

I AM

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Introduction

Christians sometimes have an identity crisis. I believe that is one of the main weapons that the devil uses against us. He tries to discourage and condemn us so that we only see our faults and failures. We forget who we are. He causes us to doubt God. In times like this we need to be able to stand up and declare I AM and when we do we need to fully know just who we are in God. Also, we need to declare that we know the great I AM in all of His power and His love for us. That is why I have chosen to name this book, I AM.

This book was truly born in the fire. God put the idea and the message of this book in my spirit during one of the roughest times I've been through. The ministry had been struggling for its life. It was getting ready to break out of the cocoon like a worm turning into a butterfly. The devil knew that if he didn't stop it then, it would grow quickly to the place that he couldn't stop it. He was pressing against us with everything he had and every one of us knew that if we didn't walk in the apex center of God's will, we would never be able to

make it. During that time the devil put a sickness against me that would require surgery, but I knew the surgery itself was guaranteed to worsen what I had wrong with me. I knew that if God didn't undertake the undertaker would.

On top of all that, someone dear to my heart was dying of cancer if God didn't undertake. And another thing, there was a project that was dear to my heart that the Lord had entrusted me with. I knew that the devil had already set himself against it and if I moved one step outside of the perfect will of God, it would all be destroyed. Now I would like to say that I am a perfect, spiritual person who can totally trust in my own abilities, someone who knows that I have it in control. If I did I would be lying. I am just me. If you hear someone who, without God, thinks they are in control and can do great things, you may as well know either they are lying through their teeth or they are trying to pump themselves up, or a spirit of self-righteousness deceives them. I knew I couldn't handle what I was going through. I couldn't in any way do what I had to do.

One of the devil's greatest tools he uses is confusion. He'll especially bring this against us when we are sick. In the middle of this, the devil set confusion against my mind so great that I could barely remember who I was in the natural let alone who I was in God. During this time these words started echoing in my spirit over and over—I know who I am and I know whom I believe. God is good. He doesn't mess around. He gets to the point and gives you exactly what you need to be able to overcome. He can do that in only a few words.

I knew who I was in the natural. Right about that time I wasn't very pretty. When I looked at myself in the natural I saw that I couldn't do anything I needed to do. In a supernatural world, we can't do anything right in the natural no matter how hard we try or how much we want to. We just need to go ahead and admit we can't. Any time we get in the natural part of us, the flesh part, we will see our failures, our shortcomings, our past mistakes, and the devil will be sure to cram them all in our face to keep us defeated. If we don't let go of the natural side and get in the spiritual, we

will keep on trying only to fail every time we start, no matter how sincere the desires of our heart to serve God. Even the most dedicated will give up and quit.

I had faced really quickly who I was in the natural, but God wanted me to go past that in my understanding. He started pouring into me who I was in Him, in my spirit. In the natural, I am not much. You have to admit that before God can do anything with you. Sometimes God has to put us through something before we can gut deep admit we are nothing. But God began to reveal in a very real way that I was in Him. He then began to reveal to me who He was. My battle, well, it started fading away.

It is my prayer that this book helps write these things in your heart so that **you know** who you are in God and just who you believe. So that **you** can declare I AM and I know the great I AM. This world, the battle against us, and even our own flesh wants us to forget whom we are and Who it is we serve. When we forget, we lose. God is the God of our Fathers. The power of His Word created everything. That power can work in your life. The breath of God, the Holy

Ghost breathes Spiritually renewed life into our spirits. Through these things we can walk in victory. We need to be able to stand with boldness and declare—I know who I am and I know whom I believe. In doing so we can stand in the face of the enemy and whatever battles we face or circumstances that come against us, and we can say “I AM”. I am victorious. I am a child of God. I am an over comer. I know the great I AM, and I know He walks with me. When we do we will truly become victorious servants of the most High God. We will truly become the overcoming body of Christ.

Chapter 1. Who Are You?

When you ask most people who they are, usually they will start by telling you their name. Then they may tell you their family name and something about their parents, grandparents, and their inheritance. Then they may go on to tell you something about their likes and dislikes, talents, gifts, (or lack of them). Then they may go on to talk about their strengths and weaknesses, maybe things in their past they have failed at. They may talk about their beliefs and doctrines, their church or denomination if they are Christians. When they do all that, in answer to the question—who are you—they have missed the point.

God has blessed me down through the years with many talents and abilities. Now I don't say this to brag, but I say it to say this. I can say that I have these because of two things that I learned as a young Christian. I learned that it didn't matter who I was or what I thought that I could do, I learned who I was in God. I learned that if I committed myself and my weaknesses to God and obeyed Him, He would give me what I needed to be able to do the things He required. Then I

learned the importance of a self-crucified life of obedience, in love with Jesus. If you'll hear this it will change not only how you see yourself, but also what you can do for God.

Now the person that described himself in terms of the things I listed above was describing only one part of himself, and that was the least important part of him, his flesh. Your flesh is the container that you live in and the vessel the Holy Ghost lives in. Your flesh is made up of your physical self, your body and mind. All too often even Christians concentrate on that part. When they do, they cut themselves short on ever being able to have a victorious life. The Bible tells us "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8) When we concentrate on the flesh part of us we actually become enemies against God and against what He is trying to do in our lives. We may not mean to, but that is what happens. When we submit our flesh and become daily obedient and submissive to God, then we become the Sons of God. ("For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God", Romans 8:14).

When Adam and Eve sinned they lost being able to be the perfect beings that God created. The whole world could no longer be perfect because of their sin. Just like we inherit our parent's physical traits, we inherited our great, great, ever so many great grandparents sin nature-Adam and Eve's. It is human nature to mess up. It is easier to do badly than good. Those people that think that they can do no wrong, on their own without God, are lying through their teeth. Or they are so far gone they don't even know what good really is. The Bible says that none are good, no not one. When compared to a perfect God, we are really pitiful even at our very best. That is, when we are on our own, in the flesh.

God in His everlasting understanding, knowing the end of things all the way at the beginning, knew that we would sin. His law said the penalty of sin is death-eternal separation from Him. God's laws aren't like man's laws, to be changed and perverted whenever we feel like it. His laws are perfect and just. His solution? He sent His Son, Jesus, to die to redeem us from the punishment. He sent One that had no sin to die so that He could take the punishment for our sin.

(Hebrews 2:9-10, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor: that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”)

What is the difference between Jesus taking our punishment and our taking that punishment? While He was in hell for our punishment, He snatched away from the devil the keys to death, hell, and the grave and rose from the dead victorious over all three. Jesus didn't stop there. He turned and gave us the keys. (Matthew 16:19, “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”) He gave us the authority to be victorious over sin, death, hell, and one day even the grave. And where does that leave us? Forgiven and set free, redeemed, brought back from it all, with victory over death, hell, and the grave, through Jesus Christ our

Lord. What is our problem? Most of us have these keys but we have no idea what they open or even what they are for.

Now after thinking about all I have written in this chapter, tell me-Who Are You? Answer with me. I am a living Son of a living Savior. I am His inheritance destined to be One with Him as He is One with the Father. (John 17:21, “That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”) My inheritance is to be able to do all the things He did on earth and more. (John 14: 12, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”) I have the keys of death, hell, and the grave that were given to me by my elder brother (Matthew 6:19). I have a God given right to be victorious in my life. (Romans 8:37, “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”) I have a right to be in health and prosper even as my soul prospers. . (III John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things

that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”) I will eternally inherit the blessings of God. The Word of God promises all these things to us. When we get this knowledge deep inside our heart, then we will definitely start to see ourselves differently.

To make all this possible, God originally created man with a container inside him, a place to hold His Spirit. God Himself comes and takes up His residence in your heart. Talk about making you special. One of the most beautiful pictures of the relationship between God and His church is that of a husband and His bride. (Isaiah 62:5, “...and as the bridgroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.”) God created His bride so that He could enter into her very being and dwell within her heart through the power of His Holy Ghost. A perfect God, holy, creator of all things loves us enough to come inside us to make us His permanent dwelling. How permanent? Eternal. We can't see who we are in the natural and be victorious.

Let's forget about who we are and begin to see ourselves as the bride of Jesus

where He takes a permanent residence. That changes how we look at ourselves. That is the difference in defeat and victory. The Holy Ghost of God overshadowed Mary and birthed in her the physical form of Jesus Christ who lived on earth and dwelt among us to show us the Father. (Luke 1:35, “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”).

Jesus forgives us, cleanses us, makes us ready for the Holy Ghost to come inside of us to birth in us the spiritual form of Jesus. When Jesus comes in our hearts, we have inside of us “that Holy thing, the Son of God.” Wow, doesn’t that change how you see yourself. What is our job? To live on the earth to show the world Jesus. When we let Him rise up in us, then we become new ourselves. (Ephesians 4:24, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”)

With all of that going on, how can we fail? And why do we fail so often? How

many truly, truly victorious Christians do you know? With all those victorious goings on that I have been talking about, why are there so many defeated Christians?

One of the main reasons I am writing this book is because I believe that the reason Christians today are so defeated is that they really don't know what they have going for them. They don't take time to study God's Word, and seek His face until they find life-changing truths revealed to them and written in their heart by the mighty Holy Ghost. Another reason I believe they are defeated is because, even though they have the God part inside them, they allow their flesh to rule in their lives. I hope through these pages to show you how to let the Spirit man, Jesus in you, rule and reign victoriously.

When you are born again, when you truly are saved, Jesus really does come in your heart to live. We say it, Jesus come into my heart, but then we just as quickly forget that He really did. When you accept His salvation, you accept Him coming inside you through the power of His Holy Ghost. (Colossians 1:27, "To

whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ *in you*, the hope of glory”) But there is one problem. We still have old number one, that old flesh man, inside of us too. That is where a lot of Christians mess up. They wrestle with themselves, their flesh, and they make themselves do right no matter how hard the battle. They make themselves have the right attitudes and do the right things to serve God. They may even struggle with themselves for years. Then the devil comes along with a battle that has the effect of the straw that breaks the camel’s back. We can’t stand in this way any longer, and we fall.

We can’t overcome on our own. If this happens people just give up, because they have struggled so long, and it just didn’t work. They may be sincerely dedicated in heart. The world sees them fall and says, “See there, I knew there wasn’t anything to that stuff”. Their brothers and sisters in Christ see them fall and secretly begin to live in fear that whatever happened to those that fell would happen to them, too. Both the world and the church wind up shaking

with fear. Who comes out victorious? The devil laughs at them both. It should be that the saints of God rise up in victory and the world, running to see what is happening, finds redemption.

A clue of how this works is found in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." We live this life through faith in that Son of God that lives in us. We live in victory because He lives in us. Somehow we have to give this Inner Man, Jesus in us through the Holy Ghost, power to overcome that flesh part of us.

Now that may seem a strange way to say that-give Jesus power. It would seem that God and Jesus don't need any help from us. And in most things they certainly don't. They created it all. God formed us out of dust and breathed life in us. (Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.") Just a footnote, do you know that when a

human body is chemically analyzed that the elements found in it are the same as in dirt?) He is an awesome God. There is only one thing that can stop Him. The free will of man. God created us with the free will to choose. What else in His creation can make decisions and make choices based on those decisions? God didn't want an animal, or a puppet-like being to obey Him. He wanted someone to serve Him by choice, out of love. Because He created us that way, if we choose to stop Him from working in our lives, our hearts or minds, or in our circumstances, we stop His power from being able to work. He then will not be able to do anything to help us. In that sense, though God is mighty enough to create the world, He can do nothing for us if we fail to allow Him to work in our behalf, and we fail to submit to Him.

