

Replica

(Duplicate made by original artist of his picture etc., exact copy; model, esp. on a smaller scale)

MATTHEW WOOD

Preface

My prayer is that you will connect with the King of Kings as you read this book. Clearly the idea of reading a Christian orientated book is to not connect with the author but rather to connect with God. For some, listening to anointed Christian music in the background while reading is a useful tool in connecting with the Lord. As one concentrates on reading the conscious engages in the meaning of the words while the sub-conscious engages in the music.

This book is devised of two volumes, written at different time periods with a gap of approximately five years. The volumes are in a sense two books.

Volume I (Inside Time), written first, is based on a revelation of fact, that as a believer we are **‘in’** Christ. What a glorious day it was when I realised the potent meaning of that tiny little English word **‘in’**.

Being **‘in’** Christ means that we have all that He is including His history. The Bible states that we were with Him before the creation of the world, we were with Him on the cross (one died for all and therefore all died) and we have also been resurrected with Him. We share in His past, present and future, being put **‘in’** Him. He is seated at the right-hand side of the Father and His enemies are His footstool and so we are with Him now and share in this position. This revelation of the word **‘in’** brought about a

‘knowing’ that was woven into the fabric of my being creating an unshakable faith.

The Bible is factual, whether we believe it or not - it is fact. If I believe God loves me unconditionally then it is true - it is fact, He loves me with an unconditional love. If I do not believe He loves me unconditionally He still loves me unconditionally. Fact is fact regardless of my belief system. However it is belief (faith) that enables fact to become reality in our lives. Faith transforms our perspective to align with God’s truth. Faith is the substance; it is the building blocks of His truth becoming our reality.

‘Where does our faith or belief system end?’ There is an exact correlation between how big our God is and where our belief system ends.

When we first came to God we had a revelation that Jesus died for us, as a substitute for our sin which deserved the death penalty. We were told that it is by His blood that our sins have and will continue to be washed away and forgotten and as a result we are granted eternal life – an entry into heaven. So we believed, we asked the Lord into our life and accepted his redemption. What followed was a feeling of freedom that we had been indeed forgiven. We had Jesus in our hearts and the weight of sin was lifted off our shoulders.

The Bible says that we died with Christ on the cross – it was a co-death. Therefore the old man is dead and the new man born of the Spirit (His life) reigns in us. **“For it is no longer I that live but Christ in me” “for the body of Sin has been done away with”**.

However, because the verses above are not our experience, when reading we gloss over them. We do not have the faith that this is fact because it does not match our experience – our reality is continual sin. Where does your belief system end? How big is your God?

Experience follows Faith, not the other way around. Fact will not become experience until we have revelation of fact and believe fact to be true. We did not feel washed by His blood, forgiven and a son or daughter of God until we believed, had faith and asked him into our hearts. So why do we think other promises of the Bible have a different starting point – all God has to offer starts with Faith. All the promises we may become to believe are already fact, we have all that Christ is already whether we have the faith yet or not. Christian growth is merely a discovery, via revelation, of what we already possess ‘in’ him and always have since we asked Christ into our lives.

In essence, Volume I (Inside time) discusses a process of revelation. A revelation of our position in Christ. It is a practical handbook of how Christ, through our belief creates a Replica of himself in us now, in this fallen world.

Five years on after writing what is now Volume I the Lord said to me, “I need to reveal to you a glimpse of my Kingdom. My heartbeat is towards my Kingdom which is to come”. The Lord opened my eyes, and I saw as I began to re-read the gospel that it was His Kingdom that the Father demanded Jesus focus to be towards. Jesus started many of his parables and teachings with

‘the Kingdom of God is like...’. He came to usher in a way for His Father’s kingdom.

The Lord said clearly to me’

“Let me teach you about My Kingdom, your vision needs to be outside yourself. Personal redemption and sanctification is wonderful but in discovering what I am too you, can create a world that does not extend outside you. Let me show you My greatest desire and let it in turn become your desire. It is My Kingdom which is coming when my glorious inheritance becomes a living reality. The inheritance of having all my followers with me in the new world. Where my Son is the sum of all things and is in all and through all. My greatest desire is to see my Son as the Head of all and to see his life, My life living through every saint and creature.”

What followed was a series of Spirit-led impressions of the Kingdom and these impressions have made up the basis of Volume II (Outside Time). How will God continue to make us a Replica of His Son when we leave this world? What has his eternal purpose been since the beginning for His Son and us? I hope that some of these questions may begin to be answered through some of these impressions. I have only had a very small glimpse of the things to come. My prayer is that while reading this volume God may stir in you a sense of anticipation and a groaning within for the future.

God graciously opened my eyes to the truths in this book. Without revelation by the Spirit, the concepts of this book will remain concepts. The Spirit is the only teacher who can teach

the mysteries of God. I encourage you to ask the Lord to teach you. We all have different backgrounds and circumstances. Give Him permission to be active in your life to take these words and expand on them. God can and will speak to every one of us if we allow Him access. It is God's Spirit who leads, and it is His Spirit who does the work. Anything, of any spiritual value, starts with a teachable heart.

Volume I – Inside time

Introduction to Volume I

There is nothing new contained in this Volume. It contains the simple truth of the gospel. However, sadly, parts of this truth have been forgotten in the past 2,000 years. Emphasis has been given by many, to the fact, that we have had our sins forgiven through Christ; we are assured a place in heaven through Christ and that we will continue to sin to the day we die. People are left with the impression that they should accept the fact that they have fallen, get on with life and live in anticipation of heaven, where they will be cured of the 'sinful nature'.

This section of the book will be particularly helpful for those Christians who are frustrated with their spiritual experience, who feel that their spiritual life is like a roller coaster, never consistent or stable. The focus is not on 'works' or a list of things that you should exercise in order to ensure salvation. Rather, the focus is on a discovery of what Christ has done for us. After this discovery has been made all we have to do to live an abundant, resurrected life, is to rest in faith and accept these truths. The power of faith is supernatural. Once we accept what Christ has done, the Holy Spirit allows us to experience these truths.

The title meaning 'Replica', overlays through this volume (Inside Time). In this volume 'Replica' underlines the fact that what happened to Christ, has also happened to us. When we become Christians we are 'put into' Christ. It is like being put into a timeline, that is, a series of sequential events that over time will

become known in our life. This timeline is composed of the major themes of Christ's life: Obedience, Death and Resurrection.

Their ordering is vital; we cannot surrender to God until we have learnt obedience.

Christ learnt to be obedient to those delegated authorities instituted by God, such as His parents and the leaders of the land. If we have not learnt to be obedient to authorities, that are tangible, how can we expect or begin to reason with being obedient to God? Obedience must come first.

Death is the second theme. As obedience led Christ to death, so will it lead us, however, it is not a physical death, but rather a surrendering of one's soul to the Holy Spirit as the source of all initiation of mind consciousness and emotion. In order for this process to become complete (where the Spirit is the source of all) one must deliberately choose by an act of will, to allow God to be the source of the soul's function rather than self. This is the metaphor of death - it is a soulical death. Once, and only when this process has occurred, will an individual experience what Christ described as a resurrected life.

A resurrected life is a new life as our body, soul and spirit are restored finally to operate as they were originally designed to, in Christ.

I believe that the major events and themes in Christ's life, need to be accepted in our lives. This is crucial for spiritual growth to continue so we do not become stagnant. We do not need to

imitate these themes and events as they are already a reality by the grace of God. They are fact. We might not feel that the events are inclusive in our own life, but that is purely a case of perception. As they are revealed, our responsibility or requirement is to say 'Yes' to the Spirit, as He makes these things known.

Therefore this volume is arranged into three parts (Obedience, Death and Resurrection).

The first theme of obedience is not just about 'doing', it is a state of 'being'. It is a humble attitude towards the Father. Obedience is a state of mind where our will has chosen to say 'Yes' to the Spirit. 'Yes' to more access, 'Yes' to more fellowship and 'Yes' to more involvement in our lives. The second part is about Christ's death and what that means in our lives. The third part, 'Resurrection', is about entering into a resurrected life on earth.

Part 1 – Obedience

Our Will Before and Up to Salvation

Each of us has a unique way by which we came to know Christ, and this is a characteristic of our uniqueness, as creations of God. There is however, a shared commonness in our first commitment to Christ, because whether we were brought to God through a friend's words, through our own searching, or by another means, we ultimately came to Christ through an intuitive feeling that it was the right and best thing to do. A rationalising or reasoning approach may have drawn us to God, but the 'feeling' or 'sense' that finally prompted our decision would not have been based on reason alone, but rather driven by an in-built restlessness deep within ourselves.

Every person who has made a commitment to God has heard Him speak to them and has obeyed. The only way we can really decide to do this is by God alone making things clear. We may hear phrases such as, "you don't have to clean yourself up before you go to God" a hundred times, but it is not until God opens our eyes supernaturally, that we suddenly know with all our heart, soul, mind and spirit that it is the truth. Through the Holy Spirit things are truly made known to us, for:

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. (John 3 vs.6)

It is a spiritual, not a fleshly, rational knowledge by which we come to know God.

There may be people who understand the concept of salvation, have witnessed miracles, and yet still don't choose to follow God. There are perhaps two reasons why this is the case; the Holy Spirit has not yet called them; or, He has, but their will has chosen to resist and continue in a life of independence. For God will never force us to do anything. He has given us a will to choose, to accept, or reject His proposals. He doesn't want to control us like robots without any choice.

The difference between 'spirit' and 'flesh' applies not only to the way we initially come to God, but also to the way we live in Him daily. The vast difference between the Holy Spirit impacting our minds and being in control ourselves becomes evident in our daily lives.

Those who live life according to the flesh have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires... the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. (Romans 8 vs.5-7)

Without the Spirit, it is impossible to submit to God's law (making that first step towards Christ) let alone to grow and change once that commitment has been made. God doesn't want us to have to battle against the flesh and painfully restrain ourselves every time we face temptation; rather with the Spirit our will comes into line with Gods, our minds as such become 'set on what the Spirit desires'.

Our soul (or ‘personality’) contains our will along with our intellect and emotions. It is our will however, that is the most important, because the choices we make through it affect us spiritually as well as in the flesh. When we make a moral choice we are actually choosing to obey or disobey God. Since we were born we have had these choices of obedience or disobedience. Some who have not been Christians long may dispute this idea and say, “I didn’t even know God as a child”. However Romans 2 vs. 15 says:

Since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.

This ‘law’ which is mentioned above, is referring to the knowledge of the difference between right and wrong. Nearly all cultures universally agree that murdering, stealing and cheating is wrong. The knowledge of this is, to an extent, the cultural result of parental guidance and teaching. However, much more than this, it is our conscience, a voice separated from worldly teaching, that guides us towards moral decisions.

By no means can we say that every moral decision we have made, is because we have been ‘taught’ the desired outcome, ‘teaching’ cannot cover all situations. This moral law is ‘written on our hearts’ and is a gift from God. It is the small voice of our conscience, leading and guiding us, in fact the voice of God.

Before we became Christians we were spiritually dead. We did not have a relationship with God. When Adam ate from the Tree

of Knowledge, two things happened. One, he suffered a spiritual death, or in other words, a separation from God, and two, he gained the knowledge of good and evil. This resultant awareness of right and wrong is the ability to make choices independently of God. The serpent tricked Eve into believing that she would become like God. However, having the ability to make decisions without God’s Spirit is hardly becoming like God, in fact, you become a lot less like God. Although humankind has been cut off from God we still possess a conscience: ‘the moral law written on our heart.’ The extent of the strength of our conscience depends on our obedience to it. If we disobey our conscience it lessens, and equally if we listen to that small voice and obey it, it grows stronger.

It is this law, which is written on our hearts and the creation around us, which allows every person who lives and has ever lived, the opportunity to say ‘yes’ to God:

Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by all things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, (Romans,1 Vs 19-21).

It is true that some people may die without ever hearing about Jesus, but as this scripture says, people know deep within themselves that God exists. God judges us according to whether our will has chosen to be obedient with the knowledge He has set before us.

We can try to live righteously by this law of moral 'rights' and 'wrongs', but if God's will is not firmly embedded in our lives and decisions, this moral and 'Christian' behaviour is not only impossible, but even sinful. One of the most challenging and perhaps startling verses in the Bible is Matt 7 vs. 21-23;

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them away from me, you who practise lawlessness!"

Our will must be in alignment with God's will. By choosing to say 'yes' and being obedient to God, the more we receive life and start to live as we were designed.

The Fall of Man

Before 'The Fall', Adam and Eve were able to communicate with God freely. The Holy Spirit lived within Adam and Eve's spirits and because of this there was a constant flow, from their very inner selves (spirits) to their personalities (souls). Today, the only possible way that we can commune with God, like Adam and Eve did, is through this process of the Holy Spirit impacting our spirit. Our spirit is the only place where we are able to sense, hear and receive from God. This is our very inner self, which is alive, talks and acts (1 Corinthians 14:14-17).

Many people are not even aware that they contain a spirit, because without the Holy Spirit living within them, they are spiritually dead. It is not until you become a Christian that the Spirit gives life to a new spirit within.

God influenced Adam and Eve's soul 24 hours a day. However, they still had the choice of whether to abide by what the Spirit told them. Satan disguised as the serpent told them that they would become God-like if they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In making the choice to eat the fruit, they made a decision independent of God's Spirit and they sinned. Sin is defined as 'operating independently of God'. This independence also brings about the fruits of sin (sins), which can be traits such as lying, stealing, cheating, pride etc.

Today we still live with the repercussions of this first sin (choosing independence), because as a result God cut His

spiritual link with us. The severing of this link means that His Holy Spirit no longer lives within us as a consequence of this original sin. However, when we first become Christians, we start the process of repairing this link, we allow God's Spirit to once again dwell within us. It is only when we allow God access to our souls daily that the second step of reparation, i.e. allowing the Spirit to impact our souls, occurs. We do not become more like Christ in our personalities by making daily mandates to be extra kind and loving. These qualities in our personality can only *really* come through allowing Him to change us.

As humans and heirs of Adam's legacy our 'default' setting is a natural tendency to sin:

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
(Romans 3vs23)*

It is only through God impacting our spirit that lasting change in our personality can occur. We may be able to relate this to how our mind and emotions change when we spend time with God. People we were angry or annoyed with, no longer anger or annoy us after being in God's presence. We cannot intellectually or even emotionally try to reason with ourselves and say, "stop being angry, it is not Christian" and create a real change. We may be able to control our anger for a short amount of time, but this is not the kind of change God desires. We don't have to try to conjure up feelings of love for other people. God wants to let His love live and be revealed through us.

The difference comes through being dependent on God's Spirit on a day by day basis.

For:

... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22).

Even when we were newborn babies, we were still heirs to this sinful nature. Though we had not even had the opportunity to commit sins, we were still independent of God. In the same way that we inherit genes that make up characteristics of our particular race and we cannot alter that, we cannot alter that we have been born with a sinful nature. That is why we all need the Cross, and all need to accept the salvation God has given through Jesus.

