

**Your
Kingdom
Come**

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About the author

Mark was born in Chile, migrating with his family to Sydney, where he grew up in the context of the great charismatic movement of the 1970's. He was converted as a boy and called by the Lord to pastor at the age of 17. He received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at that time, and was healed of partial deafness.

In 1984 he received his B. A. in Biblical Studies from Wheaton College, Illinois, B.Th and Dip Min. from Ridley College, Melbourne. He entered the pastorate in 1989 serving in Melbourne. This was followed by missionary service in the outback of Paraguay, South America. He is now pastor of River of Life Church, in Liverpool, NSW.

In 2004 the Lord spoke to him in a dream to begin itinerant ministry. He founded Encounter Ministries Int. and has been travelling to various countries. The focus of his teaching ministry is the Person of Jesus Christ, the Cross, and the kingdom of heaven. The teaching of the Word has been accompanied by awesome moves of God and miracles which you can read about at www.jesusencounterministries.com

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**They shall speak
of the glory of thy
kingdom, and tell
of thy power.**

Psalms 145:10b-11

Forward

“Thankyou Pastor Mark for your book on the kingdom of God. I would encourage all believers to study and refresh their understanding on this important teaching. However more so to learn to live and work in His kingdom . Your book is excellent on these issues.

I know Ps Mark lives out what he has written. I recommend this book to help believers learn and live in His kingdom .”

Ps Minta Baker

International itinerant prophetic speaker. Long time serving president of Australia Foursquare Women’s ministry

Retired pastor with her husband Don, of 50 years pastoral experience at Calvary Chapel in Sydney.

Introduction

The kingdom of heaven was one of the great themes taught by Jesus and the apostle Paul. Jesus began His ministry by preaching: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”¹ Then just as Jesus had predicted, heaven descended with astounding miracles. The natural realm was invaded by a greater supernatural dimension.

God wants to manifest heaven’s kingdom and rule in our lives on earth. Heaven isn’t only something you experience when you die. Jesus taught His disciples to pray that God’s kingdom would come, and that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What an amazing statement! He wants us on earth to experience His perfect will in heaven.

In heaven there is perfect order. God’s will is unimpeded in heaven. There is no sin, hate, curse, pain, sickness, or sorrow. When you look at heaven you are seeing God’s perfect will. When heaven comes down upon earth, there is a yielding to heaven’s order. God manifests His will on earth. The sick are healed, the dead are raised, the broken hearted are comforted, the oppressed are set free, and the poor are prospered.

So important is the teaching of the kingdom of heaven that prior to his death in Rome, Paul devoted his last years to preaching the kingdom. Every Christian should have an understanding of the kingdom of heaven. As you read this book, my prayer is that your eyes and ears will be opened to understand the reality and closeness of heaven to those who believe. As your understanding is opened by the Word of God, so you will experience the treasures of heaven in your life.

It is a spiritual principle or law, that when the eyes of your heart are opened to understand the kingdom of heaven, that you shall definitely experience it. Jesus made this clear. It is an immutable truth. He told the disciples that if the crowd had ears

¹ Matthew 3:2

to hear, and eyes to see, so that they understood, then He would heal them. But because their hearts were hard, they therefore could not hear, see, understand or receive the secret things of the kingdom.

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to him who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which says: 'You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn for me to heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."

Matthew 13:10-16

Throughout the book there are testimonies of people who have been impacted by the kingdom of heaven. I have called these stories, 'Kingdom Nuggets'. I know that you will be greatly blessed by the testimonies combined with the teaching in this book.

Mark Hemans

Kingdom Nuggets

Healed of blindness



Photo of David Prasad

David suffered a work accident in which strong chemicals were sprayed into his eyes burning through the retina. He was taken to hospital blind (left photo).

During prayer the glory of God went through his eyes and he was completely healed. He has better eyesight now than he had before. Praise God.

Kingdom children

The Play Centre

While meditating the Lord gave me a vision of children playing in a play centre. The vision had to do with being a child in the kingdom of heaven. What the Lord showed me was that only by being like a child, can we enter the kingdom. Only by being child-like can we learn the things of the kingdom. So many times the Bible says that we are God's children.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. **1 John 3:1**

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **Romans 8:15-16**

A Child's Door

So here is the vision I received... I saw a doorway that lead into a room. Above the door was a sign:

The Father's Learning and Play Centre
The door was too short for an adult to enter. Only a child could enter the Father's centre. I saw Jesus inside waiting for the children. Then I saw a tall man walk towards the door. He was far too tall to enter. Instead of bending down he walked straight into the wall above the door. His head hit the wall. He rubbed his bruised forehead, turned away and walked down the street.

The Lord showed me the reason why the tall man could not enter. He was too proud and stubborn to bend down and lower his head to get into the door. Only children are small enough to enter the door to the kingdom of heaven. We must humble ourselves and be like children to enter.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child,

he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 18:1-4**

I saw other people who were busily walking past the play centre. They were so busy that they didn't even notice the little door or the play centre. They had important things on their mind. They were very focused on their serious adult world. As I looked at them I noticed that many were depressed, worried, fearful, emotionally scared, and some had dark demons on their faces.

As I watched this scene I realized why Jesus said it was so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Remember how the rich young ruler could not let go of his riches in order to follow Jesus. This story of the rich young ruler follows after Jesus' teaching on entering the kingdom like a child.

As I continued to look in my vision, through the crowd rushed happy children. They were singing, skipping, and clapping their hands. The adults were annoyed at them for being so happy. They were irritated with the children, who instead of following them up the street, were running across the flow of the crowd and straight to the door of the Father's play centre.

Some adults tried to grab the children and stop them from going into the centre. They wanted to pull them along with all the adults. I was reminded of how the disciples tried to stop the children from coming to Jesus to be blessed. The Bible says:
But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." **Mark 10:14**

The children enter the Centre

Without knocking on the door the children rushed straight in. Jesus was laughing and welcoming them all. They did not have to knock or ask permission to enter. The children knew that they were welcome, and that He loved them. They had no hesitancy, but entered confidently.

I am reminded how Jesus has already entered heaven's sanctuary on our behalf. He has made the way open by His Blood. We are invited to enter confidently.

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:19-22

The children were all laughing and giggling, because in His Presence there is fullness of joy.

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 16:11

The children's praise

The children began to dance in a circle. As they danced their hands would go up and down. They would bend down and then lift their heads to heaven. They were singing songs of joy and praise to the Father. I saw a child pick up a tambourine. I could feel the Anointing of God upon the child as he played skilfully to the Lord. The Bible says that we are to enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 100:1-5

Remember how the children sang the praises of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant; and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus

said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast brought perfect praise'?"

Matthew 21:15-16

The fires of hell

I looked again at the adults on the outside. They were all moving up the hill. At the top of the street, one could see fire leaping into the sky. The adults were rushing on their way to hell. They were so sure that this was the right way to go. They didn't seem to be aware of the fires burning at the top of the street. They even tried to get the children to go with them. They had no idea that they were about to fall into hell's flames. The Bible says:

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Proverbs 14:12

The Father's gifts

I looked again into the Father's play centre. I only saw Jesus in the Father's Centre. Jesus said, "If you have seen the Father you have seen Me." Jesus was giving each child a gift. They were the most beautiful gifts imaginable. Beautiful colours seem to leap out of them. The children were delighted with their gifts, and laughed. As they received their gifts many of them fell on the floor laughing under the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the gifts they were experiencing Jesus.

This is the way the Lord want us to receive His gifts: like delighted children. The Bible says:

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Matthew 7:11

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Psalms 37:4

This was a revelation to me of how we are to receive the things of the kingdom . We are to delight in the good things the Lord offers us.

*“Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them. **Mark 10:15-16***

Colouring in

It was time for colouring in. The children got out their paper and colouring in pencils. They began to draw pictures and colour them in. One child drew a beautiful angel clothed in many colours. He was blowing a large trumpet. Wondrous notes were coming from the trumpet. The child then drew a great crowd of people rising up to praise the Lord Jesus Christ at the sound of the trumpet. The Bible says:

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Psalms 150:3

Colouring in is an important way the Father teaches His children kingdom truths. I realized that the Holy Spirit teaches us the things of the kingdom through pictures. He draws pictures in our spirit. We call them visions, revelations, words of knowledge, and discernment of spirits. These revelations are for those who have a childlike heart before the Father:

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will." **Matthew 11:25-26**

Play time

After drawing pictures the children sat on the floor to play with Lego. They were learning how to build things. Sometimes they would stop and ask Jesus what to do. They made mistakes but it didn't matter. The more they practiced the better they got. Some of the children were quite advanced. They were building bridges, planes and multi-story buildings. They were learning by playing. The children became quiet serious as they worked on their Lego.

There was no competition among the children as they built things. The more advanced and experienced ones helped those who were just beginning. The children encouraged one another

and rejoiced over each ones building attempts. What a wonderful picture of the church!

As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12:20-26

It is as we get involved, that the Holy Spirit teaches us. Not everything is learnt through pictures. We learn in the kingdom by doing things. Play time is important. The disciples did not learn how to be fishers of men by staying with their boats. Jesus sent them out two by two into all the towns to preach the Gospel of the kingdom .

"And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Mark 1:16-18

Story time

After playing with the Lego the children sat at the feet of Jesus for their story. Jesus opened a large scrap book. As He opened the book, the pages came alive with the scenes from the Bible. The children just loved to hear Jesus tell stories. He is a wonderful Teacher. He told them about David and Goliath and taught them about spiritual warfare. The children then were showed the Cross. Jesus taught them that through His death people could receive His wonderful Gospel.

Hug time

Then Jesus took the children up into His arms one at a time. As He hugged them it was like rivers of agape love filled their hearts and overflowed them. Some of the children laughed with joy. The Father's love is so wonderful. Others began to weep as they were made whole from their emotional pain. He comforted them. All the years of pain was washed away by the Father's love. We each need to be made whole by the Father.

Finally, the children put on their armour, and took up their weapons. As they went out of the play centre Jesus laid His hand upon their helmets. When He did so, oil came from His hand and flowed down the helmet and onto their armour. It was the Anointing of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told them to always trust Him, that He would never leave them, and that they must remember to use their sword. He said "The enemy, Satan, has been totally defeated. Do not be afraid of him. I have overcome him on the Cross." The children then went out dancing and laughing, filled with the joy of the Lord. They were looking forward to the wonderful things that He would do.

The King of Kings

The Kingship of Jesus was prophesied

The birth of King Jesus is one of the greatest fulfilments of Biblical prophecy. Again and again the Old Testament contains prophecies that a King would be born whose kingdom would have no end. He would be of the tribe of Judah, of the clan of Bethlehem, and descendent of King David. Years before His birth, the patriarch, Jacob prophesied of him:

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. **Genesis 49:10**

(Also 1 Chronicles 5:2)

The scepter was a royal staff symbolic of kingship. That means that from Jacob's son, Judah, there would always be a royal line of kings. But more than just a line of kings, the royal scepter actually belonged to Jesus. It would be passed down the line until it came to the one to whom it belonged, Jesus. Jacob prophesied that one day Jesus would come and receive His royal scepter.

A King whose throne is eternal

There are many Biblical prophecies about a coming King. Here are some...

"I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." **Psalms 2:6-9**

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." **Micah 5:2**

Nathan the prophet prophesied that from David would come a king. God would establish His kingdom . Think about it. Jesus came preaching that the kingdom was at hand.

"When your days are fulfilled to go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son; I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom for ever and his throne shall be established for ever."

1 Chronicles 17:11-14

Jesus fulfilled this prophesy of Nathan that He would build a house. We who believe are that house. As Jesus said: "I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We the church are His house where He is enthroned in our hearts.

The prophet Jeremiah also prophesied the coming of King Jesus. As King, Jesus brought justice and righteousness. Wherever Jesus brings His kingdom there is a manifestation of righteousness. People repent, there is restitution, justice is done. *"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."*

Jeremiah 23:5

David prophesied that the throne of Jesus would be divine. This is the throne upon which Jesus sits in heaven.

Your divine throne endures for ever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

Psalms 45:6-8

(See also Psalm 110:1-2)

Every king was anointed with oil by a man for the kingly office. But Jesus was anointed by God as divine King. It was the Father who anointed Jesus. When Jesus was baptised in the river

Jordan, the Father spoke audibly: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”. The heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form.

Daniel prophesied that the Son of Man would have an everlasting kingdom. Jesus often called Himself the Son of Man in fulfilment of this prophecy.

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

Born as King

Who was Jesus? Why did He come to earth? So much of Jesus' identity is revealed at His birth. The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to tell her that she was pregnant with One who was a King. This King is God incarnate, the Son of the Most High. A King who would reign over Israel forever. His Name would be Jesus which means Saviour. He would establish a righteous kingdom based on repentance of sin. The angel said:

...and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:32-33

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Jesus was no ordinary human king. He did not come to manage the civil affairs of Israel, or to deliver them from the Romans. He came as the King of Heaven. From His heavenly throne He rules all other kings. His kingdom extends over everything and everyone. Jeremiah the prophet says:

"There is none like thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of the nations? For this is thy due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like thee."

Jeremiah 10:6-7

When we look at the circumstances of Jesus' birth we see that He was honoured as King. The wise men came seeking the King of the Jews born in Bethlehem. When they came to the baby Jesus, they offered to Him royal gifts. Gifts that one would give to a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11

So jealous was King Herod about a king being born, that he slaughtered all the children of two years and under.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Matthew 2:1-6

Jesus understood His Kingship

Jesus Himself understood that He was born a King, and His kingdom was not of this world.

Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and

for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.” **John 18:36-37**

In the ancient world a king would sometimes ride upon a donkey. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey He did so as King. He was fulfilling an ancient prophecy, “your king is coming, sitting on an ass’s colt.”² At the time His disciples didn’t understand the symbolism of Jesus riding on a donkey. It was after His death that they realized its significance.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass’s colt!” His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. **John 12:12-16**

The people honoured Jesus as their King, and He did not try to stop them. He even said that if they did not praise Him, the very rocks would cry out. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem as King, the crowds were celebrating the fulfilment of Nathan’s prophecy. Nathan the prophet had said to David that one of his descendents would have an eternal throne. So the crowds cried out:

“Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!” **Mark 11:10**

From the time of Samuel the prophet, the nation of Israel had rejected God as their King. Now the true King of Israel rides into Jerusalem. Again they reject Him by nailing their King on the Cross.

And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.” **Matthew 27:37**

² Zechariah 9:9

Jesus died as King

Jesus not only was born a King, and honored in His life as King, but He also died as a King.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. **Matthew 27:27-30**

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." **Matthew 27:11**

In heaven, Jesus is worshipped as King

Now in heaven Jesus is seated upon His throne, worshipped by the angels and saints.

And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and wonderful are thy deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are thy ways, O King of the ages!" **Revelations 15:3**

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed which no one knows but himself. He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, followed him on white horses. From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, King of kings and Lord of lords."

Revelations 19:11-16

Have you made Jesus your King? Have you yielded your life, your dreams, and plans to Him? It is through surrender to Him, that you will find abundant life. By yielding to Jesus, your life takes on divine purpose and fulfilment. He is the King of love and compassion. Your life is safe in His hands. Trust Him.

Kingdom Nuggets

"Jesus laid His hand on my head."



This woman told of how she suffered from a bleeding stomach tumour for the last five years. She had been operated on 6 times.

In the meeting she saw Jesus coming to her as a bright Light. She physically felt Jesus place His hand upon her head and His healing power touching her.

In the photo she explains how she felt the touch of Jesus. All the pain was gone. Praise God.

Jesus Christ, the Anointed One

The King

The most important thing to remember about the kingdom of heaven is its King, Jesus Christ. When you seek the King, He will come. Where Jesus is so is His kingdom. When you have Jesus you immediately have His heavenly kingdom. It is all yours through His Name.

When I am in a meeting I seek to see Jesus and surrender to Him. I seek to worship Him, and lift Him up in my preaching. Then just like He promised He comes among us. He manifests Himself to people. People testify that they see Him, and feel His healing touch. He heals the sick, delivers the oppressed, saves sinners, and much more.

You may say to me: "I thought that this was what the Holy Spirit does?" You are right! You see Jesus is the Anointed One. It is Jesus who pours out His Holy Spirit upon us. When you touch the garments of Jesus, the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit will flow upon you. In His Presence people are baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit.

It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit, rather it is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist when he saw Jesus testified of Him:

And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Mark 1:7-8

It is Jesus who received this promise from the Father. Jesus now pours out the promise of the Holy Spirit.