We have inside of us a Spirit Inner Man, Jesus, birthed in us in the image of God, through the power of God's Word and the Holy Ghost. But when we choose to allow our flesh to rise up and we give it power over Jesus inside us, we stop Him from being able to work in our lives. When we choose to deny ourselves, our flesh, our wills, then we allow Jesus to

rise victorious in our lives. We then become a new man ourselves. (Colossians 3:10, “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.”) A lot of times we read these verses and automatically think this is just talking about the change that comes to us when we are saved. Yes, we do become a new man when we accept salvation and Jesus enters our heart. But everyday we need to be renewed in His likeness. Every day we need to accept a change that He brings. Every day we need to put off our old flesh nature and let that new Man inside us rise up to make us new in Him. How can we strengthen the inner man to overcome our flesh? We’ll talk more about that here in just a minute.

Now I want to ask you that question that we started with in the beginning of this chapter. Who Are You? Do you remember the list I gave earlier in the chapter? This list listed who you are in the Lord. I gave scripture to prove each point. If the Lord says you are this, then you are this. Here it is again. *I am a living Son of a living Savior. I am His inheritance destined to be One with Him*

as He is One with the Father. My inheritance is to be able to do all the things He did on earth and more. I have the keys of death, hell, and the grave that were given to me by my elder. I have a God given right to be victorious in my life. I have a right to be in health and prosper even as my soul prospers. I will eternally inherit the blessings of God.

Read it again. Shout it out loud. Shout it out so that your flesh can hear it, so that it looses its hold on that Spirit Man inside you. Shout it out so that the devil can hear you and stop his condemnation. Shout it out so that those around you can hear it, so that they will come running to investigate this victory that you have found. Know who you are.

Chapter 2. Christ In Us The Hope of Glory

Christ in us is our only hope of glory (Colossians 1:27, “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”). The greatest miracle we will ever know is that of salvation. When Jesus’ disciples first figured out that even the devils had to obey them, they were excited. Jesus told them in Luke 10:19-20, “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”

Salvation is the greatest miracle. Jesus Himself died to make it possible. We must accept His forgiveness and allow Him to clean us up. He then, through the power of the Holy Ghost, comes inside of us to make His dwelling. What greater miracle can there be? I have been blessed to see the deaf hear, the blind see, the dying healed, and the dead

raised. I can say without a doubt that salvation is the greatest miracle we will know. (Another great miracle is the power of prayer, that we can all pray to God in heaven who hears us all and answers our prayers with the one on one tenderness of a loving Father.)

The next step after salvation is to accept the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. When we are saved we receive God's Spirit. When we receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost we are completely filled with Him. (Acts 1:4, 5, 8, "...wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence...But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.")

A lot of Christians miss out on this part because they are not taught about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and some are even taught that it is wrong. I have always been one that wanted all of God I could get. I grew up in a nominal church

that didn't teach about the Holy Ghost Baptism. When I first heard about it and got around people who had it, I was a little skeptical on the outside. But inside, I had gotten a taste of something that I was very hungry for. I sought God for this gift. Now I can say I know that it's real because it happened to me.

There were a group of Christians in Corinth who had been saved. We hear about their story in Acts 19:1-6. In verse 2 Paul talked to them, "He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's Baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is on Christ Jesus. When they heard this they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." Now notice they were saved, but Paul says they had not yet received the fullness of

the Holy Ghost. They had been baptized in water, but Paul said there was another Baptism that they could receive. When they asked for understanding the disciples explained. When they asked for the Baptism, they got it. These early Holy Ghost filled saints helped turn their world upside down.

I heard someone once say, “Now that was for them, but it is not for us today.” Why? Because we don’t need it today? Would God give that wonderful world changing, boldness giving, empowering gift to them and deny us, when we are the last day generation? Certainly not. It is yours for the asking. Ask God for the understanding. (Be careful who you ask, however. Ask someone that will tell you the truth. Ask someone who knows because they have it. You won’t be able to find out about anything by asking someone who doesn’t have it. Best of all, seek God for understanding.)

Get hungry for all He has for you. Matthew 7:7 tells us, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” (I have another chapter that tells more about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

titled *Breathe on Me Breath of God*.) When you get the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, you will have a whole lot more of the Holy Ghost in you than you will have your flesh. He will be in there working in you, bringing you into the image of Jesus. That Spirit Inner Man will rise up strong in you

A lot of Christians get the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and think they have arrived, that is all there is. They start coasting in their relationship with God and in their Christian walk. If that is all there is, why are there so many Holy Ghost Baptized saints of God that stop serving Him, that give in to the devil's lies and mess up their life with sin? What else do we need to do to be able to live a victorious life daily?

Just like the Word of God is a tool, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is too. We have to know how to use them both to be able to have them work in our lives. Salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost are just the beginning. We need to daily use these tools. We need to daily strengthen the Inner Man within us, Jesus in us through the power of the Holy Ghost.

I have heard this old saying many times in telling about how to strengthen the Inner Man. If a man had 2 pups and wanted one to grow up to be stronger, how could he do that? The one he fed the most would be the strongest. If we spend most of our daily minute-to-minute time feeding our flesh man, he will be the strongest and he will rule our lives. It doesn't matter whether we intend for that to happen that is what will happen. We will then have a hard time letting the Spirit Man overcome. If we feed the Holy Ghost Inner Man part of us, we will be overcomers, victorious in our day-to-day lives.

We will overcome even when our flesh is warring against us. We will overcome through Jesus in us, our Hope of Glory. Then we can say like Paul, when I am weak then I am strong. (II Corinthians 12:9, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.) Jesus will be in us. When we are weakest we will be the strongest, because we will be relying on Him within us. Jesus will be on the

inside, working on the outside, bringing forth a change in our life. One of the biggest mistakes we make is failing to recognize the Inner Man inside of us, failing to “feed Him” (strengthen Him) on a daily basis, and failing to submit to His presence in us and allowing Him to work.

How do we feed or strengthen that wonderful Inner Man? One of the greatest ways is through prayer. There are several kinds of prayers that we can pray. One is a ritual patterned out prayer, well thought out with perfect words. I had heard so many people pray that way when I was a new Christian that I thought that was how you had to talk to God or He didn't listen. After I got a relationship with God I figured out that He wants us to come as we are and be real with Him when we talk to Him. Now think about it, if you were God and the only kind of communication you got from someone was a ritual written out thing, wouldn't you question their relationship with you?

Then there are the hurried up prayers said before getting up and before going to sleep each night. You know, those

guilt prayers we say because we haven't taken time during the day. Sad to say they are the ones we usually fall asleep in. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:17) When I was young in the Lord I thought you had to pray with bowed head and eyes closed. I had a real hard time praying while I was driving. I missed the point of prayer entirely.

Prayer is an ongoing conversation with Someone Who is the center of your life on a day-to-day minute-by-minute basis. It is an ongoing relationship with Someone Who is the focus of your life. It is not only talking to that Someone, but listening as well. When I am not talking to this Savior, this Lord of my life, I find myself thinking about His Word, His ways, and praising Him. Then when I am not praising Him I am fellowshiping with Him. I am listening to what wonderful things He has to say. He can speak two words that stop a month long battle. Why don't we listen more? How much easier our life would be.

What do you spend most of your time thinking about and filling your time

with? Do you realize that you are making that thing the Lord of your life whether or not you mean to? It may be that you spend most of your time concentrating on yourself, your family, your friends, the latest movies, food, your favorite hobby, your job. All these are OK, but what about the One Who focuses daily on you? How many times at the end of the day is He disappointed in His relationship with you? He died for you. Shouldn't He be "number one" with you?

Sometimes we think God and Jesus are so far away that they don't have feelings, they don't hurt because we don't spend time with them. What about the verse we all have memorized because it is the shortest, Jesus wept, John 11:35? Does the same Jesus that wept because the city Jerusalem had lost fellowship with Him, weep because you fail to fellowship with Him? We can think about a lot of things and fill our mind full all day. Our mind is working all our waking hours. We need to discipline our mind to set it on things above. Discipline yourself to spend time consistently in fellowship with God. It will change your life. That Inner man will be renewed daily.

We also can strengthen that Inner Spirit Man inside us through reading the Bible. There are a few ways we can do that, too. We can read our set number of chapters daily, with our mind on a thousand other things and not take in a bit of what we read. Or we can memorize it verse by verse until we know it all (Do you know how we can miss heaven by 14 inches? Get His Word in our head and not in our heart.) Or we can be like the man that looked in the mirror and saw what a mess he was, and then went away not changing anything. (James 1:24, "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.") Or we can set aside time for the Holy Ghost to divinely reveal His Word to us, write it in our hearts, and then we can obey it. That is when It will change our life and the very nature of who we are. That is when that Inner Spirit Man inside of us will be strengthened and renewed.

God's Word says this about Itself in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it

shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” God created the world and us by His spoken Word. What can His written Word perform in our hearts?

We also strengthen the Inner Man by assembling together in church as God commanded in Hebrews 10:25, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is...” I hear some people say, “I don’t need church. Me and God have our own thing going.” When I hear this, I know they just lied through their teeth. If they had something going with God they would obey His command to “forsake not assembling yourselves together”. The Body of Christ strengthens one another. That’s why God made the church. Sure a lot of churches aren’t what they should be. They are too busy feeding the flesh part and getting caught up in back biting, jealousies, and all that junk. But that doesn’t excuse us from obeying God.

Find a church that dwells on feeding the Inner Spirit Man. Find a church that builds up Jesus in you. Let God direct you to where you can be a part of the body of Christ the way He intends. Don’t give up and think there isn’t one.

Don't be like Elijah who thought he was the only sincere one left. God told him in I Kings 19:18, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal...." Let God lead you to where you need to make your church home. Then when He does, become dedicated in service there, and stay there.

Fasting is another way we can strengthen the Spirit Man. It puts our flesh in its place. Deprive your body of its necessary food for a couple of days. Or lay down something permanently that your body craves (For example, I gave up caffeine of any kind and carbonated drinks. I don't say that to brag but to illustrate what I am saying here.) Sacrificing by denying yourself and doing what God leads you to do instead is also a kind of a fast. It might mean that you have to get out of your comfortable TV chair and obey God, laying aside your wants to obey and Him and go. You will find yourself to be happier than you have ever been in your whole life when you lay down your flesh and obey God.

I hear a lot of people say, “I just don’t have time to do something for God, and I don’t have time to spend in prayer and Bible reading.” Then I listen to them awhile. I hear that they have all kinds of priorities in their life. Many they don’t even realize. These things have crowded out God. If we spend a large amount of our time watching our favorite reruns, watching those movie, (oh never mind that they are filled with cussing and other junk we ought not see, we shut our eyes at the bad parts. Sound familiar.) We can get caught up in things that turn out to be a rat race for our whole family. They will seem so important at the time.

The devil is a master at getting us caught in a rat race life where we don’t even have time to think about what we are thinking about let alone change how we think. The devil is a master at getting us sidetracked. Get hold of your life. Make God a priority. He will get everything else in line. He may tell you to throw part of it out the window, the excess baggage. Listen to Him and **Do It**. It will change your life. It will strengthen the Spirit Inner man and you will have a victorious life instead a shadow of one.

