 superiority. When people believe their standing with God is earned through tradition, morality, or religious performance, they naturally begin to look down on those they perceive as lesser. Jesus dismantled this entire system in the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9 to 14). The Pharisee did not truly pray to God; he recited a résumé of fasting and tithing before his own ego. 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 one who went home justified. A humble heart seeking mercy is worth more than a lifetime of pious performance fueled by pride.

Religion, when divorced from the Gospel, becomes a counterfeit that produces pride and self-righteousness. This self-effort religion becomes a cage. It demands that people 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, then crushes people when they fail to maintain the image. In that atmosphere, we often ignore Jesus' warning: "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). We become quick to point out the speck in a brother's eye while ignoring the plank in our own.

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” résumé, you lose the right to be self-righteous. You become a person who forgives because you know you have been given an inheritance you did not 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 to 15).

The organized church has sometimes turned God into a celestial servant, a divine vending machine meant 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 is not 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 is 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,” one 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 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 does not 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 is time to move beyond the pew and into the life we were actually created for.

Hold on, I am 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.handbookforadiscipleofjesus.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 is not at all the way the early church operated. Let’s be honest: if there is no discipleship, it is not 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 he is sick will seek help, but someone who thinks he is 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 gives the cross 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 have written about this in *Beyond the Pew*, available at

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 for the real thing.

Paul warned that in the last days, people would have “itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3 to 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.

Here is the grammar-polished version. I replaced the full song lyric section with a short summary so the manuscript stays copyright-safe.

The song Start Right Here by Casting Crowns captures this idea well. The song challenges the church to stop settling for comfort, performance, and distant concern while ignoring the hurting people right in front of us. Its message is simple: if we want to see change in the world, that change must begin in the church, and it must begin now.

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 that they had been with Jesus. Boldness should be one of the first signs of a relationship with Him. However, today, we often 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 that we are being Christlike when we are actually just being timid. Holiness is not judgmental cruelty, and truth is not 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, wholehearted devotion today.

The War Is Still On!

There is a war going on every single day, not in the streets, not in the courts, and not in 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, compromise, or neutrality.

There is 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 shapes much of your outward life. Jesus explained this principle when the Pharisees condemned His disciples for eating without washing their hands according to religious tradition. His reply was, "It is not what goes into your mouth that defiles a man, but what comes out of your mouth." In other words, what fills the heart eventually comes out in words, and those words help shape the direction of your life.

Plainly said, just as we reap what we sow, we will also reap from what we say. James 3:11 asks, "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" The answer is clear: "So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." This metaphor shows us that a person's words should not be divided. Just as a natural spring does not produce both fresh and salt water from the same source, we should not speak blessing and cursing over our lives. Both are seeds.

Why is this important? Because unless your thinking is right and you are dwelling on God's truth, it will affect your whole life and destiny. Have you ever caught yourself 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"? Often, it is not your environment that stops you. It is not your background. It is not even the enemy out there. It is the thoughts you have allowed to rule within.

The most powerful opposition you will ever face is often not external. It is internal. We often talk about spiritual battles as if they are all out there in the world, but one of the most relentless wars is the one happening in the mind.

Your mind can become a tool in the hands of God, or it can become a weapon used against your own destiny. That is the twist. Your own mind can become your greatest enemy when it is not surrendered to truth. But God did

not leave us defenseless. He gave us a divine strategy: the renewing of the mind.

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. Do not let your carnal mind use you against your new, recreated identity. Paul puts it very plainly when he says, “The carnal mind is enmity against God” (Romans 8:7). This means that the natural, fleshly mind of a person is in active opposition and hostility toward God because it is not, and cannot be, subject to God’s law or will.

The mindset that is focused on earthly and fleshly desires resists spiritual things and hinders a relationship with God. However, when you are born again, you are given a new mind, the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), so that you can see things through spiritual and truthful concepts. The carnal mind of the old man focuses on fleshly desires and worldly pursuits and is therefore inherently opposed to God. It 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 we make every day, we get to decide the direction of our lives. That is why this is all very important. Whether you like it or not, you are in a war of thoughts, words, and wills. The ultimate purpose of Christ's redemptive sacrifice was to empower us with truth and authority so that we could win that war.

Watch your thoughts. They can become a loop playing in your head that you cannot seem to escape. You try to focus. You try to worship. You try to smile. But deep inside, it is noisy. You are worn out, not from what is happening around you, but from the constant battle within. You do not have to live imprisoned by negative thinking. God has already provided tools: divine, practical, and powerful tools for mental victory.

If you are going to 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 strongholds 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 minds 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, and every habit you form all flow from your dominant thoughts. This is why the enemy does not really have to destroy you; he only needs to deceive you. If he can twist your thinking, he can steer your future. The Bible does not 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 do not have to believe every thought that walks through the door of your mind. You do not have to agree with your fears. You do not have to obey your insecurities. You were given willpower to fight compromise. That is right, your will has power. Your decisions become the rudder of your life.

