

## [“2017 Rise Up – Building Momentum for Life” – Part 1, 2, 3, 4](#)

Joshua 1:1-9

New Living Translation (NLT)

### The LORD's Charge to Joshua

**1** After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. **He said, <sup>2</sup>“Moses my servant is dead.**

Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. **<sup>3</sup> I promise you what I promised Moses: ‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— <sup>4</sup>from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.’ <sup>5</sup>No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.**

**<sup>6</sup>“Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.<sup>8</sup> Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. <sup>9</sup> This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”**

NOW LET'S MAKE THIS PERSONAL and apply this to our lives –

- Know that God is with you as much as He was with anybody.
- God is your circumstance.
- Truth and facts for two different things.
- “Be strong and of good courage” (1:6); “Only be strong and very courageous” (v. 7); “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid nor be dismayed” (v. 9).
- Believe God’s Word and act on it.
- Cast off feelings of inferiority, insecurity and doubt. Remember: That’s why Joshua succeeded – He believed God and acted on it—because the same God who was with Moses was with him.

## FAITH & ACTION

- He’s the same God who is with you.

"And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith" (1 John 5:4).

## **Overview of The Bible**

### **The Old Testament**

The Old Covenant – 39 books – written in Hebrew

- The Torah – First 5 books of the OT by Moses
- Christ in Type / Concealed

### **The New Testament**

The New Covenant – 27 books – written in Greek

- Christ Revealed

## **COVENANT**

- Covenant defined
- History of Covenant
- Explanation of the Hebrew Blood Covenant ritual/ceremony
- The OT Covenants
- To know and understand the provisions and promises of the New Covenant through Jesus Christ
- Have confidence and live according to the provisions and promises of the New Covenant
  - What that looks like lived out in our lives
  - Identify and deal with obstacles to covenant living

The Hebrew word translated as covenant occurs approximately 284 times in the Old Testament.

- The concept of covenant is very important for coming to an accurate understanding of the message of the entire Bible.
- *1 Chronicle's 16:15 says, "Remember His covenant always; a word which he commanded for a thousand generations."*
- Covenant is how God deals with and interacts with mankind
- A set of words that are spoken to define the nature of that relationship and set forth the principles of commitment to it.
- A covenant can be seen as an oath that seals the relationship between two parties.
- The covenant is permanent and steady, and therefore helps maintain a permanence and steadiness in the relationship between the two parties.
- *Covenant breaking is the greatest of betrayals. If either party does not uphold the terms of the covenant, it is broken. There is grave consequence for breaking covenant as we will see.*

"Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you."-[Exo 24:8](#); [Heb 9:20](#).

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood."-[1 Cor 11:25](#); [Mat 26:28](#).

"The blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified."-[Heb 10:29](#).

"The blood of the everlasting covenant."-[Heb 13:21](#).

## **The History of the Blood Covenant**

Through ages past, many cultures and ethnic groups have practiced the blood covenant.

Some examples of blood covenants are the making of blood brothers of the Native Americans and the mingling of blood within African tribal covenants. The Mayan Indians of Mexico practiced this as well as the Incas of South America. Many ancient cultures around the world practiced some form of cutting a covenant with individuals and even between kingdoms.

Note: these are pagan practices, but where did these traditions and practices come from? How did they start?

## **Old Testament Covenants**

### **Noah**

- God's covenant with Noah and the earth brought a new beginning in God's plan to redeem sinful humanity. God promised that human beings would never again be destroyed by a flood. And God gave the rainbow as an everlasting sign of his promise.
- The Lord told Noah, "This is the token (sign) of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: *I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*" (Genesis 9:12 – 13)
- The call of Abraham introduces a new phase in God's story of redemption. God's promises to Abraham, promises sealed by God's covenant with him, become the *foundation for Israel's mission in the world.*

## **Genesis 12-17 - Abraham**

## God's Promises to Abraham

When God called Abraham and before He cut a blood covenant with him, God made some critical promises to him. These promises must be understood in the context of God's purpose for his creation. Because human beings failed to fulfill God's purpose for their lives (Genesis 6:5-7), God called Abraham to become the father of a people who would then do God's Will in the world (Exodus 19:5-6). From the moment of sin in the Garden of Eden the work of reconciling mankind back to God began, and it was by God's chosen people that Christ would be born into the earth to facilitate that reconciliation - it means that our relationship with God was broken and Christ came to fix it.

These are the promises God made to Abraham:

1. The promise of the land: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1).
2. The promise of becoming a great nation: "I will make of you a great nation" (Genesis 12:2).
3. The promise of God's blessing: "I will bless you" (Genesis 12:2).
4. The promise of the great name: "I will make your name great" (Genesis 12:1).
5. The promise of mediating blessings to other people: "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).

We can believe God's promises! Why?

As the writer of Hebrews wrote: "Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, *because the one who made the promise is trustworthy*" (Hebrews 10:23 NJB).

Let us seize *and* hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable *and* trustworthy *and* faithful [to His word];  
AMP

## **God's Blood Covenant with Abraham – Genesis 15**

In order to confirm his promise to Abraham, God established a covenant with Abraham in which God bound himself to an oath to assure Abraham that the promise was true.

- The prototype or the model of all blood covenants is found in **Genesis 15.**
- The covenant-making ritual in which the animals are cut in half and of passing between the parts of the animals is found twice in the Bible: in Genesis 15:9-10 and Jeremiah 34:17-22.
- *The most remarkable aspect of the covenant between God and Abraham is that it is God, represented by the “smoking fire pot” and the “flaming torch,” who passed between the pieces.*

### **1. The Sacrifice – the Instructions from God**

God told Abraham: “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon” (Genesis 15:9).

### **2. The Cutting of the Animals**

Abraham did what the Lord commanded him: “He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other” (Genesis 15:10).

### **3. God's Oath**

“When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces” (Genesis 15:17). This ceremony of passing between the cut animals is an oath, a self-curse, in which God bound himself to fulfill the promises he made to Abraham.

### **4. The Sign of the Covenant**

The sign of the covenant between God and Abraham is circumcision: “So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant” (Genesis 17:13). Circumcision – And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. (Genesis 17:11).

### **5. The Nature of God's Covenant with Abraham: An Everlasting Covenant**

Like the covenant with Noah, God's covenant with Abraham is also an everlasting covenant: “I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you” (Genesis 17:7).

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- The covenant-making ritual in which the animals are cut in half and of passing between the parts of the animals is found twice in the Bible: in Genesis 15:9-10 and Jeremiah 34:17-22.
- The one who passes between the divided halves of the slain animals invokes a curse or even death upon himself should he break the word by which he has bound himself in the oath.
- The most remarkable aspect of the covenant between God and Abraham is that it is God, represented by the “smoking fire pot” and the “flaming torch,” who passed between the pieces.

### **Blood Covenant in Genesis 15:**

1. The Sacrifice
2. The Cutting of the Animals
3. God’s Oath
4. The Sign of the Covenant
5. The Nature of God’s Covenant with Abraham: An Everlasting Covenant

The important implications of God’s covenant with Abraham:

1. Since it was only God who passed between the cut animals, God took an oath and bound himself to fulfill the promises he made to Abraham.
2. The covenant God made with Abraham is an everlasting covenant. This means that God has chosen Abraham and his descendants to have a special relationship with God.

Additional history:

- Abraham’s covenant is handed on to his son, Isaac, whom God explicitly blesses in Chapter 26,
- and through Isaac to Jacob and his descendants.

- Note: Abraham was both the father of the Jewish people and the “founder” of **Judaism, Christianity and Islam** – Ishmael and Isaac.
- In Chapter 32, Jacob wrestles with an angel. And his name becomes 'Israel' - meaning 'He who wrestles with God'.
- His descendants become “The Children of Israel”, and the land is known as “The Land of Israel”.
- The word 'Jew' – *Yahudi* in Hebrew – originates in the name of the Roman province of Judea,
- which in turn comes from the Kingdom of Judah, named for Judah, the eldest of Jacob’s twelve sons, and founder of the tribe of that name.
- This descriptive name given by the Romans came into use in approx. 66BC.

## **Moses, the Law and the Covenant with the children of Israel**

- The Israelites moved to Egypt during the time of Joseph.
- A new [Pharaoh](#) came upon the scene and turned the Israelites into common slaves.
- The people cried out to the God of their forefathers. "So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob" ([Exo. 2:24](#)).
- After a series of ten plagues upon the land of Egypt, God brought the Israelites out "of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand" ([Exo. 32:11](#)).
- Three months after leaving the land of Egypt, the children of Israel camped at the base of Mount Sinai ([Exo. 19:1](#)). God promised to make a covenant with the Israelites ([Exo. 19:3-6](#)). Before they even knew the conditions of the contract, the people agreed to abide by whatever God said ([Exo. 19:8](#)).
- After giving the first ten commands, the people asked the Lord to speak no more ([Exo. 20:18-20](#)). Moses then drew near to the presence of God to hear the rest of the covenant ([Exo. 20:21](#)).