One of the things that I see the devil use constantly in people's lives are other people. They allow people who are consumed with the devil, led by him, to control their life and their time. All the devil has to do to cause them to miss God is to whisper in the ears of the ones who are controlling them. They come up with some kind of drama, or some kind of situation that has to immediately be taken care of. They keep some sort of junk going on that eats up their time to the place that they have no time left for God. The drama keeps them so stressed out that they have no quiet time to get alone with God. Most of the time, the devil will use family members, or others. These people, the devil will tell them, have to be helped. They have to be a priority in their life; the enemy who uses them will convince them. All the time, he is leading them around by the nose, controlling not only the physical life, but also more dangerously, their spiritual life. One day they will be found like the lady I spoke with. She told me that she hadn't served the Lord in several years. Her husband went to church, but she had stopped going, and that had put a strain on their marriage. She couldn't tell me how she had gotten where she was in her

life. The enemy had gotten her there little by little. Praise the Lord, sitting in my office one day, the Lord opened her eyes to the way back home. The prodigal came home. The Father had been waiting there all the time. How many times does He wait for you, while the enemy has you trapped from obeying God, and having a real relationship with Him? A relationship takes time. Do you have time for the Lord? If you don't, then who or what is controlling your life. You had better find out.

The same enemy who steals our spiritual life, tries to steal our spiritual identity. When we begin to identify that Inner Spirit Man, Jesus in you, and we begin to strengthen Him inside of us, then we will begin to see ourselves in a whole different light. Then when someone asks us who we are, we will have a different answer. We can answer we are Sons of the living God. (I John 3:1, "Behold what manner of love the Father hat bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...." We are born new into His kingdom, new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away;

behold, all things are become new.”) We have a divine inheritance. (Psalm 125:1, “They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.”) We will even answer questions about ourselves differently. When asked what are our likes and dislikes? We can answer, these are committed to the Lord for His service. What are our talents and gifts? Whatever God has given us. We will no longer talk about our weaknesses because the blood covers them and His strength is reigning inside us. Our weaknesses are committed to Him. We will watch even our weaknesses become His strength. When asked who we are, we will no longer tell about our failures and our past. These too have been given to the One that puts our sins under His precious blood. When we feel condemned we know that is only the devil at his tricks, and we bind him. We walk in freedom from the past and the fear of those failures.

Who are you? Say it with me. I am a living Son of a living Savior. I am His inheritance destined to be One with Him as He is One with the Father. My inheritance is to be able to do all the

things He did on earth and more. I have the keys of death, hell, and the grave that were given to me by my elder brother. I have a God given right to be victorious in my life. I have a right to be in health and prosper even as my soul prospers. I will eternally inherit the blessings of God.

Tell me again child of God. Say it again. Every day wake up and confess who you are in Christ. Confess your victory given by the power of His Son, His wonderful Word and that Inner Spirit Man inside of you. We can walk in a whole new life in knowing who we are in God. You can know I AM.

Chapter 3. Lord Break Me, Be Me

We recognize now that if we have accepted Jesus as our Savior that we have an Inner Spirit Man inside us, Jesus Christ Himself through the power of the Holy Ghost. We have recognized that we need to daily strengthen that Inner Man so that He overcomes our flesh. We also need to let God break us, break our self will, so that we don't constantly push Jesus aside in our life.

Who we feed the most will be the strongest. Also, who we let control will be the one who controls. Our self-will wants control of our life. Human nature doesn't want to submit to anybody or anything. We want to do our own thing. We want to be number one in our world by whatever means it takes. If we think that without God we are different, then we only deceive ourselves. This is all about human nature. We want to control those around us until our world revolves around us. We want people to be what we think they should be and do what we think they should, or we don't want them in our life. We know what is best for us and we don't want to hear what anyone else has to say. We feel we can handle

every situation, or we try our best to. How very wrong we can be.

This control may not be evident. It may be that we would argue about this a little. To answer the question who is in control of your life, answer these questions. Can you leap for joy when you are persecuted? When someone talks about you, are you able to count it all worthy of the cause of Christ, or does something rise up in you that says, how dare they put you down? Can you stand squarely in your position in God or do you stand offensive and totally in the flesh when things happen that don't go your way? When someone tells you to do something and they aren't routinely supposed to, do you get upset? Do you get upset when anyone tells you to do something? Can you handle correction? Can you handle chastisement? Do you honestly do things for Jesus to serve Him out of love for Him, or do you do the things you do to make you feel better about yourself and who you are? Can you do things without having to have recognition? Can you rejoice when others are being lifted up and blessed in their efforts without being angry that you aren't? Can you sit in the back of the room and be content,

or do you need to be in the front? These things have to come from being broken by God. Until we are broken we cannot serve Him no matter how hard we try.

If we really, down deep in our heart, want a victorious life with Jesus on the inside working on the outside, we have to let God break us. This won't just be a one-time experience. Our flesh will always try to rise up. Our self-will will fight to be in control. Everyday God will do a work in us if we desire Him to. We have to first know that we want it more than we do anything else. We have to then admit who we are without Him. We have to see ourselves as we really are with all the junk that is in us. We have to look at our life without His control and realize that it is a mess, that there is nothing we can do on our own to fix it. We have to know that until

God is control of us totally there is nothing we can really do to serve Him. Until He takes control of us and delivers us from our own selves, we can't even really love Him the way He deserves to be loved. Until you see yourself as God sees you, God can't take control. I hear so many people pumping themselves up

in God by saying, “God sees me as being so much better than what I see.” That is not true. God sees all the junk in you through and through. Even our best is filthy rags in His eyes. The difference is, when He sees you as you are, He also can see what you can become in and through Him, if you submit and allow Him to break you.

I see so many Christians that think they have arrived. They think that without God having control of their life that they can turn their life around and they are together. They have very carefully built a house and are so proud that it is standing. Only problem? Their house is on the sand, not on the solid rock foundation of Jesus Christ. It is a house of their own making, not of God’s. The devil sends a storm and their sand house crumbles.

We are nothing without God. We have to know that down deep in our heart before we will honestly consider letting Him have control. One of the only ways that we can honestly see ourselves is that God reveals who we are to us. He has to reveal to us what we have in our hearts. Sometimes we are the last ones to know

what is wrong in our hearts and lives. We can't see it ourselves. He uses His Spirit and His Word to reveal our sin and our weaknesses. When we see it then He can fix it.

One of the most miraculous stories I've heard lately was that of a man who was bailing hay with one of those bailers that bale the huge round bales. (My country side is showing here.) Something got hung in the bailer and he reached in to get it out like he had hundreds of times. This time something went wrong. The bailer caught his arm. He tried to reach with his other hand to pull it out. Both arms were caught. The bailer still turned, a huge, powerful piece of machinery. It pulled one of his arms off totally, separating his arm and shoulder (I know this sounds bad, but bear with me. I am making a point here.) What was the extreme miracle about all this? The only thing that did not separate was an exposed artery. Even with that machine turning with such force, his artery wasn't severed. The results of that would have been his bleeding to death.

This is a real miracle story. But the greatest miracle about this man, I heard

his wife say, was that he went into the bailer one man and came out a different man. This man is one of the most victorious people I have ever met. The life change God made in him was very real. I believe it is because at the moment of facing death and through the months he later endured, he gave God complete and total control of His life. Jesus is set free to rise up in this man victorious. He doesn't sit around in pity because He lost two arms. He praises the Lord that saved his life, delivered him, and made him victorious. You don't hear Him complaining in self-pity. He testifies about the God who changed Him.

There is a story in the Bible about a man that God tried to kill. Now I read this and thought about it for many years before I lived an experience that was a lot the same. Now I admit, when I first read that it bothered me. (Exodus 4:24, "And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the Lord met him, and sought to kill him.") Moses was on his way to Egypt. He was getting ready to do something supernatural for God. When we serve God, we have to get in the supernatural to make a difference in the lives of those we are trying to reach. If

we are in the flesh, we will destroy more than help them. Think of the ones that have done this to you, even though they meant well. To reach out for real, we need to bury ourselves and let Jesus reach out through us. He knows their hearts. Only He knows what they are going through. Only He knows what it will take to help them. We can only guess. If we try to serve God in our flesh we will only mess it all up. Moses already knew he wasn't capable of doing what God told Him to do. He knew himself and his weaknesses. He just hadn't learned to submit and let God break Him. I don't know how God tried to kill him, but it changed his life. The Moses that walked into Pharaoh's palace was not the same one that stood trembling at the fiery bush. We have to literally let God kill us and break us, so that He can be revealed in us.

Our self-will binds Jesus from being able to work in us and in our circumstances, even in those that we are trying to help. We have already talked about how God created man with a self-will to choose to serve Him, and that is the only thing that can stop Him from working. If we don't allow God to break our self-will, the

Inner Spirit man inside us cannot rise up over our flesh and control us. Now notice I said, “If we don’t allow God...” We cannot break our own self-will. I used to try. I really wanted to be broken before God. I had seen what it was like without that. I tried so hard to do that in myself. We can’t. When we, on our own, by ourselves, try to break ourselves, what do we have? Just a lot of ourselves. God has to break us. We have to submit, but He has to do that work. (Colossians 1:29, “Whereunto I also labor striving according to His working which worketh in me mightily.”)

Now let’s review, why should we let Him break us? Because we know that on our own we cannot serve God. We cannot fight our own flesh nature, let alone the devil. We can’t really serve Him the perfect way we need to, especially when we are dealing with the eternal souls of those we love. We can’t even really pray. How many times have you not known how to pray for someone you had a burden for? Broken before Him, we can let the Holy Ghost pray in us. We can’t even love Him. Sometimes we have so much inside of us that stops us from loving and receiving love. If we

can't really receive the love of others around us, we can't receive God's love no matter how hard we try. These things will bind us from accepting His love as well. Also, without being broken, we can't make the right decisions. We can make them based on what we see today, He can make them based on His eternal perception of things. Most of all we have to remember that He is so good; our best on our own is filthy rags. The closer we get to Him the better we can understand this. That isn't said to put us down. That is said to lift us up closer to Him. Do you want God to take charge of your life? Do you want Jesus to rise up victorious in you?

One of my favorite sections of scriptures is this one in Daniel chapter 4. Old King Nebuchadnezzar thought he was fine. He was in control of everybody and definitely of himself. Then one day he came to himself in the field and this is what had happened to him. (Daniel 4:33, "The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds'

claws.” In an hour he became like an animal in the field. God broke him. Nebuchadnezzar was a changed man. He stood and testified of God’s goodness in breaking him. He became a king for real. Now if I would have to go through what he went through it would be hard to confess that God is good. But the change God made in Nebuchadnezzar was something that he praised God for. He was glad God had broken him. This is what he had to say about it all in Daniel 4:34-37. Verse 34 tells us, “...I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that liveth for ever whose Dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.” He summed up his praise in verse 37 by saying, “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”

Let God work in your life. Let Him break you and bring you into the place of true submission to Him. I am not saying that it will take being like an animal in the field for God to break you. If you are willing, God will even use His wonderful

love to break you. He will do what it takes. You will be eternally grateful that He did.

Let Him break you. Then Jesus inside you can be released to rise up. That Inner Man can take charge of that flesh of yours that is at enmity with God. That Holy Ghost can fill your vessel all the way, not just part of the way. There is one thing for sure, though. If we choose to stay in our flesh, stand in ourselves, keep our self will, keep our opinions of what we think things should be like, do what we want when we want, we will never know what it means to find who we are in God. We will know all about our flesh, and we will begin to think that we are in the spirit. We will become deceived. We will think that Jesus is in control, but it will be our flesh, and eventually the devil will move in to control us.

We have to let go to let God rise up in us. There is no other way. If we stop Him from finishing that work in us because we draw a line and say, “God not that”, we will become most miserable. If we hold on to certain things, these will be the things the devil

will use to destroy us. When Moses led the people toward the Promised Land, they wanted to leave Egypt, but were not willing to do what they needed to enter the Promised Land. These are the ones that died in the desert without ever finding the full promises of God.

