

The Empowered Kingdom Messenger



*Understanding the
Gospel of the Kingdom*

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The “*storms of life*” will threaten to “*rock your world.*” But your *personal forecast* of God’s Word will bring hope, healing, faith, love, peace and victory through Christ Jesus.

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Of course, Jesus came to give salvation to people everywhere.

But Jesus also came to restore the authority and dominion -- that Adam gave away to Satan.

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Introduction

*This gospel of the kingdom
will be preached in all the world
as a witness to all the nations,
and then the end will come.*

Matthew 24:14

YOU have an advantage for more success with family, ministry, business, purpose, spiritual gifts, finances and life. If you're a believer – this advantage will power you forward and expand your reach to everyone you meet!

This advantage is really quite simple – but it has been overlooked by most Christians and church leaders in the world today. To begin our journey to discover this advantage, we only need to examine the ministry of Jesus.

What did Jesus teach and preach? What was His message as He healed the multitudes?

We have many wonderful subjects and promises from God – like the subjects of salvation, healing, blessing, peace, love, joy, freedom from bondage, deliverance from oppression. But these were not really the main teaching subjects of Jesus. Yet, all of these blessings are included in His main subject.

Jesus taught about the *Gospel of the Kingdom* everywhere He went. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, a pearl of great price, a treasure, a farmer, a sower of the Word of God – and on and on for 3-1/2 years. In other words, Jesus taught that all of our needs are met “in the unseen Kingdom of God.”

All believers have the same mission today. Jesus prophesied our mission when He said, “*This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come,*” **Matthew 24:14**.

What's Your Purpose?

The *Empowered Kingdom Messenger* can be you! There's a purpose and a calling that the Lord God has planned for you. *It's* a revolution and a revival of God's plan for all believers.

God has *empowered* believers with the "name of Jesus," the "Word of God," and the "Power of the Holy Spirit." Believers have been translated into God's Kingdom and through the finished work of Jesus and a restored position of authority and dominion.

Jesus said the *Kingdom of God* is within you. If that's true, then we are *empowered messengers* of good news to the world. (**Luke 17:20-21**.)

The Restored Kingdom Message

Jesus, the Christ, accomplished far more than most Christians have been taught. Of course, Jesus came to give salvation to people everywhere. But Jesus also came to restore the authority and dominion -- that Adam gave away to Satan. Jesus has given believers access to Kingdom authority back to the children of God by His finished work at the cross and resurrection.

Believers now have kingdom authority to rule and reign on planet earth. The gospel of Mark chapter 16 and **Romans 5:17** instruct us to demonstrate this “restored” authority!

Genesis chapter 1, shows what the plan of God has always been. God created the earth, and He put Adam in charge. He created the earth for His children to enjoy and dominate.

Originally, Adam was to take charge of everything Father God created. The earth still belongs to God, but Adam was the caretaker; having God's dominion over the earth.

Adam sinned and gave his authority to Satan.

Jesus demonstrated the dominion and authority that Adam was supposed to walk in. Jesus, after His finished work at the cross, has restored dominion and authority to all born-again believers.

The problem now is that Satan has deceived and tricked believers into thinking that we are just poor humans. He promoted the lie that believers should not be so bold as to dominate and speak to problems, sickness, demons, fear & poverty – resisting them and casting them out. (**Mark 11:23** and **Mark 16:18-19**)

I realize this discussion about kingdom and authority and dominion seems radical. It's radical to me too! But that's only because we have heard a watered down "gospel of the kingdom" for the past 2,000 years.

Jesus is Lord. We say it, but we need to really believe and "live it." The question is: if Jesus is my Lord, do I believe what He said and do what He said?

Jesus said that we have His authority. The first reason Jesus came to earth is to make a way for us to become "new creations" through His sacrifice. (**2 Cor. 5:17.**) The second reason that He came into the world was to destroy the works of the devil. (**1 John 3:8.**) Jesus took away the devil's keys of authority. (The keys Adam turned over to him.) Jesus said that we should go into all the world with power and authority and dominion.

Chapter 1

Kingdom Power and Authority

*"The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Luke 1:15

Spiritual power and authority is God's gift to all believers! We should be mountain movers, laying hands on the sick and casting out devils! Plus, we should be aggressively growing our churches and Bible schools – because this is the only real answer for a sick, depressed, hard-hearted, and hopeless world system.

If it's true that God has granted believers power and authority on earth – and that we've been redeemed from the curse of sin, sickness, poverty, fear and demonic oppression -- then why is the church of Jesus the Christ in such bad shape?

Straight to The Point

It's because we've been taught wrong. For 2000 years we've been taught a bunch of religious excuses, instead of the pure Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Organized religious tradition has taught believers that they are "just" no good sinners saved by grace. We "were" sinners saved by grace – but now God has made us New Creations In Christ Jesus! (**2 Cor. 5:17**.) How's that for getting straight to the point?

Jesus made the promise to give us power and authority in **Matthew 16:18** when he said to Peter: "The gates of Hades will not be able to withstand or withhold the advancing church." Jesus was going to build His church. The church was going to advance. The gates of Hades could not withstand it.

In other words, Jesus is saying that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. His power is greater than the power of the enemy. Whenever there is a head-on conflict between the power of the enemy and the power of God, the power of the enemy will lose every time.

How do we then live and walk in this power and authority?

We understand that the world we live in has two realms—the natural and the spiritual. We need to be able to know how to live in the spiritual realm in a way that affects the natural realm.

As I read Paul's amazing statement in **1 Corinthians 4:19-20**, I begin to understand the power we have as believers. Paul says in these verses that he's coming to Corinth to see the teachers that are there, and he's not coming to hear their words, but he's coming to see the power in their lives, "for the kingdom of God is not words only, but it is power."

Understanding Christ's Power

In **Ephesians 1:18-19** Paul prayed that, *"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."* Now just prior to this Paul prayed that they would receive, *"the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,"* and he was praying that it would happen especially concerning the power of God.

Paul continued, saying:

... 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.

In between Christ's resurrection and ascension, He exhorted his disciples several times about his commission for them to go through Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. He told them not to try to embark on this mission until first being clothed with power from on high. So the disciples waited in the upper room, where God's Spirit was released upon them.

In the Gospels, Jesus models for his church what he wants us to do and be, including living in God's power. When I read the Gospels, I'm seeing the CEO of the church, the head of the church, not just telling us what to do, but *modeling* for us what he wants us to do.

It's a challenge for us as believers in westernized Christianity to look at the life and ministry of Jesus and see how our church is measuring up. The church of Jesus Christ is to be carrying on the ministry that Jesus began in the Gospels. That's why He says, "*As the Father sent me into the world, I'm now sending you.*" That was the last night, the end of his earthly ministry. He's saying I'm now sending you out the same way the Father sent me out.

The Early Church

In Acts, the early church is living out the life of the ministry of Jesus Christ without the incarnate Jesus. In other words, it can be done with Jesus ascended. He sent the Holy Spirit to be the Comforter and the one by whom we would carry out life and ministry.

From Romans through the end of the New Testament, there are truths, theology, and doctrine that demonstrate why and how we can live like Jesus and like the early church in the Book of Acts. When Jesus was living and ministering on earth, he was living and ministering as true man. Jesus as true God became true man. In that unique position, He is both God and man. When he was ministering on earth, though, he was ministering in the capacity as man without falling back as a safety net on his attributes as God. He was showing us what a human being living in right relationship with God can live like.

So that gives us a backdrop as we come into **Ephesians 1**. How is it that we can live the life that Jesus lived? Paul says in Ephesians 1, "I pray that you'll gain insight and understanding. I pray that you'll get revelation into the surpassing greatness of the power of God that's at work in you."

Later in Ephesians 1, Paul says that the power at work in you is the very power that raised Jesus Christ from death. How many of us have ever thought of our bodies being vessels that carry the power of God, the very power that raised Jesus Christ from death?

How many of us need revelation to understand what God's power truly means?

What hinders us from a life of God's power is not the need to get more power, but instead it's that we need a *release* of the power we've already been given in our union with Jesus Christ through salvation.

So what's inhibiting it from being released in my life? We cannot minister in God's authority when we're not living *under* God's authority. Jesus Christ, as true God yet true man, lived underneath the Father's authority. Jesus said that there was nothing he said or did that he had not first heard from the Father. In other words, Jesus lived under the authority of his heavenly Father.

Here are a couple verses that show that:

- **John 5:30:** "*I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*"
- **John 8:26, 28:** "*When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.*"

Jesus Did What He Heard

The reason Jesus' power is released and available so much more in the Gospels than it is for us today is that Jesus was sensitive to make sure that everything he did and said was in obedience to the Father. He lived in the will of God. He didn't have a spirit of independence, rebellion, or resistance. He had a spirit of submission to the Father.

Each of us should ask: Do I have any independence in my life? Do I have any lack of submission? Do I have any rebellion? Jesus understood how important it is that he did not allow rebellion to be in his life. **1 Samuel 15:23** says that *"rebellion is as the sin of ... witchcraft."* Jesus ministered under God's authority. We must be sensitive that we're living in proper relationship and alignment with God's authority.

As the Father sent the Son to the world, the Son sends us to the world. If I'm on earth with the mission of the Father to do the works Jesus did, then I will. Jesus made a promise that not only will I do the very works that he did but I'll do greater works than he did.

The church of Jesus Christ in westernized Christianity is not normal. We have to redefine normal. What is normal for the church of Jesus Christ? It's the Gospels. It's the Book of Acts and doing what Jesus did and even greater things than he did. (**John 14.**)

The church is to be teaching the *kingdom of God*.

After Jesus sets captives free and heals diseases, and the gospel is presented clearly, Jesus said the *kingdom of God* is here. For me to do the ministry of Jesus, I'm going to need a power that is greater than what I possess in and of myself. God knew that, and that's why God gave it to us. I have his power right here, right now. It's settled, sealed, done, and complete. I have the very power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. (Romans 8.)

Power vs. Authority

There is a difference between authority and power. A distinction between power and authority is shown in **Luke 4:36**: *"Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, 'What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.'"* **Luke 9:1** says, *"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases."*

But we find another clue that the disciples were in unbelief – probably because of seeing the seizures, **Matthew 17:19-21**.

Authority is the capacity we have due to our *position in Christ*. I have the authority of God "in me" due to my union with Christ Jesus.

We receive power when the Holy Spirit comes "upon" us, **Acts 1:8**. Power is the capacity and spiritual strength I have due to my life *posture*. For instance, Jesus said in the beginning of Luke 9 that he had given his authority and power to the twelve, and they went out and did amazing miraculous signs and wonders.

A little bit farther in **Luke 9**, Jesus is on the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John. A man comes to his other disciples down below and says, "Will you heal my son, for he is caught up in these seizures by demonic activity?" They were not able to heal him. When Jesus comes down off the Mount of Transfiguration, the man comes up to him and says, "I asked your disciples if they would heal my son, and they couldn't. Will you?" Jesus then heals the son.

Was it God's will for the son to be healed? Yes. Had the disciples received authority to do that? Yes. Why was the power not released for it to happen? Well, that was the question the disciples had. They asked, "Jesus, why weren't we able to heal him?" And Jesus says, *"This kind comes out by prayer and fasting."* Actually, their unbelief, would come out by prayer and fasting. (**Matthew 17:19-21.**)

I believe Jesus was saying, You guys were depending only on yourself. Where was the prayer? Where was the sense of your dependence on the Holy Spirit?

Strongholds

Ongoing prayer in the Holy Spirit in preparation for ministry is certainly needed, but I just wonder if it's not possible that they may have been relying on their own capacity, and nothing happened. Sometimes strongholds—places where the enemy has a base of operation, such as pride—makes the release of the authority of God less important. God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.

Rebellion will also reduce the power of God to a lower level of importance to us. But the power that raised Jesus from death, should be first and foremost in our lives.

Fear has the same affect. At Kadesh-Barnea, when the Israelites had the option of going into the Promised Land, they heard about the giants and in fear said no, and then judgment came. God called them an evil generation because of their fear. Sometimes we look at fear as being unfortunate, while God calls it evil and wicked.

So I have to change my perception of what may seem to be harmless issues, which in reality are very important issues if God's authority and power are going to be released in my life. Remember, when Jesus was in Nazareth, Scripture says he could not perform miracles there because of their lack of faith (**Mark 6:5-6**). Unbelief can compromise the release of God's power in me.

Power is Relative

Authority is an absolute that we have in Christ, but power is relative. It's related to our life being submitted to the Holy Spirit. That's why my being set free, my restoration, and living free is more than just about me. It's about others that I'll minister to. It's about the lives that God wants me to reach, teach, and heal. It's about seeing the kingdom of God advancing so the gates of Hades cannot withstand it. When there's an encounter between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light, the kingdom of light will win every time.

So the kingdom of darkness must try to compromise the power of God in me through fear, unbelief, tradition, rebellion, and sinful thoughts and emotions.

Therefore, I want to align my life to release power and authority. There's a difference between striving and aligning. By aligning, I mean bringing myself in alignment with God's truth.

I want to bring my life into greater and greater alignment with God and his truth so his power can be released in my life in an increased measure. He's given me the power that raised Jesus from death. He's given me the Holy Spirit. With all that he's given me for weapons and resources, I have all I need for life and godliness. I just need to start operating in it.

What would it be like to see every believer, every marriage, every family, every church that names the name of Christ moving fully operational in the authority of Jesus' name and yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit? Hell could not withstand it. So the renewal, revival, and reformation of the church are crucial to God's mission.

Chapter 2

Commanding the Works of Satan

*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

Matthew 16:19

Jesus' commission to the church, the Scriptures, and the times in which we live -- all demand that we live in Jesus' power and in His authority. We cannot afford to neglect or marginalize this area of our lives. We are in a war, and we cannot ignore our enemy. Jesus never did.

First Peter 5:8 says to be alert. Why? Because Satan, your adversary, roams around seeking to find people not just to give them a bad day, but rather to devour and destroy them. If there was a predator in the physical world that wanted to destroy you, or if you were in a war zone and needed to go down the street to get some bread, you would be alert at a level different than if you were in Disney World enjoying the rides.

Peter says, "Be alert," because Satan is out to destroy. We can't be passive. We must exercise this power and authority in order to live free and triumphant. To have authority and not use it does not do us any good. We must appropriate it. I don't have to live mired underneath fear, self-hatred, and anger. Instead I can live as the triumphant one.

Demonic spirits were a constant reality in Jesus' life, and that is no less the case today for us.

Light Always Overcomes Darkness

Whenever Jesus would show up somewhere, demonic spirits would make themselves known. Demonic spirits cannot rest underneath the presence of the light and the power of God. Darkness cannot overcome light; light always overcomes darkness.

If this room was filled with light, and behind us was a room filled with darkness, and if we opened up the doors, do you think the darkness would come in and put out the light in this room? Or would the light in this room go into the other room and dispel the darkness? When Jesus would show up, demons immediately could not handle the light and presence of God.