Even though we may be endowed with talents, gifts, and all that is needed to live an abundant and fruitful life, we can sabotage it all simply by thinking, “I do not 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 simply being held hostage by a mindset 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 is the hard truth: while your mind is a battlefield, it is also the place where God wants to build His Kingdom. 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. That is why you must be very careful about what you take in from the news or from social media. Those lies are often 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. Before you know it, it becomes the script you live by. That is how people convince themselves that they are sick. It

usually starts with one little doubt, one little fear. These thoughts are subtle. Most of the battles we fight never reach the surface. They do not make noise, and they do not leave visible marks, but they drain us from the inside out. And here is the thing: they often happen in the most difficult moments.

It can start in a weak moment, physically or emotionally, through rejection, unforgiveness, failure, or a moment of weakness. Maybe you did not get the job. Maybe you were overlooked again. And the enemy was right there, ready with that deadly suggestion: “You are not capable.”

But here is the truth that crushes that lie. David declares in Psalm 139:14, “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 means He took His time. You carry divine beauty and a refined, defined future. You do not need to earn people’s approval. Your identity is not rooted in performance; it is 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 would be fine. But there is more, and I cannot let you go without it.

When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Most people see their past, their flaws, their failures, and their shortcomings. They try their best to cover what they do not like. But what if I told you that God has a mirror too? And when you look into it, you do not see who you used to be. You see who you have become in Christ.

Second 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 that when you read God’s Word, you are looking into a mirror. You not only see the image of Jesus, but as you behold Him, you are transformed.

That means what you are seeing in Him, you are also seeing in the new you. You are in Christ, and He is in you. You reflect Him. The more you behold Him, the more you are transformed into His likeness. This is not about looking within to find some vague inner power. This is about being rooted in Him. When you received Jesus, your old self died, and your new life began in Him.

Most people read the Word of God as admirers and spectators, but that will not change them. You must see Christ, His lifestyle, His teachings, His truth, and His principles as the pattern of your new life. Let all of that transform you

into His image. You no longer read the Word to see only sin. You read it to see righteousness. You do not see weakness. You see power. You do not see distance from God. You see closeness.

When you truly look at Jesus, not only as your Savior, but as the image of the new creation, you stop striving to become someone and start living as who you were destined to be in Him.

That is why looking to Jesus reveals your true identity. This simple revelation can completely transform how you think, pray, and live. Until you see yourself the way heaven sees you, you will keep living beneath your spiritual rights.

Your spirit was recreated. You were joined to the Lord and became one spirit with Him. The Word says, “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 you in Christ, clothed in His righteousness and joined to His life. And when you look into the Word, you begin to see the same truth: Christ in you, the hope of glory.

If you read the Word of God in the light of what you used to be, it will create confusion. You will look at what the Bible says, but you will not see it in your life. So you may assume it is merely symbolic or something reserved for the super spiritual. But the New Testament is an actual revelation of the believer’s rights. When you read it correctly, you are not just reading about Jesus. You are reading about who you have become in Jesus.

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 spirit's 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. If you look there, how you feel that day will try to become your identity. 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. That is why reading the Bible is not about checking a box. It is about seeing who you have become.

When you read, “You are more than a conqueror,” do not just quote it. See it. Picture it. Believe it. That is you.

When you read, “You are the righteousness of God in Christ,” do not shrug it off. That is the mirror talking. When you read, “The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,” let that hit you. That is not hype. That is your new normal. That is God’s mirror reflecting your new nature back to you. When we look at Jesus, we are actually visualizing God’s will for man.

Jesus is the prototype of the new creation. He is the blueprint. He shows us what life looks like when a man is filled with the Spirit and completely surrendered to the Father. That is why the Gospels are not just stories to admire. They are models to imitate. When Jesus healed the sick, it was not 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 is your mirror. That is 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 the reflection of your new life in Him, 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, shame, and 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 have looked into God’s mirror, you cannot go back to spiritual amnesia. You have seen yourself in Christ, and nothing else will satisfy.

So open the Word, not just 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 are tempted to look at

your old reflection, remind yourself that that person is dead. “I have been raised with Christ. And when I look at Him, I am seeing who I am in Him, because I am in Him and He is in me.”

God Is Not Worried About Your Brokenness.

Have you ever felt the grip of your past? The constant replay of mistakes, the sting of regret, the whisper of shame? These are some of the loudest lies in the human heart. They shout, “Defeat,” and tell you there is no way forward. They create a painful reel of everything you wish you could undo, every painful decision you have made, and every way others have hurt you. And in the aftermath, you feel handicapped by your history and 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 and useful tools, can sometimes keep people tethered to their trauma instead of leading them into freedom. In some cases, it has become an industry that profits from inner pain by continually rehearsing wounds instead of pointing people toward lasting wholeness. Think about it: how many times have you heard someone say, “I am just a product of my environment,” or “My past dictates my present”?