- After receiving the Law, Moses spoke the words of the covenant to all of the people, and the people agreed to obey ([Exo. 24:4](#)).
- Moses then wrote the conditions of the covenant down, offered sacrifices to God, and then sprinkled both the book and the people with blood to seal the covenant ([Exo. 24:8](#)).
- This covenant between God and the people of Israel was temporary -- God promised a day when **He would make a new covenant, not only with Israel but also with all mankind.**

### **The Law of Moses or the Mosaic Law:**

- Apparently the “law of Moses” included everything Moses wrote, what we now call the books of Moses – first 5 books of OT
- The Ten Commandments
- Laws of ritual purification, prophecies about the Messiah, rules about treating livestock, and civil laws about penalties for religious crimes. More than 600 laws & commandments
- Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy –
  - moral, civil, ceremonial, dietary, sacrifices, offerings, worship, economic, family life, health, criminal, business practices, relationships, war, etc.
- Jews call it the Torah, the Law, one of the three main sections of the Old Testament. It is also the history of Israel.
- The Law of Moses also included the requirement for circumcision. Although that custom began with Abraham, it was included in the regulations of Moses ([Leviticus 12:2-3](#)).

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## **The Passover**

- The blood on the door post during the Passover in Egypt – The Lord instructed the Israelites to take the blood of the lamb and apply it to their door post as a token of their obedience to the Lord's instructions. The Israelites needed to do it to show their obedience. "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." (Exodus 12:13)
- All the **animal sacrifices** in the Old Testament, including those in the covenant ceremony, **pointed forward to the one great sacrifice of Jesus Christ.**

## **Jesus Christ – The Mediator of the New and Better Covenant in His Blood**

The birth of the Savior – "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a **sign**; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

- Jesus himself said: "Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me" (John 5:46); "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17).
- And to the two sorrowful disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus, "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, ... expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).

- And shortly after, when he appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem, Jesus said, “All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me” (Luke 24:44).
- Jesus was able to preach the gospel from the writings of Moses. He positively stated that he is the center of all the Scriptures, including those of Moses. He is alpha and omega—beginning and end.
- The second part of the reason for Jesus’ death on the cross was the actual cutting of the covenant. The spilled blood of Jesus is called the “blood of the everlasting covenant”.
- Remember when we talked about making a covenant in earlier pages there were two individuals that were “[representatives](#)” or “covenant heads” that actually made the covenant on behalf of themselves, or as a substitute on the behalf of a group of others. This is amazing because it was the reason Satan could not understand what was happening on the cross because it was a “mystery” to him. If he had known what was happening he would fought against Christ being crucified. He would have instead tried to kill all the people who were trying to kill Jesus so that Jesus could not have shed His blood, but Satan didn't know what was actually happening on that cross.
- [1 Corinthians 2:7-8](#) -- *"but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;"*
- When the blood of Jesus was spilled on the cross the blood of the human family and the blood of God were spilled and mingled together establishing the everlasting new covenant in His blood. It sealed the covenant between two formerly hostile parties: God and the human race.
- **No other event in the history of the universe has had the significance of this event.**

- Until the soul sees, and desires and accepts, and claims the redemption and the liberty which the blood of the Son of God for its purchase price, and its measure, and its security sealed for us, we can never **fully** live the New Covenant life.

## Our Blood Covenant Relationship with Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ invites all human beings to enter into a covenant relationship with Him, in which two become one.
- Jesus provides for us all parts of the covenant.
- **Covenant promises.** The Bible details for us the promises of Jesus, should we choose to enter into a covenant with Him. These promises include eternal life with Him.
- **Blood sacrifice.** Christ Himself is the sacrificial animal, the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).
- **Bloody path.** We walk through the curtain of His flesh (Hebrews 10:20). The curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom at Christ's crucifixion (Mark 15:38), enabling us to enter into God's presence directly.
- **Oaths, blessings and curses.** We make a solemn oath to die to independent living and to become one with Him. Paul says in Galatians 2:20: *I am crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.* Christ promises to be with us always, even to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20). There are blessings for walking within God's will during the Christian life, and curses for disobeying. Jesus, however, remains true to His covenant promises regardless of our choices. Our salvation is assured once we have entered into a covenant with Him. He promises to change our hearts, to answer our prayers, and to give us peace and life.
- **Mingling of blood.** We give Jesus our sinful, dying blood and He gives us His perfect, living blood (Hebrews 9:14).
- **Change of names.** Jesus frequently referred to Himself as the "Son of Man." We adopt His Name by becoming "Christians." We are to sing praises to His Name, glorify His Name, pray in His Name, call on His Name, and believe in His Name. Revelation 2:17 makes a promise to those who overcome: a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.
- **Exchange of gifts.** Christ put on our robe of flesh (John 1:4). We are to clothe ourselves with Christ (Romans 13:14). We will one day be provided with white robes, washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14) and He

will wear a robe dipped in blood (Revelation 19:13). Hebrews 2:14-15 says He shared in our humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death (the devil) and free those who were held in slavery by their fear of death. We are to take off the old self and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator (Colossians 3:9-10).

- The weapons represent protection. God promises to protect us from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3) as well as to avenge our enemies in His time. We are never to pay back evil for evil, or to take our own revenge (Romans 12:19). We protect His reputation through righteous actions and words, and by not defending or excusing sin, whether ours or others'.
- The belt represents strength. Christ gives us His strength. Philippians 4:13 says, *I can do everything through Him who gives me strength*. The word for strength here is the word for "inspire" which means "breathe into." Christ breathes His strength into us. We offer our strength to Him when we love Him with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength (Mark 12:30).
- **Covenant meal.** Communion is the covenant meal. We symbolically eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood, a reminder that we are one with Him. In John 6:56, He promises, *"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him."* The covenant meal signifies taking in the flesh and blood of the covenant partner, becoming one with him/her.
- **Witness, sign, or memorial.** The witness or seal of the covenant with Christ is the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13 says, *You were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.*

The term "cutting the covenant" comes from the Hebrew word "**BERITH**", or the Greek word "**DIATHEKE**", which means to make a covenant by cutting to make the blood flow. This act is usually referred to as "**cutting the covenant**" and is performed in a sacred ceremony because of the tremendous significance of the event.

**The blood covenant is the most binding covenant any two people or groups of people can enter into. Once committed to the only way out of it is by the death of one or both of the covenant makers. It is something that is never entered into lightly.**

# TRADITIONAL STEPS IN MAKING A BLOOD COVENANT

These are the steps that are normally involved in cutting the covenant.

- There is an **exchange** of **robes or coats**
  - The coat signifies the identity and authority of the person, group, or tribe entering this covenant
  - The coats are exchanged with each participant in this ceremony
  - This exchange is saying "Everything I am, everything I represent, now belongs to you. All my possessions, all that I am, my very self, I give to you. **I am no longer my own, I now belong to you.**"
- The **exchange** of **weapon belts**
  - On these belts are the bow, knife, sword, or any other weapons. This exchange signifies that all my strength now belongs to you. Your enemies are now my enemies and your enemies are now my enemies. Your friends are now my friends and my friends are now your friends. **I will serve you if you ever need me and you will serve me if I ever need you.**
- The **exchange** of **vows** in the **walk of blood (or the walk of death) – cutting of the covenant**
  - An animal is now sacrificed by splitting it down the backbone. It is usually a bull, a goat, or a lamb. The halves are laid open with a pool of blood between them.
  - We walk in a figure 8 between the halves and meet in the middle in the pool of blood. The figure 8 is significant because it represents "infinity" or a never-ending relationship.
- The **terms of the covenant**
  - We meet face to face and there pronounce the blessings and the curses of the covenant. The curses are usually pronounced

against anyone who would break this covenant. It was usually said like this, "the one who breaks this covenant will die just like this animal has died". A pledge was also given that went like this, "Just as this animal gave its life so I will give my life if necessary."

- The accounting of all belongings for **exchange** if and when needed
- While standing in the blood, we give an accounting of all of our possessions and declare that they become available to our covenant partner if they ever have need of them.