In the same way, as believers move more into a ministry of power and authority, the demonic spirits are going to manifest. And when they reveal their hand, we have power and authority over them. We know how to set the captives free and to release the prisoners. It's a joy and very exciting to see people transformed. They are transformed because they've been near believers in the light – and they're set free!

Demonic spirits are just as real today, but the light of God is not as powerful in the westernized church as it ought to be. The westernized church makes peace with them, making them much more comfortable. They just sit back and drink soda and eat chips and let things go on. They're not really "alert." They "think" demons aren't real or that they should be ignored. They say, "let's just worship the Lord."

Get A Revelation of the Demonic Realm

When the church of Jesus Christ recovers who it is, demonic spirits are not going to be comfortable. I want to make it as uncomfortable for them as possible by the truth that I believe and live. In the West, there's a lot of fear, because demonic spirits know that if they can get us filled with fear we're going to pull back and not be on our game.

I believe we're seeing demonic manifestations all around us.

- Do we call rampant divorce a demonic manifestation?
- Do we call large numbers of prodigal people running from God and from their physical parents a demonic manifestation?
- Do we call unbridled anger a demonic manifestation?
- Do we call abuse—physical, emotional, sexual, whatever it might be—a demonic manifestation?

We might become fearful when we think of the demonic manifestations in the man in the region of the Gerasenes, in Mark 5. We don't want anything to do with that. Meanwhile the enemy is literally ravaging and shredding us because we don't want to acknowledge him and the need to fight him.

Jesus did not tolerate demonic manifestations. He exercised his authority in every way. We should do the same, because at salvation we enter into Christ's authority.

Now let me give you a couple of practical ways that we might do this.

1. Should we always assume that a sickness, headache, sadness, or heaviness of spirit is not due to demonic activity? For Job, the source of his affliction was the enemy, and it could be the same with us. Because we don't consider the possibility that the enemy is at work, he has carte blanche, free access to keep exercising his devious deeds against us.

2. Do I have a humanistic, rationalistic way of thinking that won't allow me to consider such a possibility because I'll look like I'm just two steps away from an institution? We should at least stop and ask ourselves whether a problem could have a spiritual cause.

3. Demonic manifestations happen when a person prepares to do some type of ministry that's going to infringe upon the territory of the enemy. Demonic spirits aren't going to lay back and say, "This is really interesting." No, they're going to oppose. Eighty years before Moses began to lead Israel out of Egypt, he was almost killed as an infant. Jesus lived thirty years before he began his earthly ministry and also had an attempt on his life as an infant.

The enemy is malicious and relentless enough to know his kingdom is going to be compromised by those who call themselves by the name of Jesus Christ. The enemy will oppose and resist one way or another.

4. Don't assume a string of misfortunes is not due to demonic activity against you. Enforce your authority.

5. Don't assume that relentless and powerful temptation is not due to demonic activity against you. Enforce your authority.

6. Don't think the enemy is not behind bad dreams that you or your family members suffer. Enforce your authority.

We labor under so much that is part of this spiritual realm, and we don't exercise the authority that Christ has given us.

Remember: the power that raised Jesus Christ from death is in you. When you speak, demons must obey—unless we give them a place to operate.

Chapter 3

Activating the Power of the Holy Spirit

*It is to your advantage that I go away;
for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you;
but if I depart, I will send Him to you."*

John 16:7

What if life could be an exciting adventure every day?

What if we could live life in a super-natural way—doing the works of Jesus and helping people with words and healing from heaven?

We can! We can soar much higher than our physical senses can take us. (*Jesus promised that we could.*)

It's Better If I Go Away

The disciples of Jesus were “eye-witnesses” to the most phenomenal and glorious miracles the world has ever seen!

The disciples were amazed as blind eyes were opened and the dead were raised to life. The disciples heard Jesus command a raging storm to die and a fig tree to wither. They saw thousands fed as Jesus multiplied a few fish and loaves of bread. The words of many prophets of God were coming to pass right before their very eyes!

Never before had mankind witnessed the miraculous hand of God in such an overwhelming and personal way.

Yet, as wonderful as things seemed to be—the disciples were told by Jesus Himself that it would be better if He went away. He said that the Heavenly Father had a far more excellent plan for them—and it would be to their “advantage” if He returned to heaven. (See John 16.)

The Holy Spirit Is Waiting On You

You are not an accident. God has a divine plan for your life, and this great plan will be fulfilled as you are led by the power of the Holy Spirit!

The number one thing you and I need to know is that God cares about you. He loves you!

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

The second thing that we should all realize is that “*God is on our side,*” we do not have to fear the unseen, supernatural world if we trust our Creator. (See **Psalms 118:6**.)

The “Unseen” World Is Real

If we are going to trust in the Lord for a blessed life, then one vital fact should be settled in our thinking: The “unseen” world is more real than the seen world—and this supernatural world has a dramatic effect on everything that happens in the “seen” world.

In the unseen world there are angelic spirits and demonic spirits, there is a real heaven and a real hell—and of course there is the unseen Lord God Himself, Creator and Sustainer of everything!

Another thing to remember when you are praying to receive the “secret power of God, the Holy Spirit,” is that He is a gentleman and will never force you—but always waits until you open your heart to choose Him.

Your spirit—your heart—the “hidden man of the heart”—the eternal you on the inside—has been made in the image of God.

You might be thinking: *“That doesn't sound like what I have heard in my church.”*

You're right! Usually the only time we hear anything about the unseen world is at funerals. Do you want to wait until your funeral to find out if there is really an invisible world?

The Bible definition of faith is that it is the substance and evidence of things that cannot be seen.

“Everyone” Has Faith In The Unseen

Everyone has faith and everyone believes . . . something.

What about your actions when the weather predictions are indicating a major storm might be heading your way? You look outside and it's a clear day, yet you start making plans to take cover, relocate, or board everything up. By faith you start acting based on what you have been told.

Most of our every day activities are done by faith.

Do you wake up every morning and head toward your car by faith, believing that it will start and get you to work? It is something that you cannot see while you are in the shower, but your evidence is that the mechanic said the vehicle is all tuned up and ready to go.

What do you do when your boss tells you that a firing is about to take place if you do not get to work? By faith you believe it and get back to work. Your evidence? The person that used to sit next to you until last week is not there anymore.

You can't see the air you breathe (I'm not talking about polluted air). But there is “unseen” evidence that air is flowing through your lungs and you are alive!

You can't see atomic or hydrogen molecules, but we believe that our world is in danger everyday because of “nuclear” weapons. The evidence? We have been given detailed physical evidence by reputable news reporters, scientists, and historians.

Human beings were created to live by faith.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

Help From Heaven

It is imperative that we get an understanding that there is an unseen world all around us.

If you are searching for the safest way to live in this violent world, and are not satisfied with typical religious thinking, you have to know how to get help from Heaven.

Satan is alive and well on planet earth. He makes himself visible by every evil manifestation that you can see. Look around.

The works of the devil are obvious in every corner of the world, in every news broadcast, in every mental institution, in every devil worshipping cult, and in every poverty stricken 3rd world country. However, I do not want to give “the salesman of fear” any more press. What we need is to magnify the goodness of Almighty God. God is love, He offers hope, supernatural protection, and gives real peace to overcome the evil of this *seen* and *unseen* world.

In light of the many examples in God's Word (Jesus, Noah, Abraham, David, Daniel, Shadrack, Joshua, Moses, Elijah, Peter, and Paul), we can expect supernatural protection. God's promises belong to us. It's not because of anything we have done. It's entirely because of what Jesus has done.

Are there conditions to God's protection? Absolutely.

Have we fulfilled all of the conditions? Not by a long shot.

We have a long way to go in order to get ourselves to believe what God has promised. But we can get there!

Believe Before You See

Remember the Lord's Prayer? *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."* Jesus was calling for God's will, from the unseen heaven, to be done in the earth. In the book of James we are taught that, *"every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights,"* (**James 1:17**).

So, our prayers are calling for God's goodness in the "unseen" world of Heaven, to manifest in our "seen" world.

Having said that, we should also consider that human nature is to say; *"I'll believe it when I see it."*

But the truth is that we need to believe "first."

If there was ever a generation where people need to be aware of God's "unseen" world and know how things operate there, it's this generation.

You'll never understand the truth of God's Creation, His ways, His Word—unless you "submit" your own will and ways to God's Will and ways.

It's A "Hidden" Secret

The most wonderful promises of God are reserved especially for "you" – the born again, Spirit-filled believer!

"Attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,"

Colossians 2:2b-3

It is the "unsearchable riches of Christ that "unbelievers" cannot understand. Our preaching of the Good News is to *"make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ,"* (**Ephesians 3:9**).

The wonderful mysteries of the goodness of God are hidden from the devil, enemies of the cross, and anyone who practices evil.

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory. Which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory"

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God"

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Baptism With the Holy Spirit

You have been involved with the Holy Spirit since you first accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

When you prayed a sincere prayer according to Romans 10:9 and confessed that Jesus was raised from the dead to give you salvation—it was the Holy Spirit who performed the miracle of the “new birth” of your spirit.

1st Corinthians 12:3 states that no one says “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Himself told the men who walked by His side for 3 years that it is to their “advantage” if He went away and sent them the Holy Spirit.

Just think of that!

Would you like the inside information that will guide you through the bad news and uncertainties of this world?

All you have to do is ask the Father in Jesus’ name to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Your only job is to believe and receive—and Jesus has promised to baptize you with the overflowing “rivers of living water” power of the Holy Spirit!

“If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Luke 11:11-13

Power and Authority Is In You

Believers today have vastly underestimated the power of the Holy Spirit.

You may wonder how I can be so sure of that. It's simple, really. If we truly understood and believed what the Bible tells us about Him, we would never worry about anything again. All hell has to offer could come against us and we wouldn't fear. We'd just grin and say, "Bring it on, devil! The Greater One lives within me and He has given me all the wisdom, strength, power and provision I need to crush you like a bug."

Right now you may think you could never have that kind of boldness. But let me ask you something: What would you do if Jesus appeared to you today? How would you act if He linked His arm in yours and told you that from now on, He would be physically present with you in every situation? If you became sick, He would lay His hand on you and you'd be healed. If you ran short of money, He'd pray and multiply your resources. If you encountered a problem you didn't know how to handle, He'd tell you exactly what to do.

Under those circumstances, you'd be very bold and confident, wouldn't you? Every time you ran into trouble, you'd just glance over at Jesus standing next to you and suddenly, you'd have great courage.

Of course, there's one problem. The fact is, you don't have that advantage. You don't have Jesus standing next to you in the flesh taking care of your every need.

But you do have something *better*.

I realize it's difficult to believe there's anything more beneficial than Jesus' physical presence. But there is. Jesus said so Himself.

That's right. In the hours just before He was crucified, He told His disciples that He would be leaving them and returning to His Father in heaven. When they expressed their sorrow and dismay, He said:

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.....

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

John 14:16-17, 16:7

To fully grasp the impact of this last statement, you have to realize that Jesus was talking to a group of men who had followed Him day and night for three years. They had seen His miracles. They had enjoyed perfect protection and provision at His hand.

Peter was sitting there among them. Can't you just imagine what was running through his mind? No doubt he was thinking of the first time Jesus had borrowed his boat. After He'd finished preaching from it, He'd said to Peter, "Grab your nets and we'll go catch us some fish." It was the middle of the day. Peter knew you couldn't catch fish in the daylight in that lake—the water was too clear. The fish would see the net and run from it.

But just to humor Him, Peter had done what Jesus said and ended up with a net-busting, boat-sinking load of fish. What a day!

Then there was the time Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law of a deadly fever. Cured her instantly!

Even that didn't hold a candle to what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration. That day Peter had actually seen Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. He had watched His body transfigure before his very eyes. He'd seen the shining cloud of glory and heard the awesome voice of Almighty God!

As those events passed through Peter's mind, he must have wondered, *How can it possibly be expedient or to my "advantage" for Jesus to go away?*

Knowing that question was in the heart of every one of His disciples, Jesus said, in essence, *"I know this is hard for you to believe, but trust Me on this. I'm not lying to you. It's better for you if I go away so that I can send the Holy Spirit to not only be with you, but to be in you!"*

The Power of God

It's been more than 2,000 years since Jesus foretold the importance of the Holy Spirit—and most of us are still struggling to fully believe it.

Theologically, we know it's true, and we thank God that we're born again and baptized in the Holy Ghost. But then we open our mouths and say things like, "If I could just feel Jesus' hand on my forehead, it would be easier for me to receive my healing."

Why is that?

I believe it's because we haven't truly appreciated the might and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We haven't yet had a full revelation of Who this is that is living inside us.

Many Christians, for example, seem to think the first time the Holy Spirit did much of anything was on the Day of Pentecost. But that's not true. The Holy Spirit has been at work on this planet ever since the beginning.

Look at the Book of Genesis and you can see that for yourself. There in the first few verses we find:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

Genesis 1:1-3

Think about that! The Holy Spirit was hovering, waiting to supply the power to create. Then the moment God spoke the Word, *"Light be!"* (literal Hebrew translation), the Spirit sprang into action and supplied the power to bring this universe into being.

That's how the Bible introduces us to the Holy Spirit!

You see, the Holy Spirit is the power of God. Every time you see God's power in action, you can be sure the Holy Spirit is on the scene.

When the Holy Spirit came on Samson, he single-handedly killed a thousand Philistine soldiers (see **Judges 15:14-16**). Can you imagine how embarrassing that must have been for the Philistines who escaped?

Some people get the idea that Samson was able to do those great exploits because he was a giant of a man. But he was really just an ordinary fellow. He only became extraordinary when the Spirit of God came on him.

The prophet Elijah was the same way. On his own, he was just as normal as you and me. He was once so frightened by the threats of a woman that he hid in the wilderness and asked God to kill him so he wouldn't have to face her.

But when the Holy Spirit came on him, Elijah was a powerhouse. He once called down fire from heaven, killed 400 prophets of Baal, and outran the king's chariot (drawn, no doubt, by the fastest horses in the nation of Israel). And he did it all in one day (see 1 Kings 18-19).

The Most Amazing Mind!

Don't get the idea from those examples that the Holy Spirit is simply a mindless source of raw power. Far from it! When He moves in on a situation, He does it with wisdom and understanding so vast that it staggers the human mind.

Isaiah 40:13 says of Him: *"Who hath directed the spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor hath taught him?"* Now go back and read how verse 12 further explains: *"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?"*

Consider for a moment what kind of mind could take a handful of water, weigh it and then compute all the moisture changes of the earth that would take place over untold thousands of years.

What kind of mind could take a handful of dust, weigh it, and then figure out how to form the earth—mountains and all—in such a way that it would always stay in perfect balance?

That's the kind of mind the Spirit of God has!

When He put this earth together, He did it so perfectly that it can travel 1,000 miles an hour in one direction and 10,000 miles an hour in another, both at the same time, without ever getting the slightest degree off course. He constructed it so that it could compensate for all the movement of the tides and all the use and abuse it would receive at the hands of man and still make its way through the heavens exactly on time.

Listen, this is the One Who is planning your life! This is the One Who dwells within you and walks within you. When you join yourself to the Lord, you become one spirit with Him (**1 Corinthians 6:17**). And He doesn't change or shrink up His abilities so He could fit them inside you.