As we read through the Old Testament we find that God poured His Spirit out on a few people in order to do His work. The Holy Spirit did not always remain with them, seeming instead to fall externally upon them, rather than living within them. The point in history at which this changes, is in the transition from the Old to the New Testament (Pentecost) with the arrival of the Holy Spirit indwelling in those who believed. This was God's solution to humanity suffering independence from Him. When Jesus died on the Cross it was a sacrifice on our behalf. This perfect sacrifice was made, for the instrumental purpose of giving us the ability, to have a new life dependent on God. When we become Christians, and choose to follow God, our spirit is renewed by the

Holy Spirit and brought back to life, as He comes to live in connection with our spirit;

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's Temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

But he who is joined with the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17).

As temples of the Holy Spirit we become vessels, or containers, that carry God's Spirit at all times. Before Christ died, the First Testament tells us that the only place where God's Spirit dwelt on earth was in two dedicated places, the Ark of the Covenant and then of course the temple. Now, that same Spirit can live within us.

This concept, of the permanent indwelling of God, might seem strange. Often, we may feel His presence in church, and then, when we wake up the next morning, it no longer seems tangible. The reason behind this is one of access. Unless we allow God access to our sinful nature daily (that we will still have until we die) a blockage will remain between God's Spirit and our souls. This blockage is twofold, caused both by sins (the things we do wrong) and sin (our independent and inherited nature). This first, issue of sins in the plural, is dealt with through repentance and God's forgiveness. However, in order to not commit these sins again, sin must be dealt with. We must ask the Lord to be our source, to help us in our weakness, for when we live independently of Him, (such as when we don't spend time with Him), we find that a blockage to Him is formed. At any point

when we come before God, seek His forgiveness and ask Him to be in control of our lives, we find that this blockage is removed and the Spirit is able to move freely. Trying to stop sinning in our own strength is in fact an independent act - a sin. God will never enforce on us this decision of dependence on Him. Every day we have the decision of whether or not we are going to choose God and allow the Spirit access.

What may be becoming apparent is that there are two somewhat separate parts to our Christian lives. The first part occurs when we accept Christ and His sacrifice, which instigates the Holy Spirit coming to live within us. This indwelling of God's Spirit is permanent, for God 'never leaves nor forsakes us'. The second part is a daily occurrence, and deals with the manifestation of God, the realisation of His tangible presence, and this involves allowing the Holy Spirit licence to impact our soul.

The comparison between these two sections can be illustrated in this little example. Where I grew up, Burger King offered free refills of any post mix drinks. So imagine, you go into Burger King one day and receive a revelation that what you really need is a drink. You receive the empty cup and then just walk out without filling it up. Receiving the cup is comparable to the first step of awakening your spirit. What a waste to not take advantage of using the 'cup'. Filling it with the Holy Spirit. Even if you fill the cup once, you will be thirsty again eventually. You need to keep going back to receive more of the unlimited refills available.

Hearing God's voice

For anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following the example of disobedience. For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:10-13)

It has been discussed in previous chapters the importance of knowing God's will and obeying that will in order to grow spiritually. In order to know the will of God, one must recognise the voice of God, not only in the written word (logos) of the Bible, but also in His living Word (rhema - God's voice).

Of the two, it is often His living Word that is the hardest to discern. The first thing to remember is that the two will never contradict, but rather complement each other. It is important to be able to communicate freely with God in this way, because without free communication our lives will not contain much Spiritual content. It is the Spirit that teaches, the Spirit that defines God's will in our lives, the Spirit that communicates to our spirits, and the Spirit that will do any fruitful work. Any exercise that uses human intellect, feeling or emotion as the source, is not spiritual and will not produce any fruit. It is the resting of the soul that allows the Spirit to move. Any work initiated by the soul is seen by God as an impurity. Of course the soul co-operates with the spirit however the source is spirit, hence Spiritual work

is achieved by God alone. It is therefore essential to learn to hear the voice of God.

When someone is born again, and their spirit is renewed, hearing God's voice can be very foreign to them. Since Christ's resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christians have had the Spirit within them that has allowed communication between Spirit and spirit. Is God's voice audible? Very rarely does God speak to people using an audible voice. How do we know if what we have heard is in fact God's voice and not just our own thoughts?

The first thing to realise is that God will only communicate through our spirit first. The Holy Spirit communicates with the human spirit and that communication is realised through a person's mind, or emotion, or both (soul/flesh). God never starts by directly communicating with the flesh. Learning to hear the living Word is entirely based on learning to distinguish between soul and spirit.

The only way we can understand this concept is to be taught these principles through the Holy Spirit. God desires with all His heart to be given the opportunity to teach a believer these principles. All it takes is to be open for the Spirit to work. Once the soul rests, the Holy Spirit will then start to teach us how to be used effectively.

Anyone who has been born again has heard the living Word (rhema) in this way. When we become Christians it was through revelation. We might not have entirely understood it; however

there was a compelling and inner truth that led us to commit our lives to the Lord. This intuition would have been founded in our spirit. The Spirit communicated through our spirits to our minds, telling us this was the correct thing. It may have been accompanied by an emotion as well. The emotion and mind activity may have been all we were aware of, but they would have been under direct influence of the Holy Spirit. Hence we decipher God's voice through the use of our mind and emotion, but only if we are under the influence of the Spirit.

After someone has become a Christian they often find that they start to get convicted of different habits and aspects of living. For some, they might not even understand why a particular behaviour is wrong, but there will be a deep sense within them that certain aspects of their life need correcting. When we are born again our conscience is renewed and becomes a lot more sensitive.

Next time you feel this spiritual activity of conviction occurring, analyse the source of the message. Ask whether it came directly from our minds or did it start from somewhere deeper. An awareness of this will help enable God to teach us the difference between spiritual activity and soul activity. When Satan communicates he speaks directly to the mind, never directly to the spirit. He works externally first, the opposite to God, who works from *the inside out*.

A believer needs to mature onwards from this communication with God through the conscience and into a place where they are able to learn directly from the Spirit and seek out His will.

Communication with God takes time! In order to be in a position where we are ready to receive revelation from the Spirit there needs to be no blockages between God and us. By thanking God for what He has done in our lives, even though we may not feel like it, will often remove a blockage. Tell God, "Lord, I don't feel like thanking you, but help me to do it sincerely" and as we start thanking Him we will find that, after a while, the Holy Spirit joins in with us. Suddenly, worship has gone past the mind and emotional level and our spirit and the Holy Spirit are agreeing and rejoicing within us. Refreshing starts to flow and there is a feeling of completion. All burdens become insignificant upon the realisation of God's goodness and His wonderful presence. The more we are in God's presence, the more distinct it will become. When we have released any blockage and we are aware of God's presence, He will be able to communicate with us.

Often, as God speaks to us, our thought process will not proceed as it would if we were in control. When we are in control each thought generates another, and it is normally sequential. Instead, when God is communicating with us, a whole concept may be given to us at once. If we were to explain the idea it could take half an hour, yet our mind, through the power of the Holy Spirit, deciphers it in a second. Other times, God may reveal things to us through a process. In addition, emotion will often confirm what we are being told. For example, God might show us a burden that another person is facing, and we may also feel that burden. This of course, is what God feels for the person, and He is using our emotions to express His. (Galatians 6:2)

Therefore, in order to help distinguish God's voice, we may ask ourselves, 'Is it God who is in control?' What is the source of these emotions and thoughts etc, am I aware of the Spirit acting within me?'

The verse quoted at the beginning of this chapter, states that the Word of the Lord is sharp and active. God's voice is able to cut through our own thoughts if He desires. This does not mean that we have to go into some passive meditative state in order to hear God's voice. God does not want us to try and empty our minds, in fact He tells us to take every thought captive before Him. The issues are, have we an open spirit? Are we in God's presence? What is the source of these thoughts?

Hebrews Chapter 4 talks of the reason why the Israelites did not enter God's rest. It was because they did not take God's promise of entering His rest with faith. Communing with God is all about resting in what He has done. We do not need to strive and work hard to communicate with God, instead we should come before Him and thank Him that, through His Spirit, He has offered an ongoing communion with us. Thanking Him that we can rest in the certainty that He desires with all His heart to speak to us and teach us, and most of all, form a relationship with us. Anything Spiritual that is of God, is dependent upon our rest. We must rest in faith in what He has given us through His Son. Once the soul rests with utter dependence upon the Spirit, then the Spirit becomes active, hence, **"when we work God rests and when we rest God works"** (Michael Wells).

The Humanity of Jesus

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...
(John 1:14)*

*“My teaching is not my own. It comes from Him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God’s will he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own”.
(John 7: 16-18)*

“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; he can do only what he sees His Father doing, because what the Father does the Son does also”. (John 5:19)

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgement is just for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.” (John 5:30)

It is very important to understand not only who Jesus is, but also what He became when He came to earth. Jesus was, and is, the Son of God. In fact, Jesus is God (John 17: 22). He was with the Father before the earth was created, and is with the Father right now. However, in order to correct the mistake of the first man Adam, He humbled Himself and came down to earth as a man. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, He was also entirely human. The word, “flesh” in John 1:14 is translated from the Greek word *sarx*, which refers to the essential parts of being human, spirit, soul and body. Jesus humbled Himself to the point of being conceived, growing in a human womb, and born as a

helpless as a dependent baby. He had to learn basic human functions, such as walking and talking. Obviously, sometime during His childhood or teenage years, He would have realised who He was and His destiny on earth. At times He was not entirely happy with His destiny, but He was obedient unto death. “Not my will, but your will be done” (Mark 14:36).

Jesus had a very special relationship with the Father. The communication between them was incredible. However, even Jesus was given a will. He too could decide to obey or disobey God. As part of being human we have a choice to allow God to direct our lives, or to take the course of our lives in our own hands. Jesus, at an early age, came to realise who He was and chose the course God had for Him. A human being is designed to operate with their mind and emotional activity under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus chose to become a man/human being he was totally helpless to do anything Spiritual of His own accord. Just like every other human being, He had to rely on God’s strength and God’s power to have any Spiritual impact.

In order for the Son of God to die as a sacrifice and thus put to death Adam’s legacy of sin, He had to be entirely human - Jesus had to be born in the same state as Adam. That is why Jesus is referred to as the second Adam (1 Cor 15: 45).

Jesus made His humanity known. He referred to Himself as the Son of Man. He was the Son of God and the Son of Man simultaneously. He had incredible power. He was God, but due

to a voluntary act for a short time on earth, He chose to humble himself and depend entirely upon the Father.

This matter of total dependence is the most essential point. He came and corrected the mistake of sin that was caused by Adam. Adam sinned when he disobeyed God. Adam made an independent decision and consequentially, he was cut off from the God thereafter. As a further consequence, every person is born in the same independent state, under the same law - the law of sin. The moment a person becomes a Christian, they inherit a new state; the Spirit comes to live within them and they are no longer independent of God. New birth happens when we give our life to God and we are 'put into' Christ. Being put into Christ can be best described as being put into a timeline of Christ's life. The major themes of Christ's life; obedience, death, resurrection and the ascension to the Father, become things that we have also already been through. As Christians, we now sit with Jesus at the end of the timeline in the heavenly realms. But in order for the truth of this 'timeline' to be a reality in our lives, we must accept it through faith (these points are explained in more detail throughout the book).

Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:3-6).

Jesus came to make a new law possible. Through Jesus, it is no longer the law of sin which has dominion over us; we can now live under the law of the Spirit. Just as Jesus did, we too can become totally dependent on the Father and be governed by the Spirit.

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the very nature of God did not consider equality with
God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking
the very nature of a servant
Being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a
Man,
He humbled Himself
And became obedient to death
Even death on a cross
Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place
And gave Him the name that is above
Every name.
That is the name of Jesus every knee
Should bow,
In heaven and on earth and under the earth
And every tongue confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord
To the Glory of God the Father
(Philippians 2: 5-11)*

When Paul states, "your attitude should be the same as that of Christ", he means that we should follow Christ's example of dependence on the Father. Jesus constantly expressed that the

power and teaching came not from Himself, but from the Father. He knew that when He spoke or performed a miracle it was done at the command of the Father, or through vision given to Him by the Father. (See verses at the beginning of this chapter)..

Satan knew that in order to destroy God's creation, he needed to eliminate the God source in Adam. Satan knew from his own independent stance against God (resulting in his fall), that, if he tricked Adam into doing the same the connection between Adam and God would be broken. The answer lay in causing Adam to act out of his own accord, rather than consulting God.

Satan also knew that Jesus had come to correct this situation and die as a sacrifice on our behalf. The scriptures had foretold His coming. He tried to convince Jesus to do the same thing that Adam had done – act independently of God. However Jesus knew the consequences of such an action and rebuked him.

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray and after forty days, the devil came to tempt Him. Jesus knew that it was the Father's will for Him to fast. Satan came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread". Satan wanted Jesus to act out of His own accord and sin. On the surface, it might not really seem like a sin. After all, He was hungry, and He had already gone forty days without food. Jesus knew He had come to do miracles, including ones involving food (feeding of the five thousand). However, the issue was that Satan was asking Him to be independent of God – not what he was asking Him to do. Jesus' answer was perfect; "It is written: 'man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes

from the mouth of God". He answered Satan by saying that He was dependent on God's word alone, and that He was not going to take matters into His own hands like Adam.

The Boy Jesus

Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was subject to them. (Luke 2: 51)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to a king, as the supreme authority, or by the governors, who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. (1 Peter 2: 13-15)

Luke Chapter two is the only chapter, which deals with Jesus as a boy. Jesus was twelve years old at this point in time. He had arrived in Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. His family travelled in a large group and when the feast was over, they travelled back to Nazareth assuming He was somewhere in this group. Discovering He was not with them, they returned to Jerusalem, and after searching for three days they found Him in the temple. Even though His desire was to stay in 'His Father's house', it states that Jesus went back to Nazareth and was obedient to his parents.

One of the significant points of this chapter is that the Son of God, Jesus humbled Himself to an earthly mother and father, put aside his own desires and was obedient to all they said. Jesus knew that if He did not practise obedience in the little things, to obey God unto death would be impossible.

'No servant is greater than their master', and if Jesus was humble enough to accept the authority of his parents, we should be too. As Jesus starts to live His life through us, the Holy Spirit will start to prompt us to be obedient, not only to our parents, but also to the authority of the law. We have discussed in the previous chapters the importance of learning obedience in regards to God's will in our lives and arriving at a place where obedience is not necessarily 'doing' as much as it is 'being'. Being in a constant state of obedience to the Father and His will in our lives.

Luke Chapter two also shows the first teachings and lessons of Jesus in a person's life. If we have not learnt obedience it is quite simple, we have not allowed God to use us to our full potential. If we have not learnt to be obedient to our parents or the authority of the land, how can we ever expect that we will be obedient to God? God delegates authority so that we might learn obedience. From the moment we are born, we are submissive to some sort of authority in order that we might practise submission to His authority.

The order of authority in our lives, should be the same as they were in Jesus' life on earth. God is the supreme authority, and the laws of the land come second. If the law or authority of the land clashed with what God wanted, we would first and foremost be obedient to God. The Jewish law protested the claims Jesus made about being the Son of God. But Jesus, despite the law, stated who He was, just as His heavenly Father told Him to do. So He was obedient to God first over the governing authorities. However even as He defied the law by not denying that He was

the Son of God, He maintained a submissive attitude towards Pilate who was the authority of the land.

