

The Butterfly Wonder

Discovering the Metamorphosis
of the New Creation



PAUL JOSEPH

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*“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed away; behold, all
things have become new.”*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

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PREFACE



There is a wonder in the Gospel that many believers have not fully seen.

Many have heard that Jesus forgives sins. Many have heard that He died on the cross. Many have heard that He rose again. Many have heard that they must believe in Him and receive eternal life. And all of that is gloriously true. But the Gospel does not stop at forgiveness. The Gospel does not stop at religion. The Gospel does not stop at attending church, trying harder, behaving better, or waiting for heaven.

The Gospel is a total transformation.

Jesus did not come to improve the old man. He came to crucify him. He did not come to polish the caterpillar life. He came to bring forth a new creation with wings. He did not come to make us more religious versions of our former selves. He came to make us born again, recreated, restored, empowered, and filled with His own life.

That is the wonder this book is written to uncover.

The butterfly is one of the clearest pictures in creation of what God does in the heart of a person who is born again. A caterpillar does not become a better caterpillar. It does not simply learn new habits, improve its crawling, or decorate its old form. It enters a hidden process of transformation and comes forth as something entirely new. What once crawled now flies. What once was bound to the ground now moves in another dimension. What once had no visible ability to soar now carries wings.

That is not self-improvement. That is metamorphosis.

And that is the message of the new creation.

The Word says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is not poetry only. This is not religious

encouragement only. This is spiritual reality. The old man has been crucified with Christ. The new man has been created in righteousness and true holiness. The believer has been brought out of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son. The Spirit of God now lives within us. The authority of Jesus has been delegated to us. The Word of God has been placed in our mouths. The ministry of reconciliation has been entrusted to us. We have not been saved merely to survive. We have been born again to reveal Christ.

This book was written because too many believers still live as though they are caterpillars.

They have received Christ, but they still think from the old identity. They still pray like beggars instead of sons. They still fight the devil as though Jesus has not already conquered him. They still approach the Word as information instead of incorruptible seed. They still treat faith as a feeling instead of a force of obedience. They still live as hearers when Jesus called them to be doers.

But the time has come for the body of Christ to understand what has truly happened in the new birth.

The new man is not weak. The new man is not helpless. The new man is not a slave to the old life. The new man is born of God, filled with the Spirit, seated with Christ, armed with the Word, and sent into the world as a representative of Jesus. This does not make us independent from Christ. It makes us dependent on Him in the right way. We do not move in our own name. We move in His name. We do not carry our own authority. We carry His delegated authority. We do not boast in ourselves. We boast in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this book is not to condemn sincere believers who have struggled, wandered, grown cold, or felt powerless. The purpose is to expose the lies that have kept God's people crawling when Christ paid for them to fly. Religious systems, unbelief, passivity, condemnation, fear, bitterness, and powerless traditions have often hidden the true inheritance of the born-again believer. But Jesus did not expose darkness to shame the broken.

He exposed darkness so truth could set people free.

That is the heart of this book.

This is a call back to the original Gospel. Not a powerless Gospel. Not a religious Gospel. Not a Gospel that leaves man forgiven but unchanged. Not a Gospel that gives people language without power, church attendance without transformation, or doctrine without demonstration. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ — the Gospel that kills the old man, raises up the new man, fills him with the Spirit, and sends him out to continue the works of Jesus in the earth.

As you read, do not read merely for information. Read for revelation. Read with the Word open. Read with faith. Read with willingness to repent where your thinking has agreed with the old man. Read with readiness to put off what belongs to the former life and put on what belongs to Christ. Read as one who is willing to stop crawling in the dust of the old identity and begin walking, speaking, praying, praising, and obeying as a new creation.

The butterfly wonder is not only a picture of change.

It is a declaration of inheritance.

It is a reminder that the life you were born into through Adam is not the life you are called to live in Christ. The old has passed away. The new has come. The cocoon has been broken. The grave has been emptied. The Spirit has been given. The Word has been spoken. The authority has been delegated. The mission has been assigned.

Now the question is simple:

Will you live as the new man Christ created you to be?

May this book awaken your spirit, renew your mind, strengthen your faith, and call you into the fullness of the born-again life — until Christ is not only believed in you, but seen through you.

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INTRODUCTION



There is a marvel in nature that is scientifically observable, yet still filled with wonder. It is the transformation from a caterpillar into a butterfly — a process known as metamorphosis — and it gives us one of the most stunning illustrations of the profound change that takes place when a person is “born again”.

This process of metamorphosis is not a simple change, but a total reconstruction of form and function. The caterpillar’s body breaks down into what almost seems like a cellular soup, undergoing one of the most intense transformations known to biology. This creature, once earthbound and limited to the slow meandering of its many feet, emerges with the delicate, iridescent wings of a butterfly — a being seemingly unrelated to its former self, now graced with the ability to soar above the ground that once confined it.

Observing a caterpillar, one would find no hint of the potential for flight; it possesses no wings, no semblance of the beauty and agility that characterize a butterfly. How then does this creature, so plain and confined, transform into a being of such elegance and freedom?

I’m convinced that God, in His wisdom, crafted the butterfly with a specific intention—to showcase the possibility of radical change and the new life that follows.

The very nature of this transformation points to the grace offered through Christ. In Him, believers are not merely improved; they are brought out of the old sin-bound identity and raised into new life. It is no coincidence that such a creature exists. The butterfly stands as a living symbol of hope, renewal, and the promise of regeneration through faith..

A similar transformation takes place when a person is created anew by God through faith in Christ. Could it be that God designed the butterfly to help us see a metamorphosis so radical, so complete, that

the born-again believer can rightly be called a new creation? The design of the butterfly, with its capacity for flight and its breathtaking beauty, stands as a divine metaphor, crafted by God to illustrate the transformative work He desires to do in every human heart.

This natural phenomenon beautifully illustrates the meaning of being born again. Just as a butterfly emerges from the chrysalis completely transformed and equipped for a new life, so believers are spiritually transformed through the power of the resurrection of Jesus. This is not merely a change of habits or an improvement of the old self. It is a profound rebirth into a new life. Just as the butterfly emerges with qualities that were not possible or visible in its former caterpillar form, so the born-again believer begins to carry qualities, desires, and capabilities that were not there before.

This new creation, referred to as the ‘new man’ in the New Testament, represents a total renewal of the self. The Word tells us, ‘If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new’ (2 Corinthians 5:17). This new creation is not a mere improvement or upgrade of the old self, but a completely new identity, crafted and designed by God for a glorious purpose.

Such a metamorphosis has happened to me personally.

I was born and raised in religion. But what I mostly knew were the traditions of men, along with the mechanics and rituals that often replace the life of God in many religious environments. The lack of true spiritual life had deeply disappointed me, and in my later teen years, I chose to cancel out almost everything related to faith. On my own, I left my hometown as a dope-smoking hippie and traveled to Europe in hopes of finding purpose and meaning outside of the cubicle future that seemed to be offered to me after college. More than anything, I wanted to know how and where I could make a worthy difference in this world.

After quite a few months of hitchhiking on my own, I met the ‘Jesus Revolution’ people in Amsterdam, and shortly afterward, I was born again. That experience caused an enormous transformation in my life. I knew I had found my place, my calling, and my mission. My newfound faith took me on a 45-year journey of missionary life, reaching 76 countries of the world as I became involved in many different Christian projects.

However, after four decades or so, my faith grew pale. I had more unanswered questions than answers concerning denominations, religious traditions, and the double standards I had seen in Christianity. A series of events caused me to become distant again from almost everything connected to the faith. Bitterness took root in me, and I fell back into a life of indifference, self-centeredness, and laissez-faire living, with all of its nefarious trappings of bondage and self-indulgence.

I should pause here to say something plainly: bitterness is not harmless. Bitterness turns the soul sour. It trains the mouth to complain, the mind to accuse, and the heart to blame. When bitterness takes root, a person can begin to see everything through the lens of injury and disappointment. Responsibility becomes harder to accept because the soul begins to identify more with being wounded than with being healed. The Bible warns us about this clearly, saying, 'lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled' (Hebrews 12:15). Bitterness defiles. It stains the inner life. It can alter the way a person thinks, speaks, reacts, and relates to others. We were not created to live in anger, jealousy, unforgiveness, fear, and resentment. The mind was created to be filled with truth, gratitude, faith, and praise. When we continually feed on negative and corrupt thoughts, those thoughts begin to torment the soul and can even affect the body. Bitterness does not only hurt the person we are angry with. It poisons the one who carries it.

I lived in that state of bitterness for a couple of years. Even though I was hardly interested in spiritual things, I still had an ear open toward the miraculous. My wife held tightly to her faith, and at one point she became deeply captivated by the power of divine healing. Her curiosity led me to start reading about it, and through that, my heart began to turn again toward the reality of God.