- The **exchange** of **names**

- Each participant takes the others name to himself. The person's name represents his individuality. This exchange of names demonstrates a death to being an "individual". Remember that **covenant is the union** of two individuals or of two groups. **In covenant you are no longer concerned only with yourself, your concern now includes your blood covenant brother. You care for your blood brother the same as you care for yourself because the two of you are now one.** When the names are exchanged the primary sound of each participant's name is incorporated within the other participant's primary name sound. Say for instance somebody named Ken Jones was making covenant with Bill Brown. The new names would be Ken Brown Jones and Bill Jones Brown.

- The **exchange** of blood in the cutting of the covenant – raise the right arm
  - While still standing in the blood face-to-face a knife is used to make an incision in either the **palms or the wrists of each participant**. This was done to allow the blood to flow freely. The Bible teaches us that life is in the blood. The two participants now either shake hands or put their bleeding wrists together so that

the blood intermingles. **This act symbolizes the two bloods, or two lives, have been joined into one blood or one life.** In some cultures, the blood from both participants is drizzled into a cup of wine and stirred together and then the two participants drink from the common cup so that each one's blood enters into the other. **This mingling of blood creating this new union of "oneness" is why this called a "blood covenant". It is the strongest bond of relationship known to humanity.** It is the way that God has chosen to interact with all humanity.

- The **"mark" or sign** of the covenant
  - While still in this position and blood is dripping from the wounds some dark substance such as charcoal would be rubbed into the wound on each arm so that when the wound was healed **a dark scar** would be clearly visible to everyone who saw it. By doing this everywhere these blood covenant partners went they would clearly be identified as being in covenant with someone else.
- The **exchange** signified by **the memorial or covenant meal** which usually consisted of bread and wine is that the covenant partners have become one.
  - We break one loaf of bread and we each place a piece of that bread into our covenant partners mouth. When we do that we are demonstrating that a part of each of us has gone into the other. We then drink wine from a common cup indicating that our blood has gone into each other. Since life is in the blood, we are demonstrating that we have taken each others life into ourselves.

At the end of the blood covenant ceremony the two covenant heads, or primary participants, are now called **"friends"**. And there has now been a new relationship formed that is a union called **covenant**. This relationship,

with this union, is now governed by an attitude towards each other called "**loving-kindness**".

From the Hebrew the word used to express this relationship is "**hesed**" and the Greek word for this is "**agape**". This is simply a love relationship that says "**I will never leave you or forsake you**", "**I will always do what is best for you even if it is to my own hurt.**" We are now in union with one another and we are called "**blood-brothers**".

The word "**friend**" has been greatly watered down. In the time of Jesus and the early church the word "friend" referred to a blood covenant partner, not just someone you palled around with. It had real significance.

To keep in mind: When you see the actual steps involved in making a blood covenant your eyes become opened to what Jesus did and said to make the new covenant in His blood so we could enter into an everlasting relationship with God in union through a blood covenant.

## **"2017 Rise Up – Building Momentum for Life" – Part 2**

### Lecture – Mind Renewal & Obstacles

#### Questions

- How do we build a strong, loving relationship with God?
- How do we live our very best life possible here on earth?
- How do we find and live out our destined purpose? (spiritual gifts, power of the Holy Spirit)
- How do we handle the ups and downs and ins and outs of this life and still have victory?
- How do we appropriate the promises of God into our lives? (covenant)
- How do we receive healing from God?
- What is a renewed mind? What is the process and why is it important?

#### Scriptures

##### **Proverbs 23:7 (context)**

What he thinks is what he really is.

"For as he thinks in his heart/soul so is he"

The word of none effect

Form of godliness

The work I do

I and my father are one

Casting down imagination

The word of god is quick and powerful

Warfare scriptures/principles

Paul is saying stop allowing yourselves to be molded by the influence and pressures of this present world system. That's really what he's saying. Now, by the way, when he says "world system" or "the values of this world," he's not talking about the geographical world. He's talking about a system of values, a mindset, a worldview that's energized by the enemy of your soul, whose goal is to kill and to steal and destroy. To mess your life up. To ruin your relationships. To separate you from God. To make you be emotionally depressed. To cause you to physically go into areas that will ruin your life. I mean, the whole goal of the world system is to destroy you.

Being freed from the captivity and bondage of sin is new life.

Being healed and freed from the captivity and bondage from the issues on the inside is life changing.

### Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart."

- Dividing asunder – merismos Greek word – a separation or distinction made between separate parts.
- The point is that it's the word of God that reveals to us **our true selves**. Are we spiritual or are we carnal (natural)? Are we born of God and spiritually alive, or are we deceiving ourselves and spiritually dead?

Are the "thoughts and intentions of our heart" spiritual thoughts and intentions or only natural thoughts and intentions. Only the "word of God" can "judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" as [Hebrews 4:12](#) says.

- The Word of God is able to separate the soul and spirit of man and determine which place we are living from – our soul or our spirit – the natural or the spiritual.
- The warfare is about living “our” life or living the spirit-led in and through us.

❖ Experiencing vs. embracing

## Healing – Why it's Important

- Why is inner wound healing/deliverance important
  - If you are wounded and you're living with open wounds – it will give the enemy an opening with which to use against you. It will stunt your growth and keep you from experiencing the fullness of God in this life.
  - Our goal is not to forget a hurtful event or trauma, but to receive healing for that event, where the Holy Spirit removes the stinger from it. When we look back upon a healed wound, we can see it in a different way, because it has been healed and is no longer painful to look back upon.

## Internal Wounds

### Identifying emotional wounds

- **Inner rawness:** there's often a sense of inner rawness and hurt that doesn't seem to go away.
- **Irritability:** it's easy to become irritable with others, even if they aren't doing anything wrong!
- **Little or no tolerance:** there is a low tolerance issue with others, where you expect and demand from them.
- **Feelings always rising up:** feelings of anger, hate, resentment, etc. seem to "rise up" within you at the slightest offense from others.
- **Overly sensitive about an event in your past:** If there are events in your past which cause you to become very sensitive or angry, or even cause you to lash out, then it is likely revealing a deep emotional wound tied in with that event or memory.
- **Hard to forgive:** it becomes very difficult, if not impossible to love and therefore forgive others. It can also be hard to forgive and love yourself. It can even be hard to forgive and love God, even though He has done nothing wrong against you!

- **Hard to feel loved:** it is hard to clearly see and realize the love of others and God in your life. You may be surrounded by people who love you, but it can be difficult to fully feel and receive that love. There seems to be a wall up that blocks the flow of love into your life.
- **Lashing out:** when there's an inner wound that has festered, it becomes easy to lash out or have sudden outbursts of anger, hate, resentment, etc. You may find it easy to lash out at people who love you, and have done you no harm.
- **Feelings of anger towards God:** when a person has been wounded, it becomes easy to blame God for their troubles and hardships. This is the last thing that you want to do when seeking to be healed, because it virtually puts a wall in your mind that can block the healing power of the Holy Spirit to operate. Although He desires to heal your wound, He will not override your freewill, and if you hold hate in your heart against Him, it can block His efforts to heal your wounds.
- **Self-hate:** many times when a person is hurt from past abuse, they will begin to think that perhaps what happened to them, was deserved because of something they did or the way that they were. This is not true. Abuse is never acceptable, even if a child was being out of order. Parental love disciplines and corrects, but never abuses.
- **Easily frustrated:** because an inner turmoil that an inner wound causes, it is easy to become easily frustrated with everyday chores and responsibilities.
- **Escapism:** as a result of inner turmoil, it is easy to desire to escape or suppress reality. This can be in the form of overeating, drinking, smoking, porn, spending binges, etc. When a person indulges in escapism, addictions can form, and open the door to spirits of addiction, which makes the addictions virtually impossible to break.
- **Cutting:** a person who is a cutter usually has an alter inside the person who is holding much pain, and needs to release the pain or it honestly feels that it deserves the pain (self-hate/religious bondage).
- **Retaliation urges:** because of built-up hate and anger as a result of unforgiveness, somebody who has a festering inner

wound will find it easy to retaliate or snap back at those who offend them or step on their toes.