And sadly, this way of thinking has sometimes contributed to the breakdown of families by placing all the blame on parents. Obviously, all parents have made mistakes. There is no perfect recipe book for parenting, and most parents only had the example they received from their own parents. They often repeat some of the same mistakes they experienced in their own upbringing. But when therapy trains a person to explain every dysfunction by blaming parents, it can keep the heart trapped in accusation instead of leading it toward forgiveness and freedom.

This narrative is constantly reinforced. By relentlessly highlighting misfortune, dissecting every wound, and applying labels such as “broken,” “dysfunctional,” “anxious,” “depressed,” or “a victim of,” people can become convinced that the diagnosis is their identity. They become defined by their circumstances, their failures, or the actions of others toward them. Children, especially, are susceptible to internalizing these pronouncements as their ultimate truth.

This constant focus on what went wrong in our upbringing can inadvertently cement a victim identity. It can make us believe we are forever handicapped by our history and excused from responsibility because of our

pain. It can leave us feeling that our only option is to blame the circumstances of our past and the people who negatively influenced us. We can stay stuck in an endless loop of analysis 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 relentless dissection of pain can overshadow the very thing that offers genuine release: forgiveness. Not only forgiveness toward others, but also forgiveness received from God and extended toward ourselves. God's solution is simple: grace rewrites your story. Where mere analysis may offer a permanent label, God offers permanent transformation. This is where divine grace steps in to rewrite the story the world tried to close over your identity.

Did you know that Jesus connected anger, contempt, and unresolved offense to the same heart condition that leads to murder? In Matthew 5:21 to 26, He warned that the issue is not only the outward act, but the condition of the heart. That is sobering. Unforgiveness may look hidden, but heaven sees what it is doing inside a person.

In Isaiah 1:18, God offers a total cleansing of your past, your pain, and your remorse. He does not ask you to wallow in a diagnosis or remain trapped in blame. He offers to wash the record clean. He is not interested in keeping you locked in victimhood; He is interested in bringing you into victory. Where human analysis can sometimes leave a person circling the wound, the Gospel offers forgiveness, healing, and a new beginning. Forgiveness is the bridge many people miss. The Gospel does not merely dissect the past; it deals with it through the blood of Jesus and gives you power to move forward.

God is not asking you to pretend it never happened. And He is definitely not demanding endless self-analysis or a dissection of every painful memory. He is offering to cleanse it, heal it, and turn it into a testimony. He is not interested in your victimhood; He is intensely interested in your victory.

Your worst mistake does not 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 He calls you to forgive as well, to release the burden of holding on to 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 God's creation, capable of incredible transformation

through His grace. Do not let shame, guilt, or the endless cycle of analyzing past wounds define you.

It is time to stop staring at your scars and start looking at the One who heals them. It is 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:

“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 is not intimidated by your weakness. He does not walk away when things get 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 do not give up on yourself when God has not. Do not close the book on a story He is still writing.

So be honest: what lie has held you hostage the longest? Is it the belief that you are not enough, that you will never truly change, or that what you have done is unforgivable? Whatever it is, you must call it out, because you cannot conquer what you are unwilling to confront.

Too many of us are tormented by thoughts we have 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 man, the seat of your thoughts, desires, and emotions. If everything flows from that place, then you had better believe the enemy will try to poison the source. But when you guard your heart, you become aware of what is entering and circulating, and you begin to reclaim your power.

Every toxic belief, every anxious spiral, and every condemning voice needs to be stopped at the door. Ask yourself: where is this thought coming from, and is it from God? If it is not rooted in truth, you do not have to let it stay. And once you have recognized the thought, you have to replace it, 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 is not just information. It is transformation.

God is not afraid of your brokenness. He specializes in turning shattered pieces into stained-glass stories of grace. Just remember, if you do not stand on truth, you will sink in lies. Do not just reject the lies; replace them with truth. Even if your feelings have not 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. 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 were not always the most confident, the most "together," or the most emotionally steady? Sometimes we assume that great faith means never struggling in the mind, but that is far from the truth. In fact, some of the most powerful moments in Scripture happen, not when someone is standing on a mountaintop, but when they are flat on their face in mental and emotional turmoil. Moses did not see a leader in himself. He saw limitations. But God saw destiny. God did not wait for Moses to become eloquent before using him. He used him as he was and perfected him along the way. God is not looking for perfection. He is looking for surrender. It is not about your background. It is about what God is birthing through you.

God does not call the perfect. He perfects the called. Every single person God used had legitimate reasons to disqualify themselves, but God called them anyway. And what changed the trajectory of their lives? It was not that they became superhuman. It was that they surrendered their thoughts to God's voice. They stopped listening to fear, shame, and 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 that thought 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 may ask, "Isn't this brainwashing?" Let me put it to you this way: would you rather have your brain washed by the Word 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 will not always feel true at first. You might declare victory and still feel defeated. You might speak peace and still feel anxious. But do not 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 is not enough to meditate on God’s Word day and night. You must speak it. Not once, not occasionally, but constantly. That is God telling Joshua to keep his mind washed with the Word. Repetition renews 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 truth to guide you into a life of wholeness and integrity. Just look around. God’s enemy has infiltrated every aspect of today’s society: the pharmaceutical system, whose aim is not always to heal but often to keep people dependent for financial purposes; the food industry, which often works hand in hand with the medical industry; the government, whose preoccupation is often 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 exploits people but also confuses the masses by diluting the power of the Gospel. The book of Revelation explains clearly how the devil has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9).