I started to read about the great men of faith, many of which seem to have the power to heal people. I watched many YouTube videos and I witnessed obvious manifestations of the power of God to heal. And listening to their preaching, of course, ended up blowing some of God's breath on the embers of my faith.

I was living in Chicago at the time, and for exercise every morning I would go roller-skating in the empty parking lots of the big stores. I would first stop at a coffee shop and while sitting in my car, sipping my

morning drink, I would listen to some of the sermons from those powerful preachers of the past, on YouTube.

One morning, I listened to A.W. Tozer preaching on the power of the Holy Spirit. I was so deeply touched in my spirit that I broke down crying and began speaking in tongues. Right there and then, Jesus appeared to me — the resurrected Jesus, filled with light. As He turned toward me, without a word, the light emanating from His eyes was so bright and powerful it was as if I were looking at a welding flame without a mask. It nearly blinded me. But what it did in me was wonderful: it healed me. It rinsed my heart entirely from bitterness and negativity, and it felt as though I had been born again, again.

I do not know whether that language is technically scriptural, but it truly felt like a total rebirth again — similar to, and perhaps even more spectacular than, what I had experienced as a 22-year-old hippie in Amsterdam. The experience was so powerful that I could not stop speaking in tongues for three days. It felt like my own road-to-Damascus moment. I had been confused, angry, and bitter, but that bright light totally transformed me. It was as if I had been five minutes under murky waters and had finally surfaced, gasping for air. I came back to life — renewed, empowered, reborn, and absolutely re-envisioned.

I went out skating in that parking lot that morning with my hands raised, praising and crying out at the top of my voice in tongues. It was such a powerful rebirth. I was like that butterfly emerging out of the sorrowful soup of the cocoon, and my heart had found wings. Meaning, integrity, purpose, and a flame that could not be quenched came rushing back into my life.

Again, the butterfly wonder is a vivid illustration of the believer's transition from a life bound by sin to a new existence in Christ. Just as the caterpillar could never achieve flight in its original form, man cannot attain the spiritual heights for which we were destined without undergoing a profound spiritual transformation. Metamorphosis signifies not just change, but a God-ordained redesign from an earthbound existence to a heavenly, purpose-driven life.

To come to Christ without understanding the revolutionary transformation that takes place within the spirit of man is to miss much of what Jesus did to redeem us. There is a major message running through the New Testament that every Christian must understand in

order to walk in the reality of the new creation. The New Testament speaks of the ‘old man’ and the ‘new man,’ the ‘old self’ and the ‘new self.’ The Word shows us that the old man is corrupt because it was formed under the power of sin, deception, and rebellion. It carries the mark of Satan’s lie in the garden. But the new man is born of God, created in righteousness and true holiness.

Consequently, the apostle Paul said that the carnal mind is enmity against God. “For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will” (Romans 8:7).

Being born of God gives us a new identity, and with that new identity comes a new kingdom reality. We are not only forgiven; we are empowered and deputized by Christ to bring the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Embracing this new identity requires faith and surrender, much like the hidden process of the cocoon, where transformation takes place in obscurity before beauty and purpose are revealed. Just as the butterfly emerges with a new form and new capabilities, our spiritual rebirth through Jesus Christ equips us with new desires, a new purpose, and a new way of being that seeks to honor God.

‘The Butterfly Wonder: Discovering the Metamorphosis of the New Creation’ aims to awaken every one of us to the new identity given to us in Christ. We will explore how the truth of the new birth can radically alter our understanding of who we are, what we carry, and what we are called to do. And we will unwrap the inexhaustible inheritance that awaits the new man, destined to rise and soar in the limitless expanse of God’s love.

CHAPTER 1

A Steal of A Deal



What took place inside of me in that moment when Jesus manifested Himself to me was beyond any experience I had ever had. An overwhelming rush swept through every fiber of my being, and I longed to plumb the depths of this revelation and lay hold of the riches it contained.

Jesus puts this into words so vividly in the parable of the pearl of great price. He illustrates a very important aspect of the Kingdom of God — its worth. In Matthew 13:45–46, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds one pearl of exceptional value, he goes and sells everything he has in order to buy it.

This Kingdom became a reality to me — in fact, my only reality — and it was all-encompassing. I had come across a revelation, and all I wanted was to give everything I had to lay hold of that pearl. I wanted to discover the Kingdom's true values and understand this 'new identity in Christ' that is given to a believer when he is born again.

The man in the parable understood that it would cost him everything. He did not haggle for it or try to get a better deal. Giving everything he had for such a pearl was the deal. Such is the Kingdom. The rush in my spirit that I experienced that day must have been similar to what this pearl-seeker felt when he found that one pearl of immense value. To me, it was worth giving my all to enter into the riches of the Kingdom of God. I knew I would receive far more than I could ever give up: a life I would lose anyway in exchange for eternal life I could never lose, and an inheritance not in heaven only, but here and now.

To try to give less than my all would have been to live a lie and cheapen what has ultimate value. Jesus said, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me'

(Matthew 16:24). In my case, this was a steal of a deal. I had nothing more important to live for. I wanted to find out more and pass it on. It was too rich a revelation to keep to myself.

It propelled me into studying the Word of God, digging to discover all that the Kingdom offered. I had met the King Himself in His glory, and the light emanating from His eyes sent me into a deep search to understand what it truly meant to be accepted as a child of God.

Fired up by this newfound passion, I immersed myself in fervent study of the Bible. I did not want religion. I wanted the Kingdom. I had known religion with all of its stipulations, regulations, and limitations, but I wanted freedom. I wanted to discover what Jesus meant when He said, ‘If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed’ (John 8:36). I had read God’s Word many times before, but now it was as if I was reading it for the first time. Each discovery unveiled new layers of living light, and it fueled my craving to know more. I had found my axis, my true north, and nothing could tear me away from tracing its beacon of light.

I wanted nothing to do with that old cocoon, and I absolutely rejected the caterpillar life. Like the butterfly, I had broken through the walls of my cocoon prison. I was no longer bound to the form that once confined me. Through the death of my old self, I had been reborn into a new life of beauty and flight. That life had only just begun.

Such is the metamorphosis a person undergoes when born anew into the Kingdom of God. Once blind to greater realities and living aimlessly on earth like a mere caterpillar, the person hears the call of salvation, receives the seed of God’s Word, and is quickened by the Spirit of God. In my case, I had come to the end of self-effort. The old sinful nature could not be improved into the likeness of Christ. It had to die, so that the new life of Christ could rise in me.

Then, through the resurrection life of Christ, we emerge from the chrysalis of rebirth and behold with wonder what God has done. We have been transformed into children of God. Forever changed, and with eternal life now working within us, our flight into the purposes of God has only just begun.

This, then, is the pearl of great price — the revelation of a Kingdom so valuable that everything else becomes secondary. By God’s grace, I had found it, and I rejoiced to spend all in its pursuit, counting all

things loss 'for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord'
(Philippians 3:8).

CHAPTER 2

We've been Deceived



In order to understand the ‘glitch’ in man’s programming, often referred to as the sin nature, we have to go back to the beginning. God originally created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26–28), and He gave Adam dominion over the earth, commanding him to subdue it and govern it under God’s authority. Man was created to rule the earth as God’s representative. But through Adam’s disobedience, Satan gained access to the authority man had been given and began exercising influence over the fallen world.

Remember how, after Adam and Eve had been created, God warned them that there was one tree in the garden from which they were not to eat: ‘But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die’ (Genesis 2:17).

In the next chapter, Satan, speaking through the serpent, comes to Eve and tempts her through what the New Testament later calls ‘deceitful lusts.’ His main tactic was to falsify the truth and embellish the desired outcome. The serpent said to the woman, ‘You shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.’ Then Eve saw that the tree was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and desirable to make one wise, so she took of its fruit and ate, and gave also to her husband with her, and he ate (Genesis 3:4–6).

In essence, temptation invites man to ignore God’s warning and disobey what God has said. In tempting Eve through lustful persuasion, Satan brought forth his bold lie, camouflaged as the deal of a lifetime. Through that deception and disobedience, humanity inherited a corrupt nature — a deep glitch in man’s original programming that no amount of self-effort, religion, or human improvement could repair.

Mankind was crafted in God's image to rule this earthly domain under God's authority. Satan, disguised as a serpent, coveted the dominion God had entrusted to man. Through cunning deceit, he sought to rob humanity of its God-given birthright and bring man under the bondage of his lies.