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having

received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear." **Acts 2:32-33**

Jesus invites us to come and drink from Him. He will give us the living waters of the Holy Spirit. This drink shall become a river which shall flow out of us to the lost and needy.

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. **John 7:37-39**

Jesus said to her, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **John 4:13-14**

Jesus Christ the Anointed One

The most important principle to flowing in the Anointing, is to realize that Jesus is the Anointed One. The Bible teaches us that His garments are anointed. As King of Kings and High Priest the anointing is poured out upon His head and runs down His garments.

Your divine throne endures for ever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. **Psalms 45:6-8**

This powerful Anointing upon Jesus is attested to again and again in Scripture. The crowds pressed in to touch the hem of His garment.

And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or country, they laid the sick in the market places, and besought him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment; and as many as touched it were made well." **Mark 6:56**

Power came forth from Jesus healing all who were sick.

“And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all.”

Luke 6:17-19

Jesus is the One clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the Bible says that He will baptise us in the Holy Spirit. This word baptise means to immerse or completely soak. This promise comes from our heavenly Father.

“And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:49

Jesus is clothed in power, and He will clothe us in heavenly garments of power. The anointing that is upon Jesus will come upon us and flow through us.

When the early church was threatened and persecuted they gathered together to pray. After they prayed it says that the building was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. What sort of prayer would release such a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit? They prayed that Jesus would stretch out His hand.

They recognized that Jesus is the Anointed One. It is because of His outstretched hand that people are healed. It is through His Name that signs and wonders are done. And it was because of His Presence that they were powerfully filled with the Holy Spirit.

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy

Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:29-31

There is an inseparable relationship between the Anointing of the Holy Spirit and the Presence of the Anointed One, Jesus Christ. If you want the anointing to flow in your life, then desire the Presence of Jesus Christ in your life. It is not from man but from Jesus that we receive the refreshing waters of the Holy Spirit.

“Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...” **Acts 3:9**

Preach Jesus

Focus on Jesus. Speak about Him and His Gospel to others. This is what the apostles did. They weren't caught up with themselves, their anointing, their gifting, or their godliness. They were Christ focused.

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.” **2 Corinthians 4:5-7**

And when Peter saw it he addressed the people, “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. (16) And his name, by faith in his name, has made this man strong whom you see and know; and the faith which is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.”

Acts 3:12-13,16

The most fundamental principle of the kingdom of heaven is that Jesus Christ is the Anointed One. Where Jesus is, so also is His kingdom. When Jesus comes He always brings His

kingdom. The principle is the same today, as it was 2000 years ago. Jesus preached that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. Wherever He went, His kingdom was manifest in the lives of people.

Obedience to King Jesus

Consecration

God has anointed King Jesus because He loves righteousness and hates wickedness.

“...you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you...” **Psalm 45:7**

You cannot and should not separate the Anointing of God from the holiness of God. The Holy Spirit comes in power to confirm the preaching of repentance. This is the Gospel, that we must repent and receive the righteousness that comes from Christ. Not only are we to preach it but we are to live a consecrated life. Jesus said: “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.”

Be led by the Holy Spirit

The key to flowing in the Anointing is absolute obedience to Jesus Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Being led by the Holy Spirit is part and parcel of being a child of God. The leading of the Holy Spirit is for all believers, not just for special people. We can all be led by the Holy Spirit, and know His will for our lives.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Romans 8:14

The power of God will flow according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes people seek the manifestations of the Holy Spirit and are disappointed when little happens. Jesus told us to pray that God’s kingdom would come and that His will would be done. The Anointing will flow as we seek to do His will. The kingdom of God is manifest in the will of God.

In our meetings I have found that if I follow the leading of the Holy Spirit that amazing things will happen. I remember a town in Indonesia of 50,000 people, but there were only 110 believers. In the meeting the Lord gave me a word of knowledge

about a man with a sore tooth. The man sheepishly stood up in the gathering.

Then the Lord spoke to me that he was a Jonah running from the call of God. He came forward asking who told me about his situation. He shared how he had studied at Bible College, but had run from the call of God. He knelt down and repented. The town's pastors all prayed for him. Here was a town that desperately needed Christian workers. By following the leading of the Lord, the Anointing fell upon a man bringing conviction of sin and repentance. Jesus Christ was with us calling forth Gospel workers.

Be still before God

We could compare the power of the Holy Spirit with a tornado. At the centre of the tornado there is stillness and quiet. As you move from the centre of the tornado one encounters the powerful winds. The tornado's winds are all encircling the tornado's centre. The centre of God's power is the place of surrender to His still small voice.

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

Isaiah 30:15

The power of the Holy Spirit is released as we learn to be still before Him, and hear His quiet voice speaking to us. God's power is the outworking of our obedience to that still small voice of God. Surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is the great key to operating in the Anointing.

Presence and Power

It is the Presence of God that releases the power of God. There are ministries today that are emphasizing the power of God without the Presence of God. I not only want God's power, but I want His Presence. I need the beauty of Jesus, His love, His Glory shining in my heart. I want to love and worship Him. *And he said, "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and*

strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:11-13

For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what to do with you.'" Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward. Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And every one who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose up, and every man stood at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he had gone into the tent.

Exodus 33:5-8

Faith and trust

The Anointing flows from Jesus and by faith in Him. God does not work through fear and insecurity. Be confident in His Word. Be strong in the promises of God. Jesus Christ is the Saviour, He is the Healer, He is the Comforter, He is the Baptiser in the Spirit.

"And his name, by faith in his name, has made this man strong whom you see and know; and the faith which is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all."

Acts 3:16

All you need is a little seed of faith to release the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the Lord said, "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Luke 17:6

The Anointing is to flow out to people

If you want to see the Anointing flow in your life, then reach out to hurting and lost people. The Anointing is like a river that flows upon us and then through us to others. The power of the Holy Spirit comes with a purpose to bring healing to the nations. It comes to cause the lost to turn to the Saviour.

The Anointing will flow in your life as you seek to be a blessing to others. Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than it is to receive."³ He also said: "Give and it will be given to you."⁴ To continually flow in the Anointing of God, you must persevere in the compassion of Jesus for people. Let's continue to press into God to receive more, so that we can be a channel of blessing to others. Listen to why Jesus was anointed:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Luke 4:18-19

³ Acts 20:35

⁴ Luke 6:38

Worship the King

Worship in the kingdom

Worship is at the very heart of the kingdom of God. Jesus is enthroned over His kingdom. We His servants give Him glory and praise for He is worthy. When we experience the kingdom we will enter into a whole new realm of glorious worship. Worship is not a religious ceremony, but a spiritual reality. It begins within our heart and is released externally. Many times the kingdom of God will descend in power, when beautiful worship is offered before His throne. There is a direct relationship between the manifestation of the kingdom and our worship.

“But You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.”

Psalm 22:3

When you read the Gospels you see a very different type of praise and worship that what we normally might see in our churches today. It was intense, heart-felt praise and worship. It was people's spontaneous response to their experience of Jesus and His kingdom.

I grew up in a conservative Australian church at the time of the Charismatic Movement in the 1970's. There was a lot of tension in the church at the time. Thousands received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and spoke in tongues. While others strongly opposed the move of God, preferring their religious rituals.

I used to sing in a cathedral choir on Sundays. On Saturday night I would attend a home meeting where people sang in tongues and used simple choruses. In those meetings we witnessed wonderful healings. The next morning on Sunday I sang in a traditional cathedral service. What a contrast between the two types of service! The difference was not simply in the style of music being sung. The difference was in the spiritual atmosphere. It was in the heart.

In the Cathedral service the emphasis was on the externals. The choir and clergy dressed in robes, and processed in to the accompaniment of great organ music. The singing was a beautiful art form.

I remember sitting in one ordination service. Hundreds of people were crammed into the building. As we sang the hymns, I distinctly remember how it felt so hollow. I felt no Presence of God. Spiritually it was like being in a big empty shell of a room. The people were singing, but there was no heart-felt worship of our wonderful Lord. The focus was on the ritual of a pompous ordination ritual. Jesus said:

"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews." **John 4:22**

How true! They were worshipping without knowing who they were worshipping. The difference between religion and true worship is a personal knowledge of Jesus.

Worship begins with an encounter with Jesus

When you have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ you will begin to really worship. Your heart will be filled with joy. Love, adoration and gratitude will well up within you, for all that He has done. The more you know Jesus the more you will want to praise Him.

God wants to give us a fresh revelation of Jesus Christ in our hearts. His glorious Presence inspires us to exalt Him. Paul says that we glory in Christ Jesus.

"For we are the true circumcision, who worship God in Spirit, and glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh."

Philippians 3:3

What I want to say is both simple, and radical. Worship is to flow out of a personal and living encounter with Jesus Christ. For many churches worship is something else. It may be a time of declaring doctrinal beliefs. Or it may be something upbeat and entertaining, as a "draw card" for new people. The object of praise and worship is not people, but the glory and majesty of Jesus Christ. We are directly ministering to Him.

Jesus is the brightness of God's Glory, and the exact image of God. Before Him the angels bow in humble adoration.

"...(God) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...But when He again brings the Firstborn into the world, He says: 'Let all the angels of God worship Him.'" **Hebrews 1:2-3,6**

Let's look at the New Testament to see how the Presence of Jesus evoked praise and worship by those around Him.

The garment of praise

When Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowds erupted in joyful and exuberant praise. They began shouting in the streets the praises of Jesus, they threw their garments on the pavement where He was passing. It was a sign of their happy acceptance of Jesus as their King. Upon arriving in the temple even the children began shouting His praise. So great was the praise that the religious people took offence.

Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (15) But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant; and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast brought perfect praise'?" **Matthew 21:8-9,15-16**

What happened to the children in the Presence of Jesus? They received a garment of praise. This is where the Holy Spirit comes upon you in power to praise God. This praise garment

can cover the whole church. The praise garment is more than singing a song, it is an divine empowerment to praise.

"To appoint to those who mourn in Zion, to give to them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness; so that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified."

Isaiah 61:3

Exuberant thanksgiving

What I love about the story of the healing of the leper is his exuberant praise after he got healed. Jesus had sent the ten lepers to the priest to be declared whole. On the way they were all healed. One of them, a Samaritan, when he realized that he was healed turned back towards Jesus. In the middle of the street he began shouting the praises of God.

When you have really experienced Jesus there will be an overflow in your heart of thanksgiving. You wont care who hears you.

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Luke 17:12-19

The spontaneous worship of a blind man

Then there is the story of the blind man who was healed by Jesus. After his healing he was thrown out of the synagogue by the religious people. Jesus heard about it and went looking for him. Upon finding him, the healed man confessed his faith in Jesus, and then worshipped Him.

Can you imagine the beauty of that man's worship. He is filled with gratitude to the Lord for healing his eyes. He spontaneously began to pour out his worship to the Lord. There is nothing religious or even organized about this man's humble worship of Jesus.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him. **John 9:35-38**

Our worship is not only something that we do when there is a band or choir leading us. God is looking for a spontaneous loving adoration that comes from the heart. We can bless God wherever we are, and whatever time of day or night.

"My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips, when I think of thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the watches of the night; for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy."

Psalms 63:5-7

Worship God before you get the answer

There was a man who had a legion of 6000 demons. This man did not wait for his healing to worship the Lord. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran to Him, and worshiped Him. He worshiped Him before getting blessed. Jesus is the solution to your need. Come to Him with your need and give Him worship. Don't wait for your blessing in order to be a worshiper. Start now.

Worship is a wonderful expression of our faith in Jesus. We are declaring His power and greatness while we still have our need. As we worship Him God's power will be released in our lives.

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when He had come out of the boat, there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who lived among the tombs; and no one could bind him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been bound with fetters and

chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the fetters he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out, and bruising himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped him; and crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." **Mark 5:1-7**

Filled with awe

There was a paralysed man who was brought to Jesus by his friends. When the man's friends realized that they could not get into the house, they went up on the roof. They broke through the roof and let down the paralytic on ropes. Jesus healed the paralytic, and the man got up, picked up his mattress, and went home glorifying God. Then we read that amazement seized the crowd, and they were filled with awe.

When the kingdom comes people will often experience the awe and majesty of God. This awe of God inspires them to glorify God. One of the purposes of signs and wonders is to create a godly awe of God. We want to worship Him because of His greatness and power.

"But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" --he said to the man who was paralysed-- "I say to you, rise, take up your bed and go home." And immediately he rose before them, and took up that on which he lay, and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today." **Luke 5:24-26**

The sinful woman

There was a woman who came to Jesus. She was probably a city prostitute who had experienced the forgiveness and love of Jesus. Her response to Jesus is perhaps the greatest example of heart-felt worship we have in the New Testament. What I love about this story is that her worship is so concentrated on Jesus. She seems oblivious to the critical stares of the religious people.

She wept over the feet of Jesus, dried them with her hair, then kissed them and anointed them with ointment. Her love and gratitude were so simple and heart-felt it offended the religious scruples of those watching. She is an example to all of us to worship from a heart of love.

And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.” **Luke 7:37-38**

Great joy

Jesus was carried up into heaven while being watched by five hundred disciples. At this tremendous revelation of the glory of Jesus Christ, they worshiped Him. Upon returning to Jerusalem they were filled with praise. It says that they had great joy. Joy is so often at the heart of praise. Great joy will lead you into great praise. They were so filled with praise that it says that they were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God. **Luke 24:51-53**

Spread His fame

Evangelism is a form of praise. That's right! When we evangelise we are spreading the fame of Jesus. This is what happened in the Gospels. Many of those who were healed spread His praise everywhere. They couldn't stop talking about Jesus and what He had done for Him. Our testimony is a powerful expression of praise. It will lift up the Name of Jesus and draw people to the Saviour as well.

Numerous times I have had the privilege of leading people to Christ after sharing a testimony of what Jesus did. Testimonies witness to the power of Jesus and His Gospel. They create an atmosphere of faith into which you can share the Gospel message. As we lift up the Name of Jesus in testimony often the

Holy Spirit will tear down walls of wrong doctrine, hopelessness and fear.

A true worshipper will exalt the Name of Jesus wherever they are, whether in church with a band, at the dinner table with the family, or with unbelievers. A true worshiper is not just one inside church. Our testimony is a powerful way of glorifying Jesus to unbelievers.

And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. **Matthew 4:23-24**

When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. **Matthew 9:28-31**

Through the preaching of the Gospel and personal testimony, God's Name is being exalted to the four corners of the world. May we not limit our praise to singing songs in church. May we never be ashamed to lift up His wonderful Name wherever we go.

And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name; make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted." **Isaiah 12:4**

Kingdom Nuggets

Healed of depression and schizophrenia



Genevieve requested prayer, but did not share her need. The Holy Spirit revealed to me a picture of a metal box with bolts, representing her mental bondage.

I saw the Holy Spirit undoing those bolts and setting her mind free. I also discerned an evil spirit afflicting the mind. As we prayed in the mighty Name of Jesus, Genevieve, was set free.

A month later she shared this testimony (with some editing):

"I started hearing voices when I was 15 years old. I suffered depression and lacked motivation. As a young girl I was confused and depressed. The voices in my head would swear and speak against the church. I was depressed and didn't feel good about myself.

When I received prayer a month ago. I felt something touch my head. I knew that it was the Holy Spirit. God healed me instantly. Since then I have no more voices, they are gone completely. Praise the Lord.

It is the biggest miracle of my life. I have believed in God all my life. And now I feel closer to the Lord even more. He made me really well. Alleluia."

This is a wonderful miracle. Genevieve suffered from depression and schizophrenia for most of her life. To God be all the glory.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The beauty of heaven

In heaven the goodness and love of God are perfectly manifest. There are no tears of sorrow, nor pain, hunger, poverty, or sickness. God rules over His kingdom and nothing resists His will. It is a wonderful, beautiful place. In heaven we see perfect order.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelations 7:15-17

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

Revelations 21:2-5

On earth there is disorder and chaos due to original sin – marriage and family breakdown, sickness, curse, war, famine, fear, and distress. Jesus came into this awful situation giving us hope. He came to release the beauty and goodness of heaven upon us. Heaven is ruled in righteousness and love. Earth is contaminated by sin. Through the coming of heaven's kingdom, God's love and righteousness destroy the works of Satan on earth.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8

Wherever the kingdom of heaven is manifest there is righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit. It is always wonderful to see the transformation in people's lives when they experience God's kingdom .