I see so many Christians who are trying to walk in the spirit and be spiritual. They are doing this because they think that is how they are supposed to do. They are actually trying to prove they are just as spiritual as someone else is. When I see that, I know that they have missed the point. When we are genuinely broken before God, we won't be in competition with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We will be in complete and total unity with them, flowing together in the love of God, in His Spirit. We won't need to prove who we are, just who He is. Come be broken. (Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.")

Coming up on the next page is a song that the Lord gave me. The title of the song is Come Be Broken. It is an

invitation to come is broken of the Father.

Come Be Broken

Verse 1

*Every where I go, everyone I meet,
I look for my Father whose living inside
me.*

*I don't care who they think they are, the
bigger the harder they'll fall.*

*I want to know God's in control, or they
don't know Him at all.*

Chorus

*Come be broken by the One Who'll free
you by His love*

*Come be broken by the One Who'll make
your will His own.*

*I don't care who you are, set yourself
aside.*

*I want to know how you let my Father
live inside.*

Verse 2

*You just can't impress me by who you
know or where you've been.*

*I have inside me the Lord of all, and I'm
in love with Him.*

*But you can get my notice, if you're
broken in His control*

*Cause one day we'll stand together at
His throne.*

*We'll hear Him say yes I know you, my
child welcome home.*

Chorus

*Come be broken by the One Who'll free
you by His love*

*Come be broken by the One Who'll make
your will His own.*

*I don't care who you are, set yourself
aside.*

*I want to know how you let my Father
live inside.*

Chapter 4. Obedience

Obedience is a number one key that God uses to break our self-will. It opens just about everything in God. Obedience unlocks the power of the Word of God in your life. Obedience brings your flesh under subjection. Obedience gives peace. Obedience can also help you find your identity in God.

We are all created with a purpose. Few people even know what God's purpose is for their life. Fewer still walk committed and obedient to that purpose. If they don't these are the ones that have a hard time finding their identity in God? They never know the fullness of who they are in Him. These are the ones that won't go all the way in, but they stand at the door and keep others from going in to find their place in God. These are the ones that want to control others and circumstances out of the fear that they will get left out. These are the ones that try to become the center, to keep everything revolving around them so that they can make their own place, when they can't find it in God. These are the ones that let jealousy rule their heart, that bring strife because they are afraid that if

others have their identity they might get left out. These people wind up being used by the devil when if they would only submit themselves 100% to God, they could be God's greatest tools instead of a hindrance to His people. We need to be sure that we obey God and find our identity in Him so that we don't become like these people. Obedience is the key to unlocking our identity in God. It is also important to obey God because the Word of God tells us if we are not obedient, then we will suffer the consequences. Ephesians 5:6 tells us, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

When we begin to submit and commit everything and God begins to break us, then we can begin to be obedient in the true sense of the word. So many people are deceived to think that if once a week they do something for God, they are obedient. Obedience is not an occasional act. It is a 24-hour condition of the heart, an attitude. We stay tuned into God's Spirit, praying when He nudges our spirit to pray, moving when He speaks to move, speaking when He leads

with the Words of His mouth, thinking with His mind, letting that Spirit Inner Man in us rise up and control. That is what obedience means.

I can hear some people's thoughts now. I just don't know if I'm ready for that. I have to have my life to myself. How could anybody live like that every day? I have too many other things I need to do. I'm not willing to give up this or that for this way of life. What are you without God? Where will you be if He takes His Spirit from you? Who else can you go to that has eternal life? Then make obeying Him a priority. (Exodus 19:5, "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.") (Deuteronomy 5:29, "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it.") (Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are they which do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.")

Sometimes the devil uses other people, and our responsibility to them to keep us from being obedient to God. He whispers in our mind, “Now you have to take care of your family first. You have a responsibility to them first of all. You don’t have time after that to do things for God.” When that happens, God winds up getting our leftovers. Yes, we have a responsibility to our families, our work places, and other things. But if we put God and obeying Him first, these things will fall in line and they will be blessed because of our obedience and our commitment to God. It is a matter of setting priorities. When we put Jesus first, He will put the rest of our life in order. We will see our mate and our children begin to consider putting God as a priority in their life. We will begin to see victory in our family. We will watch God honor our commitment and everything will begin to work out better.

When we start making God a priority, though, the devil will hate that. He will do everything he can to make it look like that is a mistake. He will make things go wrong, and he will come against the people around us. If we just hold on and keep keeping on, God will come out on

top, and we will see His victory. It is a matter of placing priority on the things of God. We do have to be careful when we make Jesus #1 that we are obeying Him, and not doing what we think He wants us to do. If we aren't close enough to Him to hear His voice and obey Him, then we will wind up doing a bunch of junk that will do us no good. We will spend a lot of time still messing up our priorities. Obedience means that we do what He says, not that we do our own thing for Him. For us to really obey God we have to let Him break our self will. Then we will do what He wants us to do, instead of doing what we want, in His name.

God uses obedience to break and mold us. Our flesh will destroy us. Obedience helps keep our flesh under subjection. More than that, it helps keep us out of trouble, and makes us able to serve God. Instead of doing things on our own, we need to submit to His Spirit and flow with it, doing what He tells us. Then we can watch things happen in the lives of those around us. You may as well know that God doesn't require an easy life. He will always be crunching on your self-will. He will not schedule appointment times for His business with you at your

convenience. He will wake you up in the middle of the night to pray. Then He will bless the time you spend with Him and move heaven to answer that prayer. He will gouge away at you with the sharp sword of His Word, cutting to the marrow. Then you will become new in Him. He will send you places you don't want to go. You will learn there that you can trust Him. He will do you like Job, take away everything you have, reshape your whole life, and multiply it back again. He will require it all. If He isn't Lord of all, He's not Lord at all to you. But what He blesses back of your giving will be a hundred fold.

He will try you to see if you will submit 100% to Him and trust Him no matter what. He will then honor and bless your commitment in a way no one else can. He will call you away from what you're just dying to do, redirect your life in an instance to keep it. He will direct your path and light it. (Psalm 119:105, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.") If you don't submit and walk in His steps He cannot and will not lead you. What will be the way that He will lead you?

Remember this scripture in Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

How important is obedience? I spoke once with parents of a young man who was dying of cancer slowly, suffering terrible. His parents couldn't understand how this could happen to someone so good, always happy, always trying to help someone, and he went to church. They looked to me for the answer to that. I didn't have it. I could see the pain in their questions, but I couldn't answer. It bothered me. Now when things bother me, I go to the Lord. I don't run away and hide it. I asked Him why this young man was suffering so, if he had been such a good man that had served Him. God answered that this young man had always followed Him from a distance. He had from his young days professed to know Jesus, but never really committed and submitted to have a real true obedient relationship with Him. He walked in what he thought was right,

which was in the eyes of others a good walk. But he failed to obey. God then told me that He had tried to lead this young man to a church that taught the power of the Holy Ghost in healing even before he got sick, so that he would have an understanding of healing for his sickness. He did not follow where God led. It was not God's will that this young man suffer, but this man did not walk in His will. Yes, he professed to, but what we profess really doesn't matter. We have to possess it.

Only the obedient can really be the true Sons of God. (Romans 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?") We need to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. We have to work it out for ourselves. That can only come by obedience to God's Word and the leading of His Spirit every day, every minute. Nobody else can work it out for us. I see so many that think if they can get close enough to someone who is walking right, then they can make it. That might be their pastor or someone they know who has a strong

relationship with God. They become a noose around that person's neck, a parasite, sucking out their life. They don't get their own relationship with God, but try to live off the experience, anointing, and prayers of others that do. Those people run the high risk of standing before God at judgment and hearing Him say, "Depart from me for I never knew you." (Matthew 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.")

Obedience will also make your identity in God stronger. When you obey God, you know that you are fulfilling the purpose that He called you to. You will find your place, your niche to fit in His kingdom. You will fit your place as a part of the body of Christ doing what function that He desires you to do. The tongue, the toe, all parts of a body know

that they fit that body because of the function and the purpose that they fulfill. You will fit into your part of the body. You will know who you are in God. You will be able to say, I know “I AM” and I am a part of the great I AM.

Chapter 5. Devil I Refuse You

There is a chase going on. Someone is after you. That someone has power to destroy you. (Ephesians 6:11-12, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith y shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”)

The devil will destroy you in a minute and laugh at your calamity. He is tricky. I’ve watched the devil spin a trap for people that took years. They fell into it and were destroyed. Why does the devil

hate the children of God so much? To know this, you have to know where he came from. He was actually created by God. He was an angel. Isaiah 14:12 says, “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” He wasn’t willing to allow God to control him. He wanted to be in charge. Just like we do some time. He gathered a group of angels together to rebel against God, to take over heaven. He naturally lost and got kicked out with all of the angels that rebelled with him. In Luke 10:18 Jesus says, “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” So he hates God, and he hates those that God loves, His children. The devil can no longer have a relationship in victory with God. He resents us because we can. Making it worse, God gave us power to tread on his head. Luke 10:19 tells us, “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

The devil isn’t to be played with. This new generation coming on is making the mistake of playing with the devil. There

is a greater increase in young people who participate in the occult, satan worship, and witchcraft than ever before. Because of this, I believe that, if God does not do a work, we will see one of the most perverted and violent generations ever. Playing with the devil insures destruction. Only God can deliver you.

There is no way that we can stand against the devil alone. What are some of the things he does to try to destroy us? His number one tool is to cause us to doubt who we are in God. He starts on that one by blinding us so that we can't see what he is doing. First he hides the knowledge of who we are in God from us, so that we can't find our place in God. Then he begins to accuse us day and night, If you know that your sins are confessed and forgiven, then there is no condemnation in God. (Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.") If you daily search your heart and allow God to show you things that are wrong in your life, and you confess and repent, then when the devil comes accusing, you can just tell him, in the name of Jesus, shut up. He can put

thoughts in your head. Like a good friend told me years ago, he may fly over your head, but you don't have to let him nest in your hair. He will set you up to fail. Then he will set traps, and harass you because you failed. That is why it is so important to be submitted and obedient to God. God knows about all these traps before the devil tries them. God can lead you around them, and keep you from being destroyed if you listen to Him.

Another thing the devil uses is people. It may even be Christian people who are letting their flesh control them instead of the Spirit of God. (Be careful that you never do that.) These people will confuse and bind you with self-doubt. Sharpen your ears to hear what God has to say if someone tells you something, even if they say it is from God. He knows what He wants to tell you. If they are like Job's friends in the Bible, He will let you know. Another trick, the devil will lead you to do things that you just know is God's will, but it will be your flesh or those that are flesh led getting you into it. When it falls apart, then the devil will accuse you until you don't want to ever try again. Just make

sure when something tells you to do anything that it is God speaking to you. Don't jump at anything no matter how good it may seem.

One of the greatest traps the devil sets for us is what the Bible refers to as "a seem right way". (Proverbs 14:12, "There is a which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.") Many, many Christians live in what they think is the will of God. They are right in their own eyes. But they are failing to daily submit and commit to God's will for their lives. They are following Jesus at a distance. I guess you could say that instead of having a relationship with Him, they have one with His shadow. They are still number one in their life. They obey what they think God wants them to do, not what he tells them to do. This is one of the most dangerous traps the devil sets for God's people. Those caught in this think that they are right. They are lulled to sleep by compromise. Watch, don't let this happen to you. Keep your relationship with God right and real. Make it a priority every minute of every day.

The number one way to fight the devil is to refuse to let him work. Don't give in to him by compromise or by becoming double minded. (James 1:6-8, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.") Don't draw a line on God, and refuse to commit certain areas of you life to Him. These will be the very things that the devil will use to destroy you.