No, if you're a born-again, Holy Spirit-baptized believer, He is everything *in you* that He has ever been. He has the same awesome power. He has the same astounding ability to compute, to comprehend and plan in infinite detail everything that has ever been—everything that now is—and everything that ever will be!

What's more, when you run into something you can't handle and you call on Him for help, He's not a million light years away. He's right there inside you! He's ready to supply you with whatever you need.

He's ready to be your comforter. He's ready to be your teacher and your trainer. He's ready to be your advocate, your standby, your counselor. He's ready to put His supernatural power and mind to work for you 24 hours a day.

A Perfect Gentleman

"Well then, why hasn't He helped me before now?" you ask. *"Heaven knows I've needed it!"*

He's been waiting for you to give Him something He can work with. He's been waiting there inside you just like He hovered over the face of the waters in Genesis, waiting for you to speak the Word of God in faith.

That's been His role since the beginning - to move on God's Word and deliver the power necessary to cause that Word to manifest in the earth. That's what He did at creation...and that's what He is commissioned to do for you.

But remember, He's your helper, not your dominator. If you're walking around talking doubt, unbelief and other worthless junk, He is severely limited. He won't slap His hand over your mouth and say, "You dummy, I don't care what you say, I'm going to bless you anyway."

No, the Holy Spirit is the perfect gentleman. He'll never force anything on you. He'll just wait quietly for you to open the door for Him to work.

So decide right now to start opening that door. Develop an awareness of the reality of the Holy Spirit within you. Stop spending all your time meditating on the problems you're facing and start spending it meditating on the power of the One inside you Who can solve the problems. In other words, start becoming more God-inside minded!

Do you know what will happen if you do that? All heaven will break loose in your life.

The Holy Spirit Within

Instead of walking around moaning about how broke you are and how you can't afford to give much to spread the gospel, you'll start thinking about the fact that the One with the power to bring God's Word to pass is living inside you, and you'll change your tune. You'll start saying things like, "God meets my needs according to His riches in glory, so I have plenty to meet my own needs and give to every good work!"

Then the Holy Spirit within you will go into action. He'll give you plans, ideas and inventions. He'll open doors of opportunity and then give you the strength and ability to walk through them.

Instead of sitting around wishing there was something you could do for your sick, unsaved neighbor, you'll march into his house, tell him about Jesus, and then lay hands on him fully expecting the Holy Spirit within you to release God's healing power and cause him to recover.

Instead of sitting around simply admiring the works of Jesus and reading about them each Sunday in church, you'll hit the streets and do those works yourself—and even greater works (see John 14:12). You'll stand up boldly and say:

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me, To preach the gospel to the poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives

And recovery of sight to the blind

To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD"

Luke 4:18-19

More Than You Can Think

"Wait a minute. Jesus spoke those words about Himself!"

Yes, He did. But He also said, *"...As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you"* (**John 20:21**).

You've been sent just like Jesus was. You've been sent to your family, your neighborhood, your workplace, your world to deliver the burden-removing, yoke-destroying power of God!

That's the reason God baptized you in the Holy Spirit. He intended for you to walk into a place and bring the power of God on the scene—the same power that enabled Samson to defeat the Philistines and make a fool out of the devil! The same power that enabled Elijah to call down fire

from heaven and outrun the fastest horses in the country! The same power that enabled Jesus to heal the sick, raise the dead and calm the sea!

Can you imagine what all God could do in this earth if we'd just become God-inside minded enough to let that power flow?

No, you can't. For as the Apostle Paul said, He is *"able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us"* (**Ephesians 3:20**).

Maybe you've been waiting for God to do something in your life or in the lives of those around you. Maybe you've been saying, *"I know God is able to change this situation. I wonder why He doesn't do it?"* If so, read that last phrase again. It says He is able to do above what we can ask or think *according to the power that works in you!*

Start building your faith in that power. Instead of always gazing toward heaven saying, *"God, why don't You help me?"* look at yourself in the mirror and say, "The Spirit of God is living in me today and I expect Him to do wise, wonderful, amazing and miraculous things through me!"

Instead of meditating on your problems and natural inadequacies, get out your Bible and study the acts of the Holy Spirit from Genesis to Revelation. Start meditating on the power and sufficiency of the *Greater One* who lives and walks within you every moment of every day!

When you begin to realize what a dynamite team you two really are, you'll blast off into the realm of exceedingly above all that you can ask or think—and the devil will never be able to catch you.

Chapter 4

The Commanding Prayer

Believers have all kinds of prayer that can be prayed with the help of God, the Holy Spirit. Our guidelines for prayer are set forth in God's Word. Our examples for an effective prayer life are many, including Paul, Peter, Stephen and John -- from the book of Acts.

This chapter is called the "Commanding Prayer" because our examples (Paul and Peter) always spoke to circumstances "in Jesus' name!"

I say that if you are speaking in Jesus' name -- you are using a form of prayer.

The absolute truth is that we are children and imitators of God. We are followers of Jesus. Therefore, when confronted with mountains of trouble, tribulation, sin, demons or sickness -- we speak like Jesus would speak. He would command.

Commanding Circumstances

Now please don't misunderstand, we are definitely not commanding God -- we're commanding the circumstances in Jesus name. It's the very way Jesus would have us live. He took back the keys of the Kingdom from Satan -- and gave them to us. The keys are "binding and loosing." (Or allowing or not allowing.)

Matthew 16:19, *"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

In other words, we have been given authority to bind (or not allow) demonic adversity, sin, sickness and fear. We have authority to loose (or allow) God's Word, angels, our profession of God's Word, gifts of the Spirit, anointing, faith in God and Holy Spirit power.

Now let's look at the examples that Jesus demonstrated for us:

Mark 11:12-14, *"Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, 'Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.' And His disciples heard it."*

Mark 11:20-21, *"Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, 'Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.'"*

We see in this Scripture that this was not a natural prayer of "asking." This was a command. This was Jesus speaking as a God-man that was anointed, filled with the Holy Spirit and having authority.

Next, we want to trace the result of Adam's sin and disobedience. When he died spiritually in the Garden, he also turned over his dominion and authority to Satan. When Jesus came to earth, to defeat Satan and take back man's authority -- he was offered this dominion the easy way by worshiping Satan. Of course, He refused but the Scripture in Luke still shows that Satan possessed man's authority; (or else it would not have been a real temptation). **.Luke 4:5-8.**

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.⁶ And the devil said to Him, '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.'"

And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

Luke 9:1-2

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:1

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

Luke 10:8-9

Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Chapter 5

Authority Releases God's Power

*"And as ye go, preach, saying,
The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers,
raise the dead, cast out devils:
freely ye have received, freely give."*

Matthew 10:7-8

There are a number of keys to seeing the miraculous power of God manifest on a consistent basis. One of the least understood, and therefore seldom practiced, is the fact that healing is under the authority of the believer. God has already provided His healing power and placed it on the inside of every born-again believer. It's up to us to release it. Understanding and using our authority is the key to seeing miracles happen.

Authority In Jesus' Name

Look at how Peter and John ministered healing to the lame man in: **Acts 3:1-8**.

"Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."

Notice that Peter didn't pray for the man. He also didn't ask God to heal him. He said, "Such as I have give I thee." This didn't mean that Peter was the source of this healing.

Notice what Peter said in **Acts 3:12**,

"And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?"

It was God's power that healed the man near the gate of the Temple, but that power was under Peter's authority. Peter went on to say in verse 16 that it was faith in the name of Jesus that had produced this miracle. But Peter didn't ask God to heal this man. He believed the Lord had already done His part and had placed that power within him. Now it was Peter's responsibility to release that power, and that's just what he did.

The Lord never told us to pray for the sick in the sense that we ask Him to heal them. He told us to heal the sick. There is a BIG difference between the two. It has to do with operating in the authority He has already given us. Look at these commands the Lord gave His disciples.

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." (Luke 9:1-2)

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." (Matt. 10:1)

“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.” (Matt. 10:7-8)

Consider This

Jesus told us to heal the sick, not pray for the sick. What a radical statement! This will get you kicked out of most churches today, but these are the exact words of our Lord Jesus Christ. And this is precisely why more people don't see miraculous results when they pray.

They aren't taking their authority and commanding God's power; they're passively asking God to do what He told them to do.

I know this goes contrary to popular Christian doctrine. We're constantly told that it's not us but God who is the Healer, and I agree with that totally. But, I also believe that God has placed His healing power under our authority, and it's up to us to release it. If we don't take our authority and become commanders instead of beggars, God's power will not be released. There needs to be a radical renewing of our thinking on this issue.

Look at an amazing passage of Scripture in **Isaiah 45:11**.

“Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.”

What a powerful scripture! What does the Lord mean when He tells us to command Him? Well, He certainly doesn't mean we can order Him around. No! He means, concerning the “things” He has already done, He wants us to take His authority and command His power for helping people.

Flip the Switch

It's like electricity. The power company generates the power and delivers it to your house. It's not your power, but it's under your control. You don't call the power company and ask them to turn the lights on. No! They won't do that. They generate the power, but it's under your command. You simply flip the switch on the wall and command the power to work. Does this mean you are the power source? Certainly not! You can put a light bulb in your mouth, and it will never come on.

You aren't the power source, but you are the one in control of what that power does. You can plead with the power company all you want, but they won't flip the switch for you. You have to assume your authority and acknowledge the power is under your command.

That's what the Lord was speaking of. He has already healed everyone who will ever be healed. He did it two thousand years ago when He bore our stripes on His back. Then He deposited His resurrection power inside every believer (Eph. 1:19-20). He's done His part, and now it is up to us to do ours.

We need to take the authority He has given us and become commanders instead of beggars. This is a powerful truth that works. We aren't just praying for the sick; we are healing them in Jesus' name.

This could revolutionize your whole approach toward the devil. Satan isn't using some superhuman, angelic authority against us; he's using the authority and power that was given to man by God. Therefore, Satan can't do anything to us without our consent and cooperation.

Chapter 6

Kingdom Authority and Anointing

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he hath anointed me...."*

Luke 4:18

Anointing, as described in the Bible, can be defined as "God on flesh doing those things that flesh cannot do." It's God doing those things only He can do, and doing them through a flesh-and-blood, earthly vessel, (see **II Corinthians 4:7**).

The basic meaning of the Bible word "anoint" is "to pour on, smear all over or rub into." In the Old Testament, someone who was anointed by God for special service to God had oil poured or smeared on him.

For instance, Saul, and later David, was anointed with oil by the prophet Samuel when God revealed He had chosen him to be king of Israel. When King Saul rebelled against God and tried to kill David, David refused to harm him because Saul was "the Lord's anointed" (I Samuel 24:6).

Empowered

To be anointed by God is not only to be picked, but also to be empowered by Him for the task or position to which He has called you.

The Hebrew word "Messiah" and the Greek word "Christ" both mean "the Anointed." In the New Covenant, Christ, the Anointed One, is listed more than 140 times. This Bible truth is enough to transform our entire Christian life – knowing that the word Christ is not Jesus last name, or a title. Christ refers to the burden removing, yoke destroying power of God!

Anointing was always a sign of Israel's coming Redeemer. The prophet Isaiah, looking forward in time by the Spirit of God, saw One through Whom "the yoke [of Satan's oppression] shall be destroyed because of the anointing" (**Isaiah 10:27**). The word destroyed means absolutely corrupted beyond use, destroyed, no good for (the devil's) use.

Jesus, reading from another Messianic prophecy in Isaiah, said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me...." What had the Spirit anointed Him to do? "To preach the gospel to the poor...heal the brokenhearted...preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind...set at liberty them that are bruised..." (see **Luke 4:18-19**).

The Anointed One

Jesus had the burden-removing, yoke-destroying power of Almighty God all over Him. News of the Anointed and His Anointing was the "good news" or "gospel" the early Church ministered.

When Peter was asked to preach the basic, gospel message to the gentiles for the very first time, the first thing he told them was *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him"* (see **Acts 10:38-39**).

When Philip preached Christ (the Anointed One and His Anointing) in Samaria, *"the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed"* (see **Acts 8:6-8**).

They received and heard the good news that the Anointed One and His Anointing had come to destroy the yokes from their backs. From the moment they received it, God confirmed it, just as He did in Jesus' ministry.

The Holy Spirit

The anointing goes side by side with God's presence in the Holy Spirit. The anointing on Jesus was with the Holy Spirit (see **Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38**).

The anointing we have received from Jesus is side by side with the Holy Spirit. (Compare **I John 2:20, 26-27; John 14:26**.) The anointing is God's Spirit and power for service in this earth.

The word "Christ" is not just another name for Jesus, but a reference to the Anointed and the Anointing that was on Him and in Him.

In the same way, the word "Christians" means more than just followers of Jesus. It means "the anointed." According to **I John 2**, the same yoke-destroying Anointing that was on Jesus is available to you. Look again: *"the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him"* (verse 27). Those last two words could also be translated "in it." In other words, the phrase could either be exhorting believers to abide in the Anointed One, Jesus, or to abide in the anointing itself. Both interpretations are correct because you can't separate the Anointed and the anointing. If you're in the Anointed One, then you're in the anointing.

I encourage you, find every reference that uses the word Christ in the New Testament. Each time Christ is used translate it into "the Anointed and His Anointing." Then meditate on the new revelation of this meaning in each scripture. Start with the verses that say "in Christ" or "through Christ" and translate them "in (through) the Anointed and (through) His Anointing." It will change your life.

In Christ Jesus

If you're "in Christ," there's an anointing for everything you're called to do, no matter how small or how great the task. That's what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, "I can do all things through Christ (the Anointed and His Anointing) which strengtheneth me" (**Philippians 4:13**). Notice that he didn't say "who strengtheneth me" but "which strengtheneth me." He was talking about the anointing. The same anointing that enabled you to be born again will heal your body, help you succeed in business, and empower you to prosper spirit, soul, body and in every aspect of your life. (See **Luke 5:20-24**.)

Obedience is the key for functioning in the anointing. It was the final factor that led through the final downfall of King Saul. In **1 Samuel 13:8-15** Saul became impatient and took it upon himself to make a sacrifice rather than wait for Samuel to arrive. Some of Saul's men had already begun to defect. When Samuel arrived, Saul said, in his own defense, that he "felt *compelled*" to do what he did (v. 12, emphasis added). Saul was doing what seemed right without the anointing. Samuel rebuked Saul, telling him that he had acted foolishly and had not kept the commandment of the Lord.

Under Authority

Listen: The main rule for having authority is also to be under authority yourself, and that starts with being obedient to the Lord.

Even Jesus remarked that He had not found such great faith in Israel when he encountered the centurion in Matthew 8. When Jesus told him that He would come and heal his servant,

the centurion humbly said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.”

He continued, “For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it” (vv. 8-9). Now that is a true picture of *meekness*, a gentle humility that demonstrates power under control.