- **Irresponsible behavior:** inner pain has a way of consuming a person's mind, and eventually this can take on a careless approach to life. It is hard to feel good about yourself if you have an inner wound, and if you don't feel good about yourself, it will begin to show in your lifestyle.
- **Irrational expectations of others:** somebody who has been wounded may set high expectations for those around them. They feel that others ought to hold up to unrealistic standards, and are very intolerant to any mistakes made. They find it hard to forbear (put up with) one another as the Bible commands of us (see Colossians 3:13).
- **Perfectionism:** a person who has an emotional wound may also be performance driven. Perhaps they felt like no matter what they did, they could never please a parent or authority figure, and later on in life, that rejection wound causes the person to be a performer to the point where they are never satisfied and burned out by their efforts.
- **Feelings of hopelessness:** I believe this is also a common result of unresolved inner wounds. Since the love of God is blocked in your life, it becomes hard to see why He would love or care for you, and therefore you become an easy target for feelings of hopelessness.
- **Driveness:** when you suffer from an emotional wound, it can create a sense of void in your life's meaning, thus driving you to find meaning and purpose and happiness. This could be in the form of college degrees, careers, financial success, etc. Instead of appreciating the person who God has made (YOU!), you find yourself chasing what you think will bring true happiness and purpose to your life.
- **Obsessive Compulsive Disorder or OCD:** it is my belief that Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) often involves emotional wounds that were never fully healed. This is especially true with people who have bondages to self-hate, self-resentment, self-unforgiveness, etc.
- **Hostility towards God, self, and others:** because of bound up emotions, a person can tend to feel hostile towards God, other

people in their life, or even themselves. This is usually rooted in a form of bitterness against God for not preventing something from happening to you, bitterness against somebody who has wronged or harmed you emotionally, or bitterness against yourself for failures that you've fallen into yourself.

**Why do we lash out at somebody when they say the wrong thing? Perhaps we are making them pay for what somebody else did to us years ago.**

**When we fail to love others, we have fallen into sin, because Jesus commanded us to love one another.**

**However, if our own need to be loved isn't being met, maybe because of the walls we have constructed in our hearts, it will be difficult to love others because we will have a hard time freely giving something we aren't receiving ourselves.**

***Point - Did you know that **you can hold two opposing beliefs at the same time?** Did you know that you can believe one thing in your mind such as "God supplies all my needs" yet the minute you lose your job start having a panic attack and begin to worry and lose sleep believing that your life will change for the worse?***

- **God is not angry or disappointed in you – He loves you**

***"But the Comforter [in newer translations they call Him the counselor], which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."  
John 14:26 KJV***

## Freedom from the Past

Our pain is rarely rooted in the present. Past experiences even back to childhood experiences can mess up the way we view God's promises to us now as adults.

- When you did not have healthy support or didn't get what you should have as a child when you needed it, now we are hurting adults with childhood problems and adult issues as a result.
- But in God's process, He will replace hurt for healing, beauty for ashes and give us GRACE to live this life to the fullest.
- **Why does the process take so long?** This is not about instant gratification. It takes time to break old patterns and create new ones that are spiritually sound and beneficial. **Why is the process sometimes painful?**
- The healing process will bring about transformation and change. We cannot live out our destiny without transformation/transition – it is not all pleasant and comfortable, sweet or cute. **It is a crucible of growth and cutting away.** Sometimes we want the outcome to happen without going through the process. But the process leads to the outcome – growth, transformation and freedom in Christ.

Some of us are so close to where God's wants us.

But God must do some fixing, some surgery, and some healing work. And this work is not comfortable. But it is an excellent work. A cleansing work. A preparatory work. And it hurts sometimes. Being angry is a lot easier than saying I'm sorry or forgiving someone.

But just like in circumcision, when unneeded flesh is cut away, our flesh must also die to order to step into place and step into the future and into our destiny.

God's must cut away stuff you thought you would never lose.

Whenever everybody is talking about what you can GET from God, PRAISE HIM for what he has cut away!

But what's in front of you is BETTER than what you left behind.  
EXCELLENCE requires that you go through a process that takes you out of your comfort zone.

God will cut, it will hurt, He will heal you and you will step into your destiny.  
Ask God for vision – to be able to see. Can you see your promised land?  
Here in this life?

Our inside needs to catch up with our outside. Either you are going to stay in your old place or you will have to be uncomfortable for a little while in order to go through God's process.

### John 14:12-14

“The same works and greater”

This promise is not made to the apostles alone, but to all who believe. “whosoever believes”. **Whoever believes in Jesus will do this or that, it is describing the normal Christian life.** This is the mark of being a Christian, not limited to being an apostle. Jesus always carried out God's will in perfect obedience (cf. 5:19-30; 8:29). Even before His crucifixion, Jesus stressed the importance of the believer's obedience. As Jesus always operated in dependence on the Father with the Spirit's enablement, so should His disciples (cf. 1:32; 3:34; 4:34; 5:19; 6:27; 10:36; 17:4). As He was a Son of God, so are His disciples sons of God (cf. 1:12-13; 3:3, 5; 20:17)

### Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

The difference being endowed with Holy Spirit power is like the difference between riding a bicycle and driving a car. Its how and what you are ENABLED to do.

## Hindrances & Obstacles

### Mark 7:1

#### Nullifying and Manipulating the Word of God through tradition – of none effect

One of the most important issues that every believer must face involves the question of ultimate authority. The Pharisees abused their God-given authority by “laying aside the commandment of God” and replacing it with “the tradition of men” ([Mark 7:8](#)). They simply transgressed “the commandment of God” in order to obey and follow their tradition ([Matthew 15:3](#)). Through these unwise actions, they plainly declared that the traditions of men were their ultimate authority rather than God and His word. As a result, the Lord Jesus said they made the word of God of none effect. This same truth applies today. When a man accepts men’s traditions as superior to the scripture, he makes scripture ineffective for God’s intended purposes. The Bible must be believed in order for it to be effectual ([1 Thessalonians 2:13](#)).

- Jesus told the Pharisees and the scribes that they were “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye” (Mark 7:13, KJV). Their religious practices or traditions were nullifying the power of God’s Word.
- For example, there are some who reject the Word of God in order to keep the traditions of their church or upbringing. Mark 7:9 stated, “And He said unto them, full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition” (KJV). How many people dismiss certain doctrines and beliefs such as, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, water baptism, healings, or even contemporary worship, and the list could go on, simply because it does not align itself with their traditions.
- Sometimes people may not reject the Word of God but will twist it to fit their tradition or to use it for their own benefit. The people in our text had claimed that their material possessions had been given to God and, therefore, could not be used for the support of their parents. They were making a “profit” by the recitation of God’s Word. In other words, they were twisting God’s Word in order to make money. For others, they twist the Word to make it fit with their particular tradition. They will see the truth through many passages in the Bible but refuse to believe it on the grounds that they were raised in the tradition of a particular church. They then will omit, add to, or twist passages in the Bible in order to dismiss the truth and make their doctrine or tradition seem correct.
- **When people do these things, they inhibit the power of God in their lives. Consequently, they never truly realize the full victory that God intends for them to have.**

## Action Steps

- Ask God to help you maintain the proper authority.
- Ask the Lord to show you any unscriptural views you have.

### 2 Timothy 3:5

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Religious form is – appearance, structure, ceremony, formulas, procedures, rituals, rules and regulations, codes, articles, customs, legalism, etc. that are honored, believed, adhered to and practiced more than or with higher regard than the Word of God thereby denying its power and quenching and/or choking the moving of the Holy Spirit. The religious spirit is always carnal, never spiritual. It is dead not alive. It is the Holy Spirit's power and anointing that changes things, not a religious silhouette (Zechariah 4:6). Furthermore, the Word tells us of the anointing,

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing” (Isaiah 10:27).

## Review

- The internal healing process will bring about transformation and change. We cannot live out our God-given purpose without transformation/transition – it is not all pleasant and comfortable, sweet or cute. **It is a crucible of growth and cutting away.** Sometimes we want the outcome to happen without going through the process. But the **process leads to the outcome** – growth, transformation and freedom in Christ.
- Some of us are so close to where God's wants us.
- But God must do some fixing, some surgery, and some healing work. And this work is not comfortable. But it is an excellent work. A cleansing work. A preparatory work. And it hurts sometimes. Being angry is a lot easier than saying I'm sorry or forgiving someone.
- But just like in circumcision, when unneeded flesh is cut away, our flesh must also die to order to step into place and step into the future and into our destiny.

- God's must cut away stuff you thought you would never lose.
- Whenever everybody is talking about what you can GET from God, PRAISE HIM for what he has cut away!
- But what's in front of you is BETTER than what you left behind. EXCELLENCE requires that you go through a process that takes you out of your comfort zone.
- God will cut, it will hurt, He will heal you and you will step into your destiny.
- Ask God for vision – to be able to see. Can you see your promised land? Here in this life?
- Our inside needs to catch up with our outside. Either you are going to stay in your old place or you will have to be uncomfortable for a little while in order to go through God's process.

Being freed from the captivity and bondage of sin is new life.

Being healed and freed from the captivity and bondage from the issues on the inside is life changing.

Who you are / What you are able to do / What's in the way /  
How to move it

John 14:12-14

"The same works and greater"

This promise is not made to the apostles alone, but to all who believe.