We should in fact look for people in our lives that God has delegated as authorities, because obeying those authorities is obeying God as well. We will find it very hard to obey God, if we have not started with the people around us.

Obedience unto Death

Then he said to them “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and watch. Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will. (Matthew 26:38-40).

The passage above, expresses essential truths about His process of obedience. Jesus referred to His soul being overwhelmed to the point of death. This meant, that Jesus knew that His destiny was death. He knew He was to suffer for all of humankind. It is important to realise, the physical death He experienced, would not have happened unless He had experienced death in His soul first. Every part of His soul opposed such a death. Emotionally He was in anguish, even to the point that he sweated drops like blood (Luke 22:44). He asked the Father if there was any way to get around this death. However, He put to death what His soul desired. There was one part of His soul that cooperated with God’s desire, and that was His will. He chose to put to death His own desire for the sake of others and for the sake of the Father.

Jesus had come to trust the Father completely. He had practised obedience for so long that His will was ready to respond. He said ‘not my will but your will be done’ (Luke 22:42). What the Father wanted was so much more important than His own desire. Jesus had made the decision a long time ago, that the Father was to be in control, so He merely confirms what He knows; asking one

final time “may this cup be taken from me”. The Father answered ‘no’ and Jesus accepted His destiny.

However Jesus knew what the result of His death would be. He knew that obedience would always bring blessing (Exodus 28:1-2). He knew that the work He had completed on earth would be for nothing if He did not die. The real ministry of Jesus could not be accomplished until He had died and risen. The miracles performed were so that some would believe in whom He was. He knew that a lot of His teaching would not be truly understood until the Holy Spirit came, and revealed the things He had spoken (John 16: 12-14). This is why Jesus chose to speak in parables, so that those who came as children would receive the message through the Spirit.

Jesus knew, that it was through death that the real power of God would be manifested. It was through death and resurrection that people can be born again, that eternal life is secured, that people are baptised in the Holy Spirit, and experience new life and sanctification. How did He know this? The Father told Him. Whenever the Father asks us to be obedient in an aspect of our life, we can be assured that blessing will follow. Often God may give us ‘specifics’ of what will follow after an act of obedience, but at other times not. Either way, we can always rest in the fact that His will is best for our lives. It was designed before we were even born and He knows us better than we know ourselves.

A crude example I’ve found to illustrate Jesus’ death, and the power He knew would come from it, is illustrated in a scene from Star Wars where the rebels are trapped on the Death Star and

Obewan Kenobe is fighting Darth Vader. Obewan Kenobe lifts his light saber up and beckons for Vader to kill him. He gives himself as a sacrifice. He says to Vader “strike me down and I will only become more powerful than you ever imagined”. Satan struck down Jesus, but He knew through death, He would become more powerful than Satan could ever imagine.

Jesus first accepted death in His soul. He put to death His own desires and died a physical death for all. So that all who accept Him can rise with Him into a new life. He defeated Satan once and for all and ensured an inheritance for His Father, you and I, and all others, *in Christ*. He was obedient unto death.

Part 2 - Death

The Mystery of the Gospel – the Co-Death

Don't you know that all that were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? In order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the Glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6: 3-4)

For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with.... (Romans 6: 6)

Indeed in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. (2 Cor 1: 9)

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To one we are the smell of death; to the other the fragrance of life. (2 Cor: 15-16)

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. (2 Cor 5: 14)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. (2 Cor 5: 17)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. (Galatians 2: 20)

Having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead? (Coloss 2: 12)

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Coloss 3: 3)

This scripture emphasises the fact that we died with Christ – it was a co-death. When we give our life to the Lord, we are put in Christ. Spiritual growth is merely acceptance, and faith, that we are in Christ, and therefore the circumstances of His life have been manifested in ours. We have received the fullness of Christ, the reality of this is made known through faith. As our faith increases so does our experience of the facts. We do not have to try and imitate these facts but rather participate, for there is nothing more we can do to earn God's salvation. We just have to accept what He has given us by His grace. We must accept that we are Christ's replica as we have been put into Christ.

Paul's main emphasis in the gospel he preached, was that Jesus' death and resurrection was a co-death and co-resurrection.

For he chose us in Him (Christ) before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1: 4)

The more we accept the fact that we died with Christ the more we experience resurrection. It is not surprising that we struggle with accepting this today, considering that only after a year or two of planting various churches, Paul had to write letters to

remind them of whom they were in Christ (Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians).

We may have wondered if we will ever see God doing miracles through our lives and using us in a mighty way. The question is – have we accepted death?

Accepting death means that we view the old creation as dead and destroyed, and see a new creation as our life now. As new creations we have the Holy Spirit abiding in us, not only to guide us in our life through various circumstances, but to also be the source of the way we think. The source of the way we talk. The source of the way we feel. The source of the way we treat others.

If you experience the Holy Spirit on occasions, but find that most of the time you are out of the Holy Spirit's presence, and the norm is being in control of our own mind and emotions, then this truth is directly for you.

Paul said “It is no longer I that live” - was he exaggerating? Would the founder of the church overemphasise his statements? No! Paul had experienced death. He stated that all he knew was Christ crucified. He also knew that he was on that cross and that he had no right to carry on living out of the old nature when a new one has been put in place. God's grace had supplied him with the Spirit so that the Spirit could be that source of all soul activity. All he had to do was accept death on a daily basis.

Jesus spoke of this mystery that allows us to experience death and resurrection on this earth:

I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes Father, for this is your good pleasure (Luke 10:21).

Little children are totally dependent on their parents. As they get older they strive for independence. Unless we become like little children and lay every bit of independence we possess at the foot of the Cross, the mystery of the Gospel will remain hidden.

We discussed in the previous chapter that Jesus faced death in His soul first, and, following that, a physical death. So it is the same with us - we must put to death that independence our soul strives for and accept that we have already died. What follows is more incredible than words. The difference is as marked as black or white, life or death. It is not until we experience death that we truly experience the divine life.

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. (Matt 16: 25)

The Illusion of Control

One of the hardest things, as a Christian, is giving over various areas of our lives to the Lord as we begin the journey of obedience. The Holy Spirit starts to convict us of circumstances and areas in our lives that Jesus wants to be in control of. A lot of Christians can handle giving God the big things such as their spouse or career, and will repent of different sins, but many are afraid to give their complete soul to God. Circumstances are one thing, and sins (these you hated doing anyway) may be easy to give over, but the idea of having your emotions and mind impacted constantly by another, is very scary.

This chapter is for those who are approaching this ultimate denial of self, and who really mean business with God, but find they have a fear of giving their complete soul over to God.

The obedience process that God wants to lead each of us through will always lead to death. If we keep saying 'yes' to the requests or proposals that God puts in front of us, it will lead to the denial of self. If we reach a certain point where we stop giving God control, this process of obedience will become stagnant, and so will our spiritual growth.

Dying to self does not mean that your personality will change, God created us as individuals for a reason. What will happen is that the positive parts of your personality will shine out. You will start to express Christ's character through your personality.

Let us talk about how Paul came to this conclusion of laying his soul at the foot of the cross and why he believed it was the right thing to do. Paul was given a revelation that is discussed in Romans Chapter 7:

For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not good; no the evil I do not want to do is what I end up doing. Now if I do exactly what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it but the sin in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being (spirit) I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in my members of my body waging against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner to sin. (Romans 7: 19-21).

Understand that at this point, Paul is most definitely a Christian. He must have the Holy Spirit residing in his spirit otherwise he would not delight in God's law. But he is a Christian who is feeling defeated. As he communicates with God, God convicts him of sin in his life, which he wants to stop - however he ends up repeating the sin again and again. Only Christians who really mean business with God, and want to put an end to areas of sin in their life, will experience this feeling.

Christians who have the attitude 'I keep sinning but that's alright, I don't really feel it has to change because God forgives me anyway', will not realise the extent which they are in fact a prisoner to sin. It is like someone with an addiction. In order to beat the addiction they must first decide that they want to stop. Once they make this decision and attempt to stop, it is then that

they realise the extent of the problem - they can't stop, it is just too hard.

Often this self awareness eventuates through a process. Once we realise that the Holy Spirit is not manifest in our mind and emotions, and this is making it difficult for us to minister to others, we often attempt to clean up our life. We even ask for God's help, we fall down again and again.

Romans 8 talks about release from such a state. The sad thing is that very few Christians allow themselves to go on to experience Romans 8. They understand Romans 7 and just settle with the slavery that this chapter describes. The attitude becomes accepting; 'I am a slave and will just keep being cleansed by Jesus' precious blood. I've just got to get through this life and then finally, in heaven, I will lose this nature'. People with this attitude place all their expectations in the future. But Paul states that the "law of the Spirit of life sets me free from the law of sin and death". (Romans 8: 2).

Does this mean that Paul never sinned again? No. I am sure he had his moments of being human. He was set free from the sinful nature however, because through this revelation he knew how to come out from under its power.

The state of a person in Romans 7 is a person who has not experienced the death of their soul. Romans 8 on the other hand is, a person who has accepted Jesus' death in their own life and now is experiencing a resurrected life.

The revelation is contained in the word 'law', used in both Romans 7 and 8. Paul realises in Romans 7 that he was not in control himself. It was in fact the law of sin that controlled him. We were not designed to be in control of our own mind and emotions, instead God intended the Spirit to be the source of control. In the Garden of Eden, Satan lied to Eve and said that she would have control over her decisions. However all that happened was that the control of her mind, emotions and personality was handed over to serve a different master. Originally it was the Spirit, and after the fall it became the law of Satan, or the sinful nature.

Note if we have not allowed God control of our life, do not think that we are therefore in control. We are not in control and we never have been. Either God is in control or the sinful nature is. The law of sin is fixed just as any other law is.

The law of gravity says that if we throw something in the air it will always come down. If our wish is to be used by God like the early apostles, yet we spend most of the time with our mind and emotions out of God's presence, then we remain under the sinful nature. Just like something thrown into the air, we might soar for a while but we will always crash back down. It is simply a spiritual law.

How can a law be superseded? It can never be removed – instead another more powerful law must be found. The law of aerodynamics can override the law of gravity. Gravity still exists, but the law of aerodynamics is more powerful. God's Spirit is like

the law of aerodynamics - it can set us free from the law of sin.
We have to choose to put our soul under the law of the Spirit.

How many times have we sworn not to commit a particular sin again and yet we do the very next day. Have you tried to be in control of your monetary situation and found that it just ends up controlling you? Have you ever starved yourself to look thin and become proud of being in control of your eating, only to then realise that food is on your mind every hour of the day?

Whatever we try to control will only control us. As humans we were never designed to be in control. When faced with laying our soul at the Cross, do not think it is a matter of giving up control, because that is just an illusion. It is a matter of realising we were never in control anyway, instead we are just swapping masters.

The Seed and Mary's Offering

Jesus' teachings contain the mystery of the Gospel. Jesus said, "Let those who have ears hear" (Matt 11: 15):

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it will produce many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:24)

Jesus knew that, unless He died, He would not bear the fruit He was capable of. How many more followers of Christ are there now, compared to when He was alive? The spreading of the Gospel was due to the Holy Spirit who was sent to earth on the day of Pentecost. Jesus did miracles in order that people would believe and He taught so that the Spirit could come and re-teach by speaking into people's spirits. It was through His death that many seeds have been reproduced.

The same applies today, unless we die we will bear little fruit. The grace of God will allow some ministry and maybe a little fruit, but in comparison to the acceptance of death, it is almost nothing.

Before a seed starts to grow the outer shell must be broken. If the seed remains intact it would just stay a dormant seed and then finally perish. There is no difference between this and our

lives with God. When we deny our soul, and become broken before God, the Holy Spirit is able to move constantly. In this state we will not have to be preaching to be ministering, in fact we will be ministering without the need of words. As your life breaks, Christ is released, and people will see Christ in you.

While he was in Bethany, reclining in the home of a man known as Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured it on His head. (Mark 14:3)

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (John 12:3)

Some of those present were saying 'Why this waste of perfume?'" (Mark 14:4)

I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her. (Mark 14:9)

Mary gave a huge sacrifice. How expensive or precious is your life? Will you 'waste' your life on Jesus? When the alabaster jar was broken, a beautiful fragrance filled the house. When your soul is broken before the Lord and you allow Him to be in control, the fragrance of the Holy Spirit will flow out of yourself into other people's lives. How precious is your life?

Death through revelation

Paul in writing to the Ephesians says, *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. (Ephesians 1:17)*

He goes on to say, *“Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...” (Ephesians 2: 4).*

Paul first of all prays that the church of Ephesus would receive the Spirit of revelation. Without revelation we cannot really know that we have died and risen with Christ and that we now sit with Him in heaven. The only true revealer is the Holy Spirit. Remember that anything spiritual, and of God, will start with the Holy Spirit communing with our spirit. Our mind will then interpret what has been made known to our spirit. If we do not receive the spirit-knowledge of who we are in Christ and what has actually happened to our old self it will just remain an interesting thought. It takes a revelation for us to really know these things, and for our life to change because of it.

So, like Paul, I pray that God will give you a revelation in order for you to understand. My words will bring no change without the Spirit anointing them. The point of laying down your soul before the Cross is as distinct as the point of conversion. I am a strong

believer in this. When you accept death, it will be a distinct moment.

A seventeenth century writer named Madame Guyon illustrated this wonderful metaphor: giving your life over to death in order to receive God’s resurrected life is like giving a present to somebody. The main part of the process is not the giving, that only takes a second, it is the preparation of the present that takes time. The process of obedience in your life, like it was in Jesus, is the preparation. God’s aim is that you come to a point where you accept that you were on the cross with His Son. He wants you to enjoy and understand the wonderful riches of Christ that He has given you by His grace. This type of revelation is distinct. It was a distinct moment when Christ finally accepted death. He knew His destiny, but in the garden He asked the Lord for an alternative, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.” He then accepts His destiny, “Yet not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39). It was a distinct moment for Jesus, and it will be in your life too.

Christ knew what the outcome of His decision was going to be. He knew that by accepting death He would never be the same. Death meant He would live in a resurrected state. This was made known to Him. He knew there was no turning back, He knew the change it would bring both to Himself and human kind. The revelation God gives you when He wants you to lay your soul before the Cross and accept Jesus’ death is similar because you will know the seriousness of such commitment. Without revelation you will not understand the seriousness of such a commitment. You will be aware that you will not be the same

again and that the 'present' cannot be taken back. But as you face death the Spirit gently comes alongside you and comforts you, giving you revelation of the new life ahead. You will also realise the scent of the Spirit, (just like the broken vessel of perfume) that you will release upon being broken.

My Experience

Having been born into a Christian home, I experienced a very sheltered childhood. I was read Bible stories every night and my parents always encouraged me to go to church, to pray and start the formation of a relationship with God. I made a series of commitments to the Lord that became increasingly serious as I got older.

When I was sixteen, I felt like I had reached a point where I wanted to give up on Christianity altogether. I couldn't say that what I had with God was an actual relationship. To me a relationship means two-way communication and not the one-sided prayer that was characteristic of my Christian life. If God was so interested in me, why had I never heard Him speak to me? I went on holiday to Keri Keri with my parents and I issued God an ultimatum. I told God that I would dedicate one week to Him in which I wanted to start hearing His voice. This book's very existence shows the outcome of that week: I found that after I had worshipped and felt His presence, that God started to speak to me. As I listened, I grew to recognise the quiet, gentle voice of the Lord. The difference after that week was that I had finally clicked into His Spirit, I had finally started to listen rather than just talk.