One of the ways that the devil can cause you to be double minded is by wearing you out. He can cause a battle to come against you that tries your faith. He can beat you into a corner, steal your strength, and you start being double minded because your faith and your spiritual strength is running low. I have had this to happen. When it does I remember something that the Lord told me once. I was going through a time when it seemed I couldn't get my head above water. I asked the Lord to show me what was wrong. He showed me a picture in my mind of my shield. It was all beaten and banged up. It was in

pitiful shape. It was still holding as a protection, but barely. He said that I needed to renew my faith in Him. I needed to draw to Him, get in His Word, bask in His Spirit and get a new shield. When I did, that battle was won. I had gotten to be double minded because of that battle. After I renewed myself in the Lord, I was no longer double minded.

Refuse to have a half-committed relationship with God. Refuse to let your flesh control you. That is the part of you that the devil will actually use against you. Refuse to accept anything less than those rights you have as a child of God. Refuse to accept anything less than what Jesus has for you. Refuse to accept sickness, financial problems, fear, doubt, and the other things the devil tries to bring against us. Refuse to let him rule in your life and in the lives of those around you. God has given you authority over him in the name of Jesus. Regularly tell the devil this. You don't have to allow his mess in your life. Get up every morning and confess, devil, I refuse you.

It is important, though, not to dwell on what the devil does. Sometimes I hear

people, when asked to give a testimony in church, testify about all that the devil is doing. Don't give him any credit. The more you dwell on what he is doing, the more his power will be against you. Bind him, then start to praise God for what He is doing in your life. Praising God is the number one weapon you can use against the devil. When you even learn to praise God no matter what the devil is doing to you, how can the devil destroy you? The worse that he does can only make you praise God. We are overcomers. We are set in heavenly places. What about the devil? Where is he? At our feet where Jesus left him. Knowing who you are in God means that you also know your power over satan. Tell him, "Devil, I know who I am and I know Who I have believed."

Know who you are and refuse to accept anything less than God's Word for your life. Refuse to let sickness rule over your body. Refuse to allow fear and depression to control your mind and heart. Refuse to allow bitterness to control you. Refuse to let unforgiveness steal God's love for you. Refuse to accept the prison of your flesh. Refuse to hear what you can't do, because you

know in Him you can do all things. (Phillipians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.") Refuse to hear the condemnation of satan, because you gave all he condemns you of to the One Who died to take it. Refuse to accept the devil accusing you from things of your past, because you gave it all to the One Who guards your future. Refuse to accept defeat, because you have within you the One Who conquered death, hell, and the grave. Refuse to hear the devil say that you are nothing and nobody, because you know who you are. You can say, "Devil, I refuse you, because I know who I am and I know Who He Is."

Chapter 6. Separation and Forgiveness

Sin separates us from God. The wage of sin is death, eternal separation from God. The only bridge we have between us and eternal life with God is Jesus. The only way across that bridge is forgiveness. His forgiveness for our sin won on Calvary is the only way we will ever see heaven. We can't be good enough to earn it. I knew someone who was in their eighties. She had been a "good person" all her life. She thought that was what she needed to do to be able to make it to heaven. She didn't realize that compared to God's goodness we aren't very good after all. She finally realized, not long before her death, that she needed to accept Jesus' salvation and His forgiveness for her sins. We have to be saved, that is the only way we will ever see heaven. Then we have to have an obedient, yielded, committed, submitted relationship with Him.

The only way that we can receive forgiveness is if we repent. Repentance means a sorrowful, regret for what we have done. We have to have so much regret that we turn away from our sin determined never to do it again.

Repentance has to be born out of our love and respect for God and His Word. First we have to know that we have sinned. We cannot live so far from God and His convicting power that we don't know when we do wrong. We cannot silence the voice of God in our spirit, because we don't want to know that we have sinned, because we want to continue on in doing wrong. We can't fail to read God's Word so that we can have revealed to us what is right and wrong. We can't pervert His truth to have it our way.

Doing all these things puts us in danger of being in the category of people in Romans 8:32, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." What will be their punishment? Romans 8:28, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." What made them become this way? Romans 8:32 tells it plain, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." We can think that we are so smart that we can

dilute the Word of God and change it until it loses its power over us. Or so we think. We foolishly forget that one day it will be the Word of God that judges us.

I love God's convicting power. I cherish it. I don't ever want it to be silenced in my life. His chastisement makes me His son. (Hebrews 12:7 "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?") I cherish His Word that guides me in the right directions. Daily I measure my heart in its pages letting the Holy Ghost cut what isn't right out of me. Without all these things we would have no chance of making heaven our eternal home.

If we really love God and cherish His Word and His forgiveness for us, we must walk in respect of it. We must never take it for granted. That precious blood that Jesus shed on Calvary bought it. We must never waste one drop. I heard someone say once, I can do anything I want, live how I want, and I am forgiven. I know that they are far from God and I question if they have a relationship with Him at all. I love the One Who loved me and gave Himself for

me. I will never take for granted that precious forgiveness that He died to give me.

If we respect the forgiveness Jesus died to give us then we will also forgive others. The Bible tells us in Matthew 6:15, “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” I guess a way to explain that might be to say what is fair is fair. What we ask from God, we need to give others. If we expect God to forgive us, isn’t it only right that He requires us to forgive others? That means we have to forgive no matter how bad we have been hurt, or what has been done to us. Sometimes that is impossible. Only through the love of God can we forgive. We need to remember that we have One inside of us that cried at His own cross, “Father forgive them...” When we can’t forgive, He can forgive from the inside of us. Then the chapter of our pain can be closed. Bitterness can’t come in and destroy us. Because we forgive, then we can be forgiven.

Unforgiveness gives those people who have hurt us power over us. They gain a

control over us for the rest of our lives if we don't forgive and turn it loose. Unforgiveness also blocks us from receiving love from other people and from God. It can separate us. (I John 4:20, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?") When we are separated by unforgiveness, we can't find our identity in God and really know who we are in Him. God can deliver us from all this and set us free to forgive and to love, if we ask Him to, and want it with all our heart. Unforgiveness, or bitterness, can not only cost our spiritual life, but our physical life as well. Medical research bears out the fact that bitterness can cause many life-taking physical illnesses like strokes, heart failures, cancer, and many other illnesses. For a long healthy life, let that bitterness go.

Some people can't let bitterness go, because they love their pain. They rejoice in having pain and the attention that they get from wallowing in their misery. These people are drama queens and kings. Yes, I have even seen men who were this way. You may have

suffered a great hurt. You may have experienced a great loss. Give it to get, and get over it. Let it go. If you don't, then you will get bitter because of this loss, and you will be the loser.

I have known people who had someone they loved to die tragically. They put a little memento to that person on their vehicle window. They tattoo that person on their arm. They constantly dwell on that loss. No wonder they get depressed and down. Death means more to them than their own life. They dwell more on death than life. They lose the victory they could have had in God. That person they lost would not want them to be that way. They can't see that. Give it up, let it go. Get over it. That person would want you to do that. If you don't then bitterness at your loss will control you.

We have a great Shepherd Who left the 99 to find that one lost sheep in Matthew 18:12. Because of this we have to forgive. He loves us enough to die to forgive us. Never run away from Him for shame when you fail Him. Run to Him. (I John 2:1, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an

advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.) Then when He forgives you, be sure to forgive yourself. Don't continue to beat yourself with condemnation. Be real with yourself and with God. Let Him search your heart and tell you when you sin. We aren't even good enough to know on our own. Let Him deliver you from what causes you to sin. Let Him pull out the roots from your heart, those things that cause you to mess up. You are not stuck with sin. God can make you victorious in your life if you let Him and open your heart for Him to work.

We don't need to allow anything to separate us from God and His love. We need to walk every day in His forgiveness, taking our identity as Sons of a living God.

Chapter 7. How Much of Jesus Do You Want

I once heard someone say that people are like chunks. They just chunk things down inside themselves. God tries to bring this stuff out of them, but they just keep on chunking it back down. There is a lot of truth in this. How much of Jesus we have in us depends on a lot of things. It depends first on our will, what we really want. Then it depends on how we submit to Him inside of us. Then it depends on the amount of room inside that we have left over for Him. We might have a lot of priorities other than Him that take up our mind and heart. We also may have some other stuff in there too. Picture this. We have a container filled with rocks. Pour water in this until its full. How much water is in the pitcher? You won't be able to tell until you take out the rocks. When they are out, the pitcher won't be full. How will you get the most water into the container? Take out all the rocks before you try to fill the pitcher.

We are a lot the same. We can have a lot of things in our heart, mind, and lives like the rocks in the container. When

God pours His Spirit in us, when Jesus comes in our heart, these things are taking up most of the room and only a little of Him can come through. What are some of the rocks in your life that fills up your vessel so that Jesus can't fill you up with Himself? Here are some:

1. Our self, our human nature, our will. God has to break us so that He can fill us.
2. Condemnation. Give your past mistakes to Jesus. Confess and repent of your sin, then there will be no more room for condemnation.
3. Jealousy. This divides families, and even churches. Jealousy comes when someone looks at what someone else has and resents that they have it. Spiritual jealousy is the worse. This comes when someone isn't willing to commit and submit to have a victorious relationship with God, and resents those that do. The Bible says that any kind of jealousy is cruel as the grave.

God is no respecter of persons. If that person would seek Him instead of keeping their eyes on the person they are jealous of, God would do as great things for them. Sometimes instead of concentrating on the gifts and duties that God has given us, we start to dwell on what others have, and what they are doing. God didn't created us to be like someone else. He does not intend to use us all the same. Why would He need us to be carbon copies of someone else? When we find our place in God, who we are in Him, we won't be jealous of others.

4. Fear. Fear and self-doubt can destroy us. We must trust God to be filled with Him. God has to deliver us from fear. The more we love Him and draw closer to Him, the less fear we have. Get filled with Jesus and become obedient to God's Spirit, then you won't have any more fear, you won't have to doubt yourself, either.

5. Hurt and Bitterness. We will be hurt. The devil will make sure of this. If we hold onto our hurt, we will have less room for the love of God. Bitterness takes up a lot of room.

Can you think of other things. Ask God to reveal to you those things that are filling you up. He can day by day deliver you from these if you give them to Him. Then you can be filled up to the brim with Jesus.

We have to allow God to empty these things out of us so that we can have more room for Him. This is an ongoing process. Everyday new things will crop up and things will happen to bring new hurts or doubts, or fears. The devil never rests. Don't chunk these things down in. Talk to God about it. Allow Him to deliver you and clean you up, and shake these things out of you. Give them to Him. Then you can be filled up with Him.

When I find myself getting full of things, I will get an anxious feeling inside. I will get stressed out because of all the junk I am carrying around. Then I know

that it is time to unload. Sometimes God will even wake me up in the middle of the night and say, “Give it up. Let Me have this load.” Gladly I do. (Matthew 11:28-30, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”)

Chapter 8. I Am But The Making of My God

We all know who we are in the natural. Most of us know it all too painfully well because we are so busy concentrating on what is wrong with us. Most of us have trouble claiming the Word of God and His promises because we can't see that we deserve anything. Most of us don't need the devil's help to accuse us, we do it by ourselves. We need to remember the times when we knew God was shaping us to be what He wants us to be. We need to find a peace in knowing that He is still working on us. It won't happen overnight. It is an ongoing process.