For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; he who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. **Romans 14:17-18**

The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope. **Romans 15:12**

We are God's messengers and ambassadors on earth. Jesus has sent us to usher in His kingdom . Through us we not only proclaim the kingdom , but we demonstrate it in our loving actions to others. We care about people. The Glory of the King of heaven is shining through us into a world of darkness.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." **Matthew 5:14-16**

The Gospel of the kingdom

The word Gospel means glad tidings, or good news. Jesus preached the Gospel of the kingdom . One definition of the word Gospel is "the glad tidings of the coming kingdom of God." Jesus would tell people that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, and suddenly people would experience the power and goodness of heaven. Incredible miracles would happen.

God's desire is to establish His kingdom on earth. A kingdom in which people are saved, healed, delivered, fed, clothed, encouraged, and given hope.

And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. **Matthew 4:23**

The signs of the kingdom

When John the Baptist doubted whether Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus sent him the following message:

"...Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them."

Matthew 11:4-5

King Jesus had come proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom . The proof of the Gospel message was in the signs.

Jesus said that these signs will follow those who believe. When you believe in the King of Heaven, the goodness of heaven shall be manifest in you, and around you.

"And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Mark 16:17-18

Furthermore, as we proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom , Jesus Himself will come and work with us. When the Bible says that Jesus worked with them, it doesn't mean in some vague sense. It means that Jesus was actually present, helping His followers to do His work. After His ascension, He wasn't there physically, but He was definitely there in the Holy Spirit. When we proclaim the kingdom of God, Jesus will actually come and help us.

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

Mark 16:19-20

The key to the manifest Presence of Jesus, is to preach Jesus and the Gospel of His kingdom . To preach Jesus is to invite His Presence. The early church did not focus on themselves or some vague theological concept. The early church preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5

Paul the apostle shares his experience of how everyone had abandoned him. Yet the Lord stood with him and strengthened him to preach the Gospel. I believe that Jesus actually stands with us when we proclaim His Word. When we witness to someone Jesus is there helping us. I have frequently heard healing testimonies in which people saw Jesus standing before them. They physically felt His healing hand laid upon them, and His power flow through them. Praise God, Jesus is with us, just as He promised.

At my first defence no one took my part; all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the message fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:16-18

Having open eyes to kingdom opportunities

The other day I was walking up the main street of town. I noticed a little girl around 2 years of age chasing a pigeon. She ran to the edge of the footpath and then was about to run onto the road. I immediately reached out and gently took her arm. At that moment I noticed her father running to stop her from going onto the busy road. The dad thanked me, and I explained that his girl was chasing a pigeon.

As we chatted I noticed another man standing there. He said to me: "I'm sorry, I never realized what was happening." He could have stopped the little girl, but he was off in his own world. He didn't see the need.

I continued up the street and felt the Holy Spirit speaking to me. How often we as Christians are blind to the needs around us. We just aren't aware of the opportunities that God is giving us to help people. I wonder how many times I have missed opportunities to show God's love to needy people. How often

have I been like that man caught up in his own thoughts, who didn't see the danger to that little girl.

May God fill our hearts with compassion for people, so that our eyes are opened to see the opportunities around us. God's kingdom comes as we lovingly meet the needs around us. We are vessels of God's love and goodness to needy people.

Jesus was constantly seeing the opportunities around Him for the kingdom . When Jesus came to the pool of Bethesda, He saw a lame man waiting for the water to be stirred by an angel. He was waiting for his healing. Jesus saw the opportunity, took advantage of the situation, and healed the man. It was a manifestation of the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. God will also give us opportunities for His kingdom . Trust Him He will bring it about.

“After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. {market: or, gate} In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.”

John 5:1-9 AV

The Secret Place of the Kingdom

Secret and Revealed

One of the great principles of the kingdom of God is that it is both secret and revealed. The kingdom is a revelation in the natural of what has occurred in the secret place. There is a secret place where we can meet with God. Jesus wants to come and commune with us in a special way in our hearts. It is here in the secret place that God speaks, and faith arises to overcome and conquer.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."

Revelations 3:20

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:5-6

Moses had his place of communion with God, far away from the Israelite camp.

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And every one who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose up, and every man stood at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at his tent door. Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his

friend.

Exodus 33:7-11

I used to go along to meetings of evangelist, Bill Subritzky. I would sit there and watch as the power of God fell and people received miraculous healings. I could see what was happening in the physical, but not in the spiritual realm. I thought to myself: "There is something going on here in the unseen realm that is effecting the meeting. But I cannot see it." That unseen realm of encounter between the Holy Spirit and Bill Subritzky is what I would call the secret place.

The Secret place of Jesus

In the life and teaching of Jesus we have glimpses of Jesus in the secret place. When Jesus was a child He left his parents and went to the temple. His parents were worried and looked all over for Him. Eventually they found Him in the temple. Jesus questioned His parents as to why they did not understand that He must be in His Father's house.

"And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?""

Luke 2:48-49

To say that God was His Father, was regarded as blasphemy by the religious. Yet Jesus understood that God loved Him, as a father loves a son. Jesus was not in the temple for religious reasons. He was there to be with His Father. This is the secret place of God.

Numerous times we see Jesus in the secret place. Jesus was alone praying and fasting for 40 days in the wilderness. After this He went forth in the power of the Holy Spirit. We also see Jesus in the secret place of prayer alone during the night on the mountain. Jesus was in that secret place when He sweated drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane just before His crucifixion. There is a secret place of prayer and communion with God.

“In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles...”

Luke 6:12-13

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear.

Hebrews 5:7

Jesus' ministry was an outward flow of the secret place. Jesus always worked in loving relationship with His Father. He taught what He had heard from His Father in the secret place.

So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent Me; if any man's will is to do his will, he shall know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

John 7:16-17

The miraculous works of Jesus, were first revealed to Him by His Father in the secret place.

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever he does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all that he himself is doing; and greater works than these will he show him, that you may marvel.

John 5:19-20

The secret place of our heart

Jesus promised that He and the Father in heaven would love us. He promised that He would manifest Himself to us. One of the disciples didn't understand this teaching. He asks Jesus how could He manifest Himself to His disciples and not to the world. He did not understand that there is a spiritual manifestation of Christ in the heart of a believer. This is a manifestation that is unseen by the world.

“He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us,

and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, 'If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'" **John 14:21-23**

In the heart God creates a loving home where He dwells in us. It is a beautiful place of love and harmony. A place where He speaks to us, loves, encourages and corrects us. It is the place where the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit flow.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." **John 15:9-11**

The secret place is fundamental for operating in the kingdom of heaven. The Jews thought that Jesus had come to establish a political kingdom and overthrow the Roman government. They believed that Jesus would establish Israel as an independent state from Rome, forming His own government.

But Jesus did not come to establish a political kingdom. He came to establish a heavenly kingdom in the hearts of people everywhere. One of the great keys to moving in the kingdom of God, is to know that the kingdom is within you.

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation. Neither shall they say, 'Lo here!' or, 'Lo there!' for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you". **Luke 17:20-21 AV**

The kingdom of God is found in the glorious manifestation of Christ within our hearts.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. **2 Corinthians 4:6-7**

The secret place of the kingdom is where we listen, watch and wait upon the Holy Spirit.

"Happy is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD; but he who misses me injures himself; all who hate me love death." **Proverbs 8:34-36**

So where is this secret place? How do we get there? Do we have to ascend into heaven? We simply come near to God by faith in His Word. The apostle Paul says:

But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. **Romans 10:6-10**

Your Father who is in secret

Jesus said that our Father is in secret. He is hidden from most people. He is hidden from those who do not seek Him, and those who do not believe in Him. But He is found by those who seek Him. Those who find Him are filled with His treasures.

"But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:17-18

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries. **Proverbs 8:17-21**

The secrets of the kingdom of God are available to those who abide in the secret place. Those outside are in ignorance and confusion. They may see the effects of the kingdom on

peoples lives, but they do not perceive its glory and power. They may hear the Word of God but they have no inner understanding and revelation. Jesus said:

And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables; so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand; lest they should turn again, and be forgiven."
Mark 4:11-12

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Psalms 51:6

The secret place in God is where:

- **God reveals what He is about to do**

The secret place is the place of revelation, wisdom and counsel. Here the Lord is like a Shepherd leading us in the right path. At times He will give us divine insight into situations, showing us what will happen and what we are to do.

"Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets."
Amos 3:7

- **There is protection**

In the hidden place we are protected from the enemy. God is our refuge and shelter. We can laugh at the challenges we face, because our security is in Him. Others may be overcome by fear, but we rejoice knowing that God is our sufficiency.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge...
Psalms 91:1-4

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your habitation, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways.
Psalms 91:9-11

- **Prayers are answered**

Where does thunder come from? The secret place is also called the place of thunder. It is the place of answered prayer and deliverance in times of need.

In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder... **Psalm 81:7**

- **We are rewarded**

God is close to the humble and distant from the proud. The secret place is the place of humility, and it is also the place of great reward. It is the person who humbly communes with God in his heart that will be rewarded by God.

“But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Matthew 6:3-4

- **There is true abundance**

The secret place is not dependent on this physical world, nor on our situations. Outwardly we may have troubles but within we are abounding in the riches and glory of Christ. In the secret place of Christ we find the strength to do all that God has called us to do. Truly the secret place is the indwelling kingdom of heaven.

Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:11-13**

Faith in an Unseen Kingdom

The unseen kingdom

To walk by faith is to walk in the Holy Spirit. It is to walk in a different dimension, a heavenly dimension. Our physical feet are walking on physical ground, but our spiritual feet are walking on a heavenly plane. The air we breathe is physical, but our spiritual lungs are breathing in a heavenly air. The eyes of our heart see beyond the natural into heavenly realities.

To walk by faith is to move in this other dimension of the Holy Spirit. When the Psalmist was having some people problems he wrote:

I walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; I said in my consternation, "Men are all a vain hope." **Psalm 116:9-11**

What an amazing statement! He was walking on two different dimensional planes. In one dimension he was walking with problematic people. In another dimension he was walking with the Lord. This is the walk of faith.

The blessing of God is upon those who walk by faith, and not according to what they see with their natural eyes. God's blessing and favor is upon those who lift their eyes off the natural and believe in the riches of heaven.

Thomas refused to believe the words of Christ that on the third day Christ would be raised to life. After the resurrection Jesus appears to Thomas. It is only when Thomas physically sees Jesus that he believes. When Jesus appears to Thomas, he rebukes him for his unbelief.

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he

said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

John 20:26-29

The object of our faith and hope is an unseen kingdom . The eyes of faith are focused on things that the natural eye cannot perceive. Faith always precedes the visible blessings. Faith is the assurance that what is unseen is true and shall come to pass. It is by our faith that we receive divine approval.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval.

Hebrews 11:1-2

Ps John Kilpatrick shares how God spoke to him about the Pensacola Revival in the USA before it happened. He believed what he did not see. He called his congregation to pray every Sunday night for 30 months for revival. After this time the heavens were opened and over 4 million people visited his church.

Abraham was told that he would have a son. Now Abraham was an old man when he received the word. The Bible says that the womb of his wife was as good as dead. Abraham waited by faith for Isaac to be conceived. He walked not according to what he saw in the natural, but according to the word of the Lord.

In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Romans 4:18-21

To walk by faith is to walk in this unseen Holy Spirit dimension. The challenge is not to allow what you see and

experience in the natural to cloud your spiritual vision. The greater reality is the heavenly realm, not the natural. Satan wants to shake our faith, by getting us focused on the things that we experience.

The Word of Christ

Faith is based not on what we see and experience in the natural, but upon the unseen realities of the kingdom of heaven. Faith arises when we hear the Word of Christ in our spirit. The Word of God is supreme, it is true, it is above anything that we may experience whether it be poverty, sickness, pain, or discouragement.

We are to hear the Word of God with our ears, and with our spirit as well. When you hear that rhema word, the gift of faith is imparted. You have a supernatural confidence of what will surely take place. When faith arises in your heart then you step out and act confidently. The kingdom of heaven will bend towards you, and all things will be put in order.

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.

Romans 10:17

For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

James 1:23-24

Kingdom Nuggets

Blind woman's eyes opened





Both of Nadia's eyes had been operated on twice. In order to read she wore thick glasses and used a magnifying glass. We saw her coming into the building being helped down the stairs so as not to fall. Here we see Nadia reaching out to the Lord Jesus for healing.

Ps Mark told her that heavenly Light was shining into her eyes. Then Nadia was asked to do something impossible, to read from a chorus sheet, without her magnifying glass or glasses. As she struggled to read, that's when the miracle happened. Suddenly she could read. She cried out: "It's a miracle. It's a miracle. I can see. I can see."

Nadia was overcome with joy. She just wanted to read and read that sheet of paper. She could even read the size 10 fine print of the church bulletin. We rejoice with Nadia for God's goodness to her. Praise the Lord!

Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."

Matthew 9:29-30

Faith releases the Glory

Signs of the Glory

The Glory of Jesus is manifested through the signs of His kingdom . Miracles, signs, wonders, the power of God, and the gifts of the Spirit all point to the Glory of Jesus and His kingdom . When we experience God's power, we are experiencing the Glory of Jesus.

They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and tell of thy power...
Psalm 145:11

People who make jokes about the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit have a superficial understanding of their purpose. They may have seen God's power, but they have not seen His Glory. When God manifests His power it is meant to lead you into the Glorious Presence of Jesus.

The Glory of Jesus effects the physical world we live in. When I see people healed it isn't just that I'm interested in an extraordinary phenomena. I want to experience Jesus. I want to experience His Presence and Majesty through the great things He does. Such an encounter with Jesus deepens my desire to serve Him, and to lovingly worship Him.

Every time God answers our prayers it is so that we can experience His Glory. Jesus promised us that whatever we ask in His Name He would do it. Why? So that the Father would be glorified in the Son.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it."
John 14:12-14

Water changed to wine

Jesus went to a wedding feast in the town of Cana. At the wedding party they had a crisis, the wine had run out. In those days to run out of wine at a wedding was a great embarrassment

to the hosts. Mary, the mother of Jesus, came to Jesus with the problem. Jesus answered her:

“O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”
John 2:4

Mary’s faith was being tested. But she did not waver. She persisted in her faith, saying to the servants “Do whatever he tells you.” (v.5). It was Mary’s faith that released God’s Glory. Jesus instructed the servants to fill the six waterpots of stone with water. This was a total of approximately 820 litres (180 gallons) of water.

The servants followed the instructions of Jesus, then served it to the master of the feast. To his amazement it was quality wine. The master of the feast then called the bridegroom saying:

“Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.”
John 2:10

The changing of water to wine at the wedding feast is described as a sign that manifested the Glory of Christ. It was not just an extraordinary miracle. It actually revealed the Glory of Jesus and caused people to believe in Him.

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2:11

I believe that we can experience the Glory of Jesus through the His works. I love to see miracles happen because through them we experience the Glory of Jesus. Miracles are signs that point us to Him.

Faith precedes the Glory

How can we experience the Glory of Jesus? Jesus gives us the simple answer: believe in Him. Just set your heart to believe in Him, implicitly and completely.

I remember preaching at a church. I noticed that there was a woman lying on the church pew. I thought she was sleeping

during my sermon. After the service she came to me and explained that she was lying on the pew because she suffered acute back pain, and could not sit. She told me that as she listened to the sermon on miracles she struggled within herself. As she lay there she thought about her husband who recently had died of cancer. All these thoughts were going through her head as I preached on the God of miracles.

However, the woman overcame her negative thoughts to put her faith in Jesus. She shuffled towards me using a walking frame. She suffered terrible back pain. She told me she wanted prayer for healing. In the Name of Jesus we took authority over the demon that was afflicting her. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon her, and with one cough that demon left her. She was instantly healed. In fact God's power came upon her so strongly that she later said it made her hair curl. Alleluia! It was her faith in Jesus that released the Glory of God. She set aside her walking frame and walked pain free. Praise God.

If you believe you will see the Glory

The raising of Lazarus to life was a clear sign that revealed the Glory of God. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, He said:

“This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it.” **John 11:4**

Lazarus lay very sick in bed, close to death. His sister was Mary, who had anointed Jesus' feet with very expensive fragrant oil. His other sister, Martha, had prepared food for Jesus and the disciples. Jesus had eaten in her house. This family was close to Jesus. He knew them. In fact the message that the sisters sent to Jesus was “Behold he whom you love is sick..” Later we read that “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” (v.5). These were people that Jesus personally knew and loved.