Around that time God said that He wanted me to give Him access to every area of my life. So I gave Him everything and found a sense of release and peace. About two years later I was sitting on Takapuna beach and the Lord said to me, "When are you going to surrender everything to me?" and I replied that I had. He answered "No, you have not". So once again I got on my knees and dedicated my life to God entrusting Him with my future. Once again a sense of peace followed. Again, six months later, as I was driving home one night, God asked me the same question again. Quite confused I arrived home and got on my knees and asked the Lord what He was after. He showed me that I had committed the big events of my life to Him, but not my entire being. I was still an independent person, living each day independent of God's Spirit. The Lord then brought scriptures to mind and gave me a revelation of the deeper meaning of them.

"By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the Glory of the Father, we too may live a new life". (Romans 6:2-5)

It seemed as though Paul was speaking these verses directly to me. Sin in my life was my independence. A lot of 'sins' had been dealt with, but not the core issue of 'sin; I was living out of my sinful nature each day and not asking and allowing the Holy Spirit to be the source of my day. The Lord was making me understand the true meaning of the Cross, that it is relevant every single day.

I realised I had died that day on the Cross with Jesus and that He had done this so that I could be resurrected into new life. I asked, “What do I have to do, Lord?” and He replied that He needed the ownership papers of my life. It was made clear to me that once I had made this commitment I would never be the same again. I would be broken, but I would finally experience the fullness and abundance of the resurrected life. God showed me the seriousness of this commitment. It takes a revelation to be able to come to a point where we are able to offer ourselves to God because it goes directly against our will. Our will naturally struggles against the thought of losing all independence and becoming a dependant servant. After much hesitation I accepted God’s request, and I wept and grieved my loss. Losing myself to God was acutely painful. Those of you who have ever lost a loved one through death will know the pain I am referring to. I grieved, because my life, as I knew it, was finished.

That time of mourning did not last long. Just as Jesus was dead for only a short period before he rose again, so it was with me. I woke up the next morning a changed person. I can’t explain the sense of freedom that I felt. To truly know freedom you must lose your life. Each morning after that I would wake up and spend time with God and ask Him to be in control. I would then walk in His Spirit throughout the rest of the day. The law of sin was no longer in control because everything was in the hands of my Master.

It has been interesting talking to different people who have been through the same experience. All the things that God does in your life and the lessons that you learn, will always direct you and

prepare you for this commitment. Those who have been through this experience will find that the lessons and teachings of God are a reminder of the commitment.

The thing that holds us back is the love of self. We love ourselves too much, but only those who put God first will start to live as we were designed to. When I gave myself to God, something supernatural happened. I still sin of course, and I still make many mistakes, but that night my will was broken. My will from that point chooses not what I want, but what God wants. If I know that there is something in my life that is not in the will of God, I have to correct it. My will has merged into His will. I would like to stress that this doesn’t mean I am being controlled against my will, it just means that I choose God’s will. He is Lord and never makes wrong decisions as I do. Having such a will has brought me stability. If I haven’t spent time with Him on a particular day and am not relying on His Spirit, I have an incredible longing to correct it. The Lord stirs and I come before Him broken. Because I have tasted the new life, the old life is repellent. This keeps me dependent with a humble contrite heart within me. Thank God.

Part 3 - Resurrection

Laws of the Spirit

Because through Christ Jesus the Law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the Law of Sin and Death. (Romans 8: 2)

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of a sinful man is death but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. (Romans 8: 5-6)

When we die to self and surrender to God, we will find that God is faithful in His promise. Life changes from that point on. In making a decision to allow the Spirit to be the source behind the functioning of our soul on a regular basis, a feeling of completion follows. This is, of course, because we are finally operating as we were designed to. Beforehand, we were operating like a car that had been given the wrong fuel. Suddenly, we can fully understand the amazing paradox of the Bible, that, in order to gain life, we must lose it. So many scriptures ring true, as we are now living a life, which experiences these verses. Nothing confirms a truth more than personal experience. Once our soul was dead and now it is alive. We now share in Christ's life; we are no longer imitating His life, but participating in it!

We realise that Paul's words in Romans 8 do not exaggerate. If anything he was quite conservative in the way he described the difference between the sinful nature being in control or the law

of the Spirit mentioned in Romans 8. Life now has freshness about it, and a wonderful peace.

This feeling is so different from just a passing natural human emotion. Unlike the temporary peace you might have when everything seems to be going right, this inner peace lasts and is not dependent on circumstances.

We realise that when the Spirit is our source, we do not have to try to possess the fruits of the Spirit because they just flow naturally. We remember back to when our sinful nature reigned and how it was sin that flowed naturally because of the law inherited by Adam. But now there is a new law in control. "Abide in me and I will abide in you." (John 15:4) We know the true meaning of this verse now. You can hardly recognize the new you, but that is because it isn't you, but Jesus. Ministry becomes abiding. If we abide in Him no matter what we do or say, others will sense that peace about us, they will see Christ in us. "It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me" Paul was not exaggerating. We thank the Lord that we now understand the meaning of such verses.

Circumstance and environment no longer entirely influence our mind and emotions. Before, if we had a bad day, our mood would show it. But it is now no longer the external that dictates our mood, but the internal. With the Spirit in control, the source of our emotion and thoughts comes from within. Our environment no longer has the effect it used to have on us. Our environment cannot alter that inner peace and feeling of completion.

We can have this same feeling in the event of a crisis. Our emotions could be grieving, for instance we have lost a loved one, however that inner peace and feeling of life is still present.

Christians who have experienced a resurrected life may still use their emotions as an indicator of 'where they are' spiritually. These people may find that they are an emotional high for a number of weeks, only to have it followed by a low. In the low, they feel like something is wrong and are no longer as close to God. They are still aware of the peace and feeling of completion, however the emotion of joy has left. God may be simply withdrawing the emotion associated with being in His presence so that they do not become dependent on the sensation itself. God is well aware that Christians can spend time with Him for the express purpose of receiving the feelings of joy. The danger in this is that Christians can fall in love with the joy God gives and not God. What God often does then, is take away that desired feeling. By no means am I saying that He removes His Spirit or that He abandons us.

Imagine if the people in our lives who love us did so only because of what we could do for them. God wants people that love Him because of who He is. He wants friends that love Him and want to spend time with Him regardless, of what sensation or feeling follows this time spent.

Emotional low points come in every Christian life. It is through these times that God teaches us and allows us to grow. So God teaches us this lesson of differentiating between just feeling good and actually walking in the Spirit. He is always there when

we call on Him and He will allow His Spirit to be accessed. However He will not guarantee a sensation and a feeling as a result of us spending time with Him.

If our soul is under the control of the Spirit, God will express His emotion through us. This is a very interesting matter. I remember as a teenager watching men with amazing prophetic gifts. I used to wonder why they were so calm and collected as they passed on wonderful words of blessing to others. Surely, I thought they would be overcome with emotion and may shed tears as the Spirit used them in such a mighty way. I have found now that when your emotions are under the Spirit, the extreme emotions caused by the Spirit such as joy or burdens seem to be more evident during prayer, before times of ministry. The reason for this, is that ministry is effective through preparative prayer. It is through these prayer times that the Spirit allows us, through Jesus, to bring things to pass in the material world. This intercessory prayer is often accompanied by a burden, as well as the emotion of joy. These emotions are used for God's purpose. Often the burden comes. Once it has been released, it means the work has already been achieved in the Spiritual realm. Joy is then directed to our emotion and this brings about the administration of praise and thanking God that what has been prayed for has been achieved. It is this joy that turns our prayers into prayers of faith.

The ministry has been achieved already in the prayer time, so the person ministering finds it easy to rely on God's power acknowledging that God is going to move, because it has already being accomplished in the spiritual realm. God no longer needs

extreme emotion. Instead, the person ministering is given a clear mind. God just puts the words in the person's mouth and the emotion stays neutral.

Access Times

Access times now become times in which we set the course of our day. Our time alone with God does not have to be conducted in any particular way or any particular place. The emphasis of an access time is to come into God's presence and seek out what He wants to do during that time. The format of an access time is not important, but we should have an allocated time set aside in order for the Lord to lead us as He desires.

There is reason why I believe we should have an access time each morning, and that is because until we are walking in the Spirit we are living in defeat. We might go to bed and be aware that the Spirit was in control that day, but when we wake up the next morning we find that we do not feel the Spirit's presence in the same way. It no longer feels like we have open communion with the Lord. Why is this so? The answer is because God desires it to be this way. He wants a day by day dependent attitude, where we need to dedicate each day to Him, and say, 'Lord, today I will for you to be the source of the functioning of my personality', that is to take up our cross daily. Even though we have passed through a process of death to self, God will never fix our fallen nature to a point where we no longer have to rely on Him constantly. By establishing an open Spirit before we have contact with another person in the day, there will not be a time when we are living out of the sinful nature. Living in the Spirit will become the norm. An acceptance that, a life of dependence is the best life, will ensure that we make time for regular access points.

It is in these times, that we realise the importance of our will and mind, in aiding the flowing of God's Spirit. Although nothing achieved through the mind, without the Spirit as the source, has spiritual value, it does not mean that we should adopt a passive attitude.

Imagine a person who owns a boat with an outboard motor. This person for years had used oars and rowed. However, due to frustration, this person bought an outboard motor because they were told it would be far more effective in administering power to the boat. They realised the motor was far more powerful than anything they could do manually with their own muscle power. When buying the outboard they were shown that anything done with their own muscle was a waste of time, and they should allow the motor to do everything. So they hopped into their boat and sat there not daring to start the motor, because it meant using one's own muscle to pull the cord. They sat passively, watching the motor not moving.

Some Christians are like this. They have learnt the power of the Spirit and realise that anything done with human strength has no Spiritual result, so they just sit and wait for God in a passive state. God has given us a will, and with it we must choose Him and His Spirit. Using the mind is like making that small effort to pull the cord, it initiates the Spirit's action.

Another example is, you are praying one day and God gives you a burden for someone, and so you pray to a point where you no longer feel burdened. The next day in prayer you do not feel the same burden, so you assume that God has finished with that

person or answered your prayer – is he finished with this person? Try praying for that person with your mind as the initial source of the prayer and after a while you may find the Spirit joining in. If this is the case, the mind has been used as a pull cord to produce Spiritual activity. Your will chose to carry the burden of another.

God does not move without the consent of our will.

If on the other hand you prayed for a while but no burden came, then you should switch your thoughts somewhere else. You will find that as you glide across different topics the Spirit will join in eventually, and that is where you should stay and seek direction. It is not until the Sprit joins in that anything spiritual is achieved. Your mind is used to aid the flow of the Spirit and this is achieved through your will. This is done generally through time that you have set aside - an access time.

Consistency

Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful; for this is God's will to you who belong to Jesus Christ. Do not put out the Spirit's fire.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-19)

This is a fundamental verse to take to heart and live by in order to experience a life that is consistent. The secret of living a consistent life is contained in the latter part of the scripture. The Lord commands us to not put out His fire. The use of fire as a metaphor by Paul contains a powerful depth of meaning.

Once a Christian has gone through a process of complete surrender to God, and accepted the work of the Cross in its entirety, they will find a life of freedom and stability. However, that will only occur if the individual is in constant dependence on the Spirit. The Lord desires to give us this life of freedom and an experience of all the riches of Christ. But we will never be at a point where we are so fixed by God that we can stop relying on Him. We are like diabetics' needing the medicine of the Holy Spirit daily to overcome Sin.

What can often happen is an individual may have an amazing day as a result of spending time, waiting on the Lord and being in His presence. They may experience such closeness with God that the fruits of the Spirit are evident. However, the following day there may not seem to be such urgency to spend time with God because the previous day went so well. Independence creeps in but the person initially still feels fine. It will not be long though

before those fruits that were experienced start to fade. Giving and serving others will become hard, the joy will start to fade, and the day will start to get on top of them.

If we live out of the Flesh, we will put out the Spirit's fire.

A fire needs to be fed continually to keep burning. Every person, no matter who they are, needs to have an access time each day in order for God to live through them. We do not necessarily have to actively sin to put out the fire – by not feeding it the eventual result is the same. It is a lot like being a sick person who requires medicine everyday to help them through.

If an individual has experienced what it is like to walk in the Spirit, throughout the course of a day, they will realise and firmly believe that, without God as the source, they do not function, as they should. If I spend a day where I have not allowed God control, I become emotionally and mentally dysfunctional. The thoughts and feelings I have towards myself and others are completely different from those thoughts and feelings given by the Spirit. What I am trying to communicate is the comparison between living in the Spirit and living out of the flesh. I understand that certain people have personality traits that allow them to serve others more easily, or there are those who are naturally more joyful. However, these natural traits are not sustainable and are heavily dependent on what we receive back. After a while when we realise people often return our kindness with thanklessness, we will find that those natural resources start to become scarce and eventually run out. If on the other hand we are joyful because of the Spirit, and serve others out of the

Spirit's love, we will find that the resources are endless. This is because God's joy and God's love is infinite. What we give to others is not from our own resource and therefore we do not measure costs versus rewards. We do not keep score because what we give is not our own.

Realising what I have described above is true, is like being halfway through the process of gaining consistency. The second half is pure discipline. This is where the will is so important. When we wake up some mornings almost every part of us may react against having an access time, and at times it maybe really hard to feel God's presence, but this where discipline is so vital.

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus sake so that life may be revealed in our mortal bodies (2 Corinthians: 4: 10-12)

We need to constantly maintain an attitude of death to self. When we wake up each morning we need to make a decision that we will allow God to be in control, and to ask the Spirit to manifest Jesus' life in ours. Over a period of time, a person practising this, will experience being made 'comfortable unto death'. The more we accept death to self, the more we experience the risen life. When an individual realises that they truly are weak without God, and realises that a life of dependence is the best life, God will start to work. His Spirit will live through them. Remember, do not put out the Spirits fire, dependence is the fuel that keeps it burning.

The Distribution of Love

*I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself.”
(John 5 Vs 19)*

“When you have lifted up the son of man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and I can do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.” (John 8 Vs 28)

Jesus is the perfect example of how we are to live. He was the Son of God and yet still maintained humility. Jesus said, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me”. Now that we have been united with Him in death we are ‘in Christ’ and ‘Christ is in us’. ‘Being in Christ’ brings about salvation. Christ being in us brings sanctification.

To live as ‘new creations,’ everything must start with God; He is the source of life. We were designed to function in all areas of life out of the Spirit. For to live independently, we are saying that we are greater than Jesus, as he relied on the Father for everything. The distribution of love is no exception. In the Greek language there are three different words to describe love (Agape, Phileo, Eros). Pure (Agape) love is not capable of flowing from a human being in their natural state. Agape love flows from God Himself. “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Agape love is used to describe the attitude that the Father has for Jesus. Agape love is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily

angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always persevere”.

No human being is capable of loving another with the unconditional agape love in their natural state. We were heirs to independence of the Spirit. Our natural state is capable of loving but without the Spirit our love is conditional. We love others because we receive from them.