In the garden, our first parents knew only innocence. Yet the serpent came with venomous lies, whispering to Eve about the forbidden fruit and promising wisdom instead of the death God had warned about. He painted a false picture where obedience looked like loss and disobedience looked like gain. That is always the strategy of deception. It makes God's command look restrictive and Satan's offer look liberating. But when Eve received the lie and Adam joined in her disobedience, the order God had established was broken, and the curse of rebellion and corruption passed into the human race.

Now the deceiver began to exercise influence over the world that man had been created to govern under God. He stole the rulership that had originally been entrusted to Adam and Eve, and humanity fell under Satan's deceiving influence.

This becomes visible when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness after His forty days of fasting at the beginning of His ministry. The devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and said, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours' (Luke 4:6–7). When did Satan gain this kind of influence over the kingdoms of the world? It traces back to Adam's disobedience, when man surrendered his God-given dominion through sin. From that point, the world system came under the influence of the deceiver.

Because of that disobedience, sin and death entered the world. The Word says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). Adam did not drop dead physically the moment he sinned, but spiritual death entered immediately. Spiritual death means separation from God. The intimacy between God and man was broken, and physical death also began its work in the human race.

The Bible says that the devil is a liar from the beginning. "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44).

The apostle John explains that Jesus came to redeem man from sin and destroy the works of the devil that began in the garden. The Word says, ‘He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil’ (1 John 3:8).

The apostle Paul also explained how the new identity that Christ gives us at the rebirth is a full departure from the previous creation we were born into. “... put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:20-24).

So, Paul makes it clear that there are two “selves”: the old self and the new self. The Word tells us to put off the old self and to put on the new self. In this admonition, Paul says the old self is corrupt through “deceitful lusts.” That is important. The old self was born out of deception. It traces back to the moment man listened to Satan’s lie instead of God’s truth. The fallen nature is the result of man yielding to a false voice, obeying a false promise, and stepping outside of God’s command. But in Christ, we are no longer slaves to that old self of lies. We have been brought out of bondage and given a new identity, renewed in the spirit of our mind by the life-giving power of truth.

CHAPTER 3

The Rebel In You



The main goal of our enemy, Satan, is to deceive people — to lie about what God has said and to get people to disobey God’s Word. Deception sets in motion a process of degeneration: first, deception produces lust; lust is a perverted and rebellious desire that pulls the heart away from God; lust then produces sin, and sin produces death.

When the Bible speaks of lust, it is not referring only to sexual desire. Lust is desire that has been twisted away from God. It is appetite without surrender. It is craving without obedience. It is the heart reaching for something outside of God’s will because it has believed the lie that God is withholding something good. That is exactly what happened in the garden. Satan made disobedience look desirable, and once the lie was received, the desire followed.

James explains this clearly. “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lusts and enticed. Then, when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:13-15).

So the old self is not neutral. It is constantly resisting the new life of God within us. Paul said that the carnal mind is enmity against God: ‘For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will’ (Romans 8:7). That is why the believer must learn to recognize the voice of the old nature and refuse to obey it.

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other” (Galatians 5:17)

Jesus said, ‘A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bear good fruit’ (Matthew 7:18). Man in his fallen natural state is

corrupt, and consequently, he cannot produce the fruit of God's righteousness by self-effort. Isaiah 53:6 says, 'We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.' That is the mark of the old man. He turns to his own way. He moves away from God and seeks his own will, his own rule, his own pleasure, and his own satisfaction.

Paul explains this further. "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind" (Ephesians 2:1-3).

So, this is the product of Satan's lies working through the spirit of disobedience. Paul is describing the life of the old self — the condition of man apart from Christ, still walking according to the course of this world and still influenced by the deceiver. Satan is able to work where disobedience is welcomed, because rebellion gives his lies room to operate.

Notice that Paul says we were "by nature children of wrath." In other words, we were not born neutral. By default, we were born into sin, separated from God, and unable to produce the life of God from the old nature. But there is GOOD NEWS: the new man is not created from the corrupt seed of Adam's fall. The new man is created from the incorruptible seed of God's Word.

CHAPTER 4

Could Self-Improvement Solve the Problem?



Once we understand the problem of the old self, the next question becomes obvious: what solution can remedy humanity's fallen nature? Contemporary answers often point to self-improvement, yet Jesus said a corrupt tree cannot bear good fruit. The old self, by nature, remains fallen.

So what is the solution to the problem of the old self? This is a universal problem facing every one of us. And before we see God's answer, we must first rule out the solutions that can never truly deal with the root.

We can rule out every solution that makes the self its own savior. Whether it is self-realization, self-fulfillment, self-expression, or self-improvement, none of these can regenerate the old man. They may polish behavior for a season, but they cannot crucify the rebel within. Any system that gives the old self the power to fix itself has already misunderstood the problem.

Another thing that hinders God's solution is the pressure of man-made religious systems that place believers under laws God never commanded. Religion, with its formalities and restrictions, can condemn without transforming. Jesus confronted this in His day when He said, 'Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition' (Mark 7:13). Many people look to law to deal with the problem of the old self. But even the righteous law of Moses, given by God, could reveal man's sin without renewing the heart. As Paul wrote, 'For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh' (Romans 8:3).

Jesus said, ‘Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire’ (Matthew 7:17–19). The old corrupt nature cannot be repaired or reformed into righteousness. It must be brought to the cross. That is why Christ did not come merely to improve the old man, but to put the old man to death and bring forth a new creation through His resurrection life.

He sent His Son as the final sacrifice to redeem man from sin’s bondage once and for all. Peter wrote, ‘Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness’ (1 Peter 2:24). Through His death, Christ defeated Satan’s claim over fallen man. Through His sacrifice, Jesus opened the way for the born-again man to be restored to God, freed from sin’s dominion, and brought back into the purpose for which man was created.

After His resurrection, Jesus came and spoke to His disciples, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’ (Matthew 28:18). Through His victory, Jesus broke the devil’s dominion over man and restored believers to authority under His lordship. Jesus bridged the gap between God and man by conquering sin. The Word says, ‘For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him’ (2 Corinthians 5:21). Remember, the spiritual death of Adam meant separation from God. But through the cross, Jesus reconciled man back to the Father: ‘For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life’ (Romans 5:10).

CHAPTER 5

You are Barabbas



God's solution for the old self was not rehabilitation. It was execution — and that execution took place at the cross. There is no other solution for the rebel nature of fallen man.

But the good news of the Gospel is that this execution has already taken place in Christ. This is one of the keys to understanding the Gospel message. God's program for dealing with the old self was not to improve it, but to crucify it with Christ. Paul cried out, 'O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?' Then he answered with thanksgiving: 'I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord' (Romans 7:24–25). Freedom from the old nature has been made available because the old man was dealt with at the cross.

The old self has been crucified so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless and we should no longer be slaves to sin. Paul says it plainly: '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' (Romans 6:6). That is the only way to escape the slavery of sin. We must know and believe that our old self — the rebellious nature of fallen man — was crucified with Jesus when He died on the cross. The apostle Paul says, 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me...' (Galatians 2:20). No more rebel. That old self was executed in Christ.

I love the illustration Derek Prince once gave when he said the Lord asked him, 'Who do you think that center cross was prepared for? Who was supposed to be on THAT cross?' It was prepared for Barabbas — the robber and murderer. Barabbas was the man scheduled to be executed that day. But then there was a sudden turn of events. Jesus took the place of Barabbas. And in a deeper sense, the criminal who

deserved judgment was you and me. Jesus took our place and died in our stead. That is the good news of the Gospel.

That is the grace of God that paid the price of redemption for all of us. In Christ, God made it so that we died with Him. We were crucified with Him. God's remedy for the old self was not to improve him, reform him, or make him religious, but to execute him in Christ and raise us into new life with Him.

Not only was the old man crucified with Jesus, but when Jesus arose, we were raised with Him. We were brought into newness of life — a new creation, born of God and made after His image, just as He intended man to be from the beginning. We are reconnected with God, no longer slaves to sin, but sons of righteousness.

That is the wonderful MERCY and GRACE of God — the awesome mystery of the Gospel: man redeemed through the death of Christ, the old self crucified with Him, and Christ now living in us and through us.”

CHAPTER 6

The Greatest Victory in all History



Something spectacular happened through the death and resurrection of Christ: Jesus Christ crushed the head of the serpent and defeated every demonic power. Through His unimaginable suffering, death, and resurrection, He triumphed over the kingdom of darkness.

As our Victor and Conqueror, Jesus took to the cross every sin, regret, stain, and accusation that had come upon humanity through the fall. He faced the full fury of hell itself and emerged victorious. He took upon Himself all our guilt, all our failure, all our condemnation, and every heavy burden that sin had brought upon the human race. He met our enemy face to face, defeated him, and rose as our Representative — the Head of a new race — to lead us forth in victory.