Yet Jesus did not go to them. He was not moved by the expectations of people, He did not feel obligated to do things simply because of natural, human affections for people. He was

moved instead by the Spirit of God. He saw the purpose of God Almighty in that situation. He knew that God was going to be glorified. Through the raising of Lazarus from the dead many would come to believe in Him. Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. If we are to move in faith, we are to be moved by the Holy Spirit, and not because we feel obliged to do something.

I am not saying that we are to be without compassion for people. Jesus also wept at the tomb. I remember receiving a phone call late at night. One of the young men of our church had a terrible accident at work. Lime dust had blown into his eyes while he was mixing cement. The lime had eaten into his cornea and left him blind. A friend called us asking for prayer.

I wanted to get up and drive to the hospital and pray for him. But the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart to simply believe and go back to bed. I went back to bed and slept well, not at all worried about the situation. I had a wonderful peace that comes when we trust the Lord. Incredibly the Lord completely healed the man's eyesight, after not being able to see anything.

Jesus looked past the situation of Lazarus' critical illness. He looked far beyond it into the heavenly places. And He said *But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it."*

John 11:4

Jesus looked past the sickness and with the eyes of faith saw the Glory that was about to be released. Jesus is our great example.

May you look beyond your natural circumstances. By faith, rejoice, in the victory that is about to be released. By faith look beyond the natural to see the Glory. When you walk by faith you will enter into another dimension of kingdom time. The things that God is about to do will become a present joy, a present experience.

When Jesus told his disciples that He was going to Lazarus, they became afraid. They thought that the Jews would stone

Him. Jesus with the eyes of faith was seeing the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. He was looking at the Glory of God soon to be released. But the disciples were full of fear. They were focused not on the kingdom, but on the natural realm. Jesus said to them:

“Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

John 11:9-10

If we walk with our eyes on the circumstance we are going to start stumbling around in the dark. The Light for our path does not come from worrying about our circumstances. It does not come from looking at the problem. Look up and believe. Look up and see the Light of Christ, and you will not stumble.

Jesus arrives at the tomb of Lazarus. Lazarus has now been dead for four days. Jesus commands: “Take away the stone”. But Martha is overcome by doubt. She thinks of the stench of a dead body. What a contrast between Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, and Martha, overcome by worry and doubt. Now listen to the wonderful words of Jesus:

“Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

John 11:40

Here Jesus gives us one of the great keys to seeing the Glory of God: faith precedes the Glory. The glory of God is released by believing in Jesus. That means being willing to get it wrong, maybe making mistakes, being willing to take risks for God, not worrying about what other people think of us, choosing to be a God-pleaser and not a man-pleaser, stepping out of our comfort zone for God. How much do we want to see his Glory? Enough to humble ourselves?

Jesus stood before the tomb of Lazarus. His eyes were not on that stench filled tomb. His eyes were lifted to heaven. He began to audibly thank God. Faith will always lead us into praise and thanksgiving. Faith is thanking God for what will happen.

Think of the situation around the tomb of Lazarus. People are mourning, filled with grief and doubt. But then we see Jesus standing before them. His eyes are lifted to heaven, and He is giving thanks to God. Faith will lead you to praise.

We will never get faith from our natural situation. Faith comes when you lift your eyes to heaven. Alleluia!

So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

John 11:41-44

Recently I went to Vanuatu on a mission trip. On the Sunday morning I attended a small church service. I felt the Lord say to me that there was a woman deaf in her left ear, and He was going to heal her. Right then I knew I had a choice to make. I could believe, or I could doubt. I could focus on thoughts like: "How can a deaf person receive their hearing?"

I spoke out the word of knowledge and the Lord did the rest. He opened the woman's deaf ear. Faith in Jesus Christ always releases the Glory of God.

"And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Mark 16:17-18

Prevailing faith

I have one thing I want to say, faith releases the glory of God. Do you want to see the glory of God? Then set your heart to believe the promises of God until you receive it. Take hold of God in faith and do not let go.

Look at Jacob. He wrestled with the angel of God all night. When Jacob would not let the angel go, the angel touched Jacob's thigh, causing him to limp. But he still would not let him go. Then the angel pleaded with Jacob to release him, saying: *"Let me go, for the day is breaking."* But Jacob refused. He hung on in faith.

Jacob had wrestled all night. He was limping on one leg. The angel pleaded with Jacob to let him go. But Jacob said to the angel: *"I will not let you go, unless you bless me."* This is the type of faith that releases the glory of God.

Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

Genesis 32:26

When you set yourself to believe there will be times where you feel that you are wrestling with God. Times where you may feel that God is pulling away. You may have been praying for a long time. You may feel tired. The physical situation may not look good. You may not feel the Presence of God. Despite all this you will not let go of the Lord. You persevere in faith, calling out to God saying: "I will not let you go unless you bless me." God is looking for that type of persevering faith.

When the angel of the Lord saw that Jacob would not let him go, he said to him:

"What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Genesis 32:27-28

Problems with people can disillusion you, and discourage your faith. People can say and do things that hurt. Jacob was the inheritor of the Abrahamic blessing, but look at the family problems he had. He fled from his brother, Esau, who wanted to kill him. He escaped to a foreign land where he fell in love with a girl named Rachel.

In order to marry her he had to pay the bridal price of seven years hard work, caring night and day for the flocks. At the end of seven years he was cheated by his father-in-law, Laban, and

given Rachel's sister, Leah instead. Then he had to work another seven years to marry Rachel. All up he waited 14 years for his bride to be.

After this Laban cheated Jacob again robbing him of his wages. Jacob flees from Laban, only to be confronted by his brother Esau and 400 armed men. Esau had his opportunity for revenge. Satan was out to destroy Jacob. So many things had gone wrong in Jacob's life, but Jacob did not give up. By faith he prevailed both with God and with man. His prevailing faith released the victory and the blessing.

Esau forgave Jacob and they were wonderfully reconciled. By faith Jacob overcame his problems, became a very wealthy man, and lived to see his grandchildren. Do we want to see the glory of God? Jesus gave us the key. Simply believe in Him. Faith will release the Glory.

The Coming Kingdom

The kingdom of heaven is a much greater reality than the physical. When the kingdom of God comes down upon us, the physical realm must yield to its authority. The coming of King Jesus brought the manifestation of His kingdom on earth. The kingdom of heaven is always advanced through the revealing of Jesus.

John the Baptist preached:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." **Matthew 3:2**

John was the last of the Old Covenant prophets. He came with a prophecy that the kingdom was about to come with Jesus. John knew that heaven was about to descend upon earth with the appearing of its King. The kingdom of heaven was not manifest in John's ministry. The kingdom could not arrive until Jesus had come. Jesus said:

"Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." **Matthew 11:11**

Then Jesus came on the scene, preaching:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." **Matthew 4:17**

He was speaking the word of faith. He was declaring that heaven was about to be manifest among them.

There is an order in heaven. In heaven there is no sickness, no pain, no tears, no sin, or any type of disorder. So when the kingdom of heaven comes among us we can expect a manifestation of that same heavenly order.

And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. **Matthew 4:23-24**

Jesus sent out His 12 disciples commanding them:
"Preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."

Matthew 10:7-8

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles continued to preach the kingdom of God. In Acts 19 we read of how Paul stayed for two years in Ephesus. While there he continually preached about the kingdom of God. His message was confirmed by a manifestation of the kingdom with extraordinary miracles.

And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God; but when some were stubborn and disbelieved, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. And God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Acts 19:8-12

We can see the effect of the kingdom of God upon people: the blind see, the lame walk, tumours disappear, hardened hearts are broken in repentance, people shout with praise, they laugh with heavenly joy, they fall under His power, and weep with the Glory.

When the King comes things suddenly change. Our circumstances are like the trees of the forest that bow low to honour the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Things that we so desired and prayed for suddenly bend before the Lord. Loved ones are saved, finances are released, closed doors are opened in the mighty Name of Jesus.

The voice of the LORD makes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forests bare; and in his temple all cry, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever."

Psalms 29:9-10

The treasures of heaven

In this world there are rich kingdoms and poor kingdoms. Poor kingdoms fail to adequately provide for their citizens. The greatest kingdom of all is the kingdom of heaven. Nothing compares to its wealth, glory and power. All the beauty and treasures of this physical universe were originally a manifestation of heaven. The beautiful stars and planets declare the glory of God.

Ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. **Romans 1:20**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. **Psalms 19:1**

The greatest wealth is not what is seen, but what is unseen. The physical is but a shadow of the glory of heaven. They speak of a greater glory. All the riches and glory of the kingdom of heaven belong to Jesus Christ who sits upon the kingdom throne:

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, "To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. **Revelations 5:11-14**

When you receive Jesus into your heart, you enter into this glorious heavenly kingdom. As a citizen of heaven all its riches are yours to be enjoyed. The true riches of heaven are our inheritance. They are ours by faith in the mighty Name of Jesus. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an*

inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...

1 Peter 1:3-4

...Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelations 1:5-6

The priority of heaven

When you have the kingdom you have everything you need. When you realize this you will give up everything for the kingdom .

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

Life is not about what we own: house, car, or money in the bank. Life is much more than that. The Lord can provide house and car, but it is the priorities of heaven that need to become our priorities. What is truly important is the condition of your soul before God. There is nothing more important than loving Jesus and obeying Him. Jesus said:

"Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Luke 12:15

Jesus told a parable of a rich man who built larger barns and occupied himself in being rich. But one night God came to him and said:

"Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:20-21

Because we are citizens of the kingdom of heaven, we are not to worry about anything here on earth. All those who belong to the kingdom of heaven by faith enjoy its provision. King Jesus asks you to seek first His kingdom and He will look after your needs.

And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, nor about your body, what you shall put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass which is alive in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O men of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be of anxious mind. For all the nations of the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Luke 12:22-32

All things shall be subject to Him

One day the kingdom of heaven will rule over all. All kingdoms and authorities of this earth shall pass away. In that day God shall become everything to everyone. He will be our first love, and we shall be totally yielded to Christ. His kingdom and righteousness will be first in our lives.

Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. "For God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection under him," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him. When all things are

subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

This is also God's purpose for us right now. That God would be everything to us. That we would seek first His kingdom and His righteousness in our lives. God's will for us is that His glorious kingdom come in our lives every day.

Kingdom Values

True value

Our sense of worth, of value, comes from the knowledge that we are loved by our Father in heaven, and called by Him for divine purpose. True esteem, confidence and a sense of value does not come from our accomplishments, or what we possess. True confidence comes from the knowledge that we are forgiven, loved and accepted, precious to God, and that He has called us to serve Him.

When I was about 19, I went into an exam and got a B+ result. I was so discouraged, I felt miserable. I wanted an A. The way I felt was determined by my academic grade. Many people do this. They judge themselves by how their kids behave, what type of car they drive, their salary level, how big their house is, if they have the latest mobile phone, and by whether they are socially accepted. Doubtless this is one of the main causes of people getting into debt over their heads.

True beauty

True beauty and value comes from within. From our abiding in Christ. It is the beauty of Christ revealed through these earthen vessels.

Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of fine clothing, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

1 Peter 3:3-4

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

True value comes from the knowledge that God loves us. We are precious to Him. We are complete in Him. We don't have to prove ourselves to God. He accepts us just the way we are. We

come to Him as sinners and in His mercy He forgives us. By His grace He raises us out of our sin and justifies us. He clothes us with white robes. Now we live not in our own strength, but by His wonderful grace.

How wonderful it is to look to our loving heavenly Father, and know that we are His beloved children. We experience the wonderful joy of being accepted and loved by God Almighty. Our hearts cry out: "Abba Father." We don't have to strive to receive His approval and love. This is possible when we accept that Christ is our righteousness. We are confident to come before the Father not because of our own good works, but because the Blood of Jesus cleanses us. When the Father looks upon us He sees the righteousness of His Son.

When I received Christ into my heart I was only ten years old. The next morning I looked out the window to see the sun rising. At that moment God the Father revealed Himself to me. In that moment I knew that He is the great Creator God who fills the universe and beyond. But He also showed me that He loved me, that He is my Father and I am His son.

Ever since that day I have been aware that I have a loving heavenly Father who cares for me. He has given me the support, love and guidance needed throughout my life. He lovingly sustained me when my father died. Not long after my dad's death I travelled to the States to study. I had left behind family and friends. But in my grief and loneliness the heavenly Father was there to comfort me.

What is important to us?

If you were to make a list of the most important things in your life, I wonder what it would look like. If God were to make a list of the things that He thought were the most important for you, would the list be radically different?

For God the most precious thing is the condition of our soul. Many people put a lot of emphasis on what they own. Yet possessions are temporal. It is our soul that it is eternal. This life

will pass quickly. All our money and possessions will be left behind. Only our eternal soul will continue. Why are Christians so obsessed with their money, possessions and achievements, and yet put so little emphasis on the condition of their soul. The soul is so important to God that He sent His Son Jesus to die for its redemption.

By his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities. **Isaiah 53:11**

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12

There is nothing that we can give God in exchange for our soul, which is why Jesus paid the price for us.

For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life?

Mark 8:36-37

God does not place a value on us according to what we possess, or how we dress. He loves us for who we are. We are of more value than our bank account balance, our academic grades, or the type of car we drive.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **Matthew 6:25-26**

And he said to them, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." **Luke 12:15**

Jesus told a parable of a rich man who was only concerned in the amassing of wealth.

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, nor about your body, what you shall put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Luke 12:16-23

This is the story of many today. So many are just concerned about entertainment, working, shopping and eating. Life is more than money, possessions, or shopping. Our identity is not to be found in what we have, but in an eternal relationship with our heavenly Father. If we want to amass treasures may they be eternal ones.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-20

The importance of our soul to God

One night I had a vision. Suddenly an angel appeared to me while I was sleeping. I saw an open window. Bright light was shining through the window. A very large angel filled the window. He shouted in a loud voice: "Souls, souls, souls." The vision really frightened me. It was so real. The angel was enormous and his voice powerful. In the morning I woke up and asked the Lord for the meaning of the dream.

In my heart the Lord said to me that the "answer is in the envelope". On the dining table was an envelope from Benny Hinn ministries. Inside the envelope were the words:

"Remember, He died for souls, SOULS, SOULS."

The heart cry of heaven is souls. The passion of God is souls. Many of the things that we are so preoccupied about are inconsequential compared to the eternal destiny of our soul. The car we drive, the clothes we buy will probably not exist in twenty or thirty years. But our soul continues on forever. It is the condition and destiny of our soul that is the focus of God's love.

Our true needs

So what are our true needs? Let's look at the question from God's perspective. Jesus said that the Father knows what we need before we even ask Him.

And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **Matthew 6:7-8**

Jesus taught the disciples a simple prayer. We call it the Lord's prayer. In this simple prayer Jesus shows us what our true needs are. It is these needs that should be our focus. It is this type of prayer that God wants to answer. If we will make these things our priority, we will truly see amazing things happen in our lives. So this is God's priority list for us, that:

- ❖ we personally know God as our heavenly Father,
- ❖ our lives would honour His Name,
- ❖ His kingdom would be manifest in our lives,
- ❖ His heavenly will be done on earth (not just what we want),
- ❖ His daily provision in our life,
- ❖ The forgiveness of our sins,
- ❖ that we forgive those who sin against us,
- ❖ that we not be tempted to sin,
- ❖ and that God delivers us from evil.

Pray then like this:

"Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

*Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts,
As we also have forgiven our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. ’’*

Matthew 6:9-13

Kingdom Purpose

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:32

Knowing God's will for our lives

"How can I know God's will for my life?" is an often asked question. First we need to understand that Jesus Christ is our Lord and King. He rules the kingdom of heaven by His will. We are citizens of heaven's kingdom, and are expected to obey our King. Jesus said:

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Luke 6:46

Any King would expect his servants to obey him. Yet Jesus says that we acknowledge Him as Lord with our lips, but still do not do the things that He says. To know God's will you must approach the Lord with the right heart attitude. God is looking for an attitude of humble submission to Him.

Our heart attitude

The right heart attitude is a must to know God's will for your life. We must come to God with an attitude of surrender to Him. We can pray like this:

"Lord I humbly come to you as Your servant. I surrender myself absolutely and completely to you. I ask that you would clearly reveal your will to me and give me the grace to obey. In Jesus Name I thank you. Amen"

Developing a right heart attitude, is pleasing to the Lord. I believe that such an attitude makes us more receptive to hearing God's will for us. It also moves God to share in a greater way with us.

Seek to be obedient to what He tells you, even if it seems small and trivial. If you are faithful in the little He will give you more. If you ignore Him in the little things then He is not going to entrust you with more important things.