Going back to Saul, the final blow came when he disobeyed the word of the Lord spoken through Samuel to utterly destroy the Amalekites (**1 Sam. 15:1-3**). Saul was instructed to attack King Agag and the Amalekites and not spare anything alive: “Kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey” (v. 3). But Saul spared the best the Amalekites had, including the king himself. He then told Samuel “the people” had saved the animals to sacrifice (vv. 9, 13-15). In rebuke, Samuel said, “*Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft*” (vv. 22-23). That very day the Lord tore the kingdom of Israel away from Saul (v. 28).

The way to function in the anointing of God works within the framework of obedience. God is more interested in our character than our comfort. He is raising up a generation that will *do what He says* in the *correct way*, which will achieve His objective and bring glory to Him—not build up our own egos.

To Know the King

In these last days we must be people and ministers of integrity, honesty and humility. We must go beyond just knowing the principles of the kingdom; we must also know the King—His will, His ways, His very heartbeat. And again, this is possible because we have “an *unction* from the Holy One, as ye know all things” (**1 John 2:20**, KJV, emphasis added). The Lord Himself enables us to possess knowledge of the *truth*, because He is the living Word.

Daniel 11:32 declares, “*The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits*” (NKJV). So let’s function in the mighty anointing of God with the right spirit and with power from on high.

Never forget: You are anointed to flow in special abilities that have been tailor-made for you by the same God who does the work in all of us. You can obey God and move in the anointing, whether you are laboring alone or working together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. You can hear, obey, and flow in the anointing of God—fearlessly, favorably and fiercely.

Chapter 7

5 Truths About Authority

*"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
Go ye therefore..."*
Matt. 28:18,19

As new creations we have been put in a position of power and authority – a position delegated to us by God through Jesus Christ. Along with that authority come certain responsibilities.

I want us to examine God's Word concerning that position and the authority we have in Him.

When you made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, **Colossians 1:13** says you were delivered from the power of darkness. The word power is literally translated authority.

You have been delivered from the authority of darkness and placed into God's kingdom. Jesus said, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore..."* (**Matt. 28:18,19**). That power was given to you as part of your inheritance in Christ Jesus. You have entered into this position of authority because you are "in Christ."

The Word says that righteousness has come upon all men (**Rom. 5:18**). You may ask, "Then why don't all become righteous?" In order to 'receive' it, you have to 'act' on righteousness from the point of authority.

In 1975, I used my authority as a human being and made a choice. I made the decision to receive Jesus as Lord of my life. At that moment, I was made the righteousness of God in Christ. (I didn't earn it or deserve it, Jesus did it for me.)

Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

5 Truths About Authority

#1 – Jesus Secured Our Power and Authority

Jesus succeeded in securing all power and by going to the cross, dying a horrible death, suffering the penalty for sin, and defeating Satan in the pit of hell. He came to earth as a man for one reason: to re-capture the authority that Satan had stolen through Adam's disobedience in the garden. Jesus was called the last Adam (**1 Cor. 15:45**). After securing that power and authority, He freely gave it over into the hands of those who would believe on Him–(you and me).

It's not enough for us to simply accept Jesus' work at Calvary. We are held responsible for much more. Jesus' words in the 16th chapter of Mark were not intended for the early church alone. His words are just as vital and real today as when they were first spoken.

Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead. His words to them form the basic foundation for the work of the New Testament church. It was at that time that He delegated the authority to carry out that work.

Beginning in verse 15, Jesus said: *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."*

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Every born-again believer has the authority and responsibility to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this earth. If you can't go, then you can send someone in your place.

And these signs shall follow them that believe....I want you to notice who is to do all these things: them that believe.

The signs will follow the believers who act in faith and boldly speak in Jesus' name. THEY shall cast out devils; THEY shall speak with new tongues; THEY shall lay hands on the sick, etc. The believer is the one with the power and authority to do these things.

Verse 20 says, *They went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.* God will confirm His Word, but first it has to be put forth. That is where you and I come in. God does not preach; He has given us the authority to do the preaching. God will not lay hands on the sick. He will bring the healing, but you and I as believers must lay hands on the sick by faith, believing that God will perform His Word.

#2 – We Have Authority To Stand Against Satan

One of the most vital areas of the believer's authority is God's power to successfully stand against Satan.

Ephesians 4:27 says, *Neither give place to the devil.* In the sixth chapter of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul describes the armor that we as believers are to wear in combat against Satan. He explains each piece of that armor. It's the armor of God. But not once does he say that God will put the armor on you or that God will fight the devil for you.

'You' is the understood subject of these verses. He says, You be strong in the Lord. You put on the whole armor of God that you will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. You take the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day; and having done all, you stand.

God has given you the power and the authority to stand against Satan and his destructive works. He has provided the armor, but it's your responsibility as a believer to put on that armor and stand against the devil. **James 4:7** says, you resist the devil, and he will flee from YOU. The armor and the weapons are at your disposal. God is there with you to back His Word; but all is worthless unless you take your position of authority and assume the responsibility to use what He has provided.

You have the power and the authority to take the Word of God, the name of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit and run Satan out of your affairs. Don't pray and ask God to fight Satan for you. You are the one in authority. Take your responsibility and speak directly to Satan yourself and stand your ground firmly. He will flee!

God's power is in His Word. He is upholding all things by the word of His power (**Heb. 1:3**). You need to learn to minister and walk from a position of authority. In His earthly ministry, Jesus said such things as "Be thou made whole." "Take up your bed and walk." Then to a lame man Peter said in **Acts 3:6**, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

Jesus came to earth as a man for two main reasons: Obviously, Jesus came to save the lost – but also to re-capture the authority that Satan had stolen through Adam's disobedience in the garden. It's time for you as a believer to begin to act that way. You have obtained an inheritance, and in that inheritance you have been given all authority. The God of the universe lives inside you! He lives and walks in you. Become God-inside-minded and you will begin to walk in this point of authority.

Keep right on building yourself up in your inheritance. You live in a world that is full of evil influences. Satan wants to see to it that you forget the reality of being born again. He wants to see to it that you never realize your place of authority in Christ Jesus, because if

you do, that power you walk in makes you absolutely dangerous to him. He has no defense against you when you walk in the power of God's Word.

When you see in the Word that you are in Christ Jesus, that you are in Him, then confess it with all of your heart. Then you will be strong, standing in a position of authority and operating in your inheritance in Him. As you do this, the power of God will always be available to work in your behalf. Praise God!

#3 – We're Seated With Him In High Authority

In the 1st chapter of Ephesians, Paul prayed a prayer for the body of believers in Ephesus. One part of that prayer was that they know the exceeding greatness of his power to those who believe (**Eph. 1:19**). That exceeding great power is the same power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenlies. **Ephesians 1:21** tells us that Jesus is seated far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named.

The work God did in Jesus was supreme. He raised Jesus from the dead and set Him far above all other authority—not only in this world, but also in the heavenly world. Then verse 22 says that God has put ALL things under His feet and made Him head over the church which is His body. Where are the feet? They are in the body. As believers, we are part of His body and we are seated with Him in that highly exalted place of authority. Praise God!

Look at **Ephesians, chapter two**:

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins...Even when we were dead in sins, (God) hath quickened us together with Christ...And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (**Eph. 2:1,5,6**).*

We are seated together with Him. Where? Far above all principality and power and might and dominion. As a believer, you have accepted the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary.

Therefore, you are a part of His body and are seated with Him in that heavenly place, equipped with the same power, the same authority that He has.

The great power that God worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead is the same creative power of God that worked in you to make you alive when you were dead in your trespasses and sins.

The moment you made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, that same power was exercised on your dead, unregenerate spirit, causing it to be reborn in the likeness of God Himself. Any man who is in Christ Jesus is a new creation: old things have passed away, all things are new, and all things are of God (**2 Cor. 5:17**).

As believers, we are part of His body and we are seated with Him in that highly exalted place of authority.

#4 – We Have the Power

*On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith? (**Mark 4:35-40**).*

Jesus spoke the words, Let us pass over unto the other side, and there was enough power and authority in those words to accomplish the job. One thing I want you to notice is that Jesus did not take command of the ship to see that His words were carried out. He walked to the back of the boat and went to sleep.

Jesus delegated the authority to His disciples and they accepted it. But when the storm came, they were filled with fear that the boat would sink. Jesus had to carry out the responsibility of authority that he had delegated to them by rebuking the wind and the sea.

You have the power and the authority to take the Word of God, the name of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit and run Satan out of your affairs.

I want you to see the parallel here. You are the captain of your ship. You have control over your own life—your spirit, your soul, and your body. Jesus has delegated power, or authority over Satan to you as a believer. You are to give him no place in your life. You are born of the Spirit of God. You are filled with the Spirit of God. You have been given the Word of God. Those three elements are enough for you to carry out your spiritual authority here in the earth.

You don't need any more power. You have all the power necessary. You simply have to enforce your authority. Jesus has already done everything necessary to secure the authority and power over sin, sickness, demons, and fear. You have to energize the faith action to receive that authority and join forces with Him in this earth. You are the one to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

#5 – We Have Authority to Live As New Creations

Hebrews 2:14 says, For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same. Jesus partook of flesh and blood, so that you could partake of spirit and life. For you to partake of that spirit and life, you must take the responsibility of standing in the place of authority as the new creation in Christ Jesus that you are.

You are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23). It was the Word of Almighty God that was injected into your spirit man to bring about the new birth in your life. When the church was first beginning, Acts 12:24 described it as the Word growing and multiplying. The Word is in you, but you are the one who must be willing to allow it to work in you.

Ephesians 4:21-24 says,

“if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

You are the one in authority. It is your responsibility to put off the old man—the unregenerate man that you were before you accepted Jesus. The Holy Spirit does the actual work in you, but you must make the decision to allow Him to do it. God has never forced His will on any person. You put off the old man. ‘You’ use the Word of God to renew your mind. You put on the new man, which is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Chapter 8

8 Keys to Empowered Living

*"He who is in you is greater
than he who is in the world"*

1 John 4:4

Empowered living for believers begins with an understanding that Jesus has already completed His mission to redeem mankind from their separation from God. Jesus has already made the way for us to be in right standing with God. Now it's our choice to receive His finished work.

Jesus has completed two major things for us: 1. He made it possible for us to be born-again, and therefore to become children of God; citizens of Heaven. 2. Jesus defeated Satan and took back the keys of authority that Adam turned over to him in the garden.

Having stated all that Jesus has already done, we have to come to grips with the fact that the outlaw, Satan is still instigating oppression, depression, sickness, sin, fear, super storms, tragedy, and perversion of all kinds. What's missing?

The missing element to overcome the current sad condition of planet earth is for spiritual "law enforcers," to rise up and arrest the spiritual outlaw who is running loose.

Let's dig in to what believers, spiritual law enforcers must activate now!

1. Enforcing Authority In Jesus' Name

Nothing in this world is more powerful than the name of Jesus. Why? Because it's the key, or the "password," to our authority as believers. The Bible says we've already been given *"every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"* (**Ephesians 1: 3**).

Think of it: every spiritual blessing already belongs to us. But how do we access these blessings and apply them to our lives? Through faith in the name of Jesus!

In Jesus' name, we have authority over any virus, cancer, or other disease that attacks our body. We can say, "Stop, in the name of Jesus! You'll go no further." The enemy has to obey when we stand in the authority and power of Jesus' name. Paul tells us *"that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow... every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (**Philippians 2:10-11** NASB).

Every demon will have to bow before His name. Every problem will have to bow. Every financial need will have to bow. Every divisive spirit will have to bow!

The power and authority delegated to you in Jesus' name does not make you immune to the enemy's attacks. However, it does give you the ability to overcome them. John wrote, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (**1 John 4:4**). You can live in victory in the name of Jesus!

No wonder the devil hates to hear that name. No wonder he does everything he can to discredit it, ridicule it, and water it down. As a result, some believers have lost their boldness to use the name of Jesus. They don't mind speaking to their unsaved friends about "God" or their "higher power," but they are intimidated from declaring their confidence in the name of Jesus.

Despite lacking our modern conveniences, the early church turned the world upside down for Jesus. (See **Acts 17:5-7**.) In just a few centuries, they had spread the gospel to the known world. From Jesus' original handful of followers, the community of faith had grown to millions.

What was the secret of the early Christians? I'm sure a number of things could be cited as reasons for their success; but one stands out above them all: They understood the power they

had in the name of Jesus! Look at these amazing examples: On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (**Acts 2:21**). In its simplest terms, the gospel is summed up by

individuals who call on the name of Jesus to be saved. Peter told the new converts to repent and “be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (**Acts 2:38**). From the first moment of their salvation, these believers were transferred into God’s kingdom by Jesus’ name. The lame man sitting outside the temple was told, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk” (**Acts 3:6**). He was healed through the power of faith in Jesus’ name.

Reclaiming the Power of His Name Despite the overwhelming evidence of how the early church unleashed God’s miracle-working power through the name of Jesus, we’ve somehow drifted far from this practice today. Yes, we put “in the name of Jesus” at the end of our prayers, but do we truly believe in the power of that name?

Take a look at what the Bible says about the name of Jesus:

Jesus’ name was prophesied and confirmed by God Himself. Two verses in Isaiah specifically mention the “name” of the coming Messiah: “*Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bare a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel*” (**Isaiah 7:14**). Matthew quotes this Old Testament prophecy in relationship to Jesus, and he mentions that the meaning of Immanuel is “God with us” (**Matthew 1:23**).

2. Enforcing Authority In God’s Word

Just as we have authority in the name of Jesus, we also have authority when we stand on God’s Word. Satan doesn’t tremble when we share our opinions and theories. Nor does he flee just because we can quote some sermon by our pastor or a TV preacher. But the devil does get scared when he sees that we’re grounded in the truth of Scripture and able to demolish his lies.

The truth will set us free from Satan’s snares (see **John 8:32**), and the truth is found in God’s Word.

Do you or a loved one need healing or deliverance today? The Bible says, “[God] sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions” (**Psalms 107:20**). We’re told to give attention to God’s words, because “they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh” (**Proverbs 4: 22**).

Jesus has a prescription for you, and it’s found in His Word. Are you facing troubling circumstances in your life? One word from Jesus can calm your raging storm. (See **Mark 4:35–41**.) The disciples were so terrified about their circumstances that they said to Jesus, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (**Mark 4: 38**). But after the Lord spoke peace to their circumstances, “the wind ceased and there was a great calm” (**Mark 4:39**). At this point, Jesus scolded His disciples for not exercising their own faith to calm the storm: “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” (**Mark 4:40**).

God has given you His Word to speak to your troublesome situations today. Whether you need a healing, a financial breakthrough, the salvation of a loved one, or some other prayer answered, remember this: You’ve been given authority to speak God’s Word to the “mountain” you face!

When God speaks, miracles happen, as David describes so graphically in **Psalms 29:3-9**: “*The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*”

David continued: the voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth, and strips the forests bare; and in His temple everyone says, “Glory!”

Your circumstances will be transformed when you read God's Word, hear His voice, and then speak His promises!