"whosoever believes". **Whoever believes in Jesus will do this or that, it is describing the normal Christian life.** This is the mark of being a Christian, not limited to being an apostle. Jesus always carried out God's will in perfect obedience (cf. 5:19-30; 8:29). Even before His crucifixion, Jesus stressed the importance of the believer's obedience. As Jesus always operated in dependence on the Father with the Spirit's enablement, so should His disciples (cf. 1:32; 3:34; 4:34; 5:19; 6:27; 10:36; 17:4). As He was the Son of God, so are His disciples sons of God (cf. 1:12-13; 3:3, 5; 20:17)

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“But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

## Let's dig into Acts Chapter 2!

The difference being empowered by Holy and not is like the difference between walking or driving a car across the country. Which one would you rather do?

## Hindrances & Obstacles

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transgressed “the commandment of God” in order to obey and follow their tradition ([Matthew 15:3](#)). Through these unwise and foolish actions, they plainly declared that the traditions of men were their ultimate authority rather than God and His Word. As a result, the Lord Jesus said they made the Word of God of none effect – ineffective, null and void. This same truth applies today. When a person accepts men’s traditions, church tradition, denominational tradition, written documents, etc. as superior to the scripture, he makes scripture ineffective for God’s intended purposes. The Bible must be believed in order for it to be effectual ([1 Thessalonians 2:13](#)). For the Christian, THERE IS NO AUTHORITY greater than or EQUAL to the Word of God, the BIBLE.

- Jesus told the Pharisees and the scribes that they were “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye” (Mark 7:13, KJV). Their religious practices or traditions were nullifying the power of God’s Word.
- For example, there are some who reject the Word of God in order to keep the traditions of their church or upbringing. [Mark 7:9](#) stated, “And He said unto them, full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition” (KJV). How many people dismiss certain doctrines and beliefs such as, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, water baptism, healings, or even contemporary worship, and the list could go on, simply because it does not align itself with their traditions. Today, many of our traditions are dead acts which are nothing more than routine practices.
- Sometimes people may not reject the Word of God but will twist it to fit their tradition or to use it for their own benefit. [The people in our text had claimed that their material possessions had been given to God and, therefore, could not be used for the support of their parents. They were making a “profit” by the recitation of God’s Word. In other words, they were twisting God’s Word in order to make money.](#) For others, they twist the Word to make it fit with their particular tradition. They will see the truth through many passages in the Bible but refuse to believe it on the grounds that they were raised in the tradition of a particular church. They then will omit, add to, or twist passages in the Bible in order to dismiss the truth and make their doctrine or tradition seem correct.

- **When people do these things, they inhibit the power of God in their lives and in the lives of others. Consequently, they never truly realize the full victory that God intends for them to have.**

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“And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing” (Isaiah 10:27).

If you get both Word of God and the power, as given by the Holy Spirit of God, you are living as true followers and Disciples of Christ. If you get the power alone, without the Word, you are disabling yourself. **But if you get the Word without the power, you dwell in spiritual death.** Would it make sense for a soldier to go to battle without picking up his weapons? Or for us to drive a car without repairing the flat tire.

## Action Steps

- Ask God to help you recognize and maintain the proper authority.
- Ask the Lord to show you any unscriptural views you have.
- **ASK GOD FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST**

## Praise

Praise is the joyful recounting of all God has done for us. It is closely intertwined with thanksgiving as we offer back to God appreciation for His mighty works on our behalf. Praise is universal and can be applied to other relationships as well. We can praise our family, friends, co-workers, or your hair stylist! Praise does not require anything of us. It is merely the truthful acknowledgment of the righteous acts of another. Since God has done many wonderful deeds, He is worthy of praise ([Psalm 18:3](#)).

In Scripture, praise is usually presented as boisterous, joyful, and uninhibited. God invites praise of all kinds from His creation. Jesus said that if people don't praise God, even the "stones will cry out" ([Luke 19:40](#)). Understanding the difference between [praise](#) and [worship](#) can bring a new depth to the way we honor the Lord. Throughout the Bible, the commands to "praise the Lord" are too numerous to mention. Angels and the heavenly hosts are commanded to praise the Lord ([Psalm 89:5](#); [103:20](#); [148:2](#)). All inhabitants of the earth are instructed to praise the Lord ([Psalm 138:4](#); [Romans 15:11](#)). We can praise Him with singing ([Isaiah 12:5](#); [Psalm 9:11](#)), with shouting ([Psalm 33:1](#); [98:4](#)), with the dance ([Psalm 150:4](#)), and with musical instruments ([1 Chronicles 13:8](#); [Psalm 108:2](#); [150:3-5](#)).

Then there are those times when God did not come through the way we thought He would. The medical test comes back positive. The spouse wants a divorce. A child is problematic. The mortgage company calls in the loan. God seems very far away, and praise is the last thing to bubble up from our hearts. We can't see His goodness, and circumstances scream that He has forgotten us.

To praise God in those times requires personal sacrifice. It takes **an act of the will** to lay our all on the altar before a God we don't understand. When we bring a "sacrifice of praise," we choose to believe that, even though life is not going as we think it should, God is still good and can be trusted ([Psalm 135:2](#); [Nahum 1:7](#)). When we choose to praise God in spite of the storms, He is honored, and our faith grows deeper ([Malachi 3:13-17](#); [Job 13:15](#)).

The command in [Hebrews 13:15](#) says that this sacrifice is to be offered "continually." **Our praise of God is not to be based on our opinion of His job performance.** Praise cannot be treated as a "reward" we give God for His obvious blessings. [Isaiah 29:13](#) says, "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." **Real praise continues regardless of circumstances.** It flows continually from a worshiping heart in good times and bad ([Acts 16:23-25](#)).

The "sacrifice of praise" comes from a humble heart that has been purified by fire. It

rises from a spirit that has chosen to honor God in spite of the pain that life is causing. [Psalm 51:16-17](#) expresses this idea best when it says, "You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

#### [Psalm 100](#)

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*

*Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

*Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

*For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*

## **Worship**

Worship comes from a different place within our spirits. Worship should be reserved for God alone ([Luke 4:8](#)). Worship is the art of losing self in the adoration of another. You cannot worship God unless you have an intimate relationship with Him. Praise can be a part of worship, but worship **goes beyond praise**. **Praise is easy; worship is not.** Worship gets to the heart of who we are. To truly worship God, we must let go of our self-awareness, self-worship, distractions. We must be willing to humble ourselves before God, surrender every part of our lives to His control, and adore Him for who He is, not just what He has done. Worship is a lifestyle, not just an activity. Jesus said the Father is seeking those who will worship Him "in spirit and in truth" ([John 4:23](#)).

Just as praise is intertwined with thanksgiving, worship is intertwined with surrender. It is impossible to worship God and anything else at the same time ([Luke 4:8](#)). The physical acts often associated with worship—bowing, kneeling, lifting hands—help to create the necessary attitude of humility required for real worship. Wise worship leaders know how to structure a worship service to allow participants to both praise and worship the Lord. Often, services begin with joyous praise songs and transition to a quieter, more introspective opportunity for worship.

We read verses like, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" ([Psalm 96:9](#)). And, "Come let us worship and bow down" ([Psalm 95:6](#)). Often, worship is coupled with the act of bowing or kneeling, which shows humility and contrition ([2 Chronicles 29:28](#); [Hebrews 11:21](#); [Revelation 19:10](#)). It is through true worship that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, convict us, and comfort us. Through worship, we realign our priorities with God's and acknowledge Him once more as the rightful Lord of our lives.

**Worship is an attitude of the heart.** A person can go through the outward motions and not be worshipping ([Psalm 51:16-17](#); [Matthew 6:5-6](#)). God sees the heart, and He desires and deserves sincere, heartfelt praise and worship.

[Psalm 95:6-7](#)

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand.*

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) [Hillsong United](#)

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep  
My faith will stand

And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand  
Will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now

So I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
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Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
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I will call upon Your name  
Keep my eyes above the waves  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
I am Yours and You are mine

## **“2017 Rise Up – Building Momentum for Life” – Part 3**

Do you long to go to higher heights and deeper depths in God and to experience a fuller more meaningful life? Is healing, peace and freedom really possible? If your answer is YES, then NOW is the time to "detox" your "inner man" and **recalibrate** your spiritual **compass**! Find the keys to unlock your understanding of how to meet the challenges of life and release the treasure that God has placed on the inside of you! Come with us as we journey to the "soul of the matter" and discover **how to flourish** from the inside out!