Colossians 2:15 tells us, ‘And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.’ Jesus Christ triumphed over principalities and powers. He openly displayed His dominion over the forces of darkness, parading His victory for all creation to witness.

The word ‘triumph’ carries the idea of more than private victory. In the ancient world, a triumph was a public display of conquest, where defeated enemies were shown openly and the victor’s authority was made undeniable. In that sense, Paul is telling us that Jesus did not rise quietly as though the battle were uncertain. He rose as the victorious Lord, openly demonstrating His supremacy over the powers that had deceived humanity. That is why He could proclaim in Matthew 28:18, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.’

And we, God’s people, are granted the high honor of sharing in Christ’s victory. Through faith in His finished work, we are seated with Him in heavenly places and called to walk on earth as witnesses of His triumph. Paul says, ‘But thanks be to God, who always leads us in

triumph in Christ, and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere' (2 Corinthians 2:14). This means that in every place and time, we are called to demonstrate the Savior's power and glory. The victory is His, but we have been commissioned to bear witness to it on earth until He returns to complete what He has begun.

CHAPTER 7

The Incredible Swap that Took Place at the Cross



‘For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified’ (Hebrews 10:14).

The one offering is the sacrifice Jesus made of Himself on the cross. By that one offering, He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. That means His sacrifice provided everything necessary for our redemption, reconciliation, righteousness, and access to God. There is nothing more He has to do to complete the work of salvation. He has done it all. It is one complete, all-sufficient sacrifice.

Jesus’ one sacrificial offering on the cross was complete and perfect. When He cried, ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30), He was declaring that the work of redemption was perfectly perfect and completely complete. The Holy Spirit later confirmed this through Hebrews 10:14, showing us that by one offering, He perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Jesus, the Son of God, loved us so much that He willingly humbled Himself, left the glory of heaven, and came to earth as a man. Though He was sinless, He took on human form and lived among us. This was the first movement of His sacrifice — He humbled Himself by becoming one of us.

As the perfect Lamb of God, He lived a sinless life so He could offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He did nothing wrong, yet He knew His purpose was to give His life to save mankind.

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus knew His hour had come. Willingly and of His own accord, He went to the cross so that God’s plan of salvation could be fulfilled. There He bore our sins and the just punishment we deserved for our wrongdoing. The Word says, ‘For He

made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him' (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus endured immense physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering as He hung on the cross. He bore the full weight of judgment against sin. He experienced the darkness of being forsaken as He took upon Himself the iniquity of humanity. Through His death, Jesus triumphed over sin and broke its power over those who believe in Him.

By His death, Jesus paid the price for our redemption — buying us back from sin, Satan's dominion, and the curse of the law. Because of His sacrifice, all who repent and trust in Him are granted forgiveness of sins, made righteous in God's sight, and given eternal life. Jesus also reconciled us to God, restoring the relationship that was broken by Adam's disobedience.

Through His death and resurrection, we have been adopted as God's children and made heirs according to the promise. In Christ, the blessing of Abraham comes upon the nations, and we receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law and brought near to God through the new and living way Jesus opened for us. Eternally secure in Him, we can come boldly into God's presence: 'Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need' (Hebrews 4:16).

Specifically, the exchange included this:

Jesus was wounded and punished so we could be forgiven and have peace with God (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus tasted death so we could be freed from death's penalty (Hebrews 2:9).

Jesus became a curse so we could receive the blessing of Abraham and the promise of the Spirit (Galatians 3:13–14). Jesus became poor so that through His poverty we might become rich in the inheritance of His grace (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Through Jesus' perfect work and God's abundant grace, we are supplied for every good work. The Word says, 'God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work' (2 Corinthians 9:8). Jesus took upon Himself our sin, curse, and lack so believers could share in His righteousness, grace, and sufficiency.

This is the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice: it was complete, perfect, and totally sufficient to save all who believe. The cross was the great exchange. He took what belonged to us so we could receive what belongs to Him. He paid the ultimate price so that we might be fully redeemed — now and for all eternity.

CHAPTER 8

BACK to the BEGINNING?



“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” (Romans 6:6).

Paul explains that the body of sin has been rendered powerless, and therefore we are no longer slaves to sin. That was God’s solution to ending sin’s slavery. The corrupt nature could not be improved, educated, or made religious. It had to be brought to the cross and dealt with in Christ when Jesus died.

Through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus, man can now be restored to full relationship with the Father, just as God intended from the beginning. Paul tells us that God raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand, ‘far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named’ and that He ‘put all things under His feet’ and made Him Head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:20–22).

God has positioned Jesus above all. He is the Head, and we are His body; we are not separate from Him. Because we are united with Christ, we share in His victory and operate under His delegated authority. The enemy has been disarmed through Jesus, and the church now stands in the authority of its risen Head.

The new man is created by God. It is not something man can produce by self-effort, good works, legalism, religion, or anything of that nature. It is entirely the result of a creative act of God, proceeding from the truth of His Word. The Word says, ‘Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness’ (Ephesians 4:24).

The new man is the exact opposite of the old self, which was formed under Satan’s lie. The truth of God produces righteousness and

holiness, whereas the lie of Satan produces deception and sin. Paul shows us that the new self is created according to God's original purpose for man — to bear the likeness of God. In Christ, the new man is restored to what man was meant to be from the beginning.”

Through the death and resurrection of Christ, God recreated man and restored the destiny He had for man from the beginning. The new man is born of God, but the mind still has to be renewed. Your spirit is made new, but your thinking must be brought into agreement with the truth of who you now are in Christ.

Paul tells us to be ‘renewed in the spirit of your mind’ and to ‘put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness’ (Ephesians 4:23–24). John also tells us, ‘But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God’ (John 1:12–13).

And 1 Peter 1:23 says, ‘For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God.’ The new man is created by God through incorruptible seed. That seed is the Word of God. We receive the seed of God’s Word by faith, and as we believe and obey it, the Spirit of God brings forth within us the very nature of God’s divine, incorruptible and eternal nature.

In the very first verse of John, Jesus is revealed as the Word: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God’ (John 1:1). Revelation 19:13 also describes Jesus returning in glory and power, clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and says, ‘His name is called The Word of God.’

In receiving God’s Word, we receive Jesus, and we receive the incorruptible seed of God, and as we obey the Word of God, Jesus, we are being transformed into the original nature of God.

This divine nature is imperishable and incorruptible, born from the seed of God. This is why the old self, being essentially corrupt, is transformed into the new man, a newly created being, born from God, coming forth from the very seed of God’s incorruptible Word. Through our obedience to the Word (Jesus), we express the new nature and the new incorruptible creature created in the image of God.

This is why Paul says, “It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me. The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God” (Galatians 2:20). It is the new self, the very nature and person of Jesus reproduced in us, and as we believe and receive and obey the Word of God, we become the divine eternal incorruptible seed of God’s Word that produces in us the very nature of God’s Son, Jesus.

Being born again brings us back to the beginning, fulfilling the destiny God originally had for man: to multiply His image in the earth. Jesus came revealing the image of the Father, and now we are called to reveal the image of Jesus to the world.

After His death and resurrection, Jesus commissioned His disciples to continue His mission. In John 20:21, when Jesus appeared to them, He said, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ In other words, Jesus revealed the image of the Father who sent Him, and now He would reveal His image to the world through His disciples.

“For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters” (Romans 8:29).

God’s destiny for the new man is reinstated: to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus, the firstborn among many brethren. God’s purpose is to bring forth many children who bear the likeness of His only begotten Son.

God made a promise of blessing to Abraham, and through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, that blessing has come to those who are in Christ. Paul says, ‘That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith’ (Galatians 3:14). This means the blessing is not merely external; it includes the promise of the Spirit.

Jesus, as the Son of Man, walked in perfect fellowship with the Father and ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit. After His resurrection and ascension, the Spirit was poured out on all who believe. And what is the Spirit given for? He is given to make us sons, to transform us into the image of Christ, to empower us as witnesses, and to enable us to bring the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Paul continues, ‘For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus... And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise’ (Galatians 3:26–29). As heirs, we got what He

got! And therefore we should be able to do what He did! We get the same inheritance as Jesus! We, therefore, have the same power to set the captives free from all oppressions of the devil. Joint heirs means that we get the full inheritance, one hundred percent (100%) of whatever He has. Not only part of it.

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Galatians 4:4-7).

However, we are called to grow up into conformity to the image of Christ in this world. This is not only a future hope; it is a present calling. Here and now is where we need the power of the Spirit to live as sons and witnesses. The Word says, ‘Because as He is, so are we in this world’ (1 John 4:17). And again, ‘For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power’ (Colossians 2:9–10).