Then came the first, saying, "Master, your mina has earned ten minas." And he said to him, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities."

Luke 19:16-17

On one of my preaching trips I had preached all week. I had not received an offering from any of the meetings. Towards the end of the week I received our first offering. The pastor put the envelope in my hand. I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to pass it on to help with the needs of a small mission college. I didn't feel enthusiastic about it. It was the only offering that we had received all week. But I also know that the Lord requires absolute obedience. He is the King, and we are His servants. As we obey His leadings I know that He will bless us. I passed on the offering envelope to the mission college. Needless to say the Lord greatly blessed the rest of the mission and all our financial needs were met.

If we have already made up our mind on what we are going to do, the truth is that we will probably ignore the Lord when He speaks to us. Lets say the Lord wants us to go on a mission trip. But we have already decided that there is no way that we are going to go. We have a hundred and one reasons we aren't going. Then the Holy Spirit speaks to us to go. But we immediately put the thought out of our mind, with our excuses. When we do this not only do we rob others of being blessed, but we rob ourselves of the treasures of following Jesus.

Months later we find ourselves asking God why He never speaks to us. The problem is that we want Him to tell us the things we want to hear. We don't want to hear about going on a mission trip. A great key in receiving God's will is a humble attitude. An attitude which simply surrenders to Him as Lord. *Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the*

stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great. **Luke 6:47-49**

Come to Jesus

The first principle to knowing God's plan for us is to have the right attitude. The second is simply to come to Jesus and listen to Him. Jesus said :

"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings..." **Luke 6:47**

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." **John 10:27**

To come to Jesus involves seeking Him, spending time with Him. We all need to have a quiet place where we can go and be alone with the Lord every day.

To hear God speak to us we need to learn how to listen.

Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favour from the LORD. **Proverbs 8:32-35**

God is near to those who draw near to Him. If we seek Him He will come and speak to us.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **James 4:8**

The Word of God

God has revealed His will to all of us through His Word. The Spirit of God speaks to reveal the Word of God. We need both the prophetic word and the Scriptures. How many times will the Holy Spirit specifically speak to us about our lives through the written Word? Everyone who wants to know the will of God, should seek to have a solid grounding in the Word of God. God's Word expresses His will.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit reveals to us the kingdom of God. It gives God pleasure to give us His kingdom . Every day God wants to give us an awareness of His glorious kingdom . It is in His kingdom that we discover His will.

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:32

The Father has given us the gift of His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is like reading glasses through which we see into His glorious kingdom .

By the Holy Spirit we understand the Lord's plan and purpose for our lives.

"Eye has not seen, nor ear hear", nor have entered into the heart of man the "things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

1 Corinthians 2:9-15

Therefore we are to seek to be daily filled with the Holy Spirit, in order to understand the kingdom in our lives.

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit. **Luke 4:1**

Jesus was led by the Spirit of God into the will and purpose of God. When the disciples tried to get Jesus do what seemed good to them, Jesus immediately discerned that they were not being led by the Spirit. He knew that their plans were not God's plans.

And when it was day he departed and went into a lonely place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them; but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea. **Luke 4:42-44**

Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. **John 12:27**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:5-6

It is the Holy Spirit who shines the Light of Christ upon our path. He will direct and guides us. But this wisdom is not discerned by our soul, through our own thoughts and ideas. It is discerned in the Holy Spirit, by our spiritual man. God speaks to us through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through the gifts of the Spirit we discern the will of God.

God's purpose for your life will prevail

The kingdom of God is greater and more powerful than any other kingdom. No power on earth or in the heavens can stop the purpose of God in our lives. The decisions of the King of Heaven shall prevail. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in which he saw a statute whose different parts were made of gold, bronze, iron, and clay. In the dream he saw a stone cut from a

mountain. This stone was thrown against the statue completely destroying it. Daniel interpreted the dream saying that the statue represented those human kingdoms which would appear. The stone is the eternal kingdom of God which will destroy the kingdoms of this world.

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. **Daniel 2:44**

God's purposes prevail in our lives as we walk by faith. It is God's will to heal us, but we must believe the promise of healing. It is God's will to provide for us, but again we must walk by faith, believing He is providing. We see this in the life of Daniel. Satan purposed to destroy Daniel by having him fed to the lions. The entrance of the lion's den was sealed so that *"the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed."*

Yet Satan's purpose was changed. The king confessed his faith that God would deliver Daniel, and this is exactly what happened. In the natural it may seem like our fate is sealed, that there is nothing we can do to change things. But with God all things are possible. Our part is to believe the promises of God's Word. As we believe His promises, God's kingdom purpose in our lives will not be thwarted.

So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. **Daniel 6:16-17**

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." **John 6:29**

Kingdom Connections

God connects people

A kingdom connection is when God connects people to advance His heavenly kingdom. God almost always uses people to fulfill His purpose in our lives. God's people are vessels of divine blessing. When I got saved it was because my mother led me to the Lord. When I was baptised in the Spirit, it was because a preacher prayed for me.

When I decided to go into the ministry it was because my pastor prophesied over me. God brings together people who have different giftings and resources in order to accomplish His divine purpose.

Two spies are sent by Joshua to spy out the land of Canaan. They come to the city of Jericho where they meet a prostitute by the name of Rahab. Rahab hides them from danger and helps them to escape from the city. In return the spies promise to protect her when the Israelites conquer the city. After Jericho is defeated by the Israelites, Rahab marries an Israelite by the name of Salmon. Her son, Boaz, becomes an ancestor of King David. From King David's line came Joseph who married Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, the Messiah. The story of Rahab is a story of a divine connection leading to the coming of the Christ.

At the right time

Kingdom connections coincide with kairos time. Kairos (καιρός) is an ancient Greek word meaning the "right or opportune moment". The ancient Greeks had two words for time: chronos and kairos. In the New Testament kairos means "the appointed time in the purpose of God", the time when God acts. It differs from the more usual word for time which is chronos (kronos).⁵

⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kairos>

In 2004 the Lord spoke to me in a dream to go to Kalimantan, Indonesia. It was a kairos moment in my life. A wind of change was about to blow in my life. The Lord was about to send me to the nations. Revival meetings were about to happen, wonderful miracles released. For many years we had prayed that the Lord would open the door for us to go to the nations. Now the time had arrived.

Prayer is often like an incubation period. After the incubation period a chick will burst out of its shell. After a season of prayer the Lord will do a new thing in the kairos moment.

For this new season of going to the nations, I needed the right connections with people. I had no finances to go. I did not know anyone in Indonesia. I had no translators. To fulfill God's call I needed the right people to help me.

Shortly after the dream I spoke to an Indonesian couple in my church about my desire to go. They had a relative who lived in Kalimantan. She in turn had a pastor who at the time was the president of the Spiritual Warfare Network of Kalimantan. This man is networked with virtually every major town on this vast island. He also has church connections throughout Indonesia. This pastor was a kingdom connection for a kairos season. Through this connection God enabled me to preach the Gospel to thousands of people in Indonesia.

Recently I had another kingdom connection. While in Northern Sulawesi (Indonesia) I was invited to go to Jakarta. This was not part of our plans, but I felt it was of the Lord. During the previous days I felt that I should translate one of my books into Bahasa and have it published. The Lord put faith in my heart that it would take place. When I arrived in Jakarta I had lunch with a friend. I shared with him my desire to publish the book. He immediately said that he knew a Spirit-filled, professional translator. He contacted the translator who agreed to translate the book.

That evening in Jakarta I went to a house meeting, where another kingdom connection happened. I met a lady whose brother lives in Denpasar, Bali. I was leaving for Denpasar in the morning to catch my international flight. The brother and his wife met me the next day at the airport. His wife owns a Christian bookshop, and personally knows the largest Christian publishing house in Indonesia. The publishing company called me and asked me for my manuscript. They said that if they liked it they would finance the publishing and distribution of the book. This kingdom connection I believe is to fulfill God's plan that many Indonesians be blessed by this book. It is a kairos opportunity requiring divine connections to be fulfilled.

Divine vision need divine connections

We must realize that when God gives us a vision, He will also give us people connections. God will give us the right people in order to fulfill His call upon our lives. A true kingdom connection is a mutual blessing. I am blessed and you are blessed. We are not using people to reach our destiny. We are partnering together as a team to fulfill a heavenly vision. We can all get excited to be a part of something that is birthed in heaven.

A couple in our church have a vision to raise funds to help those in need in Indonesia. Before our last trip they gave us a financial gift which we took to Indonesia. At the same time a small mission training centre was in urgent need of financial assistance. We had no knowledge about this mission centre.

While in Sydney the Lord spoke to me that I was to visit a training college, west of Manado. I have never been to Manado and knew nothing about this college. Upon arrival in Manado, I asked the translator, Silvana, if she knew of a training college west of Manado. Not only did she say yes, but she had been a staff member of the centre for three years. She was an incredible God ordained connection.

We were able to visit the centre where there was a mighty move of the Holy Spirit. One woman had a significant

deliverance from a spirit of bitterness towards her parents. The Lord also led us to donate the money we had received in Sydney, into the training centre. I am so thankful that we could be a kingdom connection, a conduit of blessing from a Sydney couple to a mission centre located in a remote forest near Manado. God has His ways of connecting people who are totally unrelated in order to advance His kingdom .

The Gospel goes to Sudan

Let's have a look at the kingdom connection between the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip. The eunuch came from what we now call the northern part of Sudan. He was on his way to Jerusalem, travelling on a wilderness road between Gaza and Jerusalem. While riding in his chariot he was reading from Isaiah 53. This is a prophecy about the crucifixion of Christ. The Ethiopian did not understand what he read. He needed someone to explain the Gospel to Him. He needed a kingdom connection. The Lord chose Philip to be that connection for the eunuch.

The Lord sent an angel to Philip saying:

Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.

Acts 8:26

The word south could also be translated 'noon time'. God was asking Phillip to travel on a deserted road in the full heat of the day. But Phillip was totally obedient and went. The Lord connected him with the Ethiopian, who received the Gospel, and may well have been the vehicle for the Word of God to go back into Sudan. It all happened because God sovereignly connected two people.

God will guide us by His Holy Spirit and even by angels to connect us with the right people. The key is to walk in the Spirit and not according to the flesh. Trust God to guide you to the right people. Don't force things. God will make a way even where there doesn't seem to be one. Kingdom connections often occur after a season of seeking God, of prayer, of repentance and personal preparation before God.

Peter and Cornelius

An example of this is the connecting of Peter and Cornelius. Now we know that Jesus had commanded His disciples to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. But the Jewish Christians on the whole weren't doing it. They wrongly thought that Gentiles had to practice the Jewish Law and customs in order to be Christians. Some thought that Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to become Christians. They also didn't want to associate with Gentiles whom they regarded as unclean. They wouldn't eat with them. How can you share the Gospel with someone and not be willing to sit at their table and eat their food? The apostle Peter had this wrong mindset.

But God chose to connect Peter with a Gentile, Cornelius, in order to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. The connection was a total God thing. It begins with God sending an angel to Cornelius instructing him to send for Peter in Joppa.

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms liberally to the people, and prayed constantly to God. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." And he stared at him in terror, and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and bring one Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those that waited on him, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10:1-8

While these men were making their way to Joppa, the Lord speaks to Peter in a vision. In the vision God shows Peter that he is not to think of the Gentiles as unclean. God is preparing Peter, putting him in the right attitude for a very special kingdom connection. Without the preparation, Peter would not have been ready to meet with Cornelius, a Gentile. But now he was ready.

He understood that God was going to use him to bring the Gospel to a Gentile.

Some kingdom connections will not happen until we are ready. Connections are related to kairos time. While we are waiting for things to happen, allow God to prepare us. Let's submit to Him.

Like Peter we may have attitudes or character problems that He wants to deal with. Remember kingdom connections happen at the right time. God prepared the hearts of both Cornelius and Peter for a successful kingdom encounter. You may be in a season of waiting and preparation for what God has for you. Be patient and submit to the Lord. In the fullness of time He will bring the right people into your life.

Faith and kingdom connections

Kingdom connections happen where there is an atmosphere of faith. Philip went down to the dessert road because He believed. He expected that God would move on his behalf in the middle of no-where. When we meet people we must believe in the divine purpose of God. We must approach our relationships with faith. Believing that the kingdom will be advanced through the people we meet. Believing that God has a purpose in our relationships.

We see this with Philip and Nathanael. Now Nathanael didn't believe that anything good could come out of Nazareth. He was not interested at all in meeting Jesus. But Philip had a fire of faith in his heart. He knew that He had found the Messiah, and that his friend, Nathanael just had to meet Jesus. Some people we meet are going to be sceptical, like Nathanael.

I have learned that there is one thing greater than doubt, and that is a rock like faith in Jesus Christ. Praise God that Philip did not give up on Nathanael. In faith he persisted. Despite Nathanael's negativity, Philip still says, "Come and see." Nathanael may never have met Jesus Christ, except for the faith

and persistence of Philip. Because of Philip's faith we see that his relationship with Nathanael was used for the kingdom of God.

As a result Jesus prophesied over Nathanael that he would see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon Himself. You see God used Philip's connection to Nathanael to extend the kingdom of heaven in the life of his friend. If we will persist in faith, God will use our relationships to extend His kingdom . If Philip had said, "well what's the use, Nathanael is just a doubting sceptic", his friend would never have had an encounter with Christ.

*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." **John 1:43-51***

God has a heavenly plan for our lives. In order for it to be fulfilled He will connect us with the right people. God will bring these connections about at the kairos, opportune time. He will do this in order to establish His kingdom in the lives of people. It is not about us, it is about the kingdom .

Kingdom Nuggets

Fractured Pelvis healed



While doing a mission trip to Kalimantan, Indonesia, one of our team members, Thomas, had a motorbike accident. He was riding the motorbike with his wife, Yerri, behind him. Their daughter was between them. Suddenly an ambulance hit them side on. Thomas broke his arm, the child escaped without major injury, but the mother was badly hurt. Her pelvis was broken.

We visited Yerri (top photo) while she lay in the hospital bed. She was in a lot of pain. She had not slept for two nights, was unable to have bowel movements, had not eaten, nor was she able to sit up. Such was her painful condition.

The hospital room was crowded with people, some were Muslims. We stood beside the bed worshiping the Lord Jesus. Then suddenly I became aware of Jesus. I knew that He had entered the room. With the “eyes of my heart” I could see Him clothed in a golden Light. Such a love and compassion was released into that room, as I have never experienced before. The love of Jesus just flooded my soul. That love swept over that young mother lying on the hospital bed. I looked at her and noticed that her face was no longer screwed up in pain. Tears filled her eyes as she experienced the healing love of Jesus.

As the team prayed she went to sleep. She slept all night. In the morning she was able to sit up without pain, she could eat, and go to the toilet. One week later she was discharged from the hospital. Today Yerri is completely healed and walks normally. Glory to God.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

Luke 7:13

Below is the Photo after the accident, of Yerri with her husband, Thomas, and their daughter.



The Kingdom of Love

The distressed

Jesus was moved with compassion for the crowds of needy people.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:35-36

Jesus saw that the people were weary, troubled, and distressed. The Greek word for weary is “skullo” which means an animal that has been skinned, whipped, lashed or mangled. Jesus is describing the multitude as being like a flock of sheep savaged and then scattered by wolves. Sheep without the protection and care of their shepherd. He is speaking of people in deep distress. All around us there are people like this, and Jesus has compassion on them.

At the shopping mall I see teenage mums. Kids who fall pregnant because they are looking for love that they didn't receive from their parents. I walk into our town and see those who suffer from mental problems. Many of whom have snapped under the stress of life. I see others trying to escape reality through drugs, alcohol, smoking, over eating, gambling, and sexual addiction.

Jesus doesn't condemn people who are distressed. He loves them. He is calling them to Himself to find peace and rest. He is the Healer and Shepherd of our souls. Jesus is seeking them out. He befriended the rejects of society.

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His

disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." **Mark 2:15-17**

It is the sinner who needs the Great Physician of the soul. Only Jesus can take away a sinner's sin, washing him clean as if he had never sinned. Only Jesus can deliver from spirits of darkness, and heal emotional wounds. It is the Great Physician who comforts the broken hearted, and fills us with faith, hope and love.

A kingdom culture of love

Heaven has an atmosphere or culture of love. When you come into the Presence of Jesus you will experience God's love. When we prayed for that young mother in the hospital room, the atmosphere changed from sickness and pain, to a love that you could feel. One of the team members said that she could taste the Presence of God.