**Detox:** A treatment or process designed to rid the body of toxic, poisonous, unhealthy substances. You can't avoid contact with such toxins in this fallen world, **but you don't have to be contaminated by them.** You can detoxify your soul and start experiencing the pure life that God wants you to enjoy.

**Recalibrate:** to make small changes to an instrument so that it measures accurately

**Compass:** an instrument for determining directions

What does it mean to **flourish**:

The purpose of these classes:

- **Impartation** or giving/bestowing (the ability to give to others what God has given to us – an extra dimension of anointing of the Holy Spirit for equipping and impacting – goes beyond head knowledge) of truth in order to become established in faith in Christ and in His Word.

- **Practical** (You can put it into practice, use it) life application of Biblical truths, concepts and strategies in order to equip and strengthen participants to grow and mature spiritually, live victoriously and serve God effectively.

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.”

Lamentations 3:40

“I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies.”

**Psalm 119:59**

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Consider your ways and thoughtfully reflect on your conduct!” **Haggai 1:7**

## Questions

We’re going to dealing with the relationship between you and God, between you and yourself and between you and others. You will get the maximum out of these classes if you will **be truthful with yourself**.

- How aware are you of yourself? How well do you know you?
  - o Don’t know myself, A little Bit, Fairly Well, I know me!
- How is the relationship between you and yourself - is it **in** or **out** of alignment – how do you know?)
- What matters most to you?
- What are things you do that limit yourself?
- What is the “something” about you that needs to change?
- What triggers you to manifest the “old” you?
- Are you willing to go on a journey with God?
- How far are you willing to follow God?
- Is there somewhere you will NOT go? Is there anything in your life that is off limits to God?

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (NLT)

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

Psalm 34:18

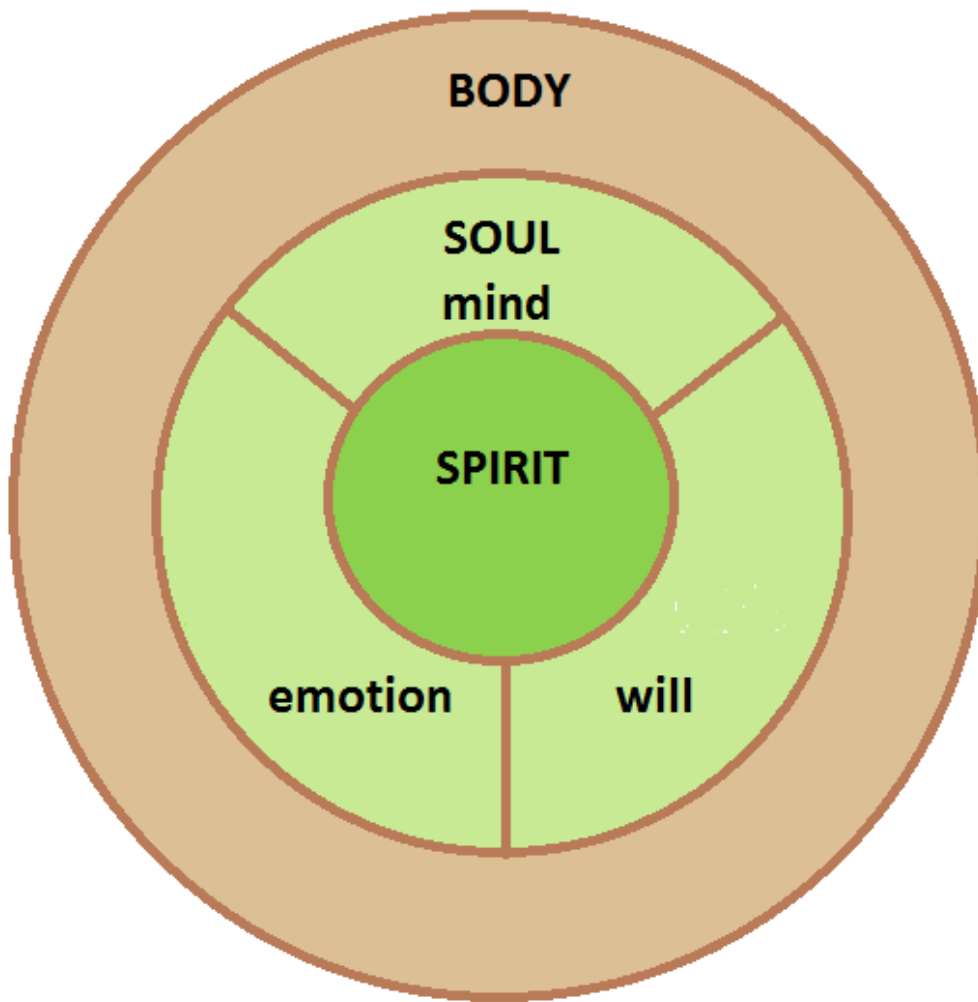
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

### Defining Man

What are we? We are made in the image of God and in His likeness.

- The **body** that can be seen, heard and touched, etc.
- We are also made up of intangibles –
  - This includes the **soul** and the **spirit**.
- Body = world consciousness
- Soul = self-consciousness
- Spirit = God consciousness – the part that connects us to God

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely (wholly); and may your **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved complete, without blame at (until) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ 1 Thessalonians 5:23



For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between **soul** and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. **Hebrews 4:12**

### Defining the Soul

- What is the **soul**:
  - **Mind** (thoughts) reason, intellect, understanding, conscience, memory, and even our "worldview."
  - **Will** (freedom of choice, intention, determination)

- Emotions (feelings)

- It is in the **soul** where fleshly lusts, affections, desires, and appetites arise.
- The **body** expresses what the **soul** likes or dislikes and tells it what to do through our 5 senses. So if your **emotions** are in control.....your body will do whatever they want to do! Your mouth is part of your body!

*Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the **soul** (1Peter 2:11)*

### Soul and spirit connection

- Our spirit is what gets born again.
- The difference between your spirit and your soul is that your soul contains your mind. Our mind must be renewed to the Word of God.  
*Romans 12:2*

*...continue to work out your salvation [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ].*

*Phillippians 2:12*

*But the natural [unbelieving] man does not accept the things [the teachings and revelations] of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness [absurd and illogical] to him; and he is incapable of understanding them, because they are spiritually discerned and appreciated, [and he is unqualified to judge spiritual matters].* *1Corinthians 2:14 AMP*

- The **soul** of man, and what's inside of it are never directed toward God until after the **spirit** has become regenerated. When the Spirit of God illuminates the **spirit** of a man with divine light and life, then that man begins to yield his affections and faculties – his **soul** - to God.
- Jesus said: “God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in **spirit** and in truth” John 4:24.

It is in our **spirit** that true worship, true fellowship, true relationship with God happens.

Our human **spirit** – is nurtured by the flow and activity of the Holy Spirit

Without God, our human **spirit** – is void of the life of God

**Statement:** “My Christian walk was erratic, because my **responses to life** were continually dependent upon how I felt, what I thought, how people responded to me and what my circumstances were – and **that’s called - emotional living.**”

- You have emotions
- Emotions dictate how you feel
- BUT You are not your emotions, you are not how you feel
- I am angry, I am hurt, I am upset
- I am feeling angry, I am feeling hurt, I am feeling upset
- You are not how you feel
- Reality is - You are not what happened to you
- “Feeling” and “being” are two different things – one is temporary, the other is permanent
- You made a mistake, you messed up, you failed
- BUT you are not a mistake, you are not a mess up, you are not a failure
- You cannot define yourself by a feeling
- You can base your life on a feeling
- It is up to you to reduce the intensity of the feeling
- What meaning do you attach to the event that produced the feeling
- Are you holding on to **unforgiveness**
- Are you holding **any grudges or feelings of anger, bitterness, or resentment**

## Important Points

- God designed your emotions to be **gauges, not guides**. They're meant to report to you, not dictate to you. They reveal what your heart loves, trusts, and fears.
- **Emotions aren't your boss**. They're only reports. That's why Paul wrote, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its **passions**" (*Romans 6:12*).
- The Bible tells us that no one is fit for the kingdom of God if they keep looking back on their past and dwelling on it. (*Luke 9:62*)
- The apostle Paul says that he forgets those things that are behind him and continues to press forward for the things that now lie ahead of him. (*Philippians 3:13-14*)
- The Bible tells us that Jesus has come to set the captives free – and one of the greatest areas of captivity for many of us is in our own minds. (*Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18*)
- The Bible tells us that a man is as he thinks. In other words, you can become what you think. Your thought life, what you think about and dwell on, can make or break you in this life. (*Proverbs 23:7*)
- This is why the Bible tells us that we are actually transformed by the renewing of our minds. We have to learn how to develop right thinking in our mind and thought process. (*Romans 12:2*)
- If we're not willing to **yield**, set aside and relinquish our own thoughts, then our thinking process will not be renewed and our lives will never be transformed.