So, realizing who we are in Christ and understanding the power He has given us is key to living the life Jesus intended for His followers. We are complete in Him, and we are empowered by His Spirit to continue His works, obey His commands, and represent His Kingdom in the earth.

Throughout his epistles, the apostle Paul preached the revelation he received from Jesus concerning the mystery of the Gospel. He wrote, ‘To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory’ (Colossians 1:27). He also said that this mystery had now been revealed by the Spirit: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of God’s promise in Christ through the Gospel (Ephesians 3:3–6).

So, knowing that we are co-heirs with Christ, we are to exercise the same authority that Jesus has given us through the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring God’s will on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you

always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:18–20). Jesus was telling His disciples that because all authority had been given to Him, He is now sending us to act on His behalf as delegated representatives. Our assignment is to reproduce His image by making disciples who obey His Word, walk in His Spirit, and reveal His Kingdom in the earth.

CHAPTER 9

You Have Been Deputized



“You have not chosen Me but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bear much fruit” (John 15:16).

Our commission is to continue the works of Jesus under His authority and push back the kingdom of darkness with the Gospel of the Kingdom. Just before ascending into heaven, Jesus commissioned His disciples: ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature’ (Mark 16:15). He also said, ‘These signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover’ (Mark 16:17–18).

When Jesus sent out the seventy disciples into the surrounding cities where He Himself was about to go, they returned amazed at what happened through the authority of His name. The Word says, ‘And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name’ (Luke 10:17). The demons had to submit to the name of Jesus because Jesus had given His disciples authority to act on His behalf. And before departing, He commissioned all believers to continue His mission. This means we operate as disciples under the delegated authority of Jesus Christ.

So every believer should take seriously the authority Jesus gave to His disciples. Notice that Jesus did not tell them to pray for the sick. He said, “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). These are commands of authority.

Again, “Jesus said: All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:18,19). If Jesus has all authority, then the devil has no

rightful authority over those who stand in Christ. The apostle John reminded us, 'He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked' (1 John 2:6). And Jesus Himself said, 'He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father' (John 14:12).

Jesus is now sending us to enforce His victory and exercise the authority He has given us. We are His delegated representatives, assigned to reproduce His image by making disciples. That means we preach the Gospel, pray for the sick, resist the devil, cast down lies with the truth, serve the broken, love people boldly, and teach others to obey everything Jesus commanded. We are not spectators in the Kingdom. We have been chosen, ordained, empowered, and sent.

CHAPTER 10

Just ‘Do It’!



The true depth and meaning of the new birth is that Jesus not only raised us up with Him, but God’s Spirit now dwells in us. Jesus has given us His name and delegated authority to use as He has shown us. ‘Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named,’ and that God has ‘put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body’ (Ephesians 1:21–23).

Jesus gave us authority over the works of the devil, and He promised to send the power of the Holy Spirit so we could fulfill His mission. He said, ‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me... to the end of the earth’ (Acts 1:8). The power of the Holy Spirit includes boldness, witness, holiness, love, endurance, and the miraculous works that confirm the Gospel. This is why the new creation cannot remain passive. The Word says, ‘If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new,’ and then immediately adds that God ‘has given us the ministry of reconciliation’ (2 Corinthians 5:17–18).

This means that the ministry of reconciliation has been entrusted to us, along with the authority, power, and name of Jesus to carry it out. But the key words are these: do it. Jesus kept insisting that His people must be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving themselves. Jesus made a very clear distinction between hearing and doing. He said, “Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand and the rain descended, the floods

came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall” (Matthew 7:24-27).

We were predestined by God, before the foundation of the world, to rule here on this earth, to take care of the works of His hands, to replenish the earth with His image (make disciples of all nations), to subdue the earth (by destroying the works of the devil) and have dominion over all things. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to live in us in order to empower us to do all that.

This is what Jesus paid a mighty price for. To bring not only man, but the earth back into full reconciliation to God. This is why Paul was so adamant in teaching. “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; (opened), that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His 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 age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:17-23).

This is what Jesus paid such a mighty price for: to restore man to God and bring all things back under the authority and reconciliation of the Father’s will. The Gospel is not merely about getting man forgiven and waiting for heaven. It is about the restoration of God’s purpose through Christ — man reconciled to the Father and creation brought back under divine order. That is why Paul was so adamant in his teaching and prayer. He wanted believers to see what had truly been given to them in Christ. He prayed: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His 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 age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:17–23).

We're God's SWAT Team



“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:15).

Jesus has disarmed Satan's powers and stripped him of his claim against us. He made a public spectacle of the enemy, triumphing over him at the cross. Satan's main weapon against us was guilt and accusation, but Jesus deprived him of that weapon by forgiving our sins on the cross. We no longer have to live under shame and guilt. We have been delivered from that sin nature. God canceled the written code, the law with its requirements, because we could never meet those requirements in our own strength.

The law was nailed to the cross when Jesus died on our behalf as our representative. Jesus paid the final penalty for all who had broken the law. Therefore, we are no longer under the law as a covenant of condemnation. We now belong to Christ, the One raised from the dead, so that we may bring forth fruit unto God. Paul wrote, ‘Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God’ (Romans 7:4). We can now come to God on the basis of FAITH in the finished work of Jesus. Our faith is credited to us as righteousness, and we are justified in Christ. Therefore, we are free to approach the Father boldly: ‘Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need’ (Hebrews 4:16).

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins”(Colossians 1:13–14). We now live in the Kingdom of light, and we are sent by God as representatives of that Kingdom. We

are His spiritual army to confront the forces of darkness with the truth, love, authority, and victory of Jesus Christ.

We have been ordained and deputized. All believers have been given delegated authority in Christ to stand against the forces of evil. Why? Because we now live in the Kingdom of light, even while we still walk through a world filled with lies, darkness, confusion, and polluted thinking. In Christ, we have the victory, and we carry the words of life and truth as our weapons.

Truth has power over lies just the same as light has power over darkness. We know that the devil is the prince of darkness and lies, and that Jesus is the TRUTH and the light. “Then spoke Jesus again to them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

Truth has power over lies just as light has power over darkness. The devil operates through darkness and lies, but Jesus is the TRUTH and the Light. Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life’ (John 8:12). He also said of the devil, ‘He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him... for he is a liar, and the father of it’ (John 8:44). That means every lie of the enemy must be confronted with the light of Christ and the truth of God’s Word.

“Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). In Christ, we have been given power to overcome in this spiritual warfare. Yes, there is a war on.. We are assigned to enforce the victory won by Jesus and rescue souls through the Gospel from the lies of the enemy. Jesus said, ‘The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly’ (John 10:10). Satan’s main tactics are to deceive, tempt, entice, and accuse. That is what we are fighting against. He terrorizes through lies, bondage, fear, sin, and accusation — but we have been deputized as SWAT officers. We’re in a spiritual warfare against terror! Satan is the one terrorizing God’s children. We are a spiritual warfare attack team.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual wickedness in the high places” (Ephesians 6:12). We must win the war in the spiritual realm first, and in order to do so, our minds must be renewed according to who Christ says we are and what He says we can do, so that we can walk out the assignment given to us.

Once we become aware of the devil’s devices, the distinction becomes clearer in our thoughts and hearts. We begin to recognize whether we are listening to God’s truth or the enemy’s lies. If a thought is rooted in the devil’s deception, it must be overcome with the truth of God’s Word. The Word is the most powerful weapon we have against the forces of Satan. In the wilderness, Jesus used the Word to refute and rebuke the devil: “Then said Jesus to him, Get away from Me, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve” (Matthew 4:10).

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 10:4–5).

“The word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). This is why God’s SWAT team does not fight with hatred, fear, flesh, or human force. We fight with truth, love, faith, obedience, righteousness, praise, and the living Word of God.”

Winning the Mind War



“Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son” (Colossians 1:13).

When we were born again, we were translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son. Our spirit, once dead in sin, was made alive through the redemptive power of Christ. But our minds still need renewal, our emotions still need to be brought under the truth of God’s Word, and our bodies still await full redemption. When we receive the Spirit of God, we have all the power within us to do anything and everything that Jesus has asked us to do. The Holy Spirit Himself comes to live within us. He does not grow in power, because He is already the very Spirit of God. What grows is our yieldedness, our understanding, our maturity, and our ability to walk in step with Him.

However, the carnal mind gets in the way. Paul says, ‘The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be’ (Romans 8:7). We often try to get the carnal mind to line up with the Word of God, but the carnal mind cannot be reformed into spiritual thinking. We have to learn to live out of the Spirit.

Because we are new creations, we have a new nature, and we have the mind of Christ. That truth must become active in the way we think, decide, believe, and respond. Romans 12:1–2 tells us to renew our minds, which means we must yield our natural thinking to the truth of God’s Word and the leading of the Spirit. The natural mind wants proof before it moves toward the things of God. But the renewed mind learns to operate by faith, trusting that the Word of God is more final than what the natural eye can see.