The first of the Ten Commandments is “Love (this is used in the agape sense) the Lord your God with all your heart and all soul.” Later on in the New Testament Jesus says:

“Love (agape) the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is love (agape) your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37)

These commandments could not be kept until the ascension of Jesus and the day of Pentecost. We read at the end of John (21:15-17), that Peter was not able to love Jesus when he was asked. Jesus asked Peter if he loved (agape) Him three times and Peter always answered ‘Yes Lord, I love (phileo) you’. Phileo, is the Greek word for love in terms of affection towards another. It is very different to agape as it is not an unconditional love like Gods. It is only after receiving the Holy Spirit that Peter refers to loving others with agape love. (1 Peter 1:22).

We must realise that even in the distribution of love we are not able to have independence from the Spirit. We must love God with the help of His Spirit. For this to be experienced, we must come before God with a will that wants to show love. As we start to praise God for who He is, and tell the Lord that we love Him, the Holy Spirit will start to join in with our spirit. When this happens we become aware that suddenly a different type of love seems to well up from within. It is a love with a fullness that is too hard to put into words. It is this love given to us, that can overflow to others. Attitudes change, we feel like serving others without gaining anything in return. Love becomes unconditional.

The reason for this is that when we give our own conditional phileo love, we are giving something of our self, which by nature has a personal cost to us. However, when we are filled with God's love the love we distribute is not calculated. Records are not kept as to what we have done and the returns we think we should receive. Because it is not our own love and we have not drawn on our own natural resources, we do not expect anything in return. We are so content emotionally with God's love that we are able to "love your neighbour as yourself". If we keep the first commandment the second commandment is easy to follow.

Suddenly we will find that we love others with the type of love that 1 Corinthians talks about. We become patient with people who might usually irritate us. We find that we are no longer judgmental of others, and an amazing sense of equality seems to develop. This equality means, that we do not have the inclination to distribute love to those who are more attractive to us or, who we have more in common with.

In order to make an impact in this world, or to witness to someone we must contain this love otherwise our life will be of no spiritual value. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

However this does not mean that we are not to love anyone with phileo love or our own love. That would be suppressing natural emotions. What God requires of our love is that we will allow Him to manage it. If God is not managing our love, we will find it hard to walk closely with Him and with others.

An example of this is love for the opposite sex. We might find ourselves falling in love in a relationship, or in a marriage. What can often begin to happen is that, the moment we start to manage our emotion, it can appear to almost run wild. It runs free and we have no control over it. We might find ourselves thinking that our behaviour is becoming ridiculous. Why am I jealous? Why am I only happy when I see this person? Why am I so sensitive to things they say? Why do I overreact? Why is it that I am not as close to God anymore? As far as we are aware, we have not fallen into any obvious sin, all that has happened is that we have grown fond of someone. The problem is that as we start to manage our emotion we quench the Holy Spirit within us. This becomes quite obvious as we find we are no longer walking with the Lord as we used to.

After that, we may find that we start to feel in a state of turmoil. Fights occur in our relationship and we find ourselves going back to God to seeking peace. As we humble ourselves before the Lord, He fills us again, and we become conscious of the way we

overreacted and we forgive the person. Our attitude changes, and we apologise for being angry.

In order to prevent this scenario from becoming a pattern, we need to allow God to manage our emotion. Without God in charge we will not be capable of distributing unconditional agape love.

Phileo love, or our own emotion, is the complete opposite of agape love. Phileo love can be described as impulsive. It often runs wild and makes us act in haste. It brings about worry and it definitely keeps a record of right and wrong. Agape love is totally different: it does not run on impulse, it is patient, keeps no record of wrong, and loves in spite of the fact that it might not get something in return. It is never changing, and endures forever.

When you feel these phileo impulses coming on again (not necessarily in regards to a relationship with the opposite sex), go before the Lord and start to declare your love for Him. Spend time praising His name. The attention must be switched from the loved one to Him. This is the importance of the expression of your will. After proclaiming your love for God, and declaring objective truths the Holy Spirit will come alongside you and allow the subjective to happen, that is, for you to love (agape) Him. Your love will move from being a natural love to a spiritual love, and hence the second commandment will be fulfilled. As His love overflows, you will be able to give the loved one His love.

The Conscience

As we begin to access the Holy Spirit each morning and allow His life to flood our being, we may find a pattern begins to form. Inviting His Spirit to lead each morning can become habitual and walking in the Spirit a norm.

Previously, we may have found that most of our life was lived with 'I' as the source, with very little impact of the Holy Spirit on our soul. We (the 'I') were directing the course of each day and our mind and emotions were seldom exposed to the Spirit's governing. The norm was the sinful nature controlling, and the exception (maybe once a week at church) was the Spirit as the source.

Now the opposite becomes true.

As we build a habit of seeking God our spirit strengthens becoming more active and sensitive. We begin to live from the Spirit allowing God continual access, hence the Spirit's fire stays burning.

Our spirit (inner man) goes from strength to strength; *"That according to the riches of His glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man. (Ephesians 3:16)*

One of the aspects of our spirit that is strengthened (or becomes more sensitive) is our conscience.

The main purpose of our conscience is to serve as an alarm or warning. We could liken it to smoke alarm. We know the necessity of a smoke alarm; without it if people are sleeping and a fire starts the fire can go unnoticed, until it is too late. The fire alarm however aids consciousness of a fire. The immediate response to an alarm is to run from the fire, call the fire brigade to extinguish it to reduce damage to the house.

Our conscience is a God-given gift, and God is the operator. Often when we sin we can be blind or asleep to what we have done. And at that point the flow of God's Spirit reduces as sin creates a blockage between soul and spirit/Spirit. Yet, this God-given gift, our conscience, brings the sin to consciousness allowing restoration and a continuing flow of the Holy Spirit to our being.

The blockage we experience through sin does not mean that the Holy Spirit has forsaken us; it just means that sin has blocked His access to our mind and emotions. This is when the conscience acts, warning us that we must depart from temptation to prevent further damage. We then call on the Lord to help us. We repent, and He restores the communion we had once before.

THE KEY TO MAINTAINING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE IS TO ACT IMMEDIATELY.

So many Christians commit a sin and then run and hide from God. It is easy to confuse God's behaviour with humans. We may have had relationship with people throughout the course of our lives that when we do bad by them we need to give them space to

‘cool down’ forgive and forget. God is not like this – he does not need time to cool down!

Satan often chooses to attack when the conscience is active and doing its God-given function. The enemy’s purpose is to prevent people repenting for as long as possible. His aim by attacking Christians is to prevent communion with God, and hence form a blockage between Spirit and soul. So he will whisper to minds that ‘God is angry, you have let him down and are not worthy to have relationship’. This is not true, there is not a thing we can do on this earth that will cause God to turn his back on us, he created us for relationship and he does not wish for one minute to pass where we are not in communion with him. God’s purpose for our conscience is for us to respond to it as we would a fire alarm - immediately.

Are we not more important than a house? It is our soul we are talking about. If our house was burning down we would leave whatever we were doing and seek help. Our walk with God should be like this also. Having a clear conscience and therefore free communion with God throughout the day should become the most important thing in our life. If our conscience warns us that we have committed a sin, we need to repent and correct it immediately. If our conscience warns us that we are no longer walking in the Spirit due to an independent attitude, correct it immediately. As walking in the Spirit becomes the standard, recognising that we have denied the Spirit access will become easier.

For a person who is not usually in the Spirit to become suddenly filled, the difference is a dramatic change, like darkness versus light. The same applies for one who lives by the Spirit constantly and then is confronted with a blockage, it will be clear as day and very unsettling.

Praise God as we begin to walk consistently in his presence it gets easier because we are no longer indifferent to whether we are walking in the Spirit. We need it, it is the norm, it is now how we function and live. Thank you Lord that your conscience was created not to condemn but rather to encourage and allow this constant walk in your Spirit.

Warfare

The strategy of the enemy is simple: Satan's aim in all attack is to separate one's soul from the flowing of the Holy Spirit.

Non-Christians are naturally in this state, therefore his aim with non-believers is to prevent them from accepting Jesus and receiving the Holy Spirit, and he does this by keeping them in a state where they are ruled by the flesh. Everything Satan does is the opposite of God and he mocks God's laws by doing the opposite. He wants human beings to be ruled by the flesh. Whereas God wants human beings to be ruled by the Spirit.

Christians are a major threat to Satan's work as they have the Spirit of God living within them. Satan's aim with a Christian is to lead them to a point where there is a blockage between the Spirit and their soul. If there is a blockage, Satan is only fighting against human flesh/strength, and this is not a threat. However when a Christian is Spirit-led and the Spirit is manifest in their life, Satan is not fighting that person but God Himself. So Satan aims all his attack at creating blockage.

Satan is clever and he will match his deception to the state of the believer. For a new believer who has not learnt to allow the Spirit access, the attacks will be aimed at the flesh. They will be tempted by the desires of the flesh. Satan will try and tempt them back into old habits. Sin forms a blockage between the Spirit of God and the soul. Once that blockage is formed, Satan, the accuser (Revelations 12:10) will start to blame the new believer. He tries to manipulate the message of the conscience,

'God gave you a chance - you have blown it!' He does not want people to seek forgiveness as this will break the blockage and enable the Spirit access to their soul once more. He leads them to believe that temptation is the same as desire, that if you have had a thought it must have come from you alone. This can stop new believers from rebuking such thoughts as they think they have already sinned by having the thought. But it says Jesus was tempted in every way (Hebrews 4:15). Temptation does not turn into desire until we accept that thought. We have the choice to rebuke any thought with our will.

Believers who have placed the old temptations of the flesh at the foot of the Cross will find that God has done a work in their life. The old habits no longer have control over them and they will face a different sort of attack. These believers often allow God access each day, but have not yet fully accepted the co-death. Not accepting that we died with Christ means that they will be greatly affected by circumstances. Because when we accept the co-death and allow the flow of the Holy Spirit to flood our being, our mind and emotions respond to the impact of God not external circumstances. Our joy comes from the inside-out rather than the outside-in. But if not, attitudes towards God can change depending on circumstances, so Satan will try and create negative circumstances where God is blamed. This in turn can develop an angry attitude towards life, this once again forms a blockage.

Then there are those believers who have accepted death to self. Circumstances do not really affect them to the same extent, as their souls are impacted moment by moment by the Lord. They

have learnt that happiness is not dependent upon circumstances, but upon allowing God access. If circumstances are bad, by thanking God and praising Him, His Spirit is released and it is the 'inner' that controls their state - not the external environment. Satan finds with these believers that emphasis should not be on fleshly temptations or manipulation of circumstances, but rather at directly attacking the spirit.

When attacking these believers he tries to oppress the spirit and hence form a blockage. These believers will recognize such attacks (like a deep weight inside), because living in the Spirit is the norm and when access is denied they are aware of it. However, due to the state of mind/hopelessness that comes as a result of such spiritual attack, it takes the activation of the will to resist it - and it can often be a struggle to resist.

We should take a stand on all these attacks because we have the victory. Reminding Satan that we have the victory is all it takes to fight back. The reason why I say 'take a stand' is because we are already standing on won territory.

Monitor your soul, is it being directed by the Spirit? If there is a blockage ask the Lord to restore that. Rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus; remind him that legally he has no right to affect you, as you belong to the Lord. It is a Law. In the same way that under this country's law people can be served trespass notices and forced off a premise, God will force Satan to remove himself from you once you take legal action.

We should not just take a defensive stance but, should instead, be offensive in our action against Satan. Since the beginning of time, Satan has set out to achieve an environment, where people think they are in control of their soul. He wants people to see themselves as God. The last fifty years has seen a major increase in New Age activity. This is preparation for the End Times, as Satan is trying to fulfil his promise that 'man would be like God'. He wants people to not only believe that they should be in control of their own lives, but that *they also have power hidden within their soul*. Many supernatural things nowadays are done in the name of the soul or the power that each soul possesses. They are but miracles done by evil spirits.

Satan makes a mockery of God's gifts such as prophecy or visions through disciplines such as visualisation, which is a major New Age teaching. By visualising an event taking place, and speaking it out loud, it comes to pass. Fortune telling has been an art for years and this uses visualisation as a tool. These are only practices conducted with the soul with the evil spirit allowing the miracles to pass. We will continue to see more and more of such miracles. The increase in horoscopes in the last twenty years is one of the major tools used by Satan to lead people into visualisation; because they believe these things are going to happen, they often do. These counterfeit miracles are deceiving more and more people.

Satan's plan is to keep increasing supernatural phenomena until it becomes typical in society (2 Thessalonians 2:9). The Anti-Christ is going to bring fire down from heaven and he is going to die and rise again (Revelations 13:12-13). His death and

resurrection is the opposite of Christ's in that the miracle starts in the soul not the Spirit - therefore it mocks God. Satan is preparing the world for these events, and they leave God out of the picture.

The miracles in the Bible, and the miracles of Jesus, will be explained as nothing, but manifestations of soul power. Jesus will be explained as someone who was a forerunner in releasing such power. The Father will be left out of the picture and forgotten. But Jesus will show Himself, and every knee shall bow as He returns. People at that time will realise the deception, but for a lot of people it will be too late.

We can be offensive against this. By understanding the way Satan works we must do the opposite - we must deny the use of our own natural strength or soul. Give the Spirit free reign to do all the work.

The new age movement is empty. Why do you think new agers are continually searching? It is because they never feel complete. Having Christ living within us, and allowing Him to manifest Himself through our soul, is the only way that anyone can ever feel completion. As Christians, it is only through the Spirit, and being spiritually led that we can offer anything to the world. Philosophising with people nowadays will not work. The world will not believe that there is only one route to God.

By trying to conduct the work ourselves we are becoming part of Satan's strategy. Instead let us pray for the Lord to move, let us acknowledge before Him that it is He alone who can unveil the eyes of those blinded. We must fight and achieve things in the

Spiritual realm, not in the material. For the Spiritual realm has all power over the material. Let us understand that it is the Spirit who gives birth to Spirit (John 3:6).

Some Thoughts on Faith

I want to discuss three points that give a complete understanding of Faith when we put them together. Firstly, a definition of Faith, secondly the Faith Process, and thirdly the language of Faith.

Faith is the process whereby all things Spiritual are created. There is nothing that has originated or been produced of God that has not been birthed in Faith. Everything you have originated or birthed that is Spiritual (Produced by God) has happened through a process of Faith! Everything! (Col 1: 16-17)

1) So what exactly is Faith?

Here is a formula – Faith=Belief=Acceptance

Do you remember when you read the gospels how many times the Lord said your Faith has healed you! Why was this important? If God is Sovereign why does our faith affect what He wants to do? The answer is because He has given us a free will to accept or not accept His intervention in our life. So when we have faith we believe that He is able and he views our belief as acceptance and then acts.

In light of the above, sometimes an easier way of understanding faith is to substitute it for the word belief when we think about it. The writer of Hebrews gives us a definition.

Hebrews 11:1 now *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

What does this verse mean by the substance? Faith or our belief is the building blocks of creating nothing into something. What the writer of Hebrews is saying is that when nothing becomes something through a Spiritual means it is Faith that is sent out to do the work and make something happen. It is Faith that is power that turns a miracle. Am I saying that my belief is like power? No I am saying that it is God's faith or belief that we receive which is power, the building blocks, the substance. It is God's faith running **through us** because Faith is a gift from Him and the Bible says that we have a measure attributed to us (Rom 12:6). To understand how this belief runs through us we need to look at the Faith process.