The Word Brings Victory

In the context of describing the wonderful armor God has given us to ward off the devil's attacks (see), Paul described God's Word as "the sword of the Spirit" (**Ephesians 6: 17**). While the helmet, shield, and other pieces of armor are basically defensive in nature, the sword is the only offensive weapon described in this passage. We see Jesus using the Word as a sword in His encounter with Satan in the wilderness at the start of His ministry. He used this sword to counteract each of the devil's three attacks: "It is written..." was His reply each time. (See **Luke 4:1-13**.)

Notice that Jesus didn't have to do a lot of scriptural research in order to discern and defeat Satan's lies. He already knew the Word, and was ready to go to battle!

Can the same be said about you? Do you know God's Word well enough to counteract the enemy's lies? Can the Holy Spirit work through you to wield this mighty weapon as a "sword" to destroy Satan's strongholds?

I encourage you to commit yourself to taking time each day to study and meditate on God's promises in the Bible. There's no other way to stand in God's authority and be successful in spiritual warfare.

Exposing Satan's Lies

In order to understand how the Word of God enables us to defeat Satan's attacks, we need to recognize that lying is his most effective strategy against us. In fact, lying is not just what Satan does, but it's a fundamental part of who he is: He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. (**John 8:44** NLT)

So, in order to defeat the devil at his game, you must know the truth well enough that you are able to recognize his deceptions.

I once heard about a man who inspected money for the Federal Reserve to detect counterfeit bills. Instead of spending a lot of time learning about the various counterfeits, he said his main strategy was to know the genuine bills so well that the counterfeits would appear obvious. That should be the same approach we use in detecting the devil's lies. Knowing this truth, how should you respond to an attack by Satan on your health?

The Bible is full of promises concerning your right to healing and health as a believer, and it encourages you to "let God be found true, though every man be found a liar" (**Romans 3: 4** NASB)! That means that we need to believe the promises of the Lord instead of Satan's "lying symptoms."

Here are just a few of the Lord's great promises for your healing: "*I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds.*" (**Jeremiah 30: 17**) "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits... who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from destruction.*" (**Psalms 103:2-4**)

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (**Isaiah 53: 5**)

"[He] Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed." (1 Peter 2: 24)

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers, (**3 John 2**.)

If you are struggling with some kind of physical sickness today, I encourage you to meditate on these verses and speak them to the circumstances in your life. And remember: God's Word has an answer, not just for your healing, but for every problem you will ever face. It's a powerful offensive weapon that you can use to gain victory!

Whenever you face a battle, you can find a scriptural promise to stand on, giving you authority over the enemy.

Speak the Word

We can be confident that God's Word will accomplish its intended purpose in our lives and our circumstances.

The Lord tells us in **Isaiah 55:11**: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

But in order to have its maximum impact, Scripture must be believed and spoken. Instead of merely treasuring the Word in our heart (see **Psalms 119: 11**), we should be confessing it from our mouth, as Paul encourages us: "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the word of faith which we preach)" (**Romans 10: 8**).

God not only has given us His written Word to believe, but He has also authorized us to speak it. Just as the centurion said to Jesus in **Luke 7: 7**, "*Say the word, and my servant will be healed,*" you and I have been given the authority to boldly speak God's Word!

So what do you need from Jesus today? A healing? A financial miracle? A restored relationship? Deliverance from an addiction? First, let Him speak His Word to you; then you must speak His Word to your circumstances! The miracle will come.

Remember: The God you serve is the same One who spoke the worlds into existence and said, "Let there be light" (**Genesis 1: 3**; see also **Hebrews 11: 3**). One word from Him can easily give us whatever breakthrough we need. His word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart... so speak that word!

3. Enforcing Authority In Prayer

You've been given a tremendous inheritance, but you have to recognize it and claim it. If someone dies and has given you a bequest in their will, you will probably receive a call or letter from the attorney handling the estate. They'll inform you that you've been left a bequest of some kind— a house, a piece of property, some money, or some personal items. It's something you've inherited. You have a legal right to it.

It's yours now. However, the attorney will also probably inform you that you need to act upon your inheritance. You may need to go to the attorney's office or the courthouse, and there will undoubtedly be papers for you to sign. The inheritance belongs to you, but you still need to claim what is yours. The same is true with God's promises and the authority He has delegated to you. When Jesus died, he passed along this authority to you and me. It belongs to us now, but we need to step out in faith and obedience to receive our inheritance.

If we truly believe God's promises, we will want to implement them through prayer. Even Jesus Himself— though He was the Son of God—recognized His need for regular times of prayer to the Father.

Look at this stunning evidence: Early morning prayer. "*Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed*" (Mark 1:35).

Prayer was such a priority to Jesus that he got started "a long while before daylight."

Isn't it amazing how much importance Jesus placed on prayer as a key to unlocking His power and authority? The disciples noticed this, and they wisely asked Jesus, "*Lord, teach us to pray*" (Luke 11:1). We have no record of them asking Him how to preach, heal the sick, or cast out demons, but they recognized that prayer was the secret to all these other spiritual activities.

Perhaps you would say to me today, "Pastor Ron, I've tried praying for what I need, but it just doesn't seem to work." Well, Jesus anticipated your question. Whenever He urges us

to pray, He also mentions the need for persistence: “Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (**Luke 18:1** NIV).

Don’t give up! Your breakthrough will come, but you need to persevere in your prayers: “*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*” (Luke 11: 5– 13).

We’re in a spiritual battle! Unfortunately, most of the time people don’t recognize it. They’re just looking at things from a natural, human perspective. They factor God, the devil, and the whole supernatural realm right out of the equation.

The average person doesn’t realize the spiritual battle taking place. God doesn’t send bad things our way. It’s not just happenstance or fate. There’s a real enemy out there that we must learn to deal with.

Most people recognize that actions are important in the physical realm. You know that there are consequences for what you do.

If you’re speeding while driving, you could get a ticket or cause a wreck. The ticket could cost money and put points on your license. The wreck could damage cars or even cost someone their life. When we talk negatively about someone, we can hurt their feelings or even loose demonic powers against them. There’s much more to life than just this physical, natural, surface level.

Understanding Your Authority

Spiritual dynamics are constantly taking place. Whether or not the person you’re speaking evil about ever knows it, you’ll be affected. Venting anger, frustration, resentment, or unforgiveness affects you whether it affects anyone else or not. I’ve actually ridden with people who are very vocal in traffic when someone cuts them off. They’ve told me, “That person doesn’t know what I said. They didn’t hear me.”

It doesn’t matter whether they ever hear you or not. If you get angry and bitter, you’ve just yielded yourself to Satan. Whether you recognize it or not, the devil is listening.

God has given us a huge authority. As born-again believers, Jesus has given us more authority than even Adam and Eve had. They had authority over this earth. However, after Christ rose from the dead, He had authority in heaven, authority on earth, and authority under the earth—meaning the demonic realm and hell. (**Phil. 2:10.**)

After Jesus resurrected, but before He ascended, He turned to His disciples and 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen,*” **Matthew 28:18–20.**

Since therefore refers to “in light of what I’ve just said,” Jesus was basically telling His followers, “The authority and power I have, I now give to you. Go, and continue doing My work, the work that I have begun.” The authority we have as believers in Christ today is superior to the authority Adam had. We have everything back that he lost, and much more. We now have authority over the demonic realm. (**Matt. 10:1,7–8.**)

Like it or not, there’s a spiritual battle raging right now for your heart and mind. As you think in your heart is the way that you’ll be. (Prov. 23:7.) Your thoughts become what you say and do, with your actions being the greatest expression of your authority.

4. Use Authority for Physical Protection

“*No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling,*” **Psalms 91:10** (NKJV).

Salvation includes more than just the guarantee of going to heaven—that’s just the beginning. *Salvation* is a big word. In the Greek language, it literally means deliverance, safety,

preservation, material and temporal deliverance from danger, pardon, restoration, healing, wholeness and soundness.

Do you know what that means? It means you don't have to be afraid of anything harming you or your children physically.

Physical protection for you and your family is a Covenant right. Peace, safety and covering from calamity, disaster or harm of any kind belongs to you.

It is NOT God's will that people go and shoot up our children's schools. It is NOT God's will that we or our children are filled with sickness and disease or suffer injuries. It is NOT God's will that we suffer under any part of the curse. But the devil has come to kill and destroy—he's looking for a loophole—a way in to break the circle of protection that encompasses you.

It's God's will that we stop the enemy, and rule and reign over him.

We live in a dangerous world, so taking your authority for protection should be done daily. It doesn't take long—speak a word of protection as you drive, speak Psalm 91 over your family as you head to work or run errands, plead the blood of Jesus first thing in the morning when you wake. As you make it part of your daily routine, it will become second nature to you.

5. Use Authority to Drive Out Sickness

"No evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home," Psalm 91:10.

You have authority over sickness and disease—every cold, flu, backache, cancer, heart disease—all of it. You have the authority through Christ Jesus.

So, why do we sometimes face these challenges? Simple:

God is not going to override your authority. He gave Adam authority, and He didn't override Adam's decision to relinquish it to Satan. He has given you the same authority in the earth, and He has given you the way to victory in EVERY situation in His Word.

But He won't override your authority. He will let you die sick if you choose to do so. You would have to ignore every healing scripture in the Bible and all that Jesus bought for you when He bore your sicknesses and carried your diseases, but you have the authority to go ahead and die. God will not stop you.

So, if you're talking about your symptoms and sickness, you're relinquishing your authority to Satan as Adam did in the Garden of Eden. That won't get results!

Don't call the dog if you want the cat, and don't call for sickness and disease if you want to be healed. Use your authority and command your body to be healed in the Name of Jesus.

Authority is on the inside of you right now. You can use it to heal yourself; you can use it to heal others—and you should.

When you take authority over your body, say, "Body, I command you to get in line. I rebuke every symptom in my body right now, in Jesus' Name. Be healed and made whole from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. I take my healing! I am healed."

6. Use Authority to Cast Out Demons

"They will cast out demons in My name," Mark 16:17.

Demonic activity isn't something you'll hear preached about on many Sunday mornings, but it exists, and there is a simple way to deal with it—by taking your authority. Certain countries see a greater level of demonic activity, but it's everywhere, and it isn't to be tolerated—not even for a minute.

In **Mark 5:1-20**, we see how Jesus handled demons when He drove them out of the demon-possessed man and into a herd of pigs. He used His authority—the same authority that has been given to us—to drive them out.

All believers can cast out devils in His name. John Osteen used to say that when demons would approach his house, they must have said, “Oh, don’t go over there, those people will beat your brains out.” That’s the way we ought to be when the devil tries to think about coming to *our* house.

Use the Name of Jesus. Plead the blood of Jesus. Drive demons and any demonic activity out of your home, your body, your life, your neighborhood, buildings, cars and anything else they try to occupy. Never be afraid of them—YOU have the authority. And they know it.

7. Use Authority to Subdue the Weather

“Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.” Mark 4:39 (NKJV).

With so many devastating storms and disastrous tornadoes, floods and other happenings, many people have asked, “Is God behind it?” The answer is, absolutely not!

Jesus said in **John 10:10**: “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (NKJV).

Jesus is our example when it comes to dealing with destructive storms. We know Jesus spoke to the wind and said to the water, “Peace, be still!” and they obeyed Him. We have the same place of authority through Jesus. It’s not His place to enforce the laws of the Kingdom in the earth. It’s ours.

So, when the report of bad weather comes, don’t wait and see what’s going to happen. Start speaking to it, NOW! Go outside, if you can. Shout! Don’t just talk to God about it. Speak to the elements. Say, “You don’t come to my house! I declare blessing and protection around me, my family, my property and all that’s mine!”

Forget about what other people think. They already think we’re crazy. Being worried about what others think is a form of fear, and if the devil can get you to back off, he’ll try to destroy what’s yours and blame it on God.

You have authority over the weather. Don’t be afraid of any storm, tornado or earthquake. Rebuke it just as Jesus did.

8. Use Authority for Finances

“He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.” Colossians 2:15.

If you’ve ever experienced the stress that comes from financial pressure, you *know* how difficult it is when you’re so strapped you don’t have enough money to pay your bills.

There are things that can block financial blessing such as being in unforgiveness, failing to walk in love, failing to tithe and sow, or operating without integrity. Those areas should be checked first. But if everything is in line with the Word of God, you may be facing an attack of the devil on your finances. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. He does not want you blessed.

Here’s the good news: **Jesus reduced principalities and powers to nothing**—He took away the devil’s power to dominate us in any way—including in the realm of our finances. Our job is to act on this truth. As long as we act like the devil has power over our finances, he will. But if you will believe in your heart and confess with your mouth what God’s Word says about finances, you’ll be taking authority, and you’ll get what you need.

So, when you’re facing an attack of the enemy on your finances, take your place of authority. Speak to the financial mountain. Say, “Satan, take your spiritual hands off my money and off my property. Ministering spirits (angels), GO forward and act on the voice of God’s Word! Cause all that’s mine in the kingdom of God to come into my hands, now! I declare the blessing of the Lord, and the shield of faith to surround all that’s mine!”

God's Plan From the Beginning

Let's understand what happened at the beginning. Genesis chapter 1, shows what the plan of God has always been. God created the earth, and He put Adam in charge. He created the earth for His children to enjoy and be in charge of. Adam was to take charge of everything Father God created.

The earth still belongs to God, but Adam was the caretaker. In fact, Adam was given God's dominion over the earth.

In **Genesis 1:26-28** it says,

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

The Hebrew word for dominion is *râdâh*, and it's pronounced *raw-daw'*. The definition is: *to tread down*, that is, *subjugate; have dominion -- prevail against, reign, rule, take charge of*.

Notice what He kept saying: "Have dominion." *Dominion* means literally to *tread down*. It can mean to *put under your foot*, or to *hold in place under your foot*, so it means to have an *absolute authority*.

Does anybody have a problem with Adam having absolute authority? No, they shouldn't, but some people do. If you're religious at all (I'm using that term in a negative sense), you could say, "Well, it couldn't be absolute dominion because God has absolute dominion."

True Sovereignty

God does have absolute dominion but He gave Adam a specific area over which He would have dominion. That's what you have to realize. If you understand that, then you also understand what the Bible means when it speaks about the sovereignty of God.

True sovereignty does not mean fickle. It doesn't mean God is changeable with respect of circumstances or with respect to different people. Sovereignty means that God is all supreme -- no one is even close to being as high as God. But at the same time He has relegated Himself to operate within 'His own commands' and within the laws that He Himself has set.

In other words, no one is above God and no one can tell God what to do. But God Himself has established spiritual and physical laws that He will abide by. If we know what's good for us, we will abide by His laws too!

Notice He gave man dominion. He gave man absolute authority over His earth. It's mentioned several times in the Psalms.

In **Psalms 115:16** it says,

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men. The heavens belong to God, but the earth He has given to the children of men; the sons of men."

God owns the heavens, but He put the earth under man's dominion. We know, according to Jesus, that Satan tried to tempt Him. It tells us this in **Luke 4:6-7**,

"And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine."

The devil was saying to him, "I will give you all of this power and the glory of all of these kingdoms if You will just bow Your knee." In effect he said, "They were delivered to me and I can give them to whomever I want."