Since Satan could not keep us from making Jesus our Savior and becoming children of God, he will try all he can to keep us from

operating in the Spirit. One of his main strategies is to influence the carnal mind.

If he can influence the carnal mind, he can distract us and turn our attention away from the Lord and His Word. The apostle Paul teaches us how to win the mind war: ‘Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Instead of tuning in to the devil’s mind programs, we can learn to turn to the mind of the Spirit by reading, meditating on and obeying His Word.

We are taught to resist the devil. The Word says, ‘Give no place to the devil’ (Ephesians 4:27), and again, ‘Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you’ (James 4:7). Temptations from the enemy often come first to the natural mind. That is where the war begins. We are at war against the works of the devil on earth. To be an effective warrior, we must fight to obey the Word: ‘No man that goes to war entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who has chosen him to be a soldier’ (2 Timothy 2:4). Winning the mind war means learning to recognize and reject the mind tricks of the enemy. Once you understand that the enemy’s power operates through lies, you refuse to keep listening. The key to overcoming temptation is not to push back and get into a tug-of-war game with the devil. It’s to change your focus as soon as you are attacked in your natural mind.

This is why we are to keep our mind “on guard” at all times. “Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness” (Romans 6:16). Whatever gets your attention gets you.

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The battle with sin often begins in the natural mind. If you are focusing on God’s truth, you are not giving your thoughts to whatever the devil wants you to tune into. When you fill your mind with the truth of the Word and the language of praise, you begin to experience real freedom! But if you focus on negative news of any kind, or yield to

depression, that will only pull you down into the devil's pit. The key is to change your focus and bring your thoughts back under the truth of God. There is a pattern to temptation: first attention, then desire, then action. Your mind gets hooked, your feelings begin to follow, and then you act on what you have continued to entertain.

Most people aren't very good at capturing their thoughts and turning them to Christ, because it takes practice and discipline. But that's just it. Renewing your mind means disciplining your mind. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing (disciplining) of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Most people are not very good at capturing their thoughts and turning them to Christ, because it takes discipline. But that is the point. Renewing your mind requires disciplining your mind. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). Renewal is not passive. It is a daily decision to bring your thinking into agreement with God.

We cannot always control our circumstances or the first feeling that rises within us, but we can choose what we continue to entertain. We can turn our attention away from what is corrupt, just as we can turn off the TV or walk away from conversations that are not edifying. If you see something you are not supposed to look at, you can decide not to look again. Seeing is not the same as looking. We cannot always control what passes before us, but we can choose what we give attention to. Kenneth Hagin used to say, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair." And if we change the way we think, it changes the way we feel, and that will change the way we act.

The best way and the quickest way to tune out the devil's lies and tune into God's voice is to start praising. Whenever you feel worried, afraid, or insecure, begin thanking God, praising God, or worshiping Him. Whatever you do, just love God.

You get empowered when you praise. Praise breaks the power of the devil.

CHAPTER 13

We were Created to Praise



Faith is fueled by praise. We were created to praise! “Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord” (Psalm 150:6). The more we praise the more our mind flourishes. It is a proven fact in quantum physics that our mind is in full operating function and creative mode when we praise.

Praise has three main benefits.

First, praise brings us into conscious awareness of the presence of God. ‘Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise’ (Psalm 100:4).

Second, defeats the devil because Satan cannot stand the glory being given to God. His sin was pride, wanting the glory that belongs to God alone: ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High’ (Isaiah 14:14).

Third, praise calls on the blessings of God because praise is the voice of faith. ‘I will praise Thy name; for Thou hast done wonderful things; Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth’ (Isaiah 25:1).

If you want to win the mind-war, you have to learn to praise. Praise is an exercise of faith. It is a sacrifice. It is a discipline of the mind. But it is also one of the most rewarding and rewarded activities in the life of a believer. The Word calls it a sacrifice. Why? Because there are two times when we are supposed to praise the Lord: when we feel like it, and when we do not feel like it. ‘By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His Name’ (Hebrews 13:15).

Philippians 4:8 is more than good advice; it is a command for disciplined thinking. ‘Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,

whatever is gracious, if there is any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things' (Philippians 4:8). Keeping our minds on the true, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy things of God helps us bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. The mind was created to dwell on truth, not to be poisoned by constant negativity. That's a fact.

When you praise God, you are letting the light in. The devil surely hates the Word of God, and he hates the praise and thanksgiving we give to the Lord. As long as your mind is fixed on the Word, your heart is turned toward the Lord, and praise is in your mouth, there is no room left to complain, murmur, groan, and bemoan how bad you feel.

Murmuring is a sin because it gives voice to unbelief. Look at the poor example of the Israelites in the wilderness, who repeatedly complained against God even after seeing His power, provision, and deliverance. The Bible warns us not to murmur as they did (1 Corinthians 10:10). This does not mean we cannot honestly pour out our hearts before God. Biblical lament brings pain to God in faith. But murmuring agrees with the enemy's interpretation of our circumstances. It turns our attention away from God's faithfulness and gives our mouth to accusation instead of praise.

If you want to knock the devil for a loop, start praising the Lord no matter what is happening. The Lord loves praise. The Psalms of David, along with many other Scriptures, extol the value and virtue of praise. As in the song, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings see what God has done...and it will surprise you what the Lord has done!"

I would like to leave you with a little assignment. Throughout the day, set an alarm and stop for ten minutes, as often as you can, just to praise God. Read some of the verses below during those times. Watch what victories, clarity, peace, and strength begin to rise in your life through praise. Commit to it. It is a discipline, but the results are powerful. It may make you want to permanently change your thought patterns.

* * *

Deuteronomy 10:21 He is your praise and He is your God, that has done for you these great and terrible things, which your eyes have seen.

2 Chronicles 20:22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against their enemies, which were come against Judah; and they were defeated.

Psalms 18:3 I will call upon the Lord, Who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies.

Psalms 33:1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous: for praise is beautiful for the upright.

Psalms 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalms 35:28 And my tongue shall speak of Thy righteousness and of Thy praise all the day long.

Psalms 50:23 All who offer praise glorifies Me: and to him that orders his conversation correctly will I reveal the Salvation of God.

Psalms 71:14 But I will hope continually, and will yet praise You more and more.

Psalms 92:1, 2 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your Name, O most High: To show forth Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

Psalms 98:1 O sing to the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things: His right hand, and His holy arm, have gotten Him the victory.

Psalms 103:1, 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

Psalms 104:33 I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Psalms 107:8 Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

Psalms 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

Psalms 113:3 From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's Name is to be praised.

Psalms 118:24 This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 119:7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned Your righteous judgements.

Psalm 138:1 I will praise You with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise to You.

Psalm 146:2 While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises to my God while I have any being.

Proverbs 27:21 As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.

Isaiah 38:18,19 For the grave cannot praise You, death cannot celebrate You: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for Your Truth. The living, the living, he shall praise You, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known Your Truth.

Lamentations 3:41 Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the Heavens.

Matthew 21:16 And Jesus saith unto them, Have you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings you have perfected praise?

Mark 14:26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

Hebrews 13:15 By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name.

Revelation 19:5 And a voice came out of the Throne, saying, Praise our God, all you His servants, and you that fear Him, both small and great.

CHAPTER 14

The Victory of the New Man



Jesus left us the greatest example of living in complete dependence on the Father. He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise” (John 5:19). When He was preparing to leave His disciples, He gave them a specific promise: “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit speaks to us, guides us, teaches us, empowers us, and strengthens us.

Jesus gave us His authority so that we could replicate and multiply His image and His works. He deputized us and gave us His name and ‘power of attorney’ to destroy the works of the devil. He sent us to be His ambassadors, not only as winners but as ‘more than conquerors’.

And the mystery of the ages was revealed!—Christ in us and through us! “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory; Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:27, 28).

He has given us the power and ability needed to carry out the works He commanded us to do. Jesus Himself said, “Most assuredly I say to you, He that believes on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father ” (John 14:12).

Jesus gave us power over the devil! “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:10). That is why we

must win the mind-war. The devil works through condemnation, accusation, fear, and lies in order to render us ineffective before we even begin to obey and carry out the commandments of Jesus.

We begin to walk in our victory by speaking His Word and praising Him through everything. In other words, our testimony, our praise, and our spoken agreement with God's truth take an actual stand against the lies of the enemy.

We have to be fully dedicated, fully yielded to Christ. And there lies the victory — every day, all day, in all ways, and always. The Word works when we work the Word. We must be doers. When we are fully convinced in our hearts, walking in our new identity, and exercising the authority God has given us, we stand from a place of victory. We are not marching toward victory; we are walking from victory. We can walk in a triumphant attitude because Christ has already won. That is what the life of the Christian disciple is about.