So aligning your mind with the mind of Christ is not just a plausible option. It is a decision and a commitment to freedom. All the guidelines and principles for a wholesome life are found 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 is a tragedy that Christianity is too often represented by Churchianity today. What many people see resembles a “do-little-good” club more than the bold, Spirit-filled life of the early disciples. And this is not because God is withholding, not because the power of the Spirit has diminished, and not because the devil is stronger than he used to be. It is because what has already been given is not being received and appropriated. What has already been purchased is not being possessed. And what Jesus gave as the birthright of every believer, power, authority, and boldness, is being 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.

Too many believers pray like beggars when, in truth, they are sons and royal heirs. They plead for healing as though God is reluctant, forgetting that all throughout Scripture He reveals Himself as the Healer, and Jesus never once refused healing to anyone who came to Him. They ask for strength as though the very Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead does not already live 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 clarifies the issue in the rest of that verse: “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 fully walk in their authority. When they believe they are still broken, weak, and incapable, they limit what they are willing to receive and obey. When they see themselves as unworthy, they struggle to speak with conviction. When they think they are merely forgiven sinners rather than new creations, they hesitate to confront darkness with confidence. Power begins with the revelation of 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. Second 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, many Christians do not walk in this power because many churches deny that this power is for today. They have adopted a cessationist mentality. They may not say the Scriptures are untrue, but they teach that the power and miracles “ceased with the early disciples.” If the power has ceased in their experience, it is not because God changed. It is because powerless doctrines have trained believers not to expect what Jesus promised.

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 to 18 leaves no room for doubt: “These signs shall follow them that believe.” Notice, Jesus did not say these signs would follow only apostles, pastors, missionaries, or spiritual celebrities. He said they would follow those who believe. The signs follow faith. They follow obedience. They follow those who go in His name.

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 in life through Christ. 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 merely future. It begins 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 willingness to act, a heart of compassion, and a desire to walk in what Christ has provided. Love was not placed in the heart to remain hidden. In fact, love is not fully expressed until it is given away. Once you know the truth, you are accountable. And if you hide it, you are responsible.

Walking in power means speaking even when it is uncomfortable, praying for the sick even when others doubt, and confronting darkness even when you feel small. Most people 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 who filled Peter and Paul is the same Spirit who fills you. The commission that sent them is the same commission 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. He is no respecter of persons. If He used them, He can 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, many will never walk in power because many will never believe it is theirs. But decide today that you will not be one of them.

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 is 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.

Do not settle for religion. Christianity is not a dormant religion. Churchianity is religion, but true Christianity 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." But 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 and 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 through self-effort, 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 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 had 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, 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 through Christ. He sees the finished work of Christ in us, and that is 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 enforce it. It is the fight of faith, meaning that we take a stance of faith in what God has said and refuse to budge. First 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.

A policeman carries authority. He represents the law. You respect him and obey him because of what he stands for. He may be new on the job, but that does not change the authority he carries. 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 assent, or what I call “religious faith,” is exposed clearly in the Scriptures. James says, “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22). Jesus taught the same principle when He said that the man who hears His sayings and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock, but the man who hears and does not do is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand (Matthew 7:24 to 27). Believing the Word means acting on the Word.

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, these people are 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 who will not 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 trusting it with your life.

Faith does not say only, “Yes, I know God can heal.” Faith says, “God has revealed Himself as Healer, and I receive what Christ has provided.” Religious faith waits for circumstances to change before it rejoices. Faith rejoices before the manifestation because it trusts the integrity of God’s Word. This does not mean we condemn those who are still standing, waiting, or fighting through symptoms. It means we refuse to let symptoms become the final authority over what God has spoken.

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. The Word 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 with 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, risk, speak boldly in the face of contradiction, or 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 lack 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 does not test the waters; faith walks on the water. Faith does not 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 wishing. True faith stands up and says, "I take my breakthrough now, in Jesus' name, because the Word has declared it." Faith does not 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 to be thin ice as if it were 10 feet 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, and calling those things that be not as though they were, simply 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 will 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. When the winds blow and the waves rise, that is when the difference between true faith and mental assent is most clearly seen. That is why Jesus said, “He that believeth hath.” Not he who believes will one day receive, but he who believes has now, in present tense possession. You either believe and have it, or you do not 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 symptoms nor emotions can dominate your faith. Circumstances do not dictate. The Word becomes the final word. The Word becomes your sight, your guide, your judge, and 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, and 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 take pleasure in suffering for suffering’s sake. He does not take pleasure in our waiting outside the door. He wants us to come boldly, receive freely, and 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 to 8 reveals the secret of fruitful living. Jesus said, “If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.” Not merely 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 prayers 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 lives become a living testimony to the fact that God's Word is true and it works. There must be no confusion in our minds anymore. Religious faith and intellectual agreement have robbed the church long enough. They have allowed sickness to linger, fear to remain, and defeat to look like spiritual humility. They have 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.