When was power and dominion given to Satan? They were given to him when Adam accepted the temptation in the garden. It was then that he handed the power and the dominion over to the devil.

Notice the power that Satan has been working under is the dominion that God had given to man. Notice that all of that was offered back to Jesus, but Jesus didn't take it because He knew that it was a shortcut.

He knew He was going to get it anyway. *Dominion* is *absolute authority*.

Jesus was going to take back this dominion -- the hard way. The spiritually legal way!

Chapter 9

Authority and Dominion Restored

*"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples,
he gave them power against unclean spirits,
to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness
and all manner of disease."*

Matthew 10:1

Jesus walked in dominion and authority for 3 and ½ years. He demonstrated the dominion and authority that Adam was supposed to walk in.

Jesus demonstrated the authority that He was going to take back from Satan.

Jesus, after His finished work at the cross, has restored dominion and authority to all born-again believers.

Matthew chapter 9. Verse 35 says,

"Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

Every time you hear of the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached, you always find healing of every sickness and every disease.

Why? It's because healing demonstrates the Gospel of the Kingdom. It's a physical proof that the Kingdom is near, or the Kingdom is at hand, as the KJV says.

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few," (Matthew 9:36-37).

Let's look at these verses:

Verse 35 says, *"Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching, preaching, and healing every sickness and every disease."*

Who was doing the teaching, preaching, and healing? Jesus.

Verse 37 says, *"Then saith He unto His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.'"* He said that because He saw them, and He had compassion on them. He saw the multitude, saw that they were like sheep scattered and He had compassion. He called His disciples together and said, "Listen, the harvest is ready, but we have so few laborers."

Matthew 9:38, *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

Matthew 10:1, *"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."*

If you look up the word "gave" it's a prolonged form of a primary Greek word *didōmi*. The verb is used as an alternate in most of the tenses meaning *to give*. It's pronounced *did'-o-mee*. It depends on how deep you go in the Greek language, to determine the correct definition.

If you just look up Strong's Concordance, it's going to give you a basic understanding. You can go into it a little deeper if you use Thayer's.

When it said, "He *gave* them," it meant it was loaned, but after the cross it was given as a possession.

"He *gave* them," *loaned* to them, "power."

Power Is Authority

The Greek word there for *power* is *exousia*, and it literally means *authority*. He gave them authority. What authority? His authority. It was the authority that Jesus was walking in. “And He gave them authority against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” Do you realize He was *giving* them, *loaning* them, the authority He Himself was operating in? It was not less authority. It was the same authority.

Now go down to verse 5 of **Matthew chapter 10**,
5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them...”

Notice He didn’t suggest or ask them. He commanded them saying, “*Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not.*”

Matthew 10:6-7, *“But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. And as you go, preach.”*

The word for *preach* is the Greek work *kērussō*, and it means *proclaim*. The Greek even goes so far as to say, “*Proclaim with a liberty, a solemnity, and a gravity with which it must be listened to and obeyed. Proclaim, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’*”

Notice what He tells them in the next verse.

Every time you see kingdom, the next thing you’re going to see is this:

Matthew 10:8, *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”*

The Will of God

If you can, get the picture of that! The closest picture we have is the one in our own minds when we think about heaven. I’m talking about the place. If I could I would give you a visual of that. If you were to walk down the streets of gold, would you see people on a crutch? No. Are you going to see a person in a wheelchair? No. You’re not going to see people with any parts missing because they’re going to be complete.

Why don’t we see wheelchairs in heaven? Why don’t we see missing body parts? Why don’t we see crutches? Why don’t we see people dying of HIV in heaven? That’s because God’s will is being done there.

If God’s will is being done in heaven and you don’t see any of those things there, and if He tells us to pray, “*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*” then we shouldn’t be seeing them here. Wherever you see that, you are not seeing God’s will being done.

Wherever you see God’s will being done, you see empty wheelchairs, you see crutches laid on the ground, you see blind eyes open, and you see people exalting Jesus, the Christ.

You have to realize that the thing you need has already been given, and that it’s not future; it’s past. It’s just a matter of what you’re going to do with it. It’s at hand, exactly like Jesus said, “*The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” The problem is: most of us stand around with our hands in our pockets instead of reaching out, and touching, and blessing.

Jesus gave His 12 disciples authority against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. (**Matt. 10:1**.)

Do you realize He was using authority? He gave them authority and notice that He didn’t give specifics concerning which ones to use authority with. It just says, “*He gave them authority against unclean spirits.*” Why? “*...to cast them out.*”

It didn’t matter which ones; it didn’t matter who had them. It didn’t matter how they got them, He just said that the unclean spirits had to go.

“He gave them power against all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

In other words, it doesn't matter how they got it, and it doesn't matter where it came from. If it's a sickness or disease it should be healed.

It's Not About Religious Tradition

The problem is that we have made healing into a theology. We've made it into another sermon rather than into the freedom of the Gospel.

Matthew chapter 10 verse 8 said, *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils."* Notice that all of those are right there together, even cleanse the lepers.

People say, "Well, there are not many lepers out today." It's not just about lepers; it's about the skin being cleansed and the blood being cleansed. It's about being cleansed from everything. HIV is the leprosy of today. I'm saying that because it's supposedly the incurable disease that not only affects the blood and the immune system, but it affects the skin, and it affects the entire body, so it's basically the same thing.

In **Luke chapter 9**, verse 1 He says, *"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases."*

Notice the wording here, *"...and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases."*

It's the same thing. He gave them power and authority. He gave them the ability and the right to cast out any devil or to heal any sickness.

Again notice the broad categories here: heal the sick and cure diseases, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils.

Churches however focus on the person, asking, "How did you get that way? What did you do? What sin did you commit? What problem do you have? How did you get this?"

Jesus was saying, "Don't worry about how they got it. Don't focus on the person. Focus on the Kingdom." If you did focus on the Kingdom what would this person look like?

God Is a Faith God

Do you realize, when God looks at you, He treats you like He has faith in you? God is a faith God. He looks at us in faith. He believes we're actually going to be who He designed us to be and He treats us like that, even before we look like it. Even before anybody else would treat us that way, He looks at us and says, "I know what's in you."

It's like when Paul told Timothy, "I know what's in you. I know what you can do." Why? Paul said, "Because I put it there myself."

When the rest of the world is looking at you and saying, "I see how you are," God is saying, "I know what's in you. I know who you can be." Why? He's saying, "Quit looking at why or how a person got something, and look at the Kingdom."

If you want to look at that person, look at them and picture them in heaven. What would this person look like in heaven?

Would they be in that wheelchair? You're not going to see them in that wheelchair.

A person in a wheelchair doesn't do much, but after they're out of that wheelchair for a short period of time, their body changes. Their muscles are no longer atrophied; their body changes and they take on a different demeanor. Even their countenance changes because they're not helpless anymore and all of a sudden their life means more to them.

They can do more. It would be hard for you to even recognize them. They have more "quality of life," as people would say.

That's the way God looks at people. He looks at that person in the wheelchair and says, "I will get one of My sons to pray for you, to lay hands on you; to put My life into you." God is looking for people that He can embody, that He can impart Himself into so that He can use them to impart Himself to other people. That's what He's looking for.

He says here in verse 2 of **Luke chapter 9**, *"And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."*

What did He send them to do? He sent them "to heal the sick."

God's Kingdom

Kingdom equals deliverance. Kingdom equals freedom. Think about that. We have been delivered. The Scriptures say we have!

He has translated us from the power of darkness into the Kingdom of His dear Son.

He took you out of the power of darkness. When did He do that? It was when He put you in His Kingdom. When did you get into His Kingdom? That was when you got born again. The minute you got born again, the power of darkness had no power over you.

You were removed from its power and put into the Kingdom. You are now in the reign, the rule, and the supremacy of God's dear Son. You've been removed from the power of darkness.

If darkness is reigning in your life, it's there illegally!

Chapter 10 Christ In You and You In Christ

*"The mystery which has been hidden
from ages and from generations, . . .
Christ in you, the hope of glory."
Colossians 1:26-27*

Do you really know who you are "in Christ?" Do you know that Christ is in you?

I realize that this is a dangerous truth, because many false teachings have been formed with the idea that we are all gods; apart from being born again by the blood of Jesus. This is nothing but mankind exalting himself; as influenced by Satan. But there's an amazing spiritual truth that the apostle Paul was given to instruct true believers, "Christ in you and you in Christ."

Most people know who they are in the natural realm as it relates to their family and upbringing, but when it comes to their true identity in Christ and what that entails, they don't have a clue.

Often, people have a hard time identifying with God because they relate to their own physical, natural identities and the things they can perceive with their senses more than they do with Him.

God Wants Us to Use His Power

God made us in His image, and when we accept Jesus as our Lord and personal Savior, we become one with Him. This means that, from a spiritual perspective, we are just like Him; in the spirit. Knowing who we are in Christ is the catalyst for walking in the power and authority of God and demonstrating that power to the world.

Because the knowledge of who we are in Christ is so vital to our confidence as sons of God, it's the area in which Satan will consistently attack us.

In fact, he attacked Jesus in the area of identity when He was fasting in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights.

*"when He had fasted forty days and forty nights,
afterward He was hungry."*

*Now when the tempter came to Him, he said,
“If You are the Son of God,
command that these stones become bread.”*

Matthew 4:2-3

When Satan tried to question Jesus’ identity in the wilderness, Jesus responded with the Word of God. He didn’t have to prove anything because He knew who He was! That is the same way we should respond to the devil when He comes to attack our identity in Christ. We should always remind Him of what God has said about us and about him. Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘*You shall not tempt the LORD your God*’” (v. 7). When Satan realized that Jesus was not moved by His attack, and that He knew who He was, the Bible says he left Him alone.

Jesus wasn’t the first one Satan attacked in the area of identity. In the Garden of Eden, he also attacked Adam and Eve. He made a statement that suggested to them that they weren’t who God had made them to be. In, Satan deceived Eve into thinking that she wasn’t like God, which was the opposite of the truth. God had created Adam and Eve in His image, which meant that they already were like Him. They allowed the voice of the enemy to get them to doubt who they really were. As a result, they took the bait and fell into his trap.

By constantly looking into the mirror of God’s Word, we are able to maintain a consistent consciousness of our identity in Christ.

The Word will tell us exactly who we are, what we look like from God’s perspective, and how we are to act as sons of God. It will also reveal to us any areas of our lives that may not line up with God’s Word.

God is a spiritual being, and He has made us in His image. When we become born again, we carry the very nature of God on the inside of us, which makes us “like Him,” or joined together as extensions of Himself; (**Psalms 82:1-8**, AMP).

Therefore, we should identify with the identity that God has given us. **Philippians 2:5-9** shows us the attitude we should have as Believers:

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Even though we possess the power of God on the inside of us, if we don’t embrace the same mindset that Jesus had about His identity, for our own lives, we’ll never be confident enough to walk in that identity.

From now on, begin to see yourself as Jesus saw Himself—a spiritual being who possessed everything that the Father God has freely given. Renew your mind to who you really are and declare it every day. You will send the devil running in the opposite direction!

Receiving a New Identity

Did you know that if you are born again, you are part of a royal family? It doesn’t matter what your background is, the color of your skin, or which side of the tracks you grew up on. Jesus has leveled the playing field for each and every person who chooses to accept Him as Lord and Savior.

When we become followers of Christ, something supernatural takes place in our spirits; we are re-created spiritually and have access to everything heaven has to offer. Our job is to renew our minds to the new identity we have received through Christ.

Many Christians are going through an identity crisis because they simply don’t know who they are and what they have access to as a result of their relationship with Jesus.

The Bible is a book of promises, or covenants, between God and His people. All He wants us to do is believe His Word and lay hold of the good things He has for us, by faith. We have to know we have a right to these things, however, because of who we are in Christ.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ,
he is a new creature: old things are passed away;
behold, all things are become new.”*

Second Corinthians 5:17

When we accept Jesus, our spirits are literally recreated; we are not who we used to be, from a spiritual perspective. After the salvation experience, we must enter into the process of renewing our minds so our thinking will begin to line up with the conversion we have experienced.

As our thoughts about ourselves change through continual study and application of God’s Word, we will begin to see ourselves differently, and consequently, we will begin to act differently. The things we used to do, we just won’t be able to do any more.

As Believers, we have been changed into another spiritual species that is no longer connected to the world system and the laws that govern it. Our new identity is in Christ, and just like a king on earth, we are seated in a spiritual position with Him that surpasses the forces of darkness (Ephesians 2:6).

We have access to the very nature of God, and all of His promises (2 Peter 1:3, 4). In order to align our lives with this new identity, we must renew our minds (Romans 12:1, 2). We must look into the Word of God like we look in the mirror in the morning because the Word will reflect back to us who we really are as born again people. By allowing the Scriptures to transform our thinking about who we are, and declaring what God has said about us, we can begin to experience what abundant living is all about!

Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life

Our thinking sets the course for our lives. If we find we are not living the abundant life Jesus died to give us, we must examine our thought life.

*"For as a man thinks in his heart,
so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).*

In order to prosper God's way, our thoughts must agree with His Word. The words we are exposed to on a daily basis have a huge impact on our thinking. And the condition of our minds determines the condition of our lives.

Therefore, as Believers, we must go through the process of renewing our minds with the Word of God. Then, when we have thoughts that do not line up with God's Word, we can replace them with Word-based thoughts (**2 Corinthians 10:5**).

It is the will of God for us to prosper in every way, from our health and finances to our relationships and jobs. Every area of our lives should be an expression of abundant life.

However, we prosper to the degree that our souls prosper (**3 John 2**). The soul is where the mind, will, and emotions reside. The mind is the primary area that Satan attacks because it is the control center of our lives.

Satan's attacks consist of words and images that oppose God’s Word. He wants us to doubt God and fear that His promises will never come to pass. However, we have the power to transform our lives. Transformation comes when we allow God’s Word to change our thinking.

*“Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,*

*that you may prove what is that good and acceptable
and perfect will of God.”*

Romans 12:2

Many Believers wonder why their lives have not changed since they've been saved. The problem lies within their thinking. Many of us have nourished mindsets that actually “oppose” the Word for years -- and as a result, our old nature is stronger than our regenerated spirits.

In order for change to occur, we must begin to nourish godly thoughts by consistently meditating on the Word.

Keep in mind that change does not occur overnight; it is a process during which we must refuse to become frustrated.

When we remain committed to the transformation process, we will begin to see changes take place. Change is a lifetime endeavor, not a one-time event.

My prayer is that you will continue to conform to the image of Christ by renewing your mind with God's Word on a daily basis, so that you can truly know His good and perfect will for your life.

Powerful Prepositions

One of the most important ways to renew your thinking to “who you are” in Christ Jesus – is to look for all the phrases in the New Testament that include, “in,” “through,” “by,” “with,” “on,” and “of” Christ Jesus.

You might be surprised to find more than 130 times phrases like, “in Christ,” “in Whom,” and “in Him.”

*“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.

Your true identity is not in your past at all. Your true identity is “in Christ Jesus!”