## What To Do With Feelings (including hurt and other unpleasant, negative or unwanted feelings)

*Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. **WE MUST GO TO HIM!***

*Psalms 30:5 ...Weeping may tarry (endure) for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Know that the situation is temporary*

*Psalms 71:20-21 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. You will increase my greatness and comfort me again. Know that the situation is temporary*

*John 16:22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. (Jesus' words) Know that the situation is temporary*

*Psalms 116:1-2 I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The Lord hears, sees, knows all – we will never regrets trusting Him!*

God promised that all things will work out for good for His children (Romans 8:28).

- This is the broader picture that keeps us from being overwhelmed or overcome by present circumstances. When we understand how God uses circumstances to develop character, we are able to respond correctly when God places us in **character-building opportunities**. Understanding this, how does your attitude toward your situation change?
- Testing it –
- If the emotion is negative will I use my will to make a decision / choice to follow God and his way of handling things, rather than going with the feeling?
- Whenever we choose to **respond** to a situation in God's way instead of following our natural inclination, we mature and develop character. For this reason, He allows all kinds of character-building circumstances: conflict, disappointment, difficulty, temptation, delays....

**You cannot hold on to hurt!**

Question: Why do people hold on to hurt?

- So then we have hurt that we don't really know what to do with it.
- Where do we put it? Where should it go? What happens to the hurt?
- Many people will fight you for their right to live hurt and show it. Why? Because they use hurt to excuse their own issues and bad behavior! Because this excuses their immaturity & refusal to grow up!
- Just because something hurt you doesn't mean it was unnecessary. Some hurt is necessary

## **“2017 Rise Up – Building Momentum for Life” – Part 4**

In Part 4 of this class series, we're going to:

- Understand the power and authority of Jesus Christ
- Understand exactly what power and authority He has given to us
- Learn the significance of living in that power and authority.
  - o If you do not know what you have - how do you use it?

Questions:

- How do you see yourself?
- How does God see you?
- Does how you see yourself line up with how God sees you?

**YOU MUST ALIGN YOUR VIEW OF YOURSELF WITH GOD'S VIEW of YOU!**

### **Definitions**

**Power (Spiritual) –**

Is a characteristic of God; might, strength, force; the power of the Holy Spirit; the fullness of the Godhead; the name Elohim in the OT is describing the omnipotence (all powerful nature) of God – the unlimited extent of His divine power. God holds all power, and distributes it to those who are His, in order to carry out His work and His purposes here on earth as it is in heaven.

Dunamis — Greek NT - power

Where we get our English words *dynamite*, *dynamo* and *dynamic*.

## Authority (Spiritual)

Exousia – Greek NT

The Greek word translated as ‘authority’ here is ‘exousia,’ and its basic meaning is to have the right to rule or govern, as one whose will, influence and commands ought to be submitted to and obeyed.

Authority doesn't beg; authority doesn't ask; authority commands!

## Christ's Power and Authority

### Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

### Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

Now **to** Him who is able **to** do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**

### 1 Corinthians 4:19-20 (NKJV)

But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. **For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.**

### Acts 1:8

But you will receive **power** and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

### 2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of **power** and love and a sound mind

### John 10:17-18

For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My [own] life so that I may take it back. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it away from Me, but I lay it down voluntarily. I am **authorized and have power to lay it down and to give it up, and I am authorized and have power to take it back.** This command I have received from My Father.”

In [Mark 16:15-18](#) tells when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead. It was at that time that He delegated the authority to carry out this work. Jesus said: *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*

This is a description of the authority Jesus has given to us!

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"*

## Power

- Is a characteristic of God; might, strength, force; the power of the Holy Spirit; the fullness of the Godhead; the name Elohim in the OT is describing the omnipotence (all powerful nature) of God Greek = **dunamis** where we get our English words dynamite, dynamo and dynamic.

## Authority

- The authority that every believer receives in Christ Jesus we receive automatically the day that we are born again. We do not earn it, but it is fully ours the day we are born again. The Greek word translated as 'authority' is **exousia**, and its basic meaning is to have the right to rule or govern, as one whose will, influence and commands ought to be submitted to and obeyed. Authority doesn't beg; authority doesn't ask; authority commands!
- Luke 10:19, "Behold, I give you the authority (**exousia**) to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power (**dunamis**) of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

## Dominion

- The Hebrew "radah" – stewardship, ruling, subduing, and exercising dominion.
- Genesis 1:26, "Let us make man in our own image, according to our likeness. And let them have **dominion over all the earth.**"

- They were to participate in the governing of the earth **under God's authority**.

## The Power and Authority of the Believer

### Authority given to us in the Name of Jesus

In Mark 16:15-18 tells when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead. It was at that time that He delegated the authority to carry out this work. Jesus said: *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

**This is a description of what of the authority Jesus has given to us should look like!**

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”*

1. **Acts 1:8** But you will receive **power** and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”
2. **2 Timothy 1:7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of **power** and love and a sound mind
3. **Ephesians 3:20** (NKJV) Now **to** Him who is able **to** do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**
4. **Luke 10:18-20** (NKJV) And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the **power** of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

### **(Breakdown) WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO USE JESUS’ NAME**

- Let’s look at Luke 10:19 again - *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”* (Luke 10:19). When the statement in Luke’s gospel is correctly translated, it becomes clear that Christ has not given us direct or ‘dunamis’ power to overcome the power of Satan. Instead He has entrusted us

to wield the **authority** that is attached to His name, the name which is the greatest in all creation.

- Philippians 2:9-11 - “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- We are entitled to exercise the **authority** contained in the name of Jesus over the **power** of Satan as those who must be obeyed.
- For instance we may, in the name of Jesus, cast out demons, or bind the powers of darkness away from our circumstances, or loose those who are held in bondage to the enemy.
- However it is important to see that our **authority to use the name of Jesus** is closely linked with our spiritual state of union or relationship with Him. We lose our authority when we are no longer in an abiding relationship with Christ our Lord.
- Jesus said, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**” (John 15:4-5).
- **Before we can use the authority of the name of Jesus we must be united and one with Him. He must initiate, and we must respond in obedience. He then confirms our legitimate use of the authority of His name by instructing the Holy Spirit to perform the works that we have commanded.**
- Satan understands the real basis of our authority. He knows that he does not have to submit to any lawless or presumptuous use of the name of Jesus.
- In fact those who are lawless in this matter may place themselves in extremely hazardous circumstances, as did “some ... itinerant Jewish exorcists – who were not submitted up under the authority of Christ” reported in the book of Acts (9:13). They “took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, **‘We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.’**”
- But because they were not united and one with the Lord Jesus, their **lack of real authority was obvious to the demons they were attempting to cast out.** “And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; **but who are you?**’ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and **prevailed against them,** so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.” (Acts 19:15-16).

## AUTHORITY IS INEFFECTIVE WITHOUT OBEDIENCE

- The authority of Christ was always upheld because He was always one with the Father, and He was perfectly obedient to His will.
- Jesus was therefore able to say to Philip, “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.” (John 14:10).

### (Additional Scriptures)

Luke 1:35: “The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the **power** of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’”

Luke 4:36: “All the people were amazed and said to each other, ‘What words these are! With authority and **power** he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!’”

Acts 1:8: “But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Romans 1:20: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal **power** and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

First Corinthians 1:22–24: “Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power** of God and the wisdom of God.”

Second Corinthians 4:7: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing **power** is from God and not from us.”

Second Corinthians 12:9: “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my **power** is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s **power** may rest on me.”

Ephesians 3:20–21: “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his **power** that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Second Timothy 1:7: “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us **power**, love and self-discipline.”

Hebrews 1:3: “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his **powerful** word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

Second Peter 1:3: “His divine **power** has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”

## THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEIR APPLICATION TO THE CHURCH TODAY

### Spiritual Gifts

#### 1) Romans 12:4-8 (Motivational)

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

#### 2) Ephesians 4:8-13 (5-Fold Ministry Offices)

4 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 8 Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men.”

9 (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And **He Himself** gave some to be **apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers**, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

### 3) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (Manifestation/Workings)

#### Revelation – Power – Speaking/Utterance

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of **ministries**, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of **activities**, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the **manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all**: <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same<sup>[b]</sup> Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another **different kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually **as He wills**.

✓ 27 AMP Now you [collectively] are Christ’s body, and individually [you are] members of it [**each with his own special purpose and function**].