When we release ourselves into His love and His will, and we begin to let go of who we are to take on His likeness, we realize we are but the making of our God. When we remember this, we are humbled. Pride and self-righteousness comes when we pump ourselves up to be able to do or be what we think God wants us to do and be. When God works a work in us there is not room for any of that stuff. For one thing, He is very good at getting that stuff out of us (remember

Nebuchanezzar). For another when you go through His fire and He begins to burn out all the excess stuff out of you, and He begins to deliver you from the roots that cause it all, you don't feel like pumping yourself up. You just want to hang onto Him. When I see those people that lift themselves up to strut themselves in what God is doing for them, I know that they have only started submitting to Him. I know that they haven't learned what it really means to say that they are but the making of their God. When we are but the making of our God, we cannot lift ourselves up. We will lift up what He has done in and for us.

When we become yielded to His Holy Ghost, submitted to His leading, crucified and resurrected in His likeness with His power to overcome, with sin under the blood, past forgotten, flesh broken, created in His likeness, empowered by His Word, day to day transformed and renewed in His image, separated and sanctified, redeemed by His blood, past forgiven and forgotten, then we become the making of our God.

Where can we go from there but to victory? You can hang onto your flesh if

you want to. You can hold onto your weaknesses and your past. You can hold on to your self-will and your pride. You can dwell in your fear and self-doubt. You can want it your way all you want to, but I tell you, I'll let go of it all to be able to rise up in triumph in the glory of what God desires us to have and be. I'll let go of it all, commit it, submit it, and let Him be Lord so that I can stand with those that are righteous in His righteousness and declare, "I am but the making of my God." All my hearts desires I give. My day-to-day plans I submit to obey Him. My weaknesses I give to His strength. My sorrow I give to be turned to His joy. My triumph I give so that His victory is won. My fleshly joy I give to His sorrow. I no longer want who I am, but I want Him to rise up in me. May the fruits of His Spirit rule in me. Break me and be me. I give up. I surrender. Let me be but the making of my God.

My prayer: Lord, whatever it takes. I put myself on your potter's wheel. Purify me. Beat me soft into something that can be molded. I am a little stiff sometimes. Mold me and shape me to be a fit vessel for your use in your house. I

see a lost and dying world. Lord, I can't even love them the way they need to be loved. There is nothing I can do to reach them on my own. Let me be real with the reality that only comes from you. I don't want junk or idealistic thinking. I want to get real. I want to know in my heart how late the hour is for real. I don't want to mess around or get deceived. I want somehow to reach out with Your love, be Your hands and feet. If You have to tell them like it is, use me. Let them not only see Your love but Your righteousness judgment. If they don't see it now they will later. Better to see it now and be afraid and repent.

Get everything out of me that doesn't belong. Clean me up from the inside out. Deliver me from the things that I need to be delivered from. Set me free so that I can say, I am but the making of my God. Let me endure your tests. Let me endure your fire that purifies. Let me be refined in the refiner's fire. (Malachi 3:2-3, "But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi and purge

them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.”) Let me be but the making of my God. Then when people ask me who are you, or when the devil comes with his accusing to make me forget, I can answer loud and clear so that all can hear. I know who I am and I know whom I believe. When I forget myself who I am and the flesh in me begins to rule, I can remember and put the old man down. Then I can stand up again in victory. I can stand and declare I am but the making of my God. I am but the making of my God. I Am.

Chapter 9. The Comparison Trap

One of the main things that steal your identity with God is taking your eyes off Him and putting them on others. When we look at others and compare ourselves to them, we forget who we are in God. When we start listening to what other people say about what we should do, or who we should be, we lose track of our identity in God. We will soon forget that inner man inside of us. We will begin to walk in the flesh instead of being connected with God's Spirit in what we should do and who we are. We forget that we are Son's of a living God who has done a work inside of us. We can begin to feel defeated. The devil is a master at working this trap against us. I call it the comparison trap.

God works in us, bringing us into His likeness. He brings circumstances into our life, trials and battles that buffet us. He brings His refiners fire to purify and try us like gold. He sends us His Word, verse by verse that we need to shape our thinking. He perfects His Word in our heart. We go through submitting and letting Him break us, so that we are letting His inner man rise up strong in us.

We go through tribulations and trials that God uses to do a work in us. (Romans 5:3-5, “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”) We have experiences that we go through that He uses to shape us. He gives us each one individual gifts and talents according to how He wants to use us. He tries our faith so that it can stand the test.

The work that God does in you is not like the work that God does in another. He works in all of us to the same end result, but each of us is an individual. The work that God does in each of us is an individual and different work. He does all this work in us, then we turn around and look at what God is doing in the lives of others. We start to doubt that He is working in us, because it is different from what He is doing in others. We look at our gifts and talents and think they aren't much. Someone may come along who may have been walking this walk longer than we have,

or maybe they have submitted to God's work in their life more than we have. We get our eyes on them and start comparing ourselves to them. We start to doubt the wonderful work that God has done in us. We take those precious gifts and talents we have and compare them to others. We forget that when we compare ourselves to others we will always come up short. Nobody can be that person like that person can. Just like nobody can be us like we can. *How much more wrong can we be when we deny the work that God has so diligently worked in us and put it down for the work that He is doing in someone else.*

When we fall into the comparison trap we will do one of three things. We will give up in defeat. Or we will pump ourselves up in self-righteousness to make us feel better about coming up short when we compare with someone else. Or we will become full of a jealous and bitter spirit. Any way, we lose. Big time. The devil who is behind it all will laugh at our defeat because He has stolen from us the most precious thing that we have, our identity with God.

God created you and makes you into who you are because He wanted you to be you. Not because He wanted you to be someone else. He works in you in a way that He might not work in anyone else. He knows better than anyone our individual traits and how we are because He is in the inside of us. He created us to be individuals. He could have created us to all like robots, doing all the same thing at the same time, but He didn't. For one thing, He gave us a free will to choose. The price He had to pay for creating us to be free to be who we are was His Son. He works a precious work inside each one of us that is unique. We need to find our identity in Him, not in others that are around us. We need to submit to Him and let Him work that precious work in us. We need to submit to His Holy Ghost inside of us and flow in that wonderful Spirit. We need to obey Him as He leads us to do things that will develop the gifts and talents that He wants us to have. We need to realize that this is how we become a part of the body of Christ.

Picture this for a minute. There is a body. It has 5 eyes but no mouth. It has 5 hands but no feet. It has a stomach, but

no heart. It has toes but no feet or legs. Where will this body go? How hard can this body work for God? Can it even stay alive? It shouldn't be so, but all too often this is a picture of what the body of Christ has become. Why? Because we fail to find our identity in God. We want to do or become what someone else is being or doing. We resent others that have found their identity, those who are fitting their place in the body of Christ. Instead of finding our own place, we try to push them aside and take the place that they have. As a result the body of Christ is feeble and full of division. It isn't able to rise up and be the powerful worker that God has ordained it to be. This is the last days. If ever the body of Christ needed to have each of us fit perfectly, in unity, in our place, each with our identity, flowing in God's Spirit and obeying Him, it is now.

I think that this problem existed even in Bible days. Read this. (I Corinthians 12:12, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body...and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him....Nay much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary; and those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor....”) Let's go down to the beginning of the next chapter to find the glue that holds the body of Christ together, each one of us as what God has ordained us to be, fitting into His body, lifting it up. We all know the theme of I Corinthians Chapter 13. The glue that fits together the body of Christ is love. When you love your self, you can really love others in the body of Christ. Ask God for a greater love for your brothers and sisters in Him. After all, they are your family.

We need to find our identity in God's great love. We need to obey Him so that we fit our place in His wonderful body. We need to be all He has made us to be. We need to forget about ourselves and others (after all if we do we won't fall into the comparison trap.) We need to get wrapped up in Jesus. We need to find out who we are in Christ and stay there.

Chapter 10. The God of My Fathers

We were having a time in the ministry when it seemed the devil was determined to stop us in every way he could. We were at one of the most crucial times. God was getting ready to breathe on us and blow us from the place of struggle to the place of victory. We had obeyed God, paid the price, and were trusting in His deliverance, but the devil was really doing his thing. Sometimes it seemed we wouldn't make it, but we had set our forehead like flint rock and our backbone like a crowbar. We were going through to what victory God had for us on the other side of the battle. During this time God gave me a dream that encouraged my heart. Now I am careful when it comes to dreams. Some people put more importance in living by their dreams, than they do on a real day-to-day relationship, talking and walking with God. When they do, they can easily be led by the devil. But when we are in an obedient, real relationship with God during the day, He will sometimes speak to our hearts to reveal things and to further explain things He has told us in our dreams.

God speaks to me in simple pictures. I guess because I have a simple understanding. When I hear people say what a deep understanding they have of God and His Word, I know they are missing Him altogether. God makes things simple. He gives understanding to the simple (Psalms 119:130, “The entrance of thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding unto the simple.”) I praise Him that He is that kind of God. He doesn’t choose a deep few to reveal the secret truths of His Word to. He opens His truth to everyone that is willing to hear Him and live by It. Even the simple.

In this dream, God showed me something like a thick book; each page was a scene down through time. He showed me that during each particular time, on each page, He helped His people, keeping them. He went all the way back to ancient days showing me His faithfulness to His people. Then He showed me my situations that had looked so desperately bad before this. You know, my battle didn’t look so big any more. When we dwell on our problems, our problems will destroy us. When we dwell on the Problem Solver, we will

overcome. When we dwell on the greatness of the God of our Fathers, we will rise in victory over all.

When Israel was in bondage in Egypt, God spoke Moses to go set His people free. Moses immediately (like most of us do) began to look at the desperate situation he faced. He then looked at his weaknesses. Read this section of scripture, Exodus, Chapter 3. He asked God in Exodus 3:11. "...Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt." God answered Him in verses 12 and 13, "Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be at token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, the God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses I AM THAT I AM: and He said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses Thus shalt thou say unto the children of

Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you.” God could tell Moses this, because He knew that Moses knew some things about the God of his fathers.

When Abraham looked at the land as far as he could see and he was promised that one day his seed would be a mighty nation; the ancient of days was there, the God of His father. God spoke to Abraham’s son Isaac in Genesis 26:24, “And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee....” When Jacob left home after cheating his brother from his birthright, he had gained a lot but lost a lot. God spoke to him in Genesis 28:13, “I am the God of your Father”. God raised him up and established him. When that part of the world faced starvation, the God of their fathers appointed Joseph to feed them. The hand of God kept that part of the world from famine. So when God spoke to Moses and said the God of your fathers, Moses knew exactly what He meant and what He could do. He had an inheritance in God. He knew what God

could do and he knew what God could do through him. There is no greater inheritance than the knowledge of God that we leave our children. What greater thing can we teach them than the knowledge of His ways, His Word, and how to live in Him in victory? When they are grown they can rely on the God of their fathers. Their children can grow up knowing this, and it will keep them in their trials. Your great grandchildren will hear about the God of their Fathers. This will only happen if your life is victorious before them. We have to remember that the life we live before them will speak louder than any of our words. If we don't have the victory of God, how will they even be expected to know what that means.

Our God is not new at what He does. He has not just arrived on the scene. To know Who He is we have to know that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.") He is the same God that spoke and created everything. He never changes. How do we know? How about taking His Word for it. (Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not....") God will be

the same for you as He was for Daniel in the lion's den, or David before Goliath. You must expect no less from Him. In a world bound with fear, where men's hearts are literally failing them from fear we need to remember the God of our Fathers. Do you know anyone else that can promise you something for eternity? God can and does. His Word is one you can depend on to last forever.