*“If by the one man's offense death **reigned** through the one, much more those who
receive abundance of grace
and of the gift of righteousness
will **reign** in life 'through' the One, Jesus Christ”*

Romans 5:17

Even though you are born again, and a member of the Kingdom of Heaven, the devil will do everything he can to keep you from living in the light of who you are in Christ. The key is to “declare continually” who you are in Christ.

Chapter 11

Activating Dominion and Authority

*"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;
have dominion over the fish of the sea,
over the birds of the air,
and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Genesis 1:28

For many years, I studied and believed God's Word with all sincerity. But I really didn't have revelation of *kingdom authority*. My thoughts were good and I believe I was becoming transformed, but it was really more theory instead of practical application.

If you are truly a disciple of Christ, you're not going to be doing anything that would allow the devil to have power and authority in your life.

You might be thinking, "Well I thought Satan doesn't have any authority." Satan only has the authority in this world that we give him.

The Bible says in **1 John 5:19**, *"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."*

"The whole world lies in wickedness." It lies under the power of the wicked. The only thing Satan has is his deception, which is to keep you in bondage and make you think, "Well, I'm a bad person. I did 'this or that,' so I deserve cancer. I deserve ..." No! You don't deserve that.

Notice that in verse 2 of **Luke chapter 9** it said, *"He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."*

Luke 10:17 says *"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."*

He had sent them out, and they came back. Think about this. Have you ever seen a person operate by a gift? Then you have seen a person operate by faith. When someone operates in a gift from God, it's just so easy.

By Faith, Not Unbelief

In **Matthew 17:14-19**, the man with the lunatic son came to Jesus and said, "Lord, I brought my son to your disciples and they could not cure him." Jesus rebuked the devil and the devil departed out of the child and he was cured from that very hour.

In verse 19 and 20, there was the question from the disciples asking why they couldn't cast the devil out of the man's son.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, *"Why could we not cast it out?"* So Jesus said to them, *"Because of your unbelief. . ."*

He answered their question by saying, "It was because of your unbelief." In other words, they could have done it by faith.

Matthew 13:53-58 will answer why there was such a question:

"Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there. ⁵⁴When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, 'Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?' So they were offended at Him."

But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.” Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”

We read in **Luke chapter 10** where he had already sent them out. If you look at the chronology of this, Luke came before Matthew, so Jesus had sent them out and they had come back and said, “Lord, even devils are subject to us through Your name.” Why? It was because He had given them *power* and authority. We would say that it was *ability* and authority.

Power On Loan

The Greek word *dunamis* for *power* was like an explosion; *miraculous power*. It was like a gift. When they were out doing this, the atmosphere was like a celebration. They were happy, they were excited, and they were coming back all pumped up.

They had all of these results, but then you go back to where it said, “And He gave them power,” it really said that He “loaned them power.” Why? It was for a specific mission.

He loaned it to them and He said, “You go and do this.”

After they came back, and that man brought his son, that mission was over, so the power was gone. Why? That’s because it was on loan. It didn’t come to stay until the book of Acts. They were so used to saying, “Devil, come out,” and BAM! the devil would come out. They thought, “Hey! That was easy.”

Then this man came up and they tried to cast the devil out, but the power was not there. Think about that. That power was not there. They were trying to operate in a gift, but the gift wasn’t there. Jesus said they could have done it by faith; not by a gift...

Do you see the difference?

If you think about it, you will see that it opens up so much more to you because you start to realize that there are times when you’ll operate by a gift and there are other times when you just have to go on faith. Once you realize that, all of a sudden you will see how that opens things up.

In Matthew 17, they didn’t have power. But just because there wasn’t power doesn’t mean they weren’t responsible for getting it done. They still had to get it done, but they had to operate by faith instead of by power.

Authority Or Ability

Luke 10:17-19, “*Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name. And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

“Behold,” look or take notice, “I give unto you...” What was he giving to them? He was giving them *exousia*, “*authority* to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the *power*,” a word taken from the root word *dunamis* (*meaning the ability*), “of the enemy.”

Notice He didn’t say, “I give you power.” He didn’t say I’m giving you ability. He said, “I’m giving you *authority*.” The reason He didn’t say, “I’m giving you ability,” is because the ability didn’t come until later, but they could still have gotten it done through authority. Authority relies on faith, but ability relies on the gift or the *dunamis* (*inherent or manifested power*) of the Holy Spirit. “And nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 10:20, “*Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*”

Let’s tie this together. What were they doing? We started in Genesis chapter 1, talking about man having dominion. Jesus comes. He’s not under the authority of Satan, so He’s operating in the dominion that God gave man in the beginning.

The Bible calls Jesus the Last Adam. There's the first Adam and there's the Last Adam. Jesus was not the Second Adam, He was the Last Adam. You have to realize that.

That means that you have dominion. God gave Adam dominion, then Adam gave it to Satan, then Jesus showed up as the Last Adam. He then gave His disciples authority to operate. Jesus was not operating under Satan's authority.

John 1:12 says, *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:*

Have you received Him? "To as many as have received Him, to them, gave He *power*," (*authority*), "to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name." He gave you and me authority.

Acts 1:8: *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

"But you shall receive *power*," (*dunamis, miraculous ability*), "after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

Notice, the disciples were given authority in **John 1:12**. It says, "...to as many as received Him" Ability came later.

Authority Is Here To Stay

Jesus loaned authority to His disciples for a while, but we know in **Acts chapter 2**, the Holy Spirit came and stayed so that they could get born again. When the Spirit came, He came to stay. Before that, God's people had Spirit power that came and went, just like the Old Testament prophets had.

But under the New Testament, we have Spirit power that came to stay. Jesus said, "I'm going to go. If I don't go, I can't send the Comforter." This He spoke of the Holy Spirit, which had not yet been given because He had not yet been glorified. But when He was glorified, He went to the Father.

Jesus returned to Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit back. Why? He said, "Because if I go, then I will send the Comforter back. Then My Father, the Holy Spirit, and I will abide in you."

God lives in us by the Spirit. In **Colossians 2:9-10** it says, *"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."*

Now we have the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, *"all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* (**Colossians 2:9**.)

We have received of His fullness and now we are complete in Him. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit live in us. If the Holy Spirit lives in us, is there ever a time that we don't have the ability? No, because He said we would receive ability and after that the Holy Ghost would come upon us.

Before, ability was only loaned and then it was taken away, but now ability is here to stay. Now it's given and it abides in us!

Jesus, the Last Adam

Notice what Jesus was doing. Look at all of the miracles Jesus did. He turned water into wine. He walked on a stormy sea. He spoke to a fig tree. He was basically fixing everything. You have to understand that He was operating in the dominion that God gave Adam.

Could Adam have walked on water? Yes, if there had been a storm. For all we know there was no storm before the fall. Maybe some wind, who knows, but no storm. Now, think about that. Adam could have walked on the water. Everything that Jesus was doing He was doing

as the Last Adam and He was walking in the dominion that God wanted man to walk in. However, man gave it up.

Jesus gave them the authority to become sons, and because they were sons He sent the Spirit of His Son into their hearts crying, “Abba Father.” He sent that Spirit.

The Holy Spirit comes upon you, you become a son, and then He sends His Spirit. What happens when you get the Spirit? You get ability, so now you’ve got authority and ability.

You have the authority of a son to walk in faith and you have the *ability* of the Holy Spirit (*miraculous ability*), to back it up. Now you have authority and ability.

Authority and Ability Equals Dominion

You can have authority and never use it. You can have ability and never use it. You can have the authority to use the ability but at some point, if you’re going to have and walk in ability, you’re going to have to accept responsibility.

Ability and authority equal dominion and that means that Jesus has put us back into the position that God originally intended, which is to basically look at this world the way God looks at it and see it the way He sees it. Then we just fix it until it looks the way He wants it to look.

Matthew 6:10, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.”

Isn’t that simple?

Years ago I heard a story. It’s not a long story, but I’m just going to give you the punch line, I guess you would say. In Italy there is a statue of David by Michelangelo. It’s an amazing statue. He did a lot of amazing statues, but when he was doing the statue of David, someone asked him, “How do you do this?”

You take a piece of marble and when you finish with it, pieces are lying around on the ground, and you’ve got this amazing statue that’s perfect and smooth.” He was standing there working with a chisel and hammer and this statue was perfect. They asked, “How do you take a block of marble and end up with this?” He said, “It’s very simple. I look at what I want to see and then I just chip away everything that doesn’t look like that.”

That’s what God does. He looks at us and as long as we’re alive, as long as we’re breathing, everything that doesn’t look like Kingdom can just be chipped away.

When you look at a person, if all you see is what you see, then you are not seeing them through God’s eyes. If you look at that person and you see them through God’s eyes, you’re going to see them on at least two different levels.

If you see a sick person or a crippled person, you see whatever it is on the outside, and you are only looking with physical eyes. If you could see them the way God sees them, you would see them the way you would see them in heaven, which means without the wheelchair; without the problem. Your job is just to fix it. You need to see them the way God sees them and then you just chip away everything that doesn’t look like Kingdom.

Chipping away doesn’t have to take years. Chipping away can simply be, “Be healed! Be free!” Whatever it is, you are removing it. You are taking this thing off of them and all you’re leaving is what God sees.

A Different Way To See

We talk about physical healing a lot, but let’s take it even farther than that for just a second. If you look at a person and all you ever see are their actions, all you are seeing are the results of their thoughts. What you think about, you become. If you think about something long enough or if you talk about it long enough, you’ll do it; generally speaking.

If you hear a person saying things that don’t line up with Scripture, maybe they are lined up with the world. Maybe their actions are their drunkenness, their reveling, and all of those

kinds of things. The Bible says that if you do those things that you'll not inherit the Kingdom of God.

If that's all you see when you look at that person, and you say, "Oh, look at them. They're drunkards, they're drug addicts, they're doing this or they're doing that," then you know you don't want to have anything to do with them.

I understand that you might not want to fellowship with them. Fellowshiping means that when they raise their glass of alcohol, you raise your hand to alcohol, too.

That's what fellowship means. I can be around them and not fellowship with them. I can be ministering to them, which means that when they raise their glass, I don't have a glass to raise, but I'm still ministering to them. In other words, I'm not fellowshiping with them, but I can minister to them. I can be around them. They don't defile me because I am holy.

As a matter-of-fact, if anything, I can sanctify them rather than allow them to defile me because it's not what goes in but it is what comes out that defiles.

We should be the salt of this earth. We should be bringing holiness. We should be able to get around people and we should be able to minister to them and talk with them.

We should not always focus on what they're saying or focus on what they're doing. It takes faith to watch a person get drunk or to watch a person shooting up and yet still see what God sees in them and say, "I know who you can be," without just pushing them aside.

If you're just going to push them aside, all you're going to see is what any human would see. However, if you want to see them through the eyes of God, you're going to have to see them through faith. I'm not saying ignore what they're doing. I'm saying that you are "mining for precious pearl."

Going Deeper

Do you understand the analogy there? You're digging for what's deeper than what you can see. I'm not saying that the outward thing won't kill them; I'm not saying that it won't take them to hell. It easily could. What I'm trying to say is that you are going beyond that. You're not overlooking it. You're looking through it and saying, "It's like when they teach princes how to be kings. You're better than this. You don't know what Jesus died to provide for you." Instead of just looking at what they're doing, look at what they're saying, and look at how they're acting.

If that were true, children from 2 years up to about 16 or 17 would just get tossed out. Why? It's because they say all kinds of things. They say all kinds of things like, "I hate you! I don't like you."

If you really believed that, you would just toss them out on the street, but you're not going to toss a two year old out because you look beyond that, and you say, "You don't know what you're saying. I'll give you some grace there because you just don't know what you're saying."

We need to be able to do that same thing with people who have bigger problems and love them into the Kingdom and love the Kingdom into them.

Chapter 12

God's Gift of Dominion

*". . . let them rule (have dominion)
over the fish of the sea
and the birds of the air,
over the livestock, over all the earth,
and over all the creatures
that move along the ground."*
Genesis 1:26

God has made abundant provisions for mankind. He created man in His image and His likeness. God created them male and female, and He gave them dominion over all the works of His hands. (**Genesis 1:26-28**) But so many have never understood that dominion; therefore, they never exercise their dominion on earth.

It seems that most people want to put it off until they get to heaven. But there won't be anything to subdue and have dominion over in heaven. There is a dominion principle. If it is understood and acted upon, it will force production from the earth. Even though this earth is under a curse, you can force the earth to produce good by applying this principle.

You don't have to plant the curses. They are already in the earth. But you must force the earth to produce what you need. To do that, you must have a seed.

Speak God's Word After Him

The prophet Isaiah gives us this insight into God's gift of dominion: *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."* (**Isaiah 55:10-11.**)

Remember the Bible speaks of God's Word as being both seed and water. (**Mark 4; I Corinthians 3:7-8; Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3**)

If you have seed and no water, you cannot have production from the earth. You must have both to produce a harvest. Now, look with me at **Genesis 8:22**. Let's read what God said to Noah when he came out of the ark: *"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."* This is God's decree. In other words, God has decreed that there will be seedtime and harvest as long as the earth remains.

The principle is this: God's Word comes down from heaven the same as the rain comes to water the earth and cause it to bring forth fruit. So His Word comes to the earth, and it will accomplish that whereunto He has sent it. God's principle, or His means of bringing that to pass, is SEEDTIME and HARVEST. You sow a seed, and you reap a harvest.

A good seed sown makes a demand on the earth and forces it to produce. The Scriptures said that Jesus would open His mouth in parables and speak things that had been kept secret from the foundation of the world. (**Matthew 13:35**) The things that Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God in parables are things that had been kept secret from the foundation of the world. And He openly revealed them to us.

In **Mark 4:14**, as Jesus told the parable of the sower, He said: *"The sower sows the word."* The seed is the Word of God. The soil is the heart of man. God furnishes the seed for the sower. But you must sow them. The way you sow them is by saying them in faith, GIVING VOICE to God's promises.

For instance, God gave us the seed of healing and deliverance in Psalm 107:20: *“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”* God has sent

His Word and healed them and delivered them. Notice it says He sent His Word AND did it. God believed it was done when He sent His Word (the seed). He did it for them and He did it for us. Well, how did He do it for us?

In **2 Peter 1:3** -- Peter tells us, *“According as his divine power hath given unto us ...”* His divine power is His Word. It came by the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit is the Author of the Word of God, according as His divine power hath given.

His Word hath given unto us all things (seeds) that pertain to life and godliness. Peter goes on to say, *“Whereby, [or by this means] are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature ...”* (**2 Peter 1:4**) Notice he didn’t say you would be; he said you might be. In other words, through the kingdom principle that Isaiah referred to, the Word of God is as the rain and snow that comes down from heaven *“and returneth not... but it shall accomplish the thing whereto I sent it”* (**Isaiah 55:10-11**) It will cause the earth to bud and to bring forth.

The Seed Forces the Soil To Produce

The Word of God will force production in the kingdom of God. You put pressure on the soil with the Word of God. It’s the incorruptible seed. Now, I’ve learned that you can have dominion over the soil with the seed. I call this God’s gift of dominion.