Do not try to believe. Do not "try" to walk on water. Just act on God's Word. Do not have a double confession, where one moment you confess, "Yes, He heard my prayer. I am healed. 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.

Do not trust in other people's faith. Have your own. Do your own believing. Have your own faith, just as you have your own clothes. Act on the Word for yourself. Do not talk doubt or unbelief. Never admit that you are a "doubting Thomas." That is an insult to your Father. Do not talk about sickness and disease. Never talk about failure. Talk about 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 and 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 one who walks out its truths.

A prayer life is valuable only to the measure that the Word on my lips is a living thing. And 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." His confession then 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 legal standing and the ability of God, and yet he lives like a common man. When a crisis comes, he goes hunting for someone to believe for him. True, he can pray. He may even be quite adept at it. But his

prayers are only empty words when they could be filled with faith born of real fellowship with the Father.

He is a hearer who forgets, a believer who is not a doer, a professor of truth 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 filled with the Spirit. 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, often do not respond to biblical arguments. They will not sit down and read a theological book. They probably will not walk into a church either. But when someone lays hands on them and they are healed, when a long-standing illness suddenly vanishes, they pay attention. Healing becomes a sign, a signal, a proof, a demonstration of God's love and power. That is what Jesus did when He walked the earth. He healed people not only because He had compassion, but also because healing demonstrated the Father's heart and authority.

In a world dominated by logic, feelings, and sensory experience, Jesus interrupted the sense realm with the reality of God's Kingdom. He was not born in a castle. He came as a man, living, breathing, and walking in flesh, yet filled with the life of God. 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 am not distant. I am not absent. I am here." And when the church was birthed, it was not merely a quiet little group of philosophers or theologians. It was a firestorm. Believers healed the sick, cast out devils, raised the dead, and preached with boldness. The early church was a supernatural invasion into the world of men who only believed what their eyes could see..

But now, sadly, things have shifted. Today, 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 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 cannot feel Him. They believe in healing only if the doctor confirms it. They believe in righteousness only if they feel holy. Friend, that is bondage. That is not the life Jesus came to give us.

The sense realm is the natural man's realm. That is the man who only trusts in what can be sensed. He will not believe he is healed unless he sees a change in his body. He will not believe he is free unless he feels free. That kind of man can never fully walk in faith because he is controlled by his senses.

God does not operate by the senses. He speaks spiritual truth. He declares the end from the beginning. He says you are healed before you feel healed. He says you are righteous before your behavior has fully caught up with your new identity. Why? Because He sees you through Christ. He sees what is already finished. And guess what? He expects you to see it too, not with your eyes, but with your faith. That is why when Jesus came, it was a miraculous intrusion into the realm of the senses. He disrupted the natural order. He did not 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 did not stop that invasion. He passed it on to us. Mark 16:16 to 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, but 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 has been stealing this from us?

Your confession either imprisons you or sets you free. It is 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 is no middle ground. And this is not about pretending. This is about agreeing with God. When your confession is strong, 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 faith in the power of God. It is like flipping a switch. You speak what God says. You act like it is 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 is 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 do not let go, even when your body hurts, even when the report is bad, and even when the bank account is low. You say what God says, period.

Now let’s get even more specific. A confession inspired by Satan is dangerous. It might sound harsh, but it is 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 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 have 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 is what a negative confession is. It is agreeing with the enemy. It gives him legal ground. You have 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 is your proof of ownership, your evidence that healing belongs to you. It is your spiritual document that says, “This disease does not belong to me. Sorry, devil, wrong address.” Jesus already took it. See the difference? Your confession is powerful. It is like a steering wheel for your life. If your words are always negative, always defeated, and 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, and full of faith, then your life will start to align with God’s promises. You can train your mouth to agree with healing by speaking the truth of the Word, not just once, but consistently, daily, and continually.

That is why the Bible says, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.” It also says, “Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’” There is power in saying. There is authority in speaking. Confession is not a ritual. It is a lifestyle.

Here is another truth: a positive confession dominates circumstances, but a weak, wavering confession lets circumstances dominate you. You have to make a decision. Will you let your environment tell you what is true, or will you stand on God’s Word and make your environment submit to truth? Your confession should be what God says about your disease. It is not what your relatives say. It is not what you feel. It is not what your past experience says. It is what God says. And God says, “By His stripes you were healed.” He says, “I am the Lord that healeth thee.” He says, “No plague shall come near your dwelling.” He says, “I will take sickness away from the midst of you.” So why say anything else? A negative confession gives sickness room to stay, but a

faith confession, the kind that agrees with the finished work of Christ, weakens the disease's hold and drives it out.

Bottom line: your confession can either help you receive healing or keep you agreeing with sickness. Let that sink in. This is why it is so important that the words of your mouth agree with the faith in your heart. You cannot speak fear and expect healing. You cannot panic 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 speak only 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, and just like when Jesus walked the earth.