2) The Faith Process

Faith is best described as a process. Let's look at some Scripture to further understand this process.

Hebrews 11:3 tells us that *'By faith we understand the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible'.*

John 1:1-3 *in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Genesis 1:2 *the earth was without form, and void and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the Face of the Waters, then God said...*

John in the beginning of his Gospel makes it clear that Jesus is the Word. The use of a capital letter 'W' is to signify this is God. He also states that all things were made **through** him. Hebrews also backs this up by stating that the world was framed by the Word of God and the invisible was created into something visible, and it is understood that it was by faith that this happened. Genesis 1 tells us that the Spirit was hovering over the Water. The Spirit was waiting for the Word to give the word. The Spirit was waiting for the Word (Jesus) to give the word (let there be light) so then the Spirit could make the invisible become visible.

So here lies the process of Faith. An idea begins with the Father, he tells the Word (Jesus) the Word gives the word and the Spirit makes it a reality. This process/chain of events always happens in this sequence. And what God decided a long time ago when he created us was to include us in this chain. We get slotted in between the Word and the Spirit in the process so that the invisible can also get created through us.

So here is the chain:

Father ---- Word (Jesus) -----(Us)-----Holy Spirit -----Creation.

This is why I emphasised the word **through** in the second paragraph because it is the best describing word for this chain which is like a funnel with God pouring through the centre.

Why did God choose to include us in this chain? Because we are viewed as his sons and daughters through salvation so for the same reasons that He wants Jesus his Son to be involved in all that He is, He also wants his other Sons and Daughters to be involved in all He does. It is His ultimate plan to be "in all and through all" (Col 1:17).

This is why Faith is so important because without Faith we cannot be part of this chain (Faith Process).

The Lord says ' *the Righteous shall live by faith*' and Hebrews 11:6 says *that without faith it is impossible to please God. For he who comes to God must believe that He is*".

Everything from the creation of the World to our own salvation has happened through this chain. When we became a Christian the idea started before the foundation of the world with the Father and he had an idea that included us. Then the time came, and Jesus receiving the idea from the Father, knocked at our heart, and prompted us to give the word. So we spoke it out 'Jesus come into my heart' and the Spirit was waiting, hovering and He gave life to our spirit and came to live within us. Is there anything we are praying for at the moment which is not following this pattern? This is the template for a miracle. It may be becoming obvious now that in order for God to move we need to wait on him and wait for the Word to give the word.

3) The Language of Faith

This is very important, the Faith process will not work if we do not think and use the language of the Spirit. In fact we may receive the Word from the word but if we are not thinking and using the language of the Spirit we could be a weakest link in the chain and the work will not come to pass. This verse best describes the language of the Spirit.

Rom 4:17: *“God who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did”*

God called creation into being even though it did not exist. God called Peter a Rock (even though he was far from a being solid foundation at that time) and he denied him that same night three times. God called Abraham the Father of many Nations even though he was childless at the time. **God calls things that do not exist into existence, by considering whatever He wants to do as already being done/a reality.**

Why does He do this? When God has an idea and decides that He wants to act, He calls the outcome into existence spiritually. So then it is already been achieved in the Spiritual realm. Because it has not yet played out from the Spiritual realm to the Physical realm we consider it has not yet been achieved. But it is an important part of Faith for us to call it like He sees it. Remember the formula Faith=Belief=Acceptance.

If we get the word from the Word, that is the evidence that the writer of Hebrews talks about. Remember he says not only is it the substance of things but also the **evidence**.

Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom 10:17) so when we receive the message in our spirit that is our evidence we can stand and say **IT IS DONE**. Often we find that when God speaks, we get a sense that He will do something and then that sense goes deeper and it becomes so strong that we say it has already been done in the Spiritual and now our prayer becomes – Lord I thank you that we have already - in the Spiritual and I look forward to seeing you play this out in the physical. We need not doubt if we have faith (which remember is a gift from God) because that Faith is the evidence that it will come.

James warns about moving from this position when we have the evidence. *‘If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in Faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that Man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is double minded man and unstable in all his ways. (James 15:8)*

We need to protect our faith once we have the Word. We need to keep saying thank you Lord that “it is done” and ask ‘Lord give me a gift of Faith so that we can count your word as the evidence.’

So how do we apply this to life? Well it all starts with the Father. He begins the chain so wait on Him and then the Word will give

the word. We must wait on God. The opposite of Faith is worry and fear. That is the indicator that you have switched from walking by faith into the flesh. Worry is a flashing light it means you need to go and wait to receive some evidence.

Circular Prayers

These prayers which I have termed circular prayers start in the believer's spirit. The Holy Spirit makes known to the believer's spirit the will of the Father.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's Will. (Romans 8: 26-27)

The Spirit leads these prayers. It is true that as Christians we do not know what to pray for without the Spirit's leading. We may know of a friend who is in distress or some sort of crisis, and we presume that that is the direction we should pray in. How do we know that God wants to move in that person's life, at that particular time? God will want to move, but His timing is very different from ours. I do not want to infer that we should not pray for someone in this state, for God does at times reward persistence. However, I do wish to make clear the difference between prayers that are led by the Spirit and prayers that are requests that start with the soul.

Request prayers have their place. In fact, God loves us to make our requests known to Him. However these sorts of prayers may not be answered, as they may not be in alignment with the Father's will. Circular prayers, or prayers led by the Spirit, start

with the Spirit. And, because the Spirit knows the mind and will of the Father, such prayers will always bear spiritual fruit.

Once the Spirit communes with the believer's spirit God's will is made known in the mind and emotion of the believer. The believer, being aware of the source of the prayer, verbalises that which is in their mind. Often, as the prayer is being verbalised, certain points that require emphasis will be made known to the believer. Those points are made known by Spirit-led emotion. Any who experience this will understand the part in the above verse, which states "with groans that words cannot express". The thoughts and feelings of the Holy Spirit are made known to the believer through their emotions. Influx of this is given at certain points of the prayer when verbalised. This allows the believer guidance in which parts of the prayer should be claimed in the name of Jesus. As the emotion (often a burdened feeling) subsides, this is an indicator that the work has been done. As well as the release of a burden, you can often get a sensation of spiritual power actually being released.

These circular prayers, that involve another person as the subject, are called intercessory prayers. I use the term 'circular prayers' as a broad name for any prayer that is led by the Spirit, as it is given by God and then directed back to God. When these types of prayers are made the believer can guarantee that they have been prayers of power. The issue prayed for has assuredly been answered in the Spiritual realm. How long, before it happens in the material world, is another issue.

Why is it that God bothers to use us in prayer? If spiritual prayers are also about dependence on God, why does God use us in the middle of the cycle of Him answering His own prayers?

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the Law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

The Law of Christ is connected with the Law of the Spirit. The Law of Christ is that He died for us on our behalf and He took the burden of Sin upon His shoulders so that we might have a new life. The new life is that those who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour are put in Christ - Jesus in us. His Spirit intermingles and becomes one with our spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17), therefore we died with Him and have risen with Him.

We sometimes hear in churches that the reason God accepts us, is because He sees us through 'a rosy pair of goggles', which makes us appear to Him as pure. In reality, when God looks at us He sees His own Son (Jesus' Spirit), He accepts His Son (as Jesus is pure) and therefore He accepts us. It is through Jesus that we are brought into relationship with the Father because Jesus stands in the gap. God created us for relationship with Him. He now has that, because He lives within us. When we allow the Spirit access we commune with God and we learn His heart. We share in His life, therefore the Spirit makes known to us the will of the Father. The Spirit within us does the praying, and we agree with the Spirit through mind and emotion. The prayer is God's prayer and the prayer is answered by God. We are involved because of relationship. God allows us to share in His work as we have been united with His Son.

It is God who does spiritual work. Do you realise we are not capable? When we stand before the Lord in Heaven, the only work He will count as valuable in our lives is His work. We can only share in knowing what the Lord's work is.

Spiritual work is achieved in the spiritual realm first. Once accepted and complete in the spiritual realm it will come to pass in the material realm.

After Jesus had gone indoors, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied "This kind can come out only by prayer". (Mark 9:28-29)

The disciples had been told that if they asked something to be done in Jesus' name, then it would be done. They told the evil spirit to come out in Jesus' name but it would not. The reason for this is that 'asking in Jesus' name' is not just speaking words. It is giving the consent of Jesus, on His behalf (delegation), for a certain thing to happen.

If I was an assistant in a company and I requested a big order of stock on behalf of my boss when he had not given consent, do you think the transaction would be carried out once the distributors and the boss communicated? We cannot use the name of Jesus unless He has personally given us consent, for He is the master.

The disciples needed to pray for consent in the spiritual realm first. They needed to approach the Lord and be led by His Spirit

into a time of interceding for the demon-possessed boy. They needed to feel the burden, and then it's released as the Spirit expressed to them that the work had been achieved in the spiritual realm. The Holy Spirit then would have given them faith to go and ask the demon to come out. The demon would have to listen, as it was a command from God not a human being.

Pentecost

What happened at Pentecost, and was carried throughout the early church, has been a mystery to many Christians throughout the ages. A mystery, regarding the magnitude of power the apostles moved in. Why is that so few Christians experience the same type of manifestations of the Spirit today? There are numerous answers to this question. Different churches have different answers. Some churches try to replicate the day of Pentecost. They long for the Spirit to come and lead the congregation, as a group, into an experience physically the same as Pentecost. Emphasis on Holy-Spirit revivals such as this, can direct away from inner change in one's spirit to just the physical manifestations such as laughing, crying and falling over. I am not saying these things are wrong, but it is the inner change that is significant. Believer's eyes can be taken off what God is telling them through His Spirit and they can start to concentrate on the physical. Some people in fact get into a habit of seeking after such meetings, a few even travel around the world chasing such movements.

Other churches believe that the spiritual movement of the early church is not relevant for today. They believe God does not want to impact believers like that now, and the moving of the Spirit was just to 'kick-start' the church.

What are the requirements for Pentecost to become a reality in our lives? Revival is fantastic but simply being in a revival

meeting is not going to bring change. The day of Pentecost brought about a new measure of faith for the disciples. They received a Spirit of boldness. Peter went from denying Jesus three times before Jesus' death, to (in Acts 4) being on trial and standing up for the name of Jesus.

Is the answer to this change purely that the Spirit filled them? It is part of it, but to believe that God would just fall upon people, and start controlling them from that point on is absurd, as God comes due to a choice, conducted by our will. There were first requirements that brought about such change.

Peter

Peter's character, before Pentecost, symbolises a person who is very inconsistent, a carnal Christian who is lead by emotion rather than the Spirit. Out of emotion he said "Lord I am ready to go with you to prison and to death" (Luke 22:30). Peter then denied Jesus three times that same night. Is your life like that? Do you confess Jesus at church on Sundays and then deny Him in your life the rest of the week?

What was it that brought the change? Jesus referred to Peter as a rock - and that the church would be built upon Him (the rock of course being Christ in Him). A rock is something extremely secure and sturdy. Was the change entirely a result of the Spirit in Pentecost? The Spirit gave him power, the Spirit gave him boldness and a new measure of faith. However, the requirement to having this new measure of faith I believe was that he faced death. The theme of this book is that the events of Jesus life are

manifested in our life in the same order. Pentecost did not precede death. We must accept the co-death before we receive Pentecost in our life, for this is the requirement for change.

The Lord turned and looked at Peter, then he remembered the words the Lord had spoken “Before the rooster crows you will disown me three times” and he went outside and wept bitterly. (Luke 22: 61-62)

Peter, at that point, would have remembered His words to the Lord, “that he would die with Him”. He would have realised what Paul talks of in Romans 7 that the very things you long to do, can end up being the opposite of what you do, when the sinful nature is in control. Peter wept bitterly at this point because he would have seen who he really was. He was broken before the Lord that night. Any confidence in his own soul would have been destroyed. This was the requirement for Pentecost. This is the requirement for the Spirit to work in our lives - that we deny self and the work of our soul.

James and John

“What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine (James and John) sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

“You don’t know what you are asking- Jesus said to them can you drink the cup I am going to drink. We can they said. Jesus said to them you will indeed drink from the Cup. (Matt 20: 21-23)

The cup Jesus was referring to was His death. They drank from this cup when they experienced the death of their own souls and saw that it was indeed a co-death. Their death fulfilled the requirements for Pentecost to happen in their lives.

New Measures of Faith

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...
(Hebrews 12: 2)*

Denying self and taking up our Cross daily, under the influence of the Spirit, will eventuate with us putting others first. Our heart will take on the heart of the Lord who loves the Body of Christ (the church). Once this happens, we will start to desire gifts of the Spirit. Not because possessing gifts will help our life and our Spiritual growth, but instead our motives become pure and we want God to use us to help the body. We will realise that the gifts are spiritual and any work of the soul or the flesh is an impure mixture. The only work that God desires is His work; anything else is an impure mix and will not have the same blessing.

These are the requirements before God will administer a 'new measure of faith'. This new measure of faith is a gift from God. "To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith (pitis), by the same Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:8)

*In accordance with the measure of faith (pitis) God has given you
(Romans 12:5)*

The Greek word Pitis means "primarily, a firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing". It is used in the New Testament always in regards to an individual's experience of faith in Christ or things Spiritual.

This conviction refers to a conviction by the Spirit. Jesus only did what He heard the Father say. The faith came as a deep conviction that what the Father had said would happen. This conviction is a gift from God. The conviction is due to a bold spirit that the Lord gives us.

What I have come to learn is that faith is historical by nature, whereas hope has its roots set in the future. Faith is historical and hope is futuristic.

Faith is active, the substance, the building blocks for what God has called finished. We have faith in the finished work of the cross as an historic event. It is history, the power of the cross and Christ's spilt blood is a finished work. Faith declares the power of the Cross as finished, historical, already achieved.

What about things I look to in the future? For example if I have faith that my spouse will become a Christian is that not looking to a future event, yet still faith? Not necessarily, if the Lord has said to you that your spouse will become a Christian and you believe then this has become an historical event. What the Lord prophesies is truth, it has happened, and it has been declared in the Heaven. Therefore a living faith sees the conversion of their spouse as historical, it has already happened. It happened

outside of time as God has declared it, and so you look forward to seeing the Lord work this story/event out in our time.

Faith always says God has already completed, it is finished. Hope says I pray God will do. Hope often can be replaced by faith. As hope looks into the future and longs for God to move, it can be replaced by faith when God speaks and says 'as you ask so shall it be'. At that point your request becomes historical.

One day while driving in my car, I recieved a new powerful faith. The Lord gave me a vision, I saw the Father holding Jesus' hand, and then, Jesus' other hand was holding mine. A chain was formed. The Father whispered something to Jesus, Jesus then whispered to me, that, whatever He told me to do, would happen, because I was in Christ and therefore was joined to the Father. Jesus said to me "I will hear from the Father, and I will pass that message on to you. You pass it on to another in My name and My Father will ensure that it happens."