O taste and see that the LORD is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in him! **Psalms 34:8**

Some neighbourhoods have an atmosphere of fear and hate. I can remember driving through a part of Chicago, and even in the car feeling the fear and danger. It is the opposite to heaven.

Every kingdom has its distinct culture. When I visit Indonesia I observe the culture. I drink coffee with condensed milk, at home I drink it with skim milk. In Singapore I take off my shoes when I enter a house, at home I leave them on.

The kingdom of heaven, has a distinct culture of love and righteousness. When you become a citizen of heaven, you take on that heavenly culture of love.

When I was preparing to be a missionary I went to a mission college in Melbourne. There we lived in community with other Christians. We learned things about ourselves by living with others. There is nothing like rubbing shoulders with other people to discover the good and bad about ourselves. We were taught how not to offend people of other cultures where we were going.

One of the things that I learned about myself was that I had a bad habit of making silly jokes at the cost of other people. It was a habit that did not measure up to the heavenly culture of love. At the end of my course my supervisors confronted me about this. I had to repent not just once but many times of this bad habit. Over the years the Lord has been helping me to say things that don't put others down. I still fail, but I am learning a new heavenly culture of love. I am learning to say things that lovingly build up others. The Bible says:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Kingdom acts of love

Love is only love if you show it. That's why we greet one another with a loving hug or a kiss in our church. We want to show our love to one another. To say that we love people, without showing it is not love. Love is the culture of heaven. God wants to manifest His heavenly kingdom culture on earth and through us.

Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Proverbs 27:5

If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

James 2:15-16

The Bible says that we are to love the stranger among us by offering them our hospitality.

Then the King will say to those at his right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:34-40

Have you ever gone to a church where no one talked to you? That is not heaven's culture. Love is not rude. How are we going to show God's love to an unchurched person, if we aren't practising it in the church?

Kingdom opportunities

Even before we were born God had prepared good works for us to do. Every day is an opportunity to show someone love in a practical way. Each morning when I get out of bed I thank God for the good things that He is going to do. I begin my day expecting God events. Expecting that the kingdom of heaven is going to be manifested. Expecting opportunities to show God's love through good works.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

Let's not pass over the opportunities that God gives us to bless people. The Bible says:

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

James 4:17

Jesus told a story of a man who received one talent. In those days a talent was a valuable piece of silver. With a talent you

could buy an ox. This man could have taken the silver, bought an ox, ploughed a field, reaped a harvest, sold that harvest and made some money. Instead he did nothing with his opportunity. He took his silver and buried it in the ground. When his master came, he rebuked that servant, calling him wicked and lazy.

Every day God gives us opportunity to show His love to someone. It may be to visit a sick person in hospital, to be a friend to someone who is lonely, to mow someone's lawn, or to just take a moment to talk to someone. There are so many opportunities that come our way to be a blessing to people. Every opportunity is like that talent given by the master. We can't do everything. But God does expect us to use our opportunities and do something.

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, "Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours." But his lord answered and said to him, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:24-29

The other day I was at a denominational business meeting. The agenda of the meeting was to vote people into office and to discuss finance. After the meeting I was saying goodbye to people. Almost everyone had gone home. It was getting late and I wanted to go. I was saying something to a lady, but she was deaf in one ear and asked me to repeat what I said. I repeated it but she still couldn't hear me.

I didn't realize it but this was a God given opportunity to pray for her. It was a kairos moment to show God's love. How

often do we pass over these opportunities. We just don't see them.

The lady explained that she was deaf and asked me to pray for her. We prayed and then she turned off her hearing aid, and said that now she could hear me distinctly. It was a kingdom opportunity that only took five minutes. Praise God.

Six years ago I went to Fiji. I had given a pastor a copy of one of my books called, *Getting Started*. Recently he was visiting us and said how he was using this book to disciple people. I had completely forgotten that I had given him the book. I had planted a seed, taking advantage of a small opportunity. Now years later the harvest is coming in. Every seed that we sow is a seed of love.

God has great things for you to do. Just thank Him by faith for the opportunities that He is giving you every day. Look for a need and seek to fill it. If you take the time to sow your seed into people's lives, you will see a harvest. Just persist and be determined. Don't give up. The harvest will come.

And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10

The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

Daniel 11:32

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works...

Hebrews 10:24

Love is the atmosphere and culture of heaven. Any one who is a citizen of heaven must yield their old culture for the new one. Put off the old culture and put on the new.

When you received Jesus you receive His kingdom within you. That means that this atmosphere of love is within us. All you have to do now is to let it flow out to others by the Holy

Spirit. God has chosen you to reveal His love to others through your good works.

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

The Glory of the Kingdom

On the Cross Jesus took our shame in order to give us the glory of His kingdom. The Bible portrays being naked in public as shame. Jesus died naked on the Cross taking our shame. He despised the shame of the Cross, and is now seated in glory at the right hand of the Father. When the kingdom comes people experience the Glory of Jesus and His kingdom .

...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Jesus takes our shame and clothes us with His righteousness. We now glory in Him. He has made us a people of praise.

I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

Zephaniah 3:19

And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:30

Many people live with a sense of shame over their past lives. They have skeletons in their closet of things that they have done and are ashamed of. They often try to cover it up. They try to make a good impression on others. They may get very angry if mention is made of their past life in front of others. Shame is so often a sign of pride. Jesus came to clothe us with white garments, and gives us His true riches.

Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may be rich, and white garments to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

Revelations 3:18

The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who

call upon him.

Romans 10:11-12

As Christians we acknowledge that we were sinners, and by God's grace have been forgiven. Our past sins become part of our testimony. Our sins instead of being a motive for shame, become an opportunity to glorify God who is merciful and forgiving to those who repent. Sharing our story of a transformed life is a sign of humility.

Shame is removed when we realize that we are all equally sinners before God. But now through faith in Jesus Christ our sins have been atoned for, we are washed clean, and forgiven. People who carry shame have not fully accepted that God has forgiven them.

Kingdom Priorities

The rich ruler

There is a story of a rich ruler who comes to Jesus with a question. He asks Jesus, "Good teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v.18). Jesus reminds him of the Ten Commandments:

You know the commandments: "Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother."
Luke 18:20

The man replies, "All these I have observed from my youth." Instead of commending the man for obeying the commandments, Jesus says to him, "One thing you still lack."

This man doubtless attended his synagogue regularly, observed the Law and rituals. By the standard of most people, he was a good man. He was committed to doing the right thing, to being a good person, but Jesus found his spiritual and moral life lacking. He lacked a personal and total commitment to Jesus Christ. He was a good person, but he was not a kingdom citizen who lived in obedience to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let's be honest with ourselves, how many of us are like this man? We seek to be responsible members of our church, and live a personal life of integrity. If we were to run through the sin and occult list we probably wouldn't tick off any so called major sins, such as witchcraft and adultery. But Jesus is looking for far more than the minimum. He is seeking from us more than just an upright, moral lifestyle. The Lord wants a radical commitment to Himself and to His kingdom that takes precedence over all else.

He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:37-39

Jesus is looking for us to go beyond just doing the right thing. He wants us to make the kingdom of heaven our first priority. Jesus wants us to have a deep love for Him, be eager to follow Him, and earnestly desire to see His kingdom reign in our lives.

The rich ruler had not come to that place. He was seeking to be good. He wanted eternal life. But he had yet to surrender himself to Jesus. He wanted the benefits of the Cross, without dying to himself. He wanted eternal life. He wanted God's blessing. But he was not prepared to take up his cross and follow Jesus.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Matthew 16:24

Jesus' words to the ruler leap out of the page at me: "One thing you lack." On the outside this ruler looked good. But Jesus looks past the exterior to the heart. He looked at this man's heart and saw a terrible sin that affected his whole life. He saw an evil bondage to his possessions. He was so bound to his riches that he turned his back on Christ, and forfeited his salvation. He lacked a radical commitment to the kingdom .

And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Luke 18:22

When the man heard these words, "*he became sad, for he was very rich.*" His was an ungodly sadness. It is the sadness of a person who chooses the world rather than Christ. Compare this to the joy of following Jesus, and experiencing the riches of His kingdom .

Just doing the right thing in life does not bring this joy. This divine joy can only be found by following Jesus. Jesus promises us that that we will receive abundantly more than whatever we have sacrificed in following Him.

Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be

saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." And Peter said, "Lo, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no man who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive manifold more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

Luke 18:24-30

Breaking bondages of the heart

The story of the rich ruler reminds me of when we decided as a family to go to Paraguay, as missionaries. I thought that I was willing to do anything for the Lord. However, unknown to me. I had an evil bondage in my heart. I was bound by my possessions. When it came time to sell or give away virtually everything that we owned, it was a real struggle. I didn't want to let go of the nice lounge suite we had bought, or my business tools. I didn't have any so called major sins in my life, but my heart was in bondage. I had to repent and confess my sin. The Lord cleansed my heart. He released me and set me free to serve Him.

Is our heart purely devoted to Him? What is holding us back from doing God's will, and His kingdom work? The heart is so deceptive. I thought I would be willing to part with my earthly possessions, but when it came time to do so, it was such a struggle.

How many times do we deceive ourselves? We may say that we are willing to do anything for the Lord, but the time will come when God will challenge us and reveal our hearts. He is a God who stretches His people. He will stretch your faith, and take you beyond your comfort zone. He will reveal the sins of the heart, your doubts and fears and challenge you to let them go and follow Him in a life of faith.

The challenges of being a disciple

The disciples of Jesus went through a lot of stretching. First they left their homes and possessions to follow Jesus. They had

no source of income and lived by faith. They were asked to do things that are humanly impossible. Jesus told them to go to heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead. At that time it was only those who were in the prophetic office who did such things. The last such prophet lived over 400 years ago. It was unheard of for normal people to raise the dead. Jesus wants us to be more than just morally, good people. He challenges us to rise to believe in Him for the impossible.

Jesus regularly challenged his disciples to step out beyond their comfort zone. There was the time when Jesus asked the disciples to feed some 15,000 people. There they were in the wilderness with no money, and no shops! Jesus was certainly stretching their faith. Or another time when the disciples were in a boat which was in grave danger of sinking in a major storm on lake Galilee. Jesus rebuked them for being afraid. He expected them to deal with the stormy waves and the wind. Likewise, God is calling us to step out with authority and boldness, and be a follower of Jesus Christ.

The kingdom of heaven is ruled in heaven by King Jesus. Jesus is not with us physically, but He has sent us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is like a Divine Governor here on earth. Christ is King, and He governs by His Holy Spirit. God commands and leads us by His Holy Spirit and with His Word. God not only wants us to do the right thing, He wants us to yield to the authority of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Personal holiness is not just avoiding evil, but obedience to God. Holiness is putting first the kingdom of heaven, and following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Matthew 6:33

The Holy Spirit will lead us into all sorts of wonderful kingdom works. Whether it be mission trips to the nations, giving away food, praying for the sick, wild generosity, sharing the Gospel with people, or opening up our homes in hospitality. There are so many positive things that God has prepared for us

to walk in. These good works under the unction of the Holy Spirit cause the kingdom of heaven to be extended. What a joy it is to be led by the Holy Spirit, and to do the works of the kingdom .

Jesus made it clear that sin is not just doing the wrong thing, sin is disobedience to the positive will and plan of the Father God for our lives.

So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits. "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 7:17-21

Zacchaeus

God wants a joy-filled obedience to Jesus. Take for example, Zacchaeus. He was known to be a corrupt tax collector (Luke 19:7). But his life was radically changed when he began to seek Jesus. He didn't care what others thought of him. He didn't care about his reputation. He wanted to see Jesus. When he heard that Jesus was passing by he climbed a tree so that he could see over the crowd.

And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way.

Luke 19:2-4

Let me tell you one of the great keys to the kingdom of heaven: SEEK JESUS. As soon as Zacchaeus began to seek Jesus, he began to change. Your life will begin to change as soon as you begin to seek Jesus with all your heart.

That is what God wants in each of us. That we really desire Jesus. God isn't looking for morally good, religious people. He

didn't come to save the self-righteous. He came looking for the lost, for sinners. Jesus said:

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:12-13

God is looking for those who will love and follow Jesus Christ. We don't come to church just have a nice time, we come because we thirst for the Presence of Jesus. We want a living encounter with Jesus Christ. We want Him to set our hearts on fire, so that we will live to His Glory. It is that passion for Jesus that God will reward.

When Jesus saw Zacchaeus up in the tree, it says that:
He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully.

Luke 19:5-6

When people get happy about being with Jesus, you know that they are on the right path. It is that divine joy that will lead you to do radical things for Jesus. The religious people murmured against Jesus when they saw Him enter this sinner's house. But Zacchaeus couldn't care less. He was so happy to have Jesus with him.

Some might say that Zacchaeus should have just returned what he had wrongfully taken from people. But in his joy at finding Jesus, Zacchaeus stands up and declares to Jesus that he is going to give away half of his goods, and restore anything he robbed fourfold over. Some might say that's not necessary, that's over the top.

See the difference between religion and kingdom righteousness. The religious were concerned about ceremonial washing of hands before eating. Zacchaeus on the other hand experienced true repentance, and true righteousness in Jesus. As a result he entered into a wonderful, radical generosity.

And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and

said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." **Luke 19:7-10**

I want to encourage you to go far beyond just being morally good. Be a kingdom person, be a radical follower of Jesus Christ. Make the kingdom of heaven your first priority and God will do mighty things in your life.

Kingdom Nuggets

Healed of abdominal tumour



This woman (centre of the photo) lay in much pain, on the sofa at a house meeting. It looked to me that she was dying, she was so sick. She had a lower abdomen tumor that was bleeding. The people helped her drink a little water, and to eat a little food.

As I shared the Word she sat up on the sofa. You could see the fire of faith in her eyes. Then after prayer she stood up and walked. Each step she thanked Jesus for her healing.

I took her hand and pushed it hard where the tumor had been. She began to laugh and said that it tickled. All the pain was gone and she was all smiles. The old chorus says: "He touched me, oh He touched me and oh the joy that floods my soul. Something happened and now I know He touched me, and He made me whole." Praise God.

Kingdom happenings

Things just seemed to happen all around Jesus. In the West we live in such a planned and organized environment. When we look at the ministry of Jesus we see incredible things happen while He is having a meal, or taking a walk.

Let's take for example the way Jesus chose His disciples. Today we might put an ad in the paper advertising the position. Applicants would make appointments and bring their résumé and character references. But not so with Jesus. He chose His disciples as He was walking along the Sea of Galilee. He happened to see Simon and his brother, Andrew, who were both fishing with a net, and He called them to follow Him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Mark 1:17-18

Then He walked a little further and saw two more men, James and John. Jesus calls them to come while they were mending their nets.

When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

Mark 1:19-20

From the Sea of Galilee, Jesus walked into the town of Capernaum and entered a synagogue. There a man with numerous demons cried out:

"Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Mark 1:24

Jesus immediately cast out the spirits, and the man went into a convulsion, screaming and was set free.

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. **Mark 1:25**

From the synagogue Jesus went to the house of Simon and Andrew. In the house there was a sick woman, Simon's mother-in-law. It would seem that Jesus had come to the house to eat, but ended up healing a sick woman. Then after dinner, instead of sitting around chatting, they had a mighty healing and deliverance meeting.

At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. **Mark 1:32-34**

The most well-known of all of Jesus' deliverances, is that of the man with a legion of demons. Jesus had just gotten out of a boat when this man ran up to Him. Jesus discerned that there were evil spirits and began to cast them out. The demons responded by begging Jesus not to torment them. Jesus allowed the demons to enter a herd of pigs. The pigs charged off and drowned in the sea, and the man was wonderfully set free. It all happens when Jesus simply got out of a boat, and saw an opportunity for the kingdom of God to be released.

We can be so focused on the next thing that we have to do, that we miss out on these kingdom happenings. Jesus didn't just pass by the man because He had a lunch appointment. His priority was not lunch, but this seemingly unplanned kingdom happening. God wants to order our life, not according to our normal schedule of events, but through kingdom happenings.

If we are going to walk in the Spirit, we must allow the Holy Spirit to lead us through unexpected happenings. If we are so focused on our plans we are going to miss out on some wonderful God things. God wants to reveal the Glory of His kingdom in our daily lives.

Break up your fallow ground

Fallow ground is a field that has been left unploughed for a year or more. It is ground that is potentially productive, but not currently being used. We all have fallow ground in our lives. These are wonderful productive opportunities that God gives us that we may not be aware of. Let's break up our fallow ground of overlooked opportunities of the kingdom .

Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain salvation upon you.