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 is in your mouth. It is in your words. It is in your confession. And the good news is, 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. First 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 1:1 to 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 and 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 there is no restriction against 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 and 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 was not 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 to 14 says, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do." This is not mere 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 to 19). Go with His name. Go with His power of attorney. Mark 16:17 to 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. First John 4 says, “Greater is 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 works in you.” He is not dormant. He is active, working and 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. Second Corinthians 5:21 is perhaps one of the most radical verses in the New Testament: “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” Jesus is the begotten Son of God, and we have His life in us. We are not mere human beings living on our own behalf. We are not righteous by behavior, but righteous by nature. First John 2:29 states that “if ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him.” You are not trying to become righteous. You are righteous in Christ.

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, cast out demons, walk in divine love, and live like Christ because His life is in you. You have God’s wisdom.

First 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. True knowledge must lead to action. You are limited only by your willingness to believe and 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 to 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 are crying out and hoping God hears you, but deep down you are not sure He will? What if I told you that this feeling often comes from praying from the wrong identity? Not because you are sinful or not spiritual enough, but because religion has trained many believers to approach God like beggars instead of sons. We must learn how to pray, not as people hoping to be heard, but as people who are already accepted in Christ. When you truly grasp this, your prayer life shifts from desperation to confidence, from striving to resting.

Most Christians still beg God even after receiving sonship, but we must learn to approach the Father the way Jesus did: with boldness, not fear. Let's face it, many of us were taught that prayer is pleading. We have 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 is Your will, please hear me this once. I am not worthy, but maybe You will have mercy." And we think this is humility. But often, this kind of prayer reveals something deeper: a mindset that sees us as outsiders trying to earn God's attention. It is the voice of an orphan, not a son.

Those few words in your prayers may be quietly undermining your confidence. God is not withholding. Heaven is not reluctant. But these words often reveal a misunderstanding about your position in Christ, the nature of faith, and the heart of God Himself. They expose uncertainty where faith should be standing. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." Until that misunderstanding is corrected, your prayers may feel powerless, even when they are 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 that such a man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord. That is not God being harsh. That is God warning us that 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.

Psalm 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 does not teach uncertainty. It teaches present-tense faith. When the Word has already revealed God's will, we do not pray like beggars waiting to see if God is willing. We believe we receive when we pray, and we stand on the Word. Our prayer life will never rise above the level of our faith in the Word. If you are unsure of the Word, you will be unsure in prayer. And if you are unsure in prayer, you will be unsure in expecting the answer.

That is why Satan works overtime to keep you uncertain, because uncertainty paralyzes the believer. But faith is certain. It does not go by feelings. It goes 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 is more revelation. If you are struggling to pray boldly, do

not look inward. Look to the Word. Let the Word build a foundation under your feet until you can stand and say, “I know God is my Healer. I know God is my Provider. I know God’s will is restoration. 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. A son does not approach the Father as though he has no place in the house. He comes with relationship, confidence, and trust. This does not mean we refuse surrender to God’s will. Jesus Himself surrendered perfectly to the Father. But where the Word has clearly revealed the Father’s will, we do not hide unbelief behind religious uncertainty. We come as sons and say, “Thank You, Father.” That is what Jesus modeled. Before raising Lazarus from the dead, His prayer was, “Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me” (John 11:41 to 42).

Now let’s make it practical. If you have been praying, “Lord, heal me, if it be Thy will,” change the foundation of that prayer. Say, “Father, Your Word reveals You as my Healer. I thank You that healing belongs to me through Christ, and I receive what You have provided in the name of Jesus.” If you have been saying, “Lord, meet my need, if it be Thy will,” begin praying from the Word: “Father, Your Word says You supply all my need according to Your riches in glory. I receive Your provision with confidence and thanksgiving.”

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: prayer from the old identity cannot produce New Covenant confidence. God is not looking for your old man to beg louder. He is calling the new man to stand in Christ. When you pray from fear, shame, self-effort, and unworthiness, you are praying from an identity Christ already crucified. But when you pray from sonship, righteousness, and union with Christ, your prayer comes into agreement with the finished work. That is where boldness begins.

Remember this: you are not trying to earn the blessing. You are 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 is where power flows. That is where victory lies. And that is 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, every 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, and your regrets 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 misunderstandings about prayer. I heard about "battle prayer," and we tried it. We stormed the throne. We cried aloud. But somehow or other, it did not bring results, and I wondered why.