What followed was an increase of visions and dreams that were shown to me in the Spirit. I would then watch what I had seen be carried out in the material world.

To better explain this process, I will describe an example. One day I was driving to work and the Lord led me, through a daydream. The daydream showed a conversation between me and a non-Christian friend at work. During the conversation I said to Him, "You have had an experience of God before haven't you?" Well an hour later at work the conversation started - it was like déjà vu. It was carried out in the same way as the daydream.

As the conversation started, due to His prompting, I said to him, knowing I had to say it, "You have had an experience of God before haven't you?" He answered that he had and he shared with me for an hour. It was due to the gift of Faith that I had the boldness. That conversation happened through God's gift of faith and it was historical. This is what the disciples experienced; they heard from the Spirit and the spirit of boldness enabled them to follow through.

*In the last days, God says
I will pour my Spirit on all people
Your sons and daughters will prophesy
Your young men will see visions
Your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17)*

The requirement for a "Pentecost" in your life is a new measure of faith, and an appropriation of 'what you hear' as a finished historical work. But as I hope this volume has illustated the resurrection life, the life of faith follows a process of dying to self. *We must decrease for him to increase.* As we are obedient to the requests of the Holy Spirit the path Jesus will take us on always leads to Calvary. He will invite us to kneel at the cross and accept that it was a co-death. He will invite us to participate in his life on a moment by moment basis. He will invite us to finally stop, rest and allow him be the big I AM. 'My yoke is easy, come follow me' He will say. I pray that you allow God to make you Christ's Replica.

*I can't
I never said you could*

But He can, He always said He would
(Major Ian Thomas, 1914-2007)

Volume II – Outside time

Introduction to Volume II

Each chapter in this Volume describes a different impression I received. Some of these impressions were given to me in detail in a time of prayer and I would quickly get to the computer to type what I saw. Other times I felt ushered to the computer and as I began typing I saw. Some of the impressions I have written I know in part and are still discovering meaning as I re-read!

I appreciate the writing style is often quite potent and it feels like points or images could be elaborated. I have done my best but my strongest desire was to allow this to be all of God and not of me. My prayer was to be a 'not' through this Volume. Although the writing style is scarce at times and to the point my hope is this allows room for the Holy Spirit to come and reveal truth. I pray that He takes what I have written and takes you away further, may He expand through imagery and His Word, may you catch more of a glimpse. My prayer really is that the church's anticipation would grow for His Kingdom (and the return of our King), that the Kingdom of God that is within all of us would increase.

The first two chapters are impressions of the Trinity's purpose at the creation of the world, it addresses the plan of the Godhead and that this plan has not changed and will not change, the fall has not in any way inconvenienced the development of God's Kingdom rather it has complemented his desire. I have added foot notes to these two chapters which point to scripture as I appreciate the style of writing is quite fictional. I did not want to

interrupt the narrative with the insertion of scripture so you will find relevant scripture in the end notes.

The following chapters are impressions of His Kingdom to come and our future heavenly experience. I am convinced the Lord will return to a bride that has a longing and expectation of our real home. We will be home sick when He returns and I believe God is going to reveal more and more of his Kingdom to his Church leading up to His return.

As Jesus walked the earth, He longed for His Kingdom to come. He looked on the natural and saw the impressions, the shadow of His Kingdom and started so many parables with the phrase "The Kingdom of God is like".....

I pray that Jesus will start to come alongside you and say those precious words. "The Kingdom of God is like...."

Replication through Love

In The Beginning...

the trinity held counsel. The character of the Father was realised as He established a way of relationship and communion between Himself, His only Son and His Spirit. The established was Love. It is the only frame of reference that we have in realising love. It is this relationship that has made a clear definition, a way of knowing, an eternal perspective.

Love is leaving oneself for another¹.

This is precisely what the Father did. In all His power and glory, being perfection, the uncreated chose to leave Himself for another. It was against His perfect character too not do so - being Love. And so the Father merged (shared all that He is) with the Son. He left Himself, His independence and chose to take up residence, a permanent indwelling within the Son. His intention, the yearning of His heart to see His Son glorified.

Such a position meant that He would no longer be seen directly by others. His glory and character now only made known through the Son². It was an act of submission, of love, the start of a perfect plan. In the Beginning God. This is the only true frame of reference; all things started with the paternal Father and have been made in the image of His thought. It is He through His Son, that all things are created, sustained and find purpose³.

With the Father as the source, (the initiator) the Son followed such example and entered into a position which demonstrated that same love. What the Father sowed He reaped. The Son now sharing in His Father's glory and life chose to do only that which glorified His Father⁴. He embraced the Cross, (the way of life, a fundamental of the trinity that was initiated before time, long before the historical cross) and placed also Himself in a place of submission doing only that which was the will of the Father. The Father's place in the Son's life was now the source, the initiator.

This demonstration of love between the Son and His Father captivated the Holy Spirit. Due to divine inspiration (the example before Him) He chose to no longer speak Himself, but rather those things which related to the glorious Son and the Father⁵. His job now - to reveal the Word, the character, and plans of both the Son and the Father. Allowing love to consume the Spirit left Himself for two others. From that point on He would no longer bring attention to Himself. In turn the Father granted Him all power on heaven and earth. His new role now to be the power or substance behind anything created.

And so the principle of the cross was clearly established in a visual display to the heavens. All three members of Godhead leaving themselves for the other, no one seeking glory but rather, glorifying the other, in a new principle of 'reaping what you sow'. This law became an infrastructure for the entire universe reaching as far as existence. The three were now one, they had merged and entered into perfect unity with the sum of the parts being greater than the individual.

As time went on the triune Godhead experienced perfect bliss, however the paternal Father's yearning to love was not completely satisfied. Being Love and receiving love from the Spirit and the Son lead Him to a new notion of expanding this love union. He decided that He wanted a family of many sons and daughters. This family would be in extension of His Son; the sons and daughters being brought in and made one with the head. The structure of this corporate body was to proceed as follows; all members were to be put into the Son and as the head He was to live through all, so that all could be one sharing in the life of the Son⁶. And the essence of this life was/is the Father. The idea being that all would represent the thought, the will and the voice of God. No created being was to take the place of God or for that matter was God but rather, was made in an exact likeness as all shared in this divine life. What the Father envisaged was good:

Every living thing was the voice of His Son living by the breath of His life. All of creation left behind self-perception, or their sense of self. Reaching out to the creator, praising, for ever worshipping and in turn the Creator was in all; intermingled into every fibre of existence expressing Himself in everything. As the Father looked there was the begotten Son walking with creation in one place externally as well as in all internally. Never had the Father experienced such joy, an expression of Love to be. To have His Glorious Son as the sum of all things, with all existence placed in Him, all sharing, all one with the head (Christ).

What the Father saw was good.

It was by faith that this vision became creation because God calls those things that are not as though they are⁷.

The Father's vision surged within the Son, He too shared in the desire of the Father's plan. He only chose to focus on those things that pleased his Father. As He caught a glimpse of this extension of love He too wanted, yearned became like-minded. Due to love, whatever was the wish of the Father was the Son's deepest desire - being completely driven towards the Father's intention.

The stirring continued within the Son as He gazed upon the vision of the Father that was within Him. He began to birth something within. The Father's vision: the extension of the love union became so clear, so overwhelming, that the Son began to believe that the vision was already reality.

Faith is believing and believing is accepting, that is, accepting the will of the Father. And the birth pains became so strong that in an instant the Son receiving authority spoke "let there be light"⁸. At that time the Spirit was waiting, brooding, hovering and as this synergy formed through faith between the Son and the Father's shared vision, the Spirit acted in obedience and brought forth the command⁹. With light radiating from the newly created sun the dark waters encompassing the planet became visible. The Father through the Son separated the light from the darkness forming day and night. The following duration of the night and day sequence brought about further creation that was once again through vision, given to the Son, from the Father and executed by the Spirit.

“Let us make man in our image¹⁰”. The statement was directed towards two others - the Spirit and the Son. Once again the Son began to envisage, to birth.

There before Him (the Son) was a family of many, male and female, in His likeness, all operating out of love. “They too will create, rule and share in this union” the Father said “Let us leave ourselves for everyone of them. They will be an extension of You my Son, all sharing in the fullness of my life that I have given to You. We will make a permanent indwelling within each of them and they overtime will also realise love and leave themselves for us. Let them multiply, and learn to rule under our authority¹¹. Let them experience the way of the cross and develop in love (over time). And you my Son will walk with them externally, internally and direct them, teach them the way of the cross as we have demonstrated it to the heavens. May they develop through many moral choices and come into son-ship and heir-ship in us¹²”.

Out of the Dust a body was formed created to perceive, commune with the natural world. This new found form in essence was a spirit, now in a physical body.

"By the spirit this son will communicate, link with us, by his body externally communicating with the physical surroundings".

With that, the breath of the Holy Spirit entered through Adams nostrils and he became a living soul¹³: the mediator between the physical and spiritual realm. The soul now a place of interpretation - the physical perceived and the spiritual realised.

Adam looked into the eyes of his creator, straight away love and acceptance flooded his being - his first emotional experience being of peaceful tranquillity. His pupils dilating, hurrying, searching the land before him: a collage of greenery, rushing waters and colourful creatures. Above him arched an unbroken expanse of blue sky that sent a chill down his spine, but once again, as eye contact was restored, a feeling of reassurance and comfort was exchanged. “Stand, walk with me” the Lord said. Out of the dust Adam rose and walked for the first of many times with his creator.

He was shown that day all that was within the garden, all that he shared in, given responsibility to name, rule and keep all that was before him¹⁴.

A few days past and Adam felt incomplete, a feeling that required ‘more of him’ if it was to pass. A realisation dawned, that he had given himself to his creator (was learning to obey, live by the direction of his inner man: the Spirit) but there was still a hunger for more.

He turned and there next to the river (Pishon) was his creator. “Walk with me,” said the Lord. “I know your yearning, it is not unnatural for you to feel this way, as I am in you and you are in me. We felt the same way (Triune Godhead) that is why we left ourselves for you. It was our purpose for you that you would mature and leave yourself for another also. You need someone who can help you love”.

And with that Adam saw all but darkness.

The Son looked and saw:

A body (Church) that he would become one with, all beginning with the first seed (his Spirit). And they were all leaving themselves, their comfort, and surroundings for him. All of them as being brought captive as subordinate to their dedication towards the Godhead.

“Let it be” the Son began to birth:

When Adam saw Eve his spirit moved within him, he looked deeper and uttered.

“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman’ and man shall leave himself, his father and mother and be united becoming one flesh. Just as my creator left himself for me, I to will leave myself for my creator and now, my helper¹⁵”.

Adam and Eve grew to Love. However, sadly they chose to leave the plan of the Father and as the seasons passed Adam began to put Eve first before his creator. Self-realisation became their desire, the Father was rejected as the initiator. As time progressed they chose to glorify self as each moral choice was presented and finally, they chose once and for all to give up the option all together of the Father as the source.

The new regime was the knowledge of good and evil (humanism). A position whereby one has no help (Spiritually) in

simply being. All decisions and actions stem from the mind of an individual and the mind is conditioned no longer by the Spiritual but by the circumstances that external pressures reveal. Adam and Eve were now captive to their situation, environment and circumstances. No longer did they resemble the Son but rather, the hardships of life apart from love¹⁶.

Of No Inconvenience (A Replica by Choice)

In counsel the Father explained, offered an explanation, relief to the unfolding of His plan. Insight was given to the heavens as to the present situation ‘the fall of man’.

The Spirit began to reveal the heart, the viewpoint of the Father:

“Creation longs for moral choice because choice contains the ingredients of Love. To leave oneself one must choose to do so. The cross–principle cannot operate without two trees, Adam was and will always live by a decision, and it is by my Will that they should develop and mature through choosing my way. Spiritual life, a representation of my Son becomes predominate as Love is lived out, as one leaves themselves for me. To develop my children must choose me in any circumstance; it must be my life, not their life.

The serpent is a circumstance, a problem that I will use for my measure, for my end purpose¹⁷. Life from this point on will bring problems, hardships and circumstances that can only be overcome by the life of another, the life of my Son. If Adam and Eve had chosen me that day and not eaten for independence sake they would have been tempted again the very next day. It was by my hand that Lucifer was cast to earth, and only by my hand that one can overcome his work - for the result will be a vast family of sons and daughters who will love more intently than can be conceived. They will be a people that know my power, because in the face of a cruel world they will rise up and overcome living by my life. In a world full of darkness they will

walk by my light sensing, receiving my glory. If there was no hardship, the principle of the cross and a life of love could not and would not exist.

My plan has not changed, I AM.

I will have millions of followers who live by my life, facing problems every day, maturing learning and developing. I will have a kingdom, a corporate body, and my Son will be the head. These believers will develop, mature forever being prepared for heirship and thronship in accordance to their demonstration of Love. The lowly ones, the ones that consistently leave themselves and live by the life of another, who fight against the tree of independence, will have a throne prepared for them. For the least shall be the greatest”.

Then the Father, expanding through imagery, showed:

A mustard seed (the Son) sent to earth and planted among men. This seed grew in statue becoming a great tree and called other branches to be grafted and joined. The branches were people who chose to share in the life of another. The heavens saw many branches being broken, dislocated from one tree and then grafted into the tree of life (the Son). They were removed from the independent tree by choice experiencing death only later to be a product of resurrection¹⁸.

The new branches produced fruit, and as the angels looked a little closer at the fruit they saw the faces of many sons and daughters. The tree continued to grow till it covered the world. Once it

reached a certain height and it held a certain amount of fruit, the creatures of the air started migrating towards its branches where they found comfort and relief¹⁹.

Then the heavens understood the kingdom. All was in awe of the sacrifice of the Son to live amongst humanism. But the process was now laid out. The Kingdom plan will first redeem people and then when God has called who is to be called, creation will finally stop moaning and be restored once and for all²⁰.

Replicated through the Son (Sun)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it (John 1 1-5)	This is the message we have heard from Him and declare it to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... (1 John 5-7)
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And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all (1 Cor. 15:28)

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings (Mal 4:2)

Arise; shine, for My light has come. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee (Isaiah 60: 1-4)

We know that the whole of creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth for the manifestation of the sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:23)

In deciding on how to present the concept of this chapter as it is really the heart of this volume and a future vision that has become a fundamental reason that I live for Christ - I have chosen to just tell the story of how I came into this vision in detail. I guess if in doubt, personal testimony is often the best way to communicate. So I pray for whoever is reading this, that the Holy Spirit would take these ideas and this message which was conceived in Spirit and inject it into the spirits of those reading.

Lord I pray that the frequency that this message travels would be in spirit not in mind. I pray that those reading this to may get a glimpse of what you have planned for your saints and consequently your glorious inheritance. Lord I thank you that there is so much more and as Paul said no mind can really conceive what He has planned for those who love Him. However, please give us a portion of understanding that is enough to keep us focused on eternity.

Around the time of this revelation I just knew that the Lord was to teach me about His Kingdom. After a couple of years of constant revelation about what it is to walk in the spirit and the true purpose of the cross and the co-death as a gateway to this walk (discussed in Volume I) the Lord said one day “you now have half the picture, you have an understanding of my life in you. What I have done for you. Although I love you and would have laid my life down personally for every individual the vision must extend outside oneself. My true purpose, what drives me is family; my kingdom is my inheritance - my constant focus. The Lord said I must now teach you the other half, My Kingdom and

My family. You know me as your saviour but you now must know me as the King.