Hosea 10:12

Heavenly treasures

The treasures and glory of heaven are often released through kingdom happenings. In the kingdom of God wonderful things occur outside of our normal program. Peter and John were on their way to the temple to pray. As they were about to enter the temple they noticed a lame beggar asking for money. Instead of continuing into the temple to pray, they stopped and in the Name of Jesus healed the man.

Through this kingdom happening God's glory and power were released. They could have missed this awesome miracle if they had been rushing to get to prayer, and not noticed the lame man.

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at that gate of the temple which is called Beautiful to ask alms of those who entered the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, with John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and

recognized him as the one who sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:1-10

This lame man represents the fallow, unploughed ground of the kingdom of heaven. We can either pass by these opportunities or we can plough up the ground to the Glory of God. When you take hold of these kingdom opportunities you will experience the treasures of heaven. When the lame man was healed the riches of heaven were released upon the people. The man began walking and leaping and praising God. Those who looked on were totally amazed at what happened.

Recently I had a vision. I saw a path that was filled with treasures. When we walk along this path we are walking among these beautiful treasures. That's what it's like walking in the Spirit. As we take advantage of kingdom happenings, we experience the treasures of heaven. As we do the work of God we will experience His Glory.

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Romans 14:17-18

Desiring the kingdom

The kingdom will be manifested in our life as we desire and seek it. If the kingdom of heaven is our passion, it will happen to us. If all that we are thinking about is what we wear, or what we eat, it's unlikely that we will have these kingdom happenings.

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Matthew 6:31-33

The kingdom is something that we must take hold of forcefully. It must be something that we are looking for in our daily affairs. The kingdom of heaven is a happening, it is an

unexpected event. Yet it is also an event that we are desiring and seeking for. We have prepared our hearts to receive the kingdom.

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force.

Matthew 11:12

We are like urban soldiers in full battle gear, constantly ready for battle. The soldier doesn't know when the enemy is going to show. It could be around the next street corner. But the soldier is ready for the enemy when he does appear. We often don't know when these kingdom happenings will occur, but we are constantly ready for them. We are walking in the readiness of the Spirit. We are looking for opportunities to share God's love with people.

Walking in the flesh will stop us from taking advantage of these kingdom happenings. Ever tried to share God's Word with someone after losing your temper? Ever noticed how there is no anointing after you have indulged your flesh in some stupid movie.

We are waiting for God to move us, when God is waiting for someone to move Him. We are waiting for the sick to come to us for healing, when God is waiting for us to go and visit them. We are waiting for the unsaved to come and ask us about the Gospel, while God is waiting for us to go and share His Word with them. We are waiting for the nations to call us to come, yet God is waiting for us to obey Him and go.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And he said, "Go..."

Isaiah 6:8-9

As we have a passion to see the kingdom come, then we will look beyond our immediate tasks and see the opportunities that God is giving us. If it is your heart's desire to show God's love to people, then you will see the opportunities in daily life. If you have a passion to share the Gospel with others, it will happen. If

you desire to do good works and to serve others, then you will see the opportunities for service all around you.

An important way to see the kingdom come in your life, is to make it the focus of your daily prayer. Don't just ask God to satisfy your needs. Ask Him to manifest His kingdom in your life! Pray and believe that today you will have divine opportunities to share His love and power with people. As you desire the kingdom, God has promised to take care of your personal needs.

Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10

The greatest kingdom happening

The Second Coming of Christ will be a kingdom happening. You will be going shopping, or at work, and suddenly Jesus will appear in the clouds. This great event will not be advertised in the yearly calendar of churches around the world. It will not be on our monthly church calendar. It will happen when you are least expecting it. But like all kingdom happenings God wants us to be ready and prepared.

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not

know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:1-13

The Riches of the Kingdom

A dream of God's treasury room

One night before I went to sleep I asked the Lord to speak to me in a dream. That night I had a dream of a room. In the room was a huge pile of gold treasure. The gold was several cubic metres large. It was not of gold bars, but of pure gold jewellery, such as gold chains. The colour of the gold was a deep golden yellow. In the dream I immediately knew that what I was looking at were the treasures of heaven. This gold represented valuable things like true joy, peace, and forgiveness.

In our natural world, if several people are inheritors of an estate, it means that the inheritance has to be divided up. There is an executor of the will who ensures that each person gets part of the estate. Sometimes people get upset. They feel that they didn't get their fair portion.

As I was thinking about this, the Holy Spirit said to my heart, "There is plenty for everyone." Then the joy of the Holy Spirit came upon me and I began to laugh and laugh. The treasures of heaven are limitless, because they are found in Jesus.

We have a choice to make in life. Do we want the true treasures of heaven or the things that this world offers? Do we want the beauty of the kingdom of heaven, or will we choose the ashes of satisfying ourselves? We can have the beauty of forgiving others, or the ashes of bitterness and strife. We can have the joy and wonder of walking by faith, or the barren life of being in control of our lives.

And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

Exodus 28:2

To seek first the kingdom of heaven, is to look beyond our ashes and reach out for true beauty. When you put the kingdom first you shall be blessed with all things.

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Matthew 6:31-33

The heavenly treasures are to be desired more than anything this world can offer.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 19:7-11

The realities of the good things to come

The true riches of heaven, are more real than the physical world. They are unseen by the human eye, and yet we see their effect on the physical. For example, love is a tremendous treasure of heaven. It cannot be seen, and yet we see its effects through a smile, or an act of kindness.

The writer to Hebrews says that the law of the Old Covenant was but a shadow of the good things that were coming. The law was a shadow of the realities of the riches of heaven.

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices which are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who draw near.

Hebrews 10:1

Religion is just a shadow of these true heavenly realities. Jesus came preaching that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. The good things of heaven are manifest in the kingdom of God. Jesus told us to ask the Father for these good gifts.

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! **Matthew 7:11**

A poverty mentality

I was speaking to a lady on the phone who was feeling down and was sick with a fever. Rather than tell her to stay at home and get better, I invited her to come to church. I told her that Jesus would lift her up, heal her, and she would go home blessed.

During the service the power of the Holy Spirit came upon her. Her fever was instantly broken in Jesus' Name. She went home healed and smiling from ear to ear. I tell you that in Christ Jesus we have heavenly riches, good things to share with others.

A poverty mentality is when you don't believe you have anything to give to others. A good example of a poverty mentality is the response of the disciples when they had to feed the 5000 (John 6:5-9). The disciples didn't have sufficient food for the crowds of people. Jesus on the one hand saw beyond the hungry crowds, to the all sufficiency of God. The disciples just saw the five loaves and two fish. They said, "What is this among so many?"

The disciples saw their lack in the face of overwhelming need. Jesus took those few fish and bread, lifted His eyes to heaven and blessed God. With that blessing there was such a multiplication of bread and fish that twelve baskets were later taken up, (one for each of the 12 disciples!) Jesus was demonstrating the abundant overflow of the riches of heaven.

A poverty mentality always sees our insufficiency. Ultimately a person who suffers from a poverty mentality does not believe in his heart that Christ is able to meet the need at hand.

A truly rich person will see the all-sufficiency of Christ. They know that Christ is exalted above the problem. A poverty mentality sees the problem as bigger than God.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8**

Faith in Christ releases the supernatural provision of God for every situation. What is our need? Is it for a car, a place to stay, a job, a healing, a restored marriage, the salvation of a loved one, a financial need, or peace of mind? God is more than able! Through Christ we are the inheritors of the kingdom of heaven and its glorious riches. By faith the glorious riches of Christ are manifested in our hearts.

Heaven's riches & God's Word

These heavenly riches are inseparably linked to the Word of God. The more the Word of God becomes a reality in our minds and hearts, so the riches of heaven will be manifested in us. Ignorance of the Word of God leads to poverty thinking.

We are to have the mind of Christ. We are to think on those things which are above. Our thoughts are to be filled with declarations of the Word of God. Our mind is to be alive in Christ. The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and through it breathes hope and life into our thinking.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Romans 12:2**

If we want to walk in the riches of the kingdom of heaven, we must put our thoughts in line with the Word of God.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:14

...let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my

thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says 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. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:7-11

If our thoughts are double-minded and filled with doubt, we will not access the glory of heaven.

I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

Psalms 119:113

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:6-8

A poverty mentality will always put limits on God. A small mind will seek to build a small box, and construct a small god to live in it. Jesus described such people as neither knowing the Word of God, nor the power of God.

But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God." **Matthew 22:29**

Our Needs are God's Opportunities

The needs that we see around us are actually opportunities to release the riches of the kingdom of God. When we see a sick person, let's not think, "oh dear me, I'm so sorry you are sick, I hope you will feel better soon". That's not faith, that's poverty thinking.

Healing of sickness is an opportunity to destroy the work of the devil. When we see a need, let's look up to Christ. Release the riches of heaven in His mighty Name. When we have the

mind of Christ we are in the overflow. We are thinking and moving in the abundance of God.

A poverty mentality is where a person is dead in their thinking. Their thoughts are lifeless. Their thoughts are filled with doubt, sceptism, and negativity. Such a person does not see the opportunities that God is giving them. He is like the man who receives that one talent from the master and wastes it. Instead of seeing the opportunity to invest it and make money, he buries it in the sand. He received what he expected: nothing.

Jesus said, "These signs will follow those who believe." The riches of the kingdom will follow true faith in Jesus. God is not expecting that we do things on our own. He wants us to trust Him to release His power. The man with the one talent came under the judgment of God because He chose not to believe. He chose not to lift His eyes to the God of heaven, who *"by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think..."* (Ephesians 3:20)

In his fear and negativity he buried the money in the ground. God expected him to step out in faith and do something. I believe he could have done anything and God would have blessed his faith and multiplied that one talent.

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest."

Matthew 25:24-27

The riches of the Cross

How do we access the riches of heaven? Simply by believing in the work of the Cross. On the Cross, Jesus became

poor that we might be rich. He took our lack, our insufficiency, our inability, and gave us His glorious riches.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. **2 Corinthians 8:9**

When we say the word rich, we aren't just talking about money. God's financial provision is simply a shadow of something far greater and more precious. If God's heavenly riches were likened to a pie, then financial prosperity would only be a tiny piece of that pie.

The church today has confused greed with kingdom prosperity. Instead of desiring after the true treasures of Christ, the church has lusted after material prosperity.

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may be rich, and white garments to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. **Revelations 3:17-18**

A person can own mansions, and have millions of dollars, but without a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ he really has nothing. It is when you make yourself poor before God, by humbling yourself in repentance, dying to your pride and self-reliance, that you will access the great riches of heaven.

There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches. **Proverbs 13:7**

To have Christ is to have all

Paul suffered great hardships in order to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. He described himself as poor, and yet making many rich. If you are in Christ you are truly rich, no matter what your financial situation is. Jesus described the church in Smyrna as being poor and yet being rich.

And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: "The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. I know your

tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.’”
Revelations 2:8-9

Paul said that he had nothing, and yet possessed everything. To have Christ is to have all. But this is not only about what you possess, but it is about your ability to make others rich in Christ.
...as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 6:10

When I talk to people I not only seek to listen to them, but to impart Christ's riches. Many people see their need, but don't see the solution in Christ. They do not perceive the riches of heaven made available to them. Often I will seek to listen to the Holy Spirit to speak into someone's life a thought that will take them beyond themselves to Christ, "the hope of Glory."

The Eternal Riches found in Christ

The riches of heaven are all the blessings of knowing Jesus Christ. Numerous times Paul speaks of these riches. Let's have a look at some of the verses...

- ❖ All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ.

...to have all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:2-3

- ❖ The riches of the kingdom of heaven are within you! They are not beyond your grasp. They are in Christ, who is in you.

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

Through these riches we receive inner strength and might. It is the Holy Spirit who imparts them to us.

...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...
Ephesians 3:16-17

- ❖ These riches are endless and exhaustless, unlike the limited resources of this world. They are worth telling others about. These riches are manifest when you preach Christ. This is why Paul made Jesus the focus of his preaching.

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...
Ephesians 3:8

- ❖ These riches are not comprehended by the natural mind. It is our heart that must be enlightened by the Holy Spirit to perceive that which is beyond the natural. We should pray that the eyes of our heart are opened to see Him.

...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places...
Ephesians 1:18-20

- ❖ The riches of heaven include our eternal salvation, forgiveness, peace with God, love, joy the fruit of the Spirit, a transformed life in Christ, generosity, financial provision, the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit. When you receive Christ you inherit His kingdom, and all its heavenly wealth. Here are some examples:

- ❖ Faith

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

James 2:5

❖ Generosity and good works

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share...

1 Timothy 6:18

❖ Mercy and love

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

Ephesians 2:4-6

❖ Grace

...that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:7

“I give you what I have”

There is the extraordinary story of how Peter was asked for alms from a beggar sitting at the gate of the temple.

But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:6-10

Peter told the man that he doesn't have any silver or gold. Yet instead of walking past the beggar into the temple, he said to him, "I give you what I have." What did Peter have? He had the spiritual riches of Christ. These riches are the transcendent power of God dwelling in human vessels. It is that awesome power of God dwelling in us by faith in Christ Jesus.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of

the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

In the Name of Jesus, Peter released these glorious riches upon the beggar. Just like Peter we have also freely received Christ's riches, let's also give them away. They are limitless! The more you give, the more you receive.

And as you go, proclaim, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. You have received freely, freely give."

Matthew 10:7-8

The Manifestation of the Kingdom

Kingdom mysteries

Over the years, I have puzzled over how people can experience God's power. How are people healed? How can we have those special anointed times with God? How can my prayers for the sick be more effective. Sometimes people say things like, "Well I don't have that gift. That's not my ministry." They feel that something is missing when they pray for people.

Answers to prayer are actually a manifestation of the kingdom of heaven. For example, often people want healing. The power for healing is released from heaven, not from earth. So our goal is not the healing itself. Our goal is the manifestation of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Access to this heavenly kingdom is by use of keys, or what the Bible calls mysteries.

And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables..."

Luke 8:10

These mysteries are divine realities that govern the operation of heaven. They are called mysteries because unbelievers can not make sense of them. However Jesus reveals them to us by His Holy Spirit. Our prayers become effective when we use these kingdom mysteries.

One commentary defines "mystery" as found in the New Testament:

"In the NT it denotes, not the mysterious (as with the English word), but that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time

appointed by God, and to those only who are illumined by His Spirit.”⁶

Jesus is the key to heaven

The greatest key to opening heaven is the Person of Jesus Christ. Whatever you need in life comes from the Person of Jesus, His work on the Cross, and His teachings. To an unbeliever when we mention Jesus, they may think of a religious person who lived 2000 years ago. But to us who believe we understand that He is the mystery of heaven. In Him is our salvation, life eternal, peace and joy.

Let's look at Paul's letter to the Colossians to see the greatness of Christ.

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross...

Colossians 1:15-20

[To the saints] God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

Jesus is enthroned over heaven. As King He has authority over all of heaven. Nothing happens in heaven without His consent. You cannot access anything in heaven without going to the King. It is actually by His power and authority that our needs are met.

⁶Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. 1996. *Vine's complete expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words*. T. Nelson: Nashville

For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:9-10

So what we should be seeking is not our healing, but Jesus, the Healer; not our deliverance, but Jesus, the Deliverer; not financial provision but Jesus, the Provider. Seek Jesus and His kingdom first above any needs you may have, and He will release what is needed.

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Matthew 6:31-33

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

The kingdom of heaven is manifest in the Person of Jesus Christ. When I understood this revelation it changed my life and ministry. When I am in a healing meeting my focus is Jesus, my desire is to have a revelation of Him. I surrender to Him. I'm seeking His guidance for the meeting. My faith and confidence are in Him, and in His leading.

Do you have a need in you life? Focus on Jesus, not on your problem. Seek a revelation of Jesus Christ, then surrender your cares to Him. He will take care of the rest. Are you praying for people in need? Let the Glory of Jesus flood your heart and mind. This is why we pray in the Name of Jesus. We are calling on Him. We are praying with His authority and power, not our own.

Miracles happened whenever someone came to Jesus. It was His Presence that brought Life to people. People tried to touch His garments because they knew that power was coming from them.

And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. **Luke 6:17-19**

There was a leper who came to Jesus. He knelt down and begged Jesus to heal him. He was a man of faith, he knew that Jesus had the power to heal him. So he said to Jesus: “*If You are willing, You can make me clean.*”

Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing be cleansed.” As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. **Mark 1:41-42**

The attitude of our heart towards the Lord Jesus is important. The reality of the Presence of Jesus Christ must captivate our hearts. In our songs let's go beyond singing to actually worshiping Jesus. When we are in a meeting waiting to be prayed for, let's focus on Jesus. He is present. Let's not just wait for a preacher to pray for us.