Then we heard about "praying through," and we tried hard. We prayed through our problems. I do not 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 on the part of those whose

footsteps I had followed. Holding on to God until the answer came, or praying “hard,” were expressions that 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 had not 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 that He watches over His Word to perform it. The name of Jesus had not yet functioned in our understanding, and we had not come to the realization of John 15:16: “Whatsoever ye ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.” I had never fathomed the secret of Jesus’ teaching about His name. And then 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 that I should pray to the Father in Jesus’ name, meaning as one who comes in Jesus’ stead, because the Father sees us in Christ. God sees us wearing the robe of righteousness that Jesus gave us, and that is what He acknowledges. I realized that Jesus had given me the power of attorney to use His name and to come to the Father in His stead. Remember, in the parable of the supper, there was 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 to 27 says, “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 out from God.” That is intense right there. Jesus said that you will not need Me to represent you in the way you once thought, because the Father Himself loves you. In the Father’s eyes, you are accepted in Christ. The Father loves you because you have loved Jesus and have believed that He came forth from the Father.

This changes the parameters 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 are getting this. Jesus is saying, “The problem is, you are not coming to the Father the same way 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,” meaning as one who comes in His stead, not in your own supplication, emotions, or self-effort. 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 are invited to come “boldly” to the throne of grace. Grace means God’s loving favor and gifts. The throne room, then, is a place 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 is 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: I was actually appointed and ordained to take Jesus’ place here on the earth. I was carrying out the plan of redemption by bringing lost men to the saving knowledge of Christ, setting the captives free, healing the sick, and 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 to 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 good. We know that Jesus was the will of the Father manifested. 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 Jesus did, plus the things He 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 you are 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 allows you to pray according to His will. Take your place in fellowship with Him, and 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 enough needs that it would take a whole night to cover them all, then you should take the night. However, most churches that call for an all-night prayer meeting close their doors around 11:00 p.m. because everybody has emptied out their prayer bags by then.

If you pray without ceasing, meaning you are always in communication with the Father, you would not need to have a long prayer list that requires an all-night prayer. You can, though, if you simply want to fellowship with Him and worship Him all night. Jesus did.

But wait, you say, “Don’t you think we should keep on praying until our prayer is answered?” No. I think, instead, we should thank Him for answering our requests. Once you have ordered something from Amazon, you do not keep calling customer service. Rather, you rejoice and tell your friends that you have purchased such and such, and you are 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 perseverant. There is a big difference. Perseverance reflects a stance: you are not budging, even though the timing of the answer may be delayed. Insistence is nervous that the answer may not come through.

Remember, God cannot lie. He watches over His Word to make it good. The man who trusts Him is 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 is another barrier of doubt and uncertainty that sits silently in the hearts of many believers. It does not shout. It does not 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.

The church has often told people to “wait on God,” to yield more, or to surrender more. And yes, there are times when we must wait, yield, and surrender. God does not operate on the same schedule we do. In fact, He does not operate in time. Sometimes the answer may be delayed because the blessing will be bigger. When a toddler presents a request to a parent, the parent may plan to answer that request in a much greater way, with a bigger and better blessing. Consequently, the timing may be affected.

Your Healing Was Paid For!

We must not leave any part of our being outside the holy nature given to us in this redemptive transaction. If our spirits were forgiven but our bodies were 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 can no longer dominate us. If all curses were placed 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, one I discovered only later in my Christian life. I was taught that sickness was something God used to “deal” with you. But God did not 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 way He dealt with demon possession: He cast it out. Jesus' attitude toward sickness was one of uncompromising warfare against Satan. He did not negotiate with disease. He did not accommodate illness. He did not 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 is 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, delivered people from demonic bondage, and set captives free. Forgiving sin is not the same as allowing sin. He forgave the woman 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 believers can take toward 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 cannot be neutral about sickness any more than we can be neutral about sin. We cannot accommodate disease any more than we can accommodate demons. We cannot make peace with illness any more than we can make peace with the devil himself. This does not mean we are 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, and 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 merely 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 broken spiritual connection between man and his Creator.

And so, God heals us through His Word. Psalm 107:20 says, "He sent His Word and healed them." This 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 command, 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 is a revelation. When you fully understand that Jesus bore your sickness, you confront 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 did not 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, and our despair 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 are not getting better? Sounds strange, right? But according to Scripture, your words are not just expressions; they are containers of power. They are not harmless or neutral. They are 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 will start seeing results that religion cannot 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 that what he says will come to pass, he shall have whatever he says." Notice, He did not say you would have what you pray. He said you would have what you say. Confession brings possession, not because you are manipulating God, but because you are 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 servant? He told Jesus that he was not worthy for Him to come into his house, but that He could speak the word only. And Jesus marveled. He turned around and told His disciples, "I have not found such great faith, no, not in 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 living experience of it. Jesus already paid for your healing, peace, and deliverance, but it does not become real in your life until you agree with it and command it. Confess it, not just once, not just when you are desperate, but daily, consistently, and 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 are trying to be free from.

Confession is not denial of the facts. This is where people get it twisted. We are not saying to ignore reality. We are not saying, “Just pretend you do not have pain.” Faith does not 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. Do not say, “My cancer” or “my migraines.” Say, “This condition is illegal in my body. I have been redeemed from the curse.” Confess healing and strength over your body daily and continually, even when you feel fine. Do not wait until crisis hits.