That seed takes dominion over the soil and forces the soil into production. For the Word is both seed and water. Then, as you go to **Mark 11:23**, you see this principle can be applied in everyday life. Jesus said: *“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”* (**Mark 11:23**)

Here again is God’s gift of dominion applied. Words spoken in faith put pressure on the circumstance. If you believe, doubt not in your heart, and believe what you’re saying, it will come to pass. The Word spoken becomes a seed. It may be small at first, but it just keeps growing, and it keeps putting pressure against the mountain. That constant pressure of the seed (spoken Word) making its demand will bring the harvest of desired results. But for many the problem is that they haven’t understood that the seed is what forces the production.

The soil does not decide what to raise or where to put the pressure.

I’ve never planted a seed and heard the soil say, “No, we’re not going to raise cotton this year; we’re going to raise cucumbers and bananas!” No, it can’t do that, because if I planted soy beans, I will get more soy beans, one hundred times out of a hundred.

The seed, not the soil, determines the production. Now, the soil may determine the amount of production, but the seed determines what will be produced. So the seed that Jesus is talking about in this kingdom principle is the Word of God. In other words, the Word of Promise, the exceeding great and precious promises, is the seed source.

Then, in **Romans 10:8**, the apostle Paul says, *“...The word is nigh thee even in thy mouth, and in thy heart ...”* Paul is telling you how to plant God’s Word in your heart, or in the kingdom, where it will force production.

Great Faith Secrets

Words spoken in faith put pressure on the circumstances.

In **Luke 17:5-6**, Jesus told two great faith secrets. The disciples had said, *“Lord, Increase our faith.”* Jesus said, *“...If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”*

The King James Version says it “should” obey you. The Greek says it “would” obey you. Jesus said faith works like a seed, and the way you plant it is to say it.

Now, do you see the correlation between this and what God was saying through the prophet **Isaiah (55:10-11)**? *“As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, (it forces the earth into production). So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth. (It becomes the) seed for the sower, and bread for the eater.”*

The seed has Spirit Life in it. And Jesus said, *“... man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” (Luke 4:4)* The Word is a life source. Jesus said, *“... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63.)*

The seed is full of life. It's the Kingdom Seed. It's called the Word of the Kingdom. (Matthew 13:19) And Jesus said: *“...So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself...” (Mark 4:26-28.)*

You might say, “I don't understand how speaking God's promises could change my circumstances.” Well, Jesus said you wouldn't understand it. But He said go to bed and get up. Surely you know how to go to bed and get up. Now, He didn't mean to quit your job. He just means not to fret. You don't have to fast or worry about it; you simply sow the seed, go to bed, and get up.

In other words, you exercise God's gift of dominion: You sow the seed by saying: “Thank God, my God has met my need. I'm proclaiming in Jesus' Name that there is abundance and no lack. I'll have the best job in town. I'll get a better job if I lose it. I say it on the authority of the Word of God. I can have what I say, if I believe and doubt not in my heart. Whatever I do will prosper.”

Put Pressure On The Circumstances

Through God's gift of dominion you put pressure on the circumstances.

When a circumstance tries to put pressure on you, you turn it around by putting pressure on that circumstance with God's Word.

God told Elijah to go to the widow's house in Zarephath. That put pressure on the prophet. God sent him to a widow who was about to starve, and she was to sustain him!

When Elijah arrived, she was gathering sticks to cook the last meal for her and her son. (**1 Kings 17:11-14.**) Elijah said, *“Bring me a drink of water, and while you're at it, bring – me a little cake.”* She replied, *“We're gathering sticks and we just have enough for one more cake, and we're going to eat it and die.”* (Paraphrased).

Now the circumstance is putting pressure on the prophet. But he turned it around and put the pressure on the circumstance by saying, *“Bring me a little cake first and there will be plenty.”*

Now the pressure is on the widow. But when she was obedient to Elijah's words, she put the pressure back on the Word of the Lord. And the three of them lived for a whole year from that barrel of meal that had been empty. The Bible says “many days” with a footnote that says “for a whole year.” God's gift of dominion puts pressure on circumstances with the Word of God.

Confess the Word

You can also put pressure on your circumstances the same way. God's Word is given to you as a seed for what you need. It will make a “demand” on the kingdom within you. But your faith will not rise any higher than your confession of the Word of God.

The promises of God will never become a reality in your life unless you plant them by speaking it into your heart (soil). It's a seed you're planting.

The seed forces production! As you speak God's Word, faith comes. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing, and hearing, and hearing the Word of God. That's why it's necessary for us to continue to speak the Word. No, it won't work just because you say it. But saying it is involved in working the principle.

It's the seed (God's Word) that puts pressure on the soul and the heart of man. It demands a harvest. *"So shall my word be that cometh down from heaven. It shall accomplish that whereto I have sent it."* (**Isaiah 55:11**.)

This principle is so simple we have missed it.

All through the Bible we see that the Word of God is the seed. You sow it by speaking it into the heart, which is referred to as the ground or soil in **Mark 4:26**. You may say, "Yes, but what if I say that and it doesn't happen?" Well, what if you said the negative things and it did happen?

I'd rather say what God said and get half of it than to say what the devil said and get one hundred percent of it.

There is always someone who will say, "Yes, but So-and-So tried it, and it didn't work!" But I'm not basing my faith on his experiences: I'm basing my faith on the Word of God. I'm like Peter, who said, *"Nevertheless at Thy word ..."* (**Luke 5:5**).

The Word of God has come down from heaven, and it will accomplish that whereto He sent it. But, it's up to us to act on this principle and have dominion over the circumstances of life. In other words, exercise God's gift of dominion by speaking God's Word.

Make your confessions on the authority of the Word of God. Don't base them on someone else's experiences. Base them on what Jesus said, and hold fast to your confession of faith. Sure, you still want to do everything in your power and your ability to change things. But don't put your trust in your ability.

Put your trust in God and His ability. The Word says, *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony ..."* (**Revelation 12:11**) But some people have no Word in their testimony. Too many people want to live by past experiences. "Well, I know the Word says this, but here's what happened to me."

Whatever happened to you didn't change the Word of God.

This is what has happened to us down through the years. That's why whole denominations have started out on the Word of God and then got sidetracked. They started preaching "experience" instead of preaching the Word of God. Some things are going to happen to you in life that don't agree with what you're confessing, or believing -- but it does not change the Word of God!

If you will hold fast to God's Word and continue to plant seed, it will eventually change what you experience in life.

Jesus Has Restored Dominion

There is so much about God, the Creator that we do not, cannot, and may never know – but He has revealed enough of Himself to allow us to glimpse some of His character and nature. One major characteristic is that "God is love" (**1 John 4:8, 16**).

If God is love, then His actions and purposes would be a manifestation of the nature of love. One of the obvious qualities of love is that love has to give and share itself.

By examining some of the beginning Scriptures that we have in Genesis – we know that this love motivated the King of Heaven to create "sons" and daughters to share His rulership and dominion. In other words, man was created to share God's invisible Kingdom – and that's why God created a physical earth for man to occupy and have dominion.

Matthew 25:34: *“Then the King will say to those on His right, come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”*

The motivating purpose for the creation of mankind was to dominate the earth and its resources -- the result of the Creator’s desire to extend His rulership from the supernatural realm to the physical realm. The record of God’s creative act is found in Genesis 1:26:

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our likeness, and let them rule (have dominion) over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created him; male and female He created them.’”

God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them with His words (Genesis 1:1 - 3). And He created man in His own image – with words of dominion (verse 26).

God created the animals, but He reproduced Himself in Adam. Man is not just another animal on this planet. Adam was given God’s own authority over everything on earth and then crowned him with His glory (**Psalm 8:5**).

God did not create Adam and then appoint him as His manager. He created Adam to rule – a living, speaking spirit, just like his Creator. He gave him dominion over the works of His hands and put all things under his feet (verse 6).

It’s man’s nature to rule just as it is God’s nature to rule. The word *dominion* in this verse is from a Hebrew word that means “to rule – have dominion, governor – have power.”

Adam’s Fall

When man bowed his knee to a fallen angel, Satan, he fell from his created position as a son of God to the level of angels, God’s created servants. He actually fell below the class of angels in spiritual ability, worship, and his walk with God because he chose to honor a fallen angel above his Father, his Creator.

By submitting himself to Satan, Adam surrendered his God-given authority and dominion to God’s enemy (**Luke 4:6; John 8:34; Romans 6:16**). When Jesus, the last Adam, came, He allowed Himself *to be made* sin and the curse for us. He submitted Himself to the death of the Cross, taking our place – now lower than the angels. But God the Father raised Him from the dead, victorious over death, hell, and the grave.

Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father, and because of the new birth we are now restored to our rightful place in Him. We are seated together with Him in heavenly places (**Ephesians 1:3**), in judgement over the angels (**1 Corinthians 6:3**).

Our dominion in the earth has been restored in Jesus. He has given us His authority (**Luke 10:19**). His armor (**Ephesians 6:11**), the power of attorney to use His name (**Mark 16:17-18**), and the power of His blood (**Revelation 5:9**) to rule and reign on the earth (verse 10).

The Father God has restored us to the God-class in Christ Jesus. In Him we can live a life of victory, fulfilling His will in the earth, using His authority to speak to mountains and mulberry trees, moving them out of our way to accomplish God’s will and plan in the earth (**Mark 11:23; Luke 17:6**).

As we take His power – His love – to the world (**Mark 16:15; John 17:18**), we are to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils (**Mark 16:17-20**), and teach people about what Jesus did and said (**Matthew 28:20**).

We are to be imitators of Jesus in the earth (**Ephesians 5:1; Hebrews 2:11-12**), ambassadors for Him, spreading the good news of His great love, forgiveness, and mercy (**Mark 16:15**).

Chapter 13

You Have Kingdom Authority

*Behold, I give you the authority
to trample on serpents and scorpions,
and over all the power of the enemy,
and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Luke 10:19

Is it true to say that “God is in control?” Of course it is!

Since God is in control He can delegate authority to whoever He chooses. Again, we would have to say, “of course!”

He delegated authority and dominion over the earth to mankind; Adam.

Now, let’s get right to the truth about our kingdom authority. Here’s a very short recap of why Jesus. (God the Son), came to earth: It was to strip Satan of the God-given authority that Adam gave away. Jesus then restored God’s kingdom authority back to mankind. With this being said, we know why Jesus “always taught” about the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Heaven.

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news (the gospel) of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and every weakness and infirmity” **Matthew 9:35**, AMP.

We can also see why He gave such powerful instructions to believers in **Mark 16:17-18**.

“These signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover,”

Kingdom Authority for Healing

There are a number of keys to seeing the miraculous power of God manifest on a consistent basis. One of the least understood, and therefore seldom practiced, is the fact that “healing” is under the authority of the believer. God has already provided His healing power and placed it on the inside of every born-again believer. It’s up to us to release it. Authority is activated and released with words that agree with God’s Word. Understanding and using our authority is the key to seeing miracles happen.

Look at how Peter and John ministered healing to the lame man in Acts 3:2-8:

"A certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God."

Notice that Peter didn't pray for this man. He also didn't ask God to heal him. He said, "what I do have I give you." This didn't mean that Peter was the source of this healing. Notice what Peter said in **Acts 3:12**,

"When Peter saw it, he responded to the people: 'Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?'"

It was God's power that healed this man, but that power was under Peter's authority. Peter went on to say in verse 16 that it was faith in the name of Jesus that had wrought this miracle. But Peter didn't ask God to heal this man. He believed the Lord had already done His part and had placed that power within him. Now it was Peter's responsibility to release that power, and that's just what he did.

The Lord never told us to pray for the sick in the sense that we ask Him to heal them. He told us to heal the sick. There is a big difference between the two. It has to do with operating in the authority He has already given us. Look at these commands the Lord gave His disciples.

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." (Luke 9:1-2)

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." (Matt. 10:1)

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:7-8)

Jesus told us to heal the sick, not pray for the sick. These are the exact words of our Lord Jesus Christ! And this is precisely why more people don't see the miraculous results. They aren't taking their authority and commanding the sick to recover and receive healing; they're passively asking God to do what He told them to do.

God has placed His healing power under our authority, and it's up to us to release it. If we don't take our authority and speak words of life and faith from our heart, God's power will not be released. There needs to be a radical renewing of our thinking on this issue.

The choice is clear. We can hold on to religious traditions, or we can believe Jesus and the truth of His Word.

Prophetic Words Activate God's Power

It's like electricity. The power company generates the power and delivers it to your house. It's not your power, but it's under your control. You don't call the power company and ask them to turn the lights on. No! They won't do that. They generate the power, but it's under your command. You flip the switch on the wall and command the power to work.

Does this mean you are the power source? Certainly not! You aren't the power source, but you are the one in control of what that power does. You can plead with the power company all you want, but they won't flip the switch for you. You have to assume your authority and "acknowledge" the power is under your command.

I Acknowledge

I acknowledge and confess that *"Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world"* 1 John 4:4. This makes me an overcomer over adverse circumstances, problems and fears that come against me.

I acknowledge that *"God has not given me the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and a sound mind"* 1 Timothy 1:7.

I acknowledge and confess that I will become known as a disciple of the Lord: *“By this all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another”* **John 13:35**.

I acknowledge that *“I can lay hands on the sick and they shall recover”* **Mark 16:18**. Jesus said that it’s my kingdom authority to administer His healing power to sick and diseased bodies, They shall recover.

I acknowledge that *“whatever I ask the Father in Jesus’ Name. He will give it to me”* John 16:24. I’m so thankful and do not take this lightly at all, but give praise and glory to God for every wonderful blessing.

I acknowledge that *“It is not I that live, but Christ lives in me; and the life that I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me”* **Galatians 2:20**. I acknowledge and confess this truth and affirm it over and over, “Christ lives in me!”

I acknowledge and declare that *“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”* **Ephesians 3:20**. In Christ, I acknowledge, confess and prophesy that the power of God is working within me.

“The” Kingdom Principle

Many good Christians and most non-Christians believe Jesus taught love and acceptance. Actually, He didn’t.

Of course, He taught about love, and we know that when we confess Jesus as Savior and Lord – we are accepted. But His main message – everywhere He went – was, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel”* **Mark 1:15**. (Repent means “turn around” and go in a better direction.) Jesus taught repentance from sin, not acceptance of sin.

Over and over again, from city to city, Jesus taught about the Kingdom principle of sowing and reaping. He would teach by saying, “the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed,” “the Kingdom of God is like a landowner,” “the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,” “the Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,” “the Kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.”

The unseen Kingdom of God is where all of our need is met. We need to be Kingdom minded – just like Jesus is Kingdom minded.

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people” **Matthew 9:35**.

If you want to receive healing from God – sow seeds of healing by saying, “by Jesus’ stripes I am healed.”

If you want to receive blessing, favor and prosperity – sow seeds of blessing by saying, “my God supplies all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

If you want to receive freedom from fear, addiction, depression or discouragement – sow seeds of deliverance by saying, “God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind,” and “I submit myself to God and resist the devil and he flees from me.”