I like the old song which says:
*“So forget about yourself
 and concentrate on Him
 and worship Him.”*

There is another old chorus which says:
*“Within the veil
 I now would come
 Into the holy place
 To look upon Thy face
 I see such beauty there
 None other can compare
 I worship Thee my Lord
 Within the veil.”*

Let's not stand in the temple courtyard of the Lord. Let's go past the inner veil and walk confidently into the holy of holies. Let's seek a revelation of the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ.

A right attitude

For the kingdom to be revealed we must have a right attitude towards the King. An attitude of reverence and love, an attitude that welcomes and seeks Him, that doesn't take Him for granted. Jesus says to His church:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelations 3:20

Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-30

Right attitude makes all the difference. This is why John the Baptist came preaching. He was preparing people's hearts to receive Jesus. The people responded by confessing their sins and being baptized as a sign of their repentance. The Bible says that all those who received the ministry of John, also welcomed the Lord's ministry. Repentance and humility prepares the way for the coming of Jesus.

Prayer and fasting is another way of preparing our hearts for Jesus. When we pray and fast we are humbling ourselves before God. It is a way of recognizing who He is. There was an old woman, Anna, who prepared all Israel for the coming of Jesus by her continual intercession in the temple.

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who

were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. **Luke 2:36-38**

Jesus is the King of Kings, enthroned in Glory in heaven. So when we come into His Presence we must come with due reverence, awe, and worship. He is the God of Majesty. When Jesus was born, the angels appeared to the shepherds and sang His praises.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" **Luke 2:13-14**

The wise men when they were sent to find the baby Jesus, didn't just show up and have a look. They prepared gifts appropriate for a king. When they entered the stable where Jesus lay they worshipped Him.

Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans because the Jews did not know the hour of their visitation. Jesus came to Him, but they refused to recognize Him as their Saviour and King.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. **Matthew 23:37-38**

And when he drew near and saw the city he wept over it, saying, "Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another in you; because you did not know the time of your visitation." **Luke 19:41-44**

We have the story of a woman of the city, a sinner, who experienced the kingdom of God.

And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, "Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water

for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little". And he said unto her, "Thy sins are forgiven." And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?" And he said to the woman, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

Luke 7:44-50

This woman received the Lord with tears of repentance and love, her sins were forgiven. But the religious people who were self-righteous did not receive Jesus in a manner worthy of their Guest. They didn't even wash His feet, which was normal Jewish custom when a guest entered a home.

Kingdom Nuggets

A Miraculous Provision

In 2005 I prophesied to a pastor that God would provide for his needs according to His riches in heaven. I did not know that the pastor was wanting to build a church and accommodation centre where he could house visiting pastors. The prophetic word released God's miraculous provision.

When I arrived at the airport the pastor met me. He told me that after the prophecy God miraculously provided for them and since then has built this church and accommodation that you see in the photos. Praise the Lord.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

The church and pastors accommodation centre



Palangkaraya, Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Inside the new church building



The Word and the Kingdom

Increase by the Word

The kingdom of heaven is extended is through the preaching of the word of God. This was the experience of the early church. *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.* **Acts 6:7**

If we preach the kingdom then we expect the kingdom to come in the lives of people. The works of the kingdom follow the preaching of the kingdom . Jesus told His disciples: *“And preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay.”*

Matthew 10:7-8

The message of the disciples was simple: ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ They went about announcing that something was about to happen, and then it did: the blind received their sight, the dead were raised, and heaven was manifested among them.

When we pick up the newspaper much of the news is about what has already happened: a fire destroyed a house, a crime was committed, or a political party won the election. But preaching is declaring what will happen. Like Paul & Silas who told the jailer, “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved”. That’s exactly what happened, the jailer got saved.

The Word of Faith

The disciples were told to announce the good news before it happened! That is faith. That is what some called faith preaching. You are excited and expectant of what God is about to do, and as you declare God’s Word to others a faith

atmosphere is created in your listeners. Paul said he preached ‘the word of faith’.

But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach)...

Romans 10:8

The “word of faith” is when you believe the Word of God, and confidently declare that Word to others. When people hear what you are saying, they also believe. A faith atmosphere is created in which heaven is manifest among us. The preached Word of God creates an expectancy that releases His glory. That’s what the disciples were doing when they told people that “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” They were creating an atmosphere of expectancy.

The power of the Word

The Word of God not only creates a divine atmosphere in other people’s lives but has great power to create that same atmosphere in our own lives. Paul says that we are to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. You will experience the awesome riches of heaven when God’s Word dwells abundantly in you. The Word of God causes us to have a faith-filled, overcoming and victorious attitude.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

The Word of God has the power to change a person’s emotions, spiritual condition, thoughts, attitude to life, and physical well-being. When the Word of God dwells in your heart by faith, it will release the power of God on the inside of you. You will find that the Word of God is effective to bring about wonderful changes in your life.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

An oak seed has the power to become a huge oak tree. You plant that tiny seed in the ground knowing it can do great things. So also with the word of God. Jesus said that God's Word is like a seed planted in the heart. The seed grows in our heart until it bears fruit.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God...And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Luke 8:11,15

Equipped for kingdom works

The Word of God equips us for the works of God. The Word of God releases power in the inner man. It empowers us to achieve, to succeed in what God has called us to do, and to be fruitful.

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Word and deed

The Word and the works of God are to go hand in hand. Jesus not only taught the word, but He practised it. He both taught the people about the Good News of the kingdom, and healed every type of infirmity.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

Matthew 9:35

The preaching of the Good News of the kingdom was always to be accompanied by the works of the kingdom. We are to be diligent both in Word and works.

The kingdom of God is extended where both the Word is preached and the works are done. We are told that Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power, and went about doing good (Acts 10:38). We are to all seek the anointing from God to enable us to do good for others. Those good works

will vary from person to person, but we are all to be fruitful in something. The Anointing of God comes for a reason.

The Word diet

Every Christian should have a healthy diet of the Word of God in their lives. Many Christians are ignorant of the Scriptures because they do not read it on a daily basis. The best way to have a solid knowledge of the Bible is to read it every day. I encourage you to read, study, meditate and memorize God's Word. You will experience the difference the Word of God will make.

God promises us that the person who meditates on His Word will be blessed and prospered.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. **Psalms 1:1-3**

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.

Joshua 1:8

The School of the Holy Spirit

I spent some eight years in Bible training in the US and later in Australia. I thank God for the education I received. Yet after academic studies I became dry. I thirsted for God. Much of my studies had been the Word without much of the Holy Spirit. The problem was that when I would read the Bible I read it through the lenses of theologians I had studied.

So I put away most of my theological books and asked the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word of God to me. I still use theological books, but I am careful to allow the Holy Spirit to

speak to me and teach me directly through the Scriptures as well.

There is a school of the Holy Spirit. He is our Teacher. I have found that the Word is like a peanut. Some people just see the outer shell, they even try to eat the outer shell. The Holy Spirit removes the shell to reveal the nut inside. It is the nut that has the nutrition. Through the Holy Spirit we receive the wonderful food of the Word.

But he answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
Matthew 4:4

You can know all the stories and facts about the Bible without ever having a revelation of its hidden power. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals the powerful principles of the Word of God to us. You can know about the Cross of Jesus, but only the Holy Spirit can reveal to you the power of the Blood of Christ.

One of my Catholic neighbours said to me that he had read the Bible every day for many years without ever having understood what he read. He did not know Jesus as Saviour, and so had no revelation of the Word. The Bible says that the Anointing is our Teacher.

...but the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in him.
1 John 2:27

A Word in season

God will speak to us a word in season. A word that is just what we need at a particular time. The Bible says:

A word spoken in due season, how good it is!

Proverbs 15:23 (NKJV)

At one point in my ministry I was experiencing great challenges. Humanly I felt I had no-where to go. The Lord clearly spoke to me with the following Scripture:

Great peace have those who love thy law; nothing can make them stumble.
Psalm 119:165

It was a rhema word from the Lord. Peace entered my heart. I knew that everything was in the Lord's hand. I knew that the Lord would not let me stumble, if I would love His word. What a blessing it is to have peace in the midst of trials. Gradually my situation improved, and I thank God that He delivered me. During that time I sought to love the Word rather than worry about my situation.

The Holy Spirit will speak to us just at the right time, giving us peace, encouragement, and guidance. The Lord may use us to bring a word in due season to someone else who needs it.

Direction through the Word

The Word of God not only sustains us but it keeps us pressing forward. It is the very nature of God's Word to give us direction. It is like light shining on a dark path so that we don't stumble. The Word of God is a beacon of light to the believer.

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

The Word of God speaks direction and purpose into our lives. By the Word we know what is right, it points us to that highway of holiness.

Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Take heed to the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.
Proverbs 4:25-27

And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and fools shall not err therein.
Isaiah 35:8

In every situation the Word of God can speak direction to us. When we are sick, we don't sit there thinking, "I don't know

what to do". The Word tells us we are healed in the Name of Jesus.

They will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Mark 16:18

When it comes to supporting missions and evangelism, we aren't thinking whether we should get involved. The Word says, "And this Gospel shall be preached to all nations." Likewise, we aren't wasting our time worrying about the future of our kids. The Word of God declares:

I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed.

Psalms 37:25-26 (NKJV)

The kingdom of God advances as we believe the Word of God. We are unfit for kingdom service if we doubt His Word, and look back.

Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62

The Lord rescued the family of Lot from destruction with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. But Lot's wife looked back. God had specifically told her not to look back. She disobeyed the Word of God, and became a pillar of salt. When God speaks His Word to you, take hold of it in faith, don't let go of it, and don't look back.

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife behind him looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:24-26

When you meditate on the Word of God it will release within you a divine power to move forward in the things of God. The Word creates faith, giving us the divine confidence to press forward in Christ. The kingdom of God is advanced by sheer faith in the Word of God. Where other people may be afraid, confused, or double-minded, the Word of God gives us the confidence to press forward until we break through into the glorious treasures of heaven.

*Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature be thus minded; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that also to you. **Philippians 3:13-15***

Many times in my life I can testify how the Lord has kept me moving forward because of His Word. When I was seventeen the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart the Bible reference, 1 Peter 5:2. I didn't know what the reference was and with expectation looked it up. To my amazement I read the words, "Tend the flock of God that is your charge." That Scripture propelled me to be a pastor.

In 1993, I received a prophesy that the Lord had called me to the nations. I have the prophecy on my wall in my office. 14 years later it is still encouraging me to go out to the nations.

Some years ago a dear brother spoke to me about having an international church where all the nations would be welcome. A church where our family would come together. I took it as a prophetic word. It gave me the divine direction to have an international church, and where fifteen family members attended at the time. Praise God.

Persevere in the Word

We have said that the kingdom of God is extended through the Word. But we often will have to persevere in the Word until we experience the break-through. The early church expanded rapidly, but it did so with intense persecution. They persevered in the preaching of the Word.

For many weeks a relative was sick with auto-immune hepatitis, an incurable disease of the liver. The healing was not manifest immediately. I had to persist in the promises of God until that day when she was wonderfully healed. All Glory to God.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful... **Hebrews 10:23**

The Word destroys demonic strongholds

The Romans extended their empire by building a chain of strongholds throughout all the countries they conquered. These strongholds were like vast castles where thousands of Roman troops could live.

The devil seeks to build strongholds in our mind. A stronghold is a well established ungodly thought. Into this stronghold demons come to live. As long as the ungodly thought remains it is difficult to get rid of the demons. Thoughts of resentment become a habitation of demons of bitterness, revenge and hurt. Thoughts of lust become a stronghold for demons of lust. Likewise thoughts of rejection and self-pity can become demonic strongholds. We should be very careful about allowing ungodly thoughts to dominate our thinking.

The Word of God has the power to destroy these thought strongholds and deliver us from the enemy. We use the Word to destroy the kingdom of darkness in the mind, and establish the kingdom of God.

For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ... **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

God's Word is a powerful weapon in the hands of the believer. This Word is like a sharp sword that cuts through strongholds of thinking, reveals the truth, and sets us free from Satan's grip. By perseverance and faith in His Word we shall see the kingdom of God extended.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**

The Holy Spirit & the Kingdom

The Holy Spirit reveals heaven

When we speak of the kingdom of heaven, we are talking about something that you cannot normally see with your physical eyes. We are speaking of another dimension which is spiritual in nature. We can see the effects of that kingdom upon people, as with instant healings. We know that something is effecting people, but the natural eye does not apprehend what it is. The kingdom of heaven is like the wind that makes the branches bend. We cannot see the wind but we see its effects.

It is the Holy Spirit who reveals the kingdom to us. He shows us the reality of the kingdom of heaven. The Spirit of God enables us to go beyond the natural dimension, and to see into the spiritual dimension of the kingdom. This is absolutely fundamental in understanding how the kingdom of heaven operates on earth. It is the Holy Spirit who connects us to heaven. He opens our heart to understand spiritual truths.

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe...

Ephesians 1:16-19

What we have not seen, heard or even thought about, are the things that the God of heaven desires to show us. And how shall we know what they are? It is by the Spirit of God. He is the Spirit of revelation, revealing to us the things pertaining to heaven. He searches the deep things of God and imparts to us the knowledge of heavenly things.

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him," God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

These spiritual impartations of knowledge are what the Bible calls the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:11-13

We can only comprehend the things of God by the Spirit of God. Such things are beyond the capacity of the human mind to apprehend by itself. The Holy Spirit communicates with our redeemed human spirit. An unbeliever cannot understand heavenly things, because his spirit is dead in sin. It is only through repentance and faith in Christ, that our spirit comes alive and we are able to receive the things of God.

The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Jesus made the distinction clear between the natural and the spiritual.

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:5-6

The natural, physical world is a different dimension from the heavenly. One is temporary and physical, the other is heavenly and eternal. Paul says:

As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we

have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15:48-50

How awesome it is to think that God has caused His heavenly kingdom to dwell in our earthly bodies.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

The ministry of Jesus

The Anointing of the Holy Spirit is one of the great keys that opens the kingdom of heaven to us. It was only when the Holy Spirit had come upon Jesus that He began preaching and doing the works of the kingdom. Jesus received the Anointing when He was baptised in the waters of the Jordan river.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

After His water baptism, Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

Luke 4:1

After the wilderness temptations Jesus begins His ministry "in the power of the Spirit".

The main message of Jesus was the kingdom of heaven. But He only preached it when He had first been clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding

country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. **Luke 4:14-15**

This is the model that Jesus gave us. Ministry is not to be in our own power, but in His power. It is God's purpose for you, and His promise to you that you be baptized in the Holy Spirit and clothed with His power to do the work of the kingdom .

Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." **Zechariah 4:6**

...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **Acts 10:38**

Jesus clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit began to heal the sick and cast out demons. At one time the crowd was pressing in to touch Him. The Bible says that power was coming from Jesus and healing all of them. It is in this context of healing and deliverance that Jesus says to the people,
Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Luke 6:20

The kingdom had come through the power of the Holy Spirit. Far more can be done by the power of God, than can ever be done by our own strength and wisdom.

And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." **Luke 6:17-20**

So we understand that the Anointing releases the kingdom among us. When the Holy Spirit comes upon people, heaven also descends. Where ever the Spirit of God is moving, the kingdom is being extended. Jesus said that when He cast out

demons by the Spirit of God, it was a demonstration of the kingdom of God.

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matthew 12:28

The early church

From the time that Jesus ascended into heaven, until the Day of Pentecost, the kingdom of heaven was not manifest. The believers could not extend the kingdom without being clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit. As far as we know no one was saved, healed, filled, or delivered until Pentecost arrived.

"And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."
Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24:49-53

For ten days the disciples prayed together. Then on the day of Pentecost as they were sitting in a house together, suddenly they heard the rushing of a mighty wind coming from heaven. Tongues of fire appeared upon each of their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues. Immediately Peter began to preach the Gospel and many were saved. The day of Pentecost was both an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and a descending of God's kingdom .

When the early church experienced persecution, they met together and prayed for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The place where they met was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they went forth boldly preaching. When we face opposition to the Gospel we should pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered

together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:29-31

The kingdom is extended through fresh outpourings of the Holy Spirit. When we look at the history of the church it has always been so: the revivals at the times of John & Charles Wesley, George Whitfield, Charles Finney, Asuza St., The Toronto Blessing, Pensacola, revivals through Asia and Africa, and many more. It is the