I have always found that there is restlessness in my spirit before revelation comes. I find myself knowing that it is coming; God requires this, as the anticipation provides the faith required for Him to cement it in my spirit.

I was in my last year of study at the time and was house sitting in Mt Eden at a friend's parents whilst they were overseas. I lived there by myself for a month and this particular house had a lot of significance. It is where, for many years, my friend Mat and I had held new Christian classes - where we had seen beautiful case after beautiful case of individuals lives transformed. The lounge where we held these classes had seen many quiet times of pray, lives given over to Christ, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and deliverance from demonic bondage. The room had a peace about it. Mat and I often talked of this. It was as though the Lord had rubbed off on the place. I do personally believe that there are enough biblical references to certain rooms and spaces having a sense of God or a blessing over them. This was one of these places, a room that had seen much revelation and restoration in people's lives.

It was about 9am and I was having a quiet time with the Lord. It was a lovely spring morning and the sun was shining through the windows as I sat in the Lord's presence on the lounge floor. At one particular moment, I can remember it clearly, His presence intensified. I felt His Spirit strong within my gut and with my eyes closed I drifted...

I saw a man all alone in a field. There was a slight summer breeze in the air. I knew it must have been summer, as it was such a glorious day. The man was bare chested, with his head down while he pulled a plough. I saw the man's face - and what a look of contentment, a look of joy! It was as though he was receiving something, it was as though he was in conversation, communing - but with whom?

The glorious sun radiated upon his back, this light was intense and warm. As I looked closer I realised that the light from the sun was actually a lot brighter than would be expected. Then I realized that it was the light, the heat, the sun on his back that he was enjoying. This light was living, it was communicating with him. The man stopped and turned around and looked at me. There was a burning in his eyes. As he looked it was like he suddenly became a mirror and that intense light reflected off his bare back, his skin and hit me. Then I realized what that light was, the very presence of God!

It was God's glory his presence in the form of light. I remember weeping as I realized that the light was real. The light in the kingdom to come is literal, not metaphorical. The light as I looked closer was upon this man and coming out of him at the same time. The light was living - it was God! The Bible makes it very clear that one day there will be a new heaven and earth. This was a glimpse of heaven on earth!

Then I realized the most beautiful thing. The light was everywhere - it was in all things. It shone on all of creation; it was the sun after all. I thought "how can you remove yourself from

the sun?” Except of course if you stand in the shadow, I decided. “There is no shadow,” the Lord said clearly to me. “No one will walk in darkness anymore”. He quoted a verse in 1st John.

*But we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, changed in the twinkling of an eye, for we shall see Him as he is
(1 John 3:2)*

The Lord took my eyes from that field to a high bird’s eye view of the new earth.

Then I saw the throne room. There was the Lamb of God, the Son glorified radiating intensely. That was when I realised that this light was not from the sun but from the Son! The Son was the new sun, his glory and light covering the whole earth; you could not escape His presence. To walk, sleep and live in His presence (light) forever without pause. “Look at what My Son has become, His glory bringing perfection. No one can remain in His presence and not change. Look at what My family will become”. Then my eyes zoomed back to the man in the field, he was radiating now even brighter, the glory was upon him and coming out of him. Then I understood what it meant in the scripture – “when we see Him we will be as He is”.

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb is its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by it’s light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. (Rev 21: 22-25)

It will be His light that will guide people. His light that will make a way to live in His presence moment by moment without pause. It is the light that will restore, that will sustain all things in the kingdom. It is His light, His glory that will be in all and through all.

Next I saw birds, chirping as they flew overhead. As they chirped I heard Christ. It was as though the birds spoke in a heavenly language – they did! The Lord said, “I will be in all and through all. The new earth is Christ – I am! My family will share My love, My message, My wisdom, My life. Creation has been restored and I am now in all things, all creatures all sons and daughters. My channel, My method is the light that shone in the darkness, the glory of My Son”.

Then I found myself in a room which was made of white marble walls. There standing in this room that was clearly part of a much bigger house was Susie, a girl, who was in the church I attended at the time. She was staring across the room at a dining table that was filled with fruit. Susie was dressed in a white robe. She seemed confused, puzzled and unsure of what she was doing in this room.

Then a man wearing a white robe walked in. The man was Jesus glorified, radiating glory, His light hit her and she felt love and acceptance. His light was intense in the room. He took her by the hand and said, “My purity is your purity, come enjoy my Kingdom. My life is your life; never again will you walk in darkness or by yourself”.

He took her to a window where she looked out. Down below was a valley with green and lush grass, and a stream which ran down the side of a hill. Many contented-looking creatures were moving, communicating, praising and rejoicing as they bathed in His light, His presence. All sound was Christ. You could see Christ in all those creatures' eyes. He truly was in all.

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you with me. (John 11-3)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (John 8:12)

The light of life – Replica via Judgment

The change did come in the twinkling of an eye, with every wave of the light bringing about restoration, understanding, repentance and peace. His light allowed me to see as He sees. His light brought immense clarity. What it is to really realise selfishness. What it is to realise Christ as the King, as the sum of all things, the glue holding all things together. What it is to realise His life as my life.

When we stand one day before the King of Kings His light will reach through the darkness and with every wave we will see more clearly. The light will reveal all things, including the darkness we have had around our true purpose. The judgment (light) will bring clarity like we have never had before. To be judged brings purpose and reveals how easy His yoke really is. The judgment of Christ is in essence restoration to the saints. The Lord's Kingdom principles are so different than the worlds. In the worldly system judgment brings about 'feelings' of not measuring up, of not quite making the mark and it measures how hard we have tried to correct. In God's Kingdom judgment rewards and esteems those who realise they have not measured up and have therefore rested in the fact that they have the life of another.

When I stood before the Lord I felt unworthy because I saw Him. To see Him and then to look at oneself is the most sobering moment all will experience. The moment however, does not last long. As He looked at me, He looked right into me His light

searched my deepest being. I tried to hide but where could I hide? But then He found something; He found something pure, something worthy. He found something that I missed as He looked deeper. He looked to my very core – only if I had searched deeper while I walked on earth.

What He found was His Son.

His Son is pure therefore I was considered pure having being grafted to the vine of life. My core was not rotten after all but Holy as His Son is Holy. Reassurance followed as did my understanding.

"What have you done for Me servant"? Was the question from Him or from myself? I am not sure, but I attempted to answer. What I immediately processed and brought before the Lord I discovered was works independent of Him, they were things I had done, seemingly Christian work that was committed without Him actually doing it. The Lord's response to my thoughts was – "do you not know that work independent of me is worth nothing, it is hay that will be thrown into the fire and I seek to put an end to the tree of independence and its works". So I recalled events and times when the Lord had moved through me and led me to produce Christ initiated fruit. His answer, "Son, that was not your work but rather mine, therefore why do you answer a question about what you have done with what I have done"? I stood before the Lord dismayed and answered – "what possibly can You judge me on?" Those works of the tree of life directly from You are counted as Your own not mine and the works I did

independent of You are sin. “What is it that is pleasing, how do You judge?”

He answered “I judge the heart! What is your heart like? Is it open and humble? I esteem one with a lowly heart, who seeks to be dependent on me. Works are not what I consider. I consider the heart. My judgment leaves no room for pride, because works are not considered, only a humble heart that is not contaminated by pride. Pride is the root of sin and develops from the consideration of works both spiritual and fleshly”.

“When the saints are judged there will be seasoned apostles who have moved mightily in the Spirit and seen amazing Spirit-caused works. However, sadly the hearts of some of these apostles will be contaminated with pride. These will have considered the fruit more than the giver of the fruit. With a life of blessing their hearts have moved from a lowly dependent humble position to a place of pride and self confidence due to fruit. When the saints are judged there will be new Christian’s babes in Christ with little knowledge and little spiritual fruit, but they will have hearts of gold as they will be so desperate for Jesus, so humble and so in awe of His grace. They will be lifted above those with hard hearts including some seasoned saints. For the last shall be first and the first shall be last”.

Replicated through Worship (Amazing Grace)

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the father is seeking such to worship him. God is Spirit and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4: 23-24)

The Lord spoke to me one morning and said “What do you think worship means to me?”

I thought of all the times when I had touched Him through worship. I felt what it was like when you push through the wall of the natural into the heavenly realm - when suddenly His Spirit within you stirs and it leaps inside you with joy, deep down in your belly. As you praise Him suddenly His Spirit sings - joins in. A flood of joy hits your emotions and your mind gains clarity, insight and is calmed with His peace. You say to yourself, nothing compares to being in the Lord’s presence singing His praise, worshipping in Spirit. Where have I been, why do I not do this all day, every day?

“What you have described is what worship means to you” said the Lord, “come, let me show you what worship means to me”

It was the clearest day, a blue sky so brilliant. It was early morning and although warm it reminded me of a crisp winters’ morning. It had newness about it, like a calm day after a storm. And I was walking with a crowd of people through a beautiful street, sun shining, birds singing; every few metres more people joined the crowd. As we walked past house after house we were

joined by others. There was an excitement in the chatter of hundreds of people – a sense of commonness, a sense of family, and the atmosphere was building. I asked an old lady next to me - “where are we going”? “To worship the Lamb of course.”

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing by, He said to his mother, “Women behold you son!” Then he said to his disciple “Behold your mother!” John 19:25

We came to the end of the street and joined a main road full of more people. I turned right and walked down the hill. As I looked out down the hill it led to a valley, a valley full of people - it was a sea of millions of believers.

And the nations began to sing, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, the one who is and was and who is to come”. It was like beautiful incense, a power as all voices in unison sung to the lord and then in the distance, at the head of the valley a bright star – the Morning Star began to shine. I looked and behold in the distance it was Him the Lord, the Lamb on the throne and He begun to shine so bright. The more the believers worship intensified the brighter the Morning Star became. Then a wave of light started coming towards me - it started near the throne at the head of the valley and spread in an instant - it came up the hill and reached me. I realised once I was engulfed in the light and that this luminous wave was spreading like a Mexican wave in a sports arena and was coming out of the believers not upon them. I started to shine, like everyone else the light not upon me, but

out of me. The lord's glory/light was in all and through all. Because He has been glorified He in turn glorified us, He let us partake in the glory. Our spirits illuminated by His Holy Spirit. I looked up to the blue sky and saw many birds hovering over the sea of people. They were attracted to the glory and came near to bath in the light of the lamb. We sang for what seemed like hours in the Lord's presence. A family joined by His spirit, singing all in unison. There was no projector, the songs were not scripted, but in one accord we all knew what song to sing to the Lord. There is one spirit who directs His family, and He directs His family to sing a new song to the Lord.

"When I look down on earth now" said the Lord "and I see a child giving thanks at the end of day, an inmate in prison on his knees connecting to my peace, thousands of church goers with their hands in the air at a conference – I see what is to come. I see a glimpse of worship in the new kingdom when I have gathered all my children together. You know what worship means to you, well that is what worship means to me".

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a soul like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.
(John Newton)

The River of Life (Replicate by Ministering)

And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
(Rev 22:1-3)

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.
(Rev 21:1)

He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore being wearied from His journey sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.
(John 4: 3-6).

He looked down into the well and heard the sound of fresh flowing water, he longed for a drink. His Father spoke:

“Behold the water we shall provide our family”. Jesus looked up from the bottom of the well and looked towards the horizon what should have been rock and dust as far as the eye could see was replaced by a green lush setting, a river flowed across beautifully manicured grass. This place seemed familiar Jesus realised what he was looking at was the original garden where he had walked with Adam. It was like a surreal dream. The river was

Pishon and there on its bank was the Tree of Life. Only if Adam had eaten of that Tree, Jesus thought.

“They will eat” said the Father, “and what’s more they will live by the ministry of our wonderful river. Look closer my Son.”

Jesus looked and saw a different image now like a mirage in the desert but clearer He saw a beautiful river flowing from the throne. He saw Himself in all His glory seated and a spring welled up at the foot of His throne, it came forth and quickly flowed into a wide crystal clear river. The source of the River started from His throne, the throne of the Lamb. The source of the river was the Lamb. And the river ran fast and steady through the centre of the city on top of the Holy Hill - Mount Zion. The river continued its flow out of the city and down the Mountain into the Valley. Trees of Life lined the banks of the river with streets of gold on either side. The Trees were magnificent, tall in all their glory moving gently in the breeze. Each held huge pieces of fruit. The trees were accessible to all who wished to eat and were positioned to draw upon the crystal clear pure water from the river of life. This life giving water produced the wonderful fruit they bore.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink”
(John 4:7)

The women agreed to draw water as she put down the bucket Jesus saw an image of the river once again, this time He noticed how fast it moved, the swiftness of the river surprised Him.

“It always moves this fast my Son”, the Father said. “It must be new, its purity is a result of its newness, I will not allow stagnant water in the Kingdom, and it must keep flowing. There will be no oceans in My Kingdom oceans are not pure enough, they do not move fast enough. The water of life keeps flowing everyday bringing new blessings and ministry to My children. It is new, fresh and pure. You will be in all and through all. You will be in the water and it will rise up out of them like it bubbles up from Your Throne. From their bellies it will flow from the inside out, they will walk in Your Spirit once you fulfil Your purpose here. Once You die to produce life they will have this new water of life. And in the new world the water will flow through the centre of the great city as You will flow through the centre of all. The river cannot stop just as Your ministry knows no end. The river, Your ministry, will forever flow through the centre of every living being. And the water washes and cleanses, the water removes condemnation. Your blood will be spilled soon. This blood will continually, moment by moment, cleanse and make one Holy. The spilt blood will not be fully realised by My children. Like the Blood on the door posts it is to be seen by Me, and I will pass over and deem Holiness in My Saints. This river ministers the work of the blood. The flow accepts in spite of, it is fresh each moment bringing acceptance where there was accusation and condemnation. Nothing can separate My children from My Love and the healing will forever continue, the wonderful leaves of the Tree of Life are for the healing of the nations for it is ongoing, and you will be in all and through all – Now minister My Son to this woman!”

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink’, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that Living water”?

“Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and livestock?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life”. The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw”.

Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered and said “I have no husband”. Jesus said to her, “you have well said, ‘I have no husband, for you had five husbands, and one who you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly”. The woman said to Him. “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our Father’s worshiped on this mountain and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when

the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”.

The woman said to Him, “I know that the Messiah is coming. When He comes He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He”. (John 4:9-26)

End Notes for Volume II, Chapters 1 & 2

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
2. John 14:8-11; Colossians 1:15
3. Ephesians 1:3-10
4. Philippians 2:3-11; John 17:4-6
5. John 16:13-15
6. Colossians 1:15-18
7. Romans 4:17
8. Genesis 1:3
9. Genesis 1:2; John 1:1-5
10. Genesis 1:26
11. Genesis 1:28
12. Romans 8:15-17
13. Genesis 2:7
14. Genesis 2:15
15. Genesis 2:23
16. Romans 7:14-24
17. Job 2:1-6, Job 42:1-6
18. Romans 11:24
19. Romans 8:19-21
20. Romans 8:21