But we cannot be empowered unless we commit to do the Word. If we do the Word, we will do the works. The miracles come from obeying the Word.

The Way to Work It



This question often comes up: What do we do when the problem persists? I would like to take that question to another level. We are living in challenging times, and many signs around us remind us of what the Bible says about the last days. The world is becoming increasingly hostile to biblical truth, and Christian values are becoming more difficult to live out publicly. We should not be surprised if believers are ridiculed, resisted, or even persecuted for their faith, even in the Western world.

If we stand for one truth, we will eventually have to stand for every truth God has given us. We cannot choose courage in one area and compromise in another. Whether the pressure comes against the sanctity of life, God's design for sexuality, the truth of creation, or the authority of Scripture itself, the real issue is the same: will we stand with God's Word when the culture tells us to bow?

So the ultimate question is this: how will we stand? Governments throughout history have enforced regulations and systems that violated conscience, truth, and righteousness. People of God have often had to live under evil regimes and difficult pressures. Daniel stood faithfully in Babylon when prayer itself became illegal. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood when they were commanded to bow before Nebuchadnezzar's image. David stood under Saul while running for his life. Mordecai stood when bowing would have violated his allegiance. We could name many others.

So how do we stand against evil? Chronic pain, persecution, oppression, delay, and hardship may not all look the same, but they all test the same thing: will we keep our eyes on God when the battle persists? How do we trust Him in the meantime — especially when the meantime feels mean?

To answer this question in the Spirit of Christ, we must start by knowing that the new man in Christ is a winner, a conqueror. David was still a winner even when he was hiding in the cave of Adullam, fearing for his life.

Daniel was a winner even when kneeling in his room in prayer, facing persecution and possible death. Paul went through many hardships, but he still ran the race as a winner. In every situation where God's people stood their ground, the Lord proved faithful — whether by delivering them, strengthening them, sustaining them, or using their stand as a testimony.

My wife and I have also faced different health issues that we have prayed against without yet seeing the expected results. But we have committed ourselves to answer the devil with praise every time the pain returns. Every single time the pain returns, we break out in praise and thank the Lord for all He has done for us, standing on the truth that by His stripes we are healed. We proclaim the Word over our situation. We speak to our circumstances about God's power, and that is how we claim our victory — by proclaiming His victory.

My wife and I have made a long list of all His blessings to us, and of all that His love has done for us. And we bust out with that list every time the devil comes back at us. And it works wonders. For two reasons:

My wife and I have made a long list of His blessings and all that His love has done for us. We bring out that list every time the devil comes back at us, and it works wonders for two reasons: It gets our eyes off the pain, and by doing so, we rub the goodness of God in the devil's face.

One other thing you can do is make yourself a 'jewel box' in your heart — one or two, or even ten Scriptures that you have faith to stand on firmly. These are Scriptures you can use every time the enemy attacks, Scriptures you know will defeat the devil. You do not need one hundred of them. One verse, believed and spoken in faith, can defeat the devil. Jesus used the Word against every temptation of the devil in the wilderness. Select the verses you can stand on, store them in your heart, and use them.

Claim the Word and stand. Linda and I proclaim our faith out loud together by speaking the Word into our lives in 'we' terms. In other words, we make it personal. We make a concerted effort to turn our hearts toward God and stand with Him in faith. We remind ourselves

that Jesus has given us authority over all the power of the devil. We keep our thoughts in subjection to what Christ has said about us and what He has done for us.

We need to stand for Christ now, and every day, if we plan to stand in the end. Standing is what we do. We do not just “wait on the Lord” to come through. Waiting is passive, but standing is an action. We stand with the Lord’s victory and for the Lord. Let’s not be passive Christians, but doers of the Word.

You may be thinking, ‘Are you saying I can overcome pressure, oppression, or attacks against liberty simply by praising?’ What I mean is this: whatever you do, STAND. Do not focus on the darkness of the world, and do not let the devil conquer your mind. Look to God. Keep your mind fixed on Him. Stand on what you believe, and do not budge until God comes through for you. The victory belongs to Christ, but you must stand in that victory. The devil cannot win if you refuse to quit.

It may not be easier tomorrow. The problems may persist. But it will be easier to stand tomorrow if we are in the habit of standing today and every day. Do not let go of your victory.

STAND and PRAISE !

The Key To Effective Prayers



We need to revisit how we approach God in prayer. Too many believers have been trained in ineffective methods and continue using them despite seeing little result. If prayer has become a depressing ritual where we showcase piety, rehearse unworthiness, or try to prove our sincerity, then the approach itself needs to be corrected. That kind of approach is altogether wrong and is not a sweet savour to the Father.

Religion often teaches prayer from the standpoint of unworthiness, as though we must plead for God's attention. We may want to showcase how sincere we are, but we can be sincerely wrong. Prayer is not meant to be a bargaining tool, nor is it about informing or convincing God. That approach can become ineffective and discouraging, causing believers to feel disconnected from God.

Jesus taught against hypocritical prayer, which seeks human approval rather than a true connection with God. Jesus emphasized sincere prayer over ritualistic expressions in Matthew 6.

Prayer should come from the heart, free from empty rituals. We are to enter God's presence with thanksgiving and praise, focusing on His goodness. This aligns our hearts with His and fosters sincere relationship. God already knows our needs before we ask. Therefore, our approach should be confident, expecting Him to hear us and act according to His love, wisdom, and will.

In Luke 18, the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge is actually a contrast, not a direct comparison. God is not reluctant like the judge. Jesus is not teaching us that we must wear God down until He finally responds. He is teaching us to persevere in faith because our Father is righteous, attentive, and willing to answer according to His justice. Long-winded prayers filled with unbelieving explanations and

religious pleas are unnecessary. The issue is not God's reluctance; the issue is whether we trust His goodness and continue in faith.

And in Luke 11, Jesus illustrates that a true friend helps willingly. God, who loves us deeply, is more generous than any friend. We should not approach Him with groveling or manipulation, but with trust in His goodness. Too often, unbelief limits our prayers because we focus on our failures rather than Christ's sufficiency. Jesus' sacrifice has already secured our righteousness. We should pray confidently in His name, trusting not in our worthiness but in His finished work. Our approach should reflect our position in Christ. That is what praying in Jesus' name is all about. Our authority and boldness in prayer come from our faith in Jesus, not our own efforts. True prayer relies on the righteousness of Jesus, not our worthiness. Using the name of Jesus properly means trusting His work, not our own achievements.

Prayer should be about relationship, not obligation. It is like spending time with someone you love; there does not always have to be constant dialogue for the relationship to be real. True prayer involves heartfelt communication with God, but it also includes being present with Him and drawing near with confidence.

Prayer is a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare because it is not limited by distance. We need to make greater use of prayer, but we must pray according to God's Word and God's will. Prayer is not an attempt to bend God to our will; it is how we align ourselves with His will and release faith according to what He has spoken.

Jesus said, 'Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven' (Matthew 18:18). This means prayer is not meant to be passive. God has given His people authority, instruction, and promises, and He expects us to act in faith. That is why we cannot approach prayer with a ho-hum attitude. Passivity and lukewarmness are never pleasing to God.

Jesus explained another powerful principle regarding prayer. He said, 'Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19). Attached to the promise of binding and loosing is the principle of agreement.

If two people agree together in prayer and ask for anything, they'll get it. That's a promise. That's why the devil fights unity, because of the

power of agreement. Again, that's a law of God that we should make use of. When praying with someone, we could always end our prayer by saying: "...And, we agree together."

Now add the power of God's infallible Word to your prayer. When you attach God's promise to a request or an impossible situation, your prayer is no longer a begging prayer. It becomes a faith-filled appeal based on what the King has already spoken. It turns your demands into an expectant answer, just as when you wait at the bank having cashed a check, and the teller is preparing your cash.

The reason using the Word in prayer is so powerful is that faith needs no other proof than the Word of God. Why? Because the Word of God is incorruptible seed. It cannot return void.

Let's remember that the Bible says that EVERYTHING that happened, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, all those miracles, all those deliverances, all those healings, are all available to us. So the first thing, when we face an impossibility, is to immediately think of a miracle that took place in the past and accolade ourselves to the same story and claim that miracle for ourselves. We are to come boldly into the throne of grace and tell the Lord, "Wow, you did this miracle for Elijah, or for David, or for Nahum? That means that You will do the same thing for me."

Remember, Jesus said, "The works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do" (John 14:12). We need to believe that promise and let it shape the way we face impossible situations. If we are going to see greater manifestations of God's power, we must discipline our minds to think according to Christ — to believe in the miraculous, stand on the Word, and expect God's power to move against impossibilities.