Faith’s confession is partnership with God’s Word. Think of it like planting seeds. You do not 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 are not trying to get God to do something; you are responding to what He has already done. It may require persistence and endurance because the devil does not want you free. But that does not negate the fact that you will receive what you believe for. You do not 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 faith its 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 historical or theological. It became a revelation. The emphasis was not only that God created, but how He created. How did He create the world? He created it 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 did not need lengthy rituals or long 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. They were faith’s words. They were not 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 lame man, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk,” it was not mere speech. It was the discharge of authoritative faith through words. It was a declaration backed by the authority of heaven. It was 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 were not 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 did not 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 faith. 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 His Word becomes faith in action.

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 do not. 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 their own prayers will not reach heaven.

They simply do not trust their own standing before God. Why? Because they do not believe in their faith. They do not 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, and 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 who died for Paul died for you. Satan was conquered for you personally. Jesus did not 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 is not a collective hope. It is 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 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 is God's own life. "He that hath the Son hath life" (1 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 are 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 will 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 have done, but because of what Christ did. “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). 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 is a position. It is a standing before God that allows you to come boldly to the throne of grace without guilt, shame, or inferiority, as though sin had never existed in your life. That is what righteousness means.

You are His child, born of His Spirit, created in His image, and 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 is not reserved for people with titles. It is 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, and 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 Him at His Word. It is your inheritance. It is 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, and 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, 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 they were 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 those words are often powerless, lifeless, and 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 or 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 and lovingly planned, that all His children should walk in this kind of faith, not just a few, not just the apostles or ministers, but every single believer. All should live in the realm of answered prayer.

Have you ever truly pondered that glorious passage in Mark 16:17 to 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 20:32 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, and it 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 conscious that you are in dominion. You are not the sick 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 divine stability, a holy assurance, and the glorious effect of this righteousness is 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 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, and established. You know who you are. You are a master, a victor, a son, a daughter, a king and priest unto 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 now live in the effect of your confidence in Christ. You no longer walk 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, enjoy them, and 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 voice says, “You have arrived.” You are 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 through you. 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 to 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 lays claim to what has already been provided, and heaven honors it because Jesus backs it up.

You now know what James 1:22 to 24 really means. You are not merely a hearer of the Word. You are a doer. You do not look into the mirror of the Word and forget. You see who you are as a new creation, born from above and 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. 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 to 7: “As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted, grounded, built up, and overflowing with thanksgiving.”

You are now walking among the redwood spiritual giants, men and women full of God, radiant with love, and 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.

About the Author



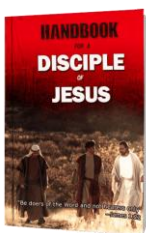
For over 45 years, Paul Joseph and his wife, Linda, have embarked on an extraordinary journey of faith, transforming lives across continents as dedicated missionaries. Their mission has taken them to far-flung regions, including a life-changing decade in Africa, where they have sown seeds of hope and compassion in a Liberian refugee camp.

Paul is not only a hands-on missionary but also an inspiring author. His acclaimed work, “Handbook for a Disciple of Jesus,” is a practical guide that empowers Christians to live out and impart the essence of discipleship.

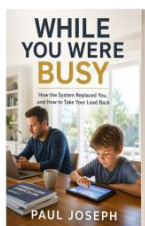
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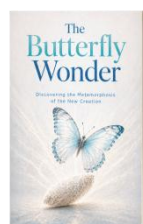
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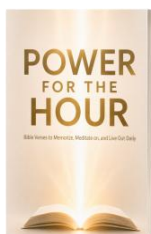
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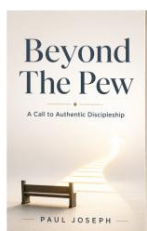
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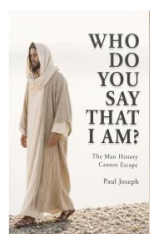
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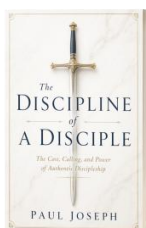
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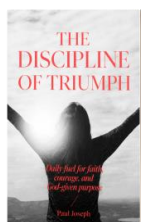
Beyond the Pew



Who Do You Say That I Am



The Discipline of a Disciple



The Discipline of Triumph

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Jesus Beyond Religion is a bold wake-up call to everyone who has mistaken church activity for Christianity, religious performance for transformation, and spiritual routine for the living power of Christ.

This book does not tiptoe around the problem. Much of what the world has rejected is not Jesus at all, but **“Churchianity”** — a hollow, polished, powerless imitation that looks spiritual on Sunday and collapses by Monday. It has the language of faith but not the force of faith.

The real Jesus did not come to start a religious social club or give humanity another moral improvement program. He came to bring a **total reset, a divine exchange, a legal victory, and a new creation.** He came to destroy the works of the devil, redeem man from the curse, and bring sons and daughters back into the Father’s house.

This is not a call to try religion again. It is a call to see Jesus clearly — beyond **Churchianity**, beyond **condemnation**, beyond **the old man**, and beyond **powerless faith** — and to step fully into His finished work.