The church of today has moved away from God. When we follow God from far off and live in a state of compromise and disobedience, we don't know Him. When we commit ourselves to follow Him and obey Him, and we get a real relationship with Him, we will hear His voice echo through the ages, "I am the God of Your Fathers, and I am able to keep you. Psalm 125:1, "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Isaiah 50:10, "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God." Deuteronomy 1:21, "Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as

the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.” What a mighty, mighty God we serve. It is important in our faith to know who God is. We have to know that same God that declared to Moses from the burning bush when Moses asked who sent him? God simply declared, “I AM.”

Chapter 11. I Know Who I Have Believed

We can read about God's greatness. We can watch the miracles we see God do for those around us. But the key to being able to say I know whom I have believed is found in the two words ***I know***. For you to really know God and His Son Jesus, and the mighty Holy Ghost, you have to have a real relationship with them that is personal. When you first get to know someone you probably won't know what to expect from them. You won't know right away all there is to know about that person. Building a relationship with someone takes time. The closer you get, and as time goes on, you learn what that person is like. You learn how they react to certain things, and you learn what to expect from them. You learn whether or not you can depend on them and on their word. You learn whether or not you can depend on your friendship. As you get closer to them, you learn their characteristics. Nobody has to tell you what that person is like because you know them. As we get closer to God and as our relationship with Him grows, it is much the same way.

I love to fellowship with the Lord and spend time with Him. He is so wonderful. That is my favorite thing to do, be with Him. When a lot of people read my books they talk about noticing how many times I quote things the Lord has told me. They say, you must really be super spiritual and righteous for the Lord to talk to you that much. I have to say that I'm not. I am just me. They have got something all wrong there. That isn't how it is. It isn't about me, but about Him. I just make myself available to Him. I listen to what He has to say. Then when He tells me to do something, I do it. I honor our relationship and the things that He tells me. I enjoy being with Him. I cherish the times we spend together. I set aside time everyday and make being with Him a priority. I do that for my husband and other people that I love. I don't give God any less than I do them. When I do this, He is there to fellowship with me. He loves to fellowship with His people. He loves to love them and to be loved by them. He loves our praise. Just like any Father loves the praise and fellowship of His children.

When He talks I listen. I think this is one way that God's people fail Him. They want to do all the talking. They are a hog in their relationship. They want all His attention. They come to Him to receive and they are the center of their relationship. What kind of a friendship is that? How do you feel when others do you that way? Fellowship with God means that we give to Him. We listen, we praise Him, we spend time just loving Him and appreciating Him.

The Bible tells us that we actually minister to Jesus. Have you ever just came to Him and ministered to Him? (An example of this is found in I Samuel 2:11, "And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child (Samuel) did minister unto the Lord before Eli the priest.") We sometimes treat God like He isn't real at all. We treat Him like He has no feelings. We take advantage of our relationship with Him. For weeks we fail to communicate with Him until we need something. We rant and rave and stomp our feet and doubt Him when we don't get our way. Then we wonder why it seems He isn't there when we whisper a prayer. God is real. Jesus is real. The Holy Ghost is real. They are

real people. Get a real relationship with them. Fall in love.

Revelation in chapter 2 verse 1 through 11 tells about a church that had done all kinds of great things. Jesus said about this church, “I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name’s sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.” They had done many wonderful things. He had one important thing against them though. “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.” He gave them this warning in verse 5, “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove they candlestick out of hi place, except thou repent.” What does Jesus want? He wants our love. He wants to be renewed in that love. We can serve Him, but if we don’t love Him for real and with all our heart, we won’t make it to heaven. He will pluck our candlestick out.

Fall in love with Jesus. Let Him love you. Fellowship with Him. The closer you get to Him, the more wonderful He is. He will never disappoint. You. Make your relationship with God a priority. How much does Jesus long to love you? Let Him tell you in His own words. Here in John 17:21, 23 and 26 He is talking to His Father about the love He has for you. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it; that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

One of the important things to know about this great I AM is knowing His great love for you.

Chapter 12. My God In Whom I Trust

When we know in our minds and in our hearts who we are and who it is we serve, then we have to come to the place where we trust God completely. Lately I have been going through an exercise in trust. I thought I knew what it meant to trust God, but I hadn't really gotten to the place of deep down total and complete trust. I hadn't gotten to the place where in a hard time, I released the situation to God completely. I still held on to a little bit. God showed me this by bringing me through a place that was bad and looking even worse. He brought me to a place where my hands were completely tied, and on my own I could do nothing. I had to totally depend on Him. Then I knew what it really meant to totally trust Him.

God builds our faith and our trust in the valleys, not on the mountaintops. We hear a lot about a mountain experience with God. We do need to find victory in Him no matter what our circumstances. But you will go through those times when there is nothing going right. That is when you learn what trusting God totally and completely is all about. It is

the valleys that build our trust, our strength, and character, our faith, and a deeper love and dependence on that One Who sees us through. It's the valleys that bring us closer to God and closer to being like His Son.

We have to trust God from the moment we accept salvation on. There are many things about God that we can't understand. God Himself is bigger than our natural minds can even understand. His ways are so far above our ways that sometimes we can't even understand them. (Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.") The difference between our understanding and God's understanding is even greater than the difference between our understanding and an infant's understanding. We don't expect an infant to understand things we would. Nor can we expect to understand all about God and His ways. We just have to trust Him. We don't understand how Jesus was born as a baby, why He would give His life for us. We don't understand how God

loves us as insignificant as we are. We don't understand the future. We don't understand eternity. God knows it all. We just have to trust Him.

We also have to trust His relationship with us, and His love for us. I used to have no trouble knowing what God could do. I believed in miracles because I saw so many. I just had to come to the place where I trusted God's love for me. I knew that He could do great and wonderful things, I just didn't think He would do them for me. To be able to have a relationship with God, or with anyone, there has to be an element of trust. If I am so afraid that God won't love me unless I am perfect, then there is no trust in our relationship. The love that is there can only be so deep. We have to trust God to be able to fall in love with Him and to accept His love.

What does it mean to trust God? As long as you have something else you are leaning on or depending on, you will never know. If you count on that weekly paycheck to see you through, you will never know what it means to trust God. If you count on those people around you for support, you will never know what it

means to trust God. If you count on family to see you through you will never know what it means to trust God. Does that mean you have to lose everything and everyone to be able to trust God? There have been times when I had to lose something that I used as a crutch. It was hard when I lost it, but I was thankful when I did. We can depend on any number of things, and those may be the things will carry us to hell. We can depend totally on God, and we will find eternal life with Him. Ask Him to bring you to the place that you trust Him. You will be eternally grateful that He did.

Until there is nothing left but God, we will never know what God can do. Until we come to the place where we can do nothing on our own, we will never know what it means to totally trust God. When we come to that place we can say, like the Psalmist in Psalms 125:1, "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Psalm 37:5, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 118:8, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;

and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Isaiah 26:3-4, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.”

When we know that great I AM and His love for us, then we can rest in the assurance that we are in His hands. All is well with our soul.

Chapter 13. Were You There

We forget how great a God we serve. It may be, because like Peter, we take our eyes off Him and look at our circumstances. It may be that we live so far away from Him that we really can't see Him, and we need to draw close to Him. It may be we don't spend time in His Word or in fellowship with Him. It may be because we allow the devil to cover us with a shroud of self-doubt and condemnation, and we get separated from His love. It may be because we allow sin to separate us and His Word no longer operates for us. It may be we have grown complacent and allowed everything else to take priority and we no longer can see Him plainly through all the rest of the things in our life. It may be that the devil is hiding God's Word from us. For whatever reason, we sometimes stop seeing God for Who He is. When that happens, we need to go back to the Word of God. We need to be sure that we allow God to convict our hearts of what we might be doing wrong, then we need to repent. With our sin under the blood, we have no room for condemnation. Then we need to bury

ourselves in God's Word and be reminded of just Who He is.

When I go through these times when the battle causes me to forget Who God is, my favorite section of scripture is found in Job 38 and 39. Read this section. God starts reminding Job and his friends Who He is. By the time He was done, they were at His feet. He started this by asking them, were you there? He already knew the answer to this. They needed to remember it. We can't see how great God is until we realize who we are without Him.

Were you there? No. But you know the One Who was. We have to know the greatness and the awesomeness of God. Modern times have tried to shrink Him. I have known Him most of my life. He doesn't need a flying saucer to travel in. He isn't a great gaseous blob, or a bunch of energy that we all will return to one day. He isn't mother nature, and by the way, He isn't a woman. He isn't in an ouija board, and He doesn't need a palm reader to talk to His people. He doesn't need angels that are more human than we are. We can't break Him, mold Him, and make Him into what we want Him to

be. He was there a long time before we were, and He will be there forever. Nobody created Him; He just was always there. He is so big that eternity actually is inside of Him. Hebrews 2:6 says, "...what is man that Thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that Thou visitest him." God is God. We have to line up to what He is, and His will. We have to lay our flesh down to even comprehend His greatness. We can't see it if we aren't in His Spirit and He reveals Himself to us. In His great love He has chosen to reveal Himself to us and walk with us. I am so glad that He did.

Here are some of the verses that talk about the greatness of our God. Get out your Bible and read them for a blessing.

Psalms 65, Psalms 78, I Chronicles 29:12, Romans 16:25.

When we remember His greatness, we can also remember His faithfulness. Deuteronomy 7:9, I Kings 8:56, Psalms 36:5, Psalms 89:1, I Corinthians 1:9, Hebrews 6:18, I Peter 4:19.

When we remember His greatness and His faithfulness, then we know that our God is able. Whatever the battle, whatever the situation, our God is able. He will deliver us, save us, shield and protect us, and meet our needs, no matter what they may be. Especially when we know who we are in Him and we know Who we believe.

Chapter 14. The Power of His Word

To understand Who God is, you have to get an understanding of His Word. The Word of God comes from God and is a part of God just like your words come from you and reveal who you are. Any of God's things have to be revealed to us by His Spirit. We can see a little of something, but God has to reveal it to our heart for it to become life-changing knowledge. For example, I used to read the Bible because I knew that I was supposed to. I did it because I felt guilty when I didn't. I thought I knew why I was supposed to read it, but until God revealed to me the power of His Word and how it can change my life, I really didn't know. That's how it is with anything about God. The things of God have to be revealed to us by His Spirit in our Spirit. People can tell us, but until we get a hold of that truth for ourselves, we don't know it. Even salvation has to be revealed that way. You heard about what it meant to be saved, but until God revealed it to you, you really didn't understand. We have to be careful not to take the truth that we have and think it is the great ultimate truth and there is nothing else to learn. We may be going

around with half a truth thinking we have it all. I asked God something once when I was marveling about how great He was and how wonderful the knowledge of Him was. I asked how long would I be learning new things about what He was like and how great He was. He answered me by saying for eternity. He is that big of a God and that great. When we think we have a corner on knowing all there is to know about Him, we are fooled.

The first time I really got a glimpse of the power of God's Word was at a time when I was totally disgusted with myself. If we are real with ourselves before God, we will constantly be coming to the place where we look at this or that thing about ourselves in disgust. I once got so tired of this that I asked God when I would be able to stop doing this and get happy with myself (myself minus God, that is). When would it stop, me having to deal with some kind of junk in my heart that He dug up. He answered, "When you become like me". It is God's goal to transform us into the image of His Son. On the day that we see Him, we will finally be like Him. Until then we have a long way to go, so be encouraged when

you go through those times. God transforms us by His Word. (I Thessalonians 2:13, “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God, which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”) His sword and His Spirit cuts into the marrow of who we are cutting out of us roots of bitterness, doubt, self doubt, unbelief, jealousy, rebellion, hard heartedness, self willed, pride, you name it, He gets it out if we allow Him to and refuse to draw a line when it gets rough. By the power of His Word and His Holy Ghost He reveals these things to us and delivers us from them. We have to allow Him to go all the way.