In our new identity, we have been given power to change what appear to be facts and turn it into an opportunity for the power of God to be revealed. Paul wrote, "For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" (1 Corinthians 4:20). That means that God's Kingdom is about manifestation, not just pretty words. All talk is meaningless without demonstrating God's power. That's what people don't like about fake Christianity. They can't reconcile what the Bible says is possible with the little that the Christians actually manifest.

God has chosen to demonstrate His power through faith. “Believe” is not passive. Real faith moves, obeys, speaks, stands, and expects. Faith is the language and currency of the Kingdom. You cannot walk confidently into the courts of heaven without it, because the Word says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).

The evangelist T.L. Osborn once said that when you come to the Lord in prayer, if you remove all the things God has already given us authority over, and all the things He has already provided for us in His Word, there is not much room left for begging God for anything. But there is plenty of room to praise Him, thank Him, worship Him, and stand in faith on what He has already spoken.

Activated Christianity



If we look at the example of Jesus, He didn't ask His Father to do the miracles for Him. He's the One Who performed them by speaking to the need. And this is exactly what He taught in Mark 11:23. He said that you must speak to the mountain, yourself: "For most assuredly I say to you, that whoever shall say to this mountain, 'Be removed, and be cast into the sea;' and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass; he shall have whatever he says" (Mark 11:23).

Jesus didn't ask His Father to raise Lazarus from the dead, He thanked His father for the fact that His father always hears Him (Jesus). And then, He went ahead and called out Lazarus. And, in the same fashion, He spoke to the wind in the sea to calm down and it did. He spoke to the illnesses in people and they were healed. –Or He spoke to the demons, and they left. Even Peter and John commanded the lame man at the Beautiful Gate to stand up and walk. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6).

The whole point of living out what Jesus tells us in the Gospels is to 'speak the Word only.' The centurion understood this when he came to Jesus for the healing of his servant. He said, 'Speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed' (Matthew 8:8). We are to speak to the mountain. We are to speak to the problem. We are to command change according to the authority of God's Word. That is what activating authority means. We put faith into action. We put faith into words. We release faith by speaking what God has said.

There's no point in asking God to do it when He has told us to do it. He has given us the authority and the power through the Holy Spirit to do as much and more than what Jesus did when He was on earth. "Whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they

will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14: 12).

So, if you really want to live true Christianity, stop waiting silently in front of mountains Jesus told you to speak to. Start declaring what God has said. Speak to the problem. Command what contradicts the Word to bow to the name of Jesus. Start destroying the works of the devil with God’s Word in your mouth.

That authority was given to all Christians.--To all believers. (See Mark 16:15 thru 20.) It is part of our inheritance! --That authority, that power, the ability to activate the Word of God to destroy the works of the devil. And we, all of us, must change our way of thinking, and our way of operating so that we take the responsibility right here on earth to bind and to lose according to God’s Word.

That authority was given to all Christians — to all believers (see Mark 16:15–20). It is part of our inheritance in Christ: authority, power, and the ability to activate the Word of God against the works of the devil. Therefore, all of us must change our way of thinking and our way of operating. We must take responsibility here on earth to bind and loose according to God’s Word.

When Jesus ministered to sickness, demons, storms, and death, He often did not pray the way many of us pray today. He commanded. He spoke. He released authority. And many times, He also pointed to the faith of the person receiving, saying that their faith had made them whole. Their believing was not passive; it received, responded, and acted.

We, as believers, are responsible for the Gospel to be lived out and manifested before the world. Jesus was not only a sermon; He was also the sample. He even said if you don’t believe Me for what I’m telling you, believe Me for the miracles that I am able to do. “Though you believe not Me, believe the works: that you may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him” (John 10:38).

Having heard the truth, we are accountable to obey it by acting it out — by commanding, proclaiming, believing, and demonstrating the Word. We are called to represent Jesus and reproduce His image in the earth. Whatever He did we can do.

We are no longer ourselves! We are crucified with Christ, and it is Christ living in us! “For it is God Who works in you, both to will and to

do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). We must be Jesus to those around us! We must act like Jesus and do what Jesus did. Our faith has to be visible and tangible.

We are no longer our own. We have been crucified with Christ, and Christ now lives in us. “For it is God Who works in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Therefore, we must reveal Jesus to those around us. We must act like Jesus, love like Jesus, speak like Jesus, and do the works of Jesus. Our faith has to become visible and tangible.

Jesus said, “At that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you” (John 14:20). This is the mystery of the Christian life: Christ in us, working through us, revealing Himself to the world.

We have to show the world the miracles that Jesus did, He does today! Jesus 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).

We have to show the world that the miracles Jesus did, He still does today! Jesus 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).

We must get our ‘belief’ ACTIVATED. Our new name should be, “Jesus Continued”.

About the Author



Picture this: It is 1972, and a young couple steps out in faith, not knowing their "yes" to God would spark a 45-year adventure that would touch thousands of lives across multiple continents. That is where Paul Joseph's and his wife Linda's story begins—but it certainly does not end there.

Through scorching African heat and the heart-wrenching realities of Liberian refugee camps, they have lived out what it means to be Christ's hands and feet in our broken world. After two decades in Asia, they spent yet another decade in Africa pouring their lives into these displaced communities, turning a refugee camp into spaces of hope and healing. Their work was not just about providing physical aid—it was about showing people that even in life's darkest hours, God's light still shines.

But Paul's ministry extends beyond the mission field. His pen has become as powerful as his presence, most notably through his transformative work, "Handbook for a Disciple of Jesus." This is not just another Christian living book—it is a practical roadmap for anyone serious about following Jesus and helping others do the same. Think of it as a field manual for modern-day disciples, written by someone who's walked the walk for over four decades.

The handbook is just the beginning. Paul's library of books and daily devotionals continues to light the way for believers worldwide, offering practical wisdom forged in the fires of real-world ministry. His writings do not just tell you what to do—they show you how to do it, drawing from frontline experience in disciple-making.

Want to dive deeper into these resources and discover tools for your own spiritual journey? Visit faithwithoutborders.us to explore Paul's complete collection of works and ministry resources.

Additional Discipleship Resources



To continue growing in your born-again life and your walk as a disciple of Jesus, you may visit www.faithwithoutborders.us and explore the following resources: “The Handbook for a Disciple of Jesus”

“Who Do You Say That I Am?” -- why Christ is everywhere and can't be missed!

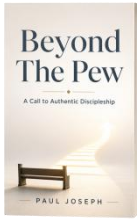
“Beyond The Pew”

“Triumph Every Day”: Daily Reflection for Success,

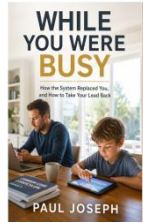
“Jesus Beyond Religion”,

“Power for The Hour” Discipleship memorization booklet”.

Other Books by Paul



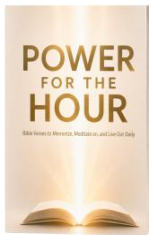
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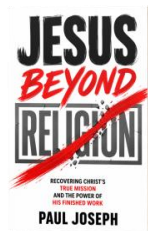
While You Were Busy



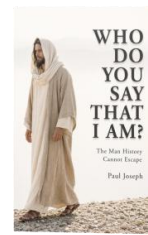
The Handbook for a Disciple of Jesus



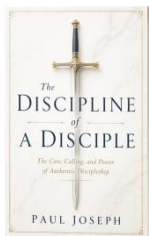
Power for the Hour



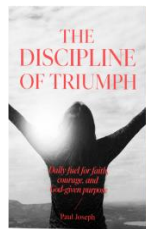
Jesus Beyond Religion



Who Do You Say That I Am



The Discipline of a Disciple



The Discipline of Triumph

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

The Butterfly Wonder is a bold and revelation-driven call to rediscover what it really means to be **born again**.

This is not a soft religious book about becoming a nicer version of yourself. This is not a self-improvement message with Bible verses attached. It is a declaration that the born-again life is a **supernatural metamorphosis** — a divine redesign so complete that the old caterpillar life cannot explain the new wings.

A caterpillar does not simply become a more disciplined caterpillar. It does not polish its crawling. It enters the hidden place, dies to what it was, and emerges as something **entirely new**. That is the wonder. That is what Christ came to do in the human spirit.

Through His finished work, the believer is not merely pardoned. The believer is **raised, recreated, restored, and deputed**. We are not called to admire the victory from a distance. We are called to **enforce it**.

You are not the caterpillar anymore. You are a **new creation**, filled with Christ, clothed with authority, and called to live as Jesus continued in the world.

The old man is gone. The cocoon has broken. ***Now rise, praise, obey, fight, fly, and live.***