## Definitions

A. Domata- -Ephesians 4:8, 11-12- -**gifts** of the ascended Christ for the equipping of the church- 5-fold ministry offices.

B. Charismata- -Romans 12:4-8- -functional **gifts** of God's grace, defining our personality---also stewardship gifts- -1 Peter 4:10-11.

C. Pneumatic (spiritual) charismata- -dynamic, powerful, manifestational **gifts of the Holy Spirit**- -1 Corinthians 12:1-11. They are: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues (vv. 8-10).

1. Prophecy ([Rom. 12:6](#); [1 Cor. 12:10, 28-29](#); 14:1-40; [Eph. 4:11](#))--The ability to receive and proclaim a message from God. This could involve the foretelling of future events, though its primary purpose as seen in [1 Corinthians 14:3](#) is forthtelling: one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and consolation.

2. Service ([Rom. 12:7](#))--The ability to identify and care for the physical needs of the body through a variety of means. The Greek word for this gift is the same as that for ministry or deacon, but the gift should not be confused with the office.

3. Teaching ([Rom. 12:7](#); [1 Cor. 12:28-29](#); [Eph. 4:11](#))--The ability to clearly explain and effectively apply the truths of God's Word so that others will learn. This requires the capacity to accurately interpret Scripture, engage in necessary research, and organize the results in a way that is easily communicated.

4. Exhortation ([Rom. 12:8](#))--The ability to motivate others to respond to the truth by providing timely words of counsel, encouragement, and consolation. When this gift is exercised, believers are challenged to stimulate their faith by putting God's truth to the test in their lives.

5. Giving ([Rom. 12:8](#))--The ability to contribute material resources with generosity and cheerfulness for the benefit of others and the glory of God. Christians with this spiritual gift need not be wealthy.

6. Leadership ([Rom. 12:8](#))--The ability to discern God's purpose for a group, set and communicate appropriate goals, and motivate others to work

together to fulfill them in the service of God. A person with this gift is effective at delegating tasks to followers without manipulation or coercion.

7. Mercy ([Rom. 12:8](#))--The ability to deeply empathize and engage in compassionate acts on behalf of people who are suffering physical, mental, or emotional distress. Those with this gift manifest concern and kindness to people who are often overlooked.

8. Word of Wisdom ([1 Cor. 12:8](#))--The ability to apply the principles of the Word of God in a practical way to specific situations and to recommend the best course of action at the best time. The exercise of this gift skillfully distills insight and discernment into excellent advice.

9. Word of Knowledge ([1 Cor. 12:8](#))--The ability to discover, analyze, and systematize truth for the benefit of others. With this gift, one speaks with understanding and penetration. Some also associate supernatural perception with this gift.

10. Faith ([1 Cor. 12:9](#))--The ability to have a vision for what God wants to be done and to confidently believe that it will be accomplished in spite of circumstances and appearances to the contrary. The gift of faith transforms vision into reality.

11. Healing ([1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30](#))--The ability to serve as a human instrument through whom God supernaturally cures illnesses and restores health. The possessor of this gift is not the source of power, but a vessel who can only heal those diseases the Lord chooses to heal. Inner healing, or healing of memories is sometimes associated as another manifestation of this gift.

12. Miracles ([1 Cor. 12:10, 28, 29](#))--The ability to serve as an instrument through whom God accomplishes acts that manifest supernatural power. Miracles bear witness to the presence of God and the truth of His proclaimed Word, and appear to occur most frequently in association with missionary activity.

13. Discerning of spirits ([1 Cor. 12:10](#))--The ability to clearly discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (cf. [1 John 4:6](#)). With this gift, one can distinguish reality versus counterfeits, the divine versus the demonic, true versus false teaching, and in some cases, spiritual versus carnal motives.

14. Tongues ([1 Cor. 12:10, 28, 30; 14:1-40](#))--The ability to receive and impart a spiritual message in a language the recipient never learned. For other members of the body to be edified, this message must be interpreted either by the recipient ([1 Cor. 14:13](#)) or by another person with the gift of **interpretation** ([1 Cor. 14:26-28](#)).

15. Interpretation of tongues ([1 Cor. 12:10, 30; 14:5, 13, 26-28](#))--The ability to translate into the vernacular a message publicly uttered in a tongue. This gift may be combined with the gift of tongues ([1 Cor. 14:13](#)), or it can operate separately ([1 Cor. 14:26-28](#)).

### Natural Talent vs Spiritual Gift

- Natural talents reveal you
- Spiritual Gifts reveal Christ.
- For instance a talent for writing does not necessarily mean that writing is a spiritual gift for you. The talent for writing brings glory to you; but if the Holy Spirit empowers you to write what Christ wants you to write, then He gets the glory and you have a spiritual gift.

### Purposes of the Gifts of the Spirit:

- To build up the Body of Christ ([1 Corinthians 14](#))
- To encourage ([1 Corinthians 14:3,31](#))
- To comfort ([1 Corinthians 14:3](#))
- To praise God ([1 Corinthians 14:16](#))
- To build yourself up ([1 Corinthians 14:4](#); [Jude 20](#))
- To win people for Christ ([1 Corinthians 14:23-25](#))

**The aim of God is to raise up a strong army that is equipped to do the same works that Jesus did.** John 14:11-12 (AMP) says,

*11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe [Me] because of the [very] works themselves [which you have witnessed]. 12 I assure you and most solemnly say to you, anyone who believes in Me [as Savior] will also do the things that I do;*

*and he will do even greater things than these [in extent and outreach], because I am going to the Father.*

- Spiritual Gifts in operation are a part of that purpose.
- Paul makes it very clear that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are for every believer ([1 Corinthians 12:7](#) ; [1 Corinthians 14:31](#))
- God intends that every believer manifests Spiritual Gifts.
- All Christians are to work together, supporting one another. However, our gifts make us better prepared and equipped to perform in some areas of ministry over others.
- A person who is working within a ministry area they are gifted for, will be far more effective in that ministry than one they are not gifted for.
- When using Spiritual Gifts our motives and words must be checked against the standard of love. "The foundation for the power of God to move is the love of God."

### A Personal Challenge:

- Are you satisfied with the way you have flowed in these gifts?
- What do you think you need to do in order for them to flow more regularly/accurately?

If you desire to flow more freely in these Gifts, apply yourself to the following practical pointers:

1. Ask God to help you.
2. Set aside time so that God can speak to you.
3. Confess any sin, fears, doubts or unbelief that is in your life, so you can be a much more effective instrument in His hand.
4. Cultivate a strong desire for the Gifts.
5. Expect God to use you.
6. Work alongside people who are already flowing well in the Gifts. Learn as much as you can.
7. Seek an impartation for a greater release of the Gifts.
8. Always remain teachable.

## The Prophetic Anointing

For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. - 1 Corinthians 14:31

Be zealous for all the spiritual gifts- -"Desire earnestly the spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 14:8)- -especially prophecy- -"especially that you may prophesy" (1 Cor. 14:11). Move boldly as the Holy Spirit manifests Himself.

"Paranormal" refers to the idea that there are phenomenon that occur that we just can't explain **yet**—but we might be able to one day.

## Gifts vs. Fruit

- Paul writes, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23).
- So there is both a ninefold manifestation and a ninefold fruit. Although they are the same in number, the gifts and the fruit are totally different in nature.
- The gifts of the Spirit are the immediate self-expression of the Holy Spirit occurring through those vessels open to His presence and power.
- The fruit is a lengthy process of growth and maturation.
- We need them both equally!
- Let's make a clear distinction between the **gifts** of the Spirit and the **fruit** of the Spirit. Paul writes, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23).
- Immature believers may manifest these also (as did the Corinthians), but with the fruit there must be a lengthy process of growth and maturation. Both gifts and fruit are valuable for very different reasons, but they are by no means the same. **Gifts are dynamic manifestations,**

gifts of power; fruits are expressions of character. How much we need them both equally!

- Let it be understood that the church cannot be fully and freely the church without the presence and operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What is depicted therefore in 1 Corinthians- -and recurring in our day- -is crucial to the life of the church. For us today the recurrence of the charismata (gifts) of the Holy Spirit signals the church's recovery of its spiritual roots and its emergence into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with fresh power and vitality.
- A final word: where there is **genuine love** there should be a strong desire for the gifts, for theirs is a ministry of love and compassion. The more we have love for each other, the more there will be a passion and an earnest desire to receive the spiritual gifts and **pass on blessings to others**. Again earnest passionate desire is important. The Holy Spirit is not likely to give His gifts to those who do not want them!
- **Pursue love- -and let fruit grow and let the gifts flow!**