This process gets uncomfortable. I heard someone say once, “I feel like a stump”. They quoted the verse John 15:1-3, “”I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” They told me, “I have been pruned so bad all I have left is a stump”.

Some people don't allow God to finish this process. They draw a line because it isn't pleasant. They go away and satan destroys them using the things they refused to have fixed. This isn't a game that we play. The cost of loosing may be our eternal soul.

I was going through one of these blessed, painful times when God was revealing to me some thing in me, and telling me how bad it was. I really wanted to change it, but couldn't see how. If we admit it, we know that we cannot change ourselves. It has to be Jesus on the inside, working on the outside, bringing forth the change in our life. We can change on the surface, but before long what is still under there will just work its way up again. If we keep doing it that way, before long we will get discouraged and quit trying to do it right at all. We have to release it to God and let Him do it, no matter how hard that is. He doesn't mess around on the surface. During that time when He was showing these things wrong in me, I wanted to change, but didn't know how. He revealed to me something about the power of His Word. He showed me that He had created the world by speaking. (Genesis 1:6, "...and

God said...” and it was so). His Word is that powerful. (When He promises you something, it may not happen right away, but you know it will.) His Word will come to pass. He showed me that if I allow it to, His written Word could create things in me. His written Word has the same power as His spoken Word. If It can create the world, It can surely change me.

The key to allowing His Word to work in our life is that we have to allow It to. We have to submit to It and allow It to work so that our self-will doesn't stop it. First step, we have to read It, that means really read It. We have to allow the Holy Ghost to give us understanding of what we read. (John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”) It is good to read books about the Word of God. It is good to hear good preaching about the Word. But the first place we need to go is to the Holy Ghost who will reveal to us what we personally need. We have to read what it is that He wants to reveal to us. (I John 2:27, “But the

anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”)

Now when we read these verses we can't get the attitude that we don't need anybody to teach us because God will teach us everything. If we aren't careful we'll get all pumped up in ourselves and God will have to humble us. The Holy Ghost will teach us and reveal His truth to us. But He can use anything and anyone to do so. I have had children tell me something that God wanted me to learn. I knew there was no way in the natural that they knew what they were even saying. God put His Word in their mouth. If we refuse to learn and take the attitude that only God has anything to say to us, we will wind up with only half-truths that are worse than having nothing at all.

We have to read God's Word. We have to let the Holy Ghost reveal it to us. We then have to apply it to our lives, or in most cases, allow God to apply it. When God has to apply it, we have to set our

heart to receive what He will do. If we half-heartedly say, well God will do this work in me, without pushing toward Him, He will know we really don't want Him to. Then He won't waste His time, because He will know we really don't mean it. We have to apply His Word in our lives. We can't be like the man who looks in the mirror and sees what a mess he is, and goes away fixing nothing.

The Word of God is powerful. (Matthew 5:18, "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.") It comes with a full guarantee. If It isn't working in our life, then the problem is not with the Word of God. We need to find out what that problem is, and with God's help fix it. It may be that we have unrepented of sin and attitudes. It may be that we are too full of our self to even see the truth.

We can't see it our way. The truth is the truth and we have to see it as it is. It may be we don't want to commit and submit 100% to what we read. It may be that we allow fear and doubt to cloud us from seeing. Maybe we are too far away from the Author to read His book. We

have to draw close to God to understand His Word. Maybe we aren't in reality about ourselves. Whatever the reason, if the Word of God isn't working for you it isn't the fault of God's Word. It has a no fail, eternal, guarantee.

Another reason that many Christians fail to reap the blessing and power of God's life-changing Word is that they don't take it in. They don't eat it and let it be a part of them. (Jeremiah 15:16, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by the name, O Lord God of hosts.") Now this doesn't mean to eat with your mouth. I heard of a church where they literally take pages of the Bible and eat it, because they read this verse. I think they missed it. The only things that would accomplish would be to waste a perfectly good Bible, and give them bad cases of indigestion. We have to take God's Word in, digest it, and let it become a part of us.

Picture this for a minute. You go to a wonderful, delicious restaurant. You get a plate and head for the buffet. You smell it and look at it. Your mouth

waters. You go back to your seat without a thing on your plate. You hear everyone talk about how delicious the food is. You talk about it with them. Then you get up from the table and leave hungry. A lot of Christians hear about the things of God. They smell how good it is, but they never allow the Holy Ghost to reveal them it to them personally. They see how it works for others, but never apply it to their own lives. They sit at the table and hear others talk about it, but never let God reveal it to them. They never digest it, or let it become a part of them.

It is wonderful to read books about God's Word. I would rather open its pages myself and let the sweet Holy Ghost reveal the truths that I need for my life. I would rather fellowship with God and allow Him to open up its pages to my heart. When I sit down at His wonderful table, I want my plate to be so full that it overflows. And I want to eat it all, every bit. So many times I have opened up the pages of His Word, and the right verse of encouragement, strength, or peace leaped into my heart from its pages. I can truly say I cherish the Word of God and the stronghold it

has been in my life. My strong and mighty tower.

Let's read some things that the Word of God says about Itself.

Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

II Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Psalms 119:105, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Ephesians 5:26, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." It being the church.

John 20:31, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Do you realize that God's Word is settled forever, not just in heaven but on earth? In an age of constant change, we have something that will endure forever. That is why I like the old versions of the Bible instead of the new. I like the one that has stood the test of time. There are few things that will make it into eternity. You and I can, but we have to even be changed to get there. But the Word God will be there. It will certainly endure the storms of your life. Let God's Word work in your heart and life.

Chapter 15. Breathe on Me Breath of God

I was grown before I ever heard about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I had not heard the Word anointing. I had never been around a Pentecostal church. All I can say about this, is that the devil knew one day I would serve God, and he thought that if he kept me away from the “power source” he could destroy me before I could get started. And he very nearly did. I remember how I first heard of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 11:16, “...John indeed baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.”) A friend I hadn’t seen for many years came home. She invited me to her church that had just opened, a Pentecostal church (I don’t mean by what they professed to be by the sign on their door, but by what they possessed). I was so hungry for what they had that I lapped it all up.

Sure, at first, it scared me to death. I had never been around such goings on. But it made me hunger inside of me for more. They prayed for me in church to get the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Nothing happened and I got discouraged

(if this happens to you, keep pressing on in. It is a gift and God won't deny you, if you have truly repented of your sin and you are obedient). A good while later I was praying and all of the sudden I wasn't talking in English any more. I was speaking in what the Bible calls tongues. (Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.") The Holy Ghost has His own language. When He comes in His fullness, He will pray in His language from the inside of you. I had received the earnest of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 10:45-46, "...because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God...") I had the proof that I had received the Baptism.

Now I knew about a shadow of it. I had read about it in my Bible, but didn't know what it meant. I was a lot like my grandmother. I told her about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost when she was in her 90's. She cried. I never will forget her saying, "I knew there was something more. I went from preacher to preacher begging them to tell me.

They said that there wasn't." I could tell by the pain in her voice that she had told the truth when she said she had begged them. She with all her heart had wanted to know more. You know what made this all sadder? I knew that a couple of preachers that she had prayed for, encouraged, and helped supported for over half a century were Pentecostals in their belief. They knew the truth, but when they preached in Baptist territory they preached Baptist, when they preached in Methodist territory they preached Methodist, and when they preached in Pentecostal territory they preached Pentecostal.

When we have the truth we need to cry it out loud to all who will hear. We can't run the risk of being like the one in this scripture. (Matthew 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.") I know that one suffered with a terrible sickness, and the power he had denied had not been there to heal him.

We need to find all of God's truth we can. This means all of the truth, not just part of it. (John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.") When we find the truth, then we need to cry it out loud. And where did I fail in all this? I had had the Baptism of the Holy Ghost for years before I shared it with my grandmother. She was a blessed saint of God, a prayer warrior. I really in my heart thought that she didn't need to know. Never play God with the truth. Having and knowing God's truth is a precious thing.

In these last days we need all the power we can get. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the power we need. I have heard a lot of people that say, that was for then, not for now. Would God give a gift to His people and then take it away when they needed it the most? I have watched people walk around this thing for years. I have watched them fall away from God because they lacked the strength to endure. Oh, if only they would have jumped on in. This is for real. When God saved me, He saved me from a life filled with drugs and alcohol and a little of everything else. There was a real devil after me to destroy me before

I could find God's fullness. I needed real power to overcome. Now, close to thirty years later, I still do. The battle is real. Don't kid yourself into thinking you aren't important enough for the devil to want to destroy. If you are a child of God, you are a target. The Holy Ghost not only helps us endure it enables us to be victorious. If you want a little bit of a part of God, that's fine, but as for me, I want it all. I want the fullness of God to be revealed in me. (Ephesians 3:19, "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.")

Here are some of the arguments I hear. That just isn't for me. That was for the people in Bible days. (Acts 2:38-39, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.") Another argument I hear is this one. I just don't know if I can make that kind of commitment, that is just too different. (Deuteronomy 14:2, "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy

God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.”) God called us to be set aside, to be a peculiar people. I also hear this argument some. If that is what we need to overcome, what about all the Pentecostals that have messed up? Now that is a good one, and this answer is also for those who are Pentecostals. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a tool that God has given us to overcome. Sad to say, even Pentecostals aren’t taught how to use this tool.

My husband has a buzz saw in the basement. That tool doesn’t do me a bit of good, because I have no idea how to use it. I have the tool, but I don’t possess the knowledge of how to put it to use in my life. We are experiencing a famine of the Word of God, especially in the things of the Holy Ghost. If you find a church that is preaching and teaching the whole truth with the gifts of God operating in the order of the Word of God, then honor it. These churches are few and far between. We have moved away from the move of God in our churches. It is no longer taught or demonstrated to God’s people.

Another reason why those with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost fall is because we live in an age where commitment is unheard of. Submission to God's Spirit is not what we hear. For the Holy Ghost to rule in our life, we have to commit to God and submit to Him. We can know about the Holy Ghost but until we allow Him to work in our lives, we will never know the victory He can bring.

The Holy Ghost is a part of God. For us to really know Who we believe, we have to know about the Holy Ghost as well. We have to allow Him to do His wonderful, life-changing work inside us.

Closing

Do you know who you are? Do you know Whom you believe? If you do there is no power that can stop you as long as you stay submitted and broken before God, in love with Him, and committed 100%. What can the devil do with you? He can't condemn and accuse you? How can He stop you when you rely on the strength of God within you? How can he cause you to go astray when you allow God to lead you? How can he hinder you when you press through everything he works against you by the power of the Holy Ghost within you? How can he bring to nothing what you do if Jesus is working in you using you? How can he stop Jesus on the inside working on the outside? How can he cause you to doubt a God when you personally know His greatness? How can he fill you with fear when you know the greatness of the God you trust? How can he rock you with doubt when you rest in the palm of God's hand?

There are fewer greater keys to overcoming than the knowledge of who you are in God and your knowledge of Him. Wake up every morning and

declare, I AM and I know the great I AM. Declare it and live it through the day. Every night praise God for the victory of the day.

I would like to close with Ephesians 3:14-21. “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end, Amen.”

I pray that this book has lifted you closer to Jesus and made you realize just how wonderful you are. Always remember, (repeat it with me) I know I AM and I

know the great I Am. And He is
dwelling inside of me.

The Author's Information

The author, Sandy Haga, is a part of **New Life Church and Ministries**. Check out website for **New Life Church and Ministries** at www.nlcm.net for information about ***International Church and Ministry Association, Online Gospel Radio, Home School program, Bible College, Accreditation Association, Teacher Certification Program.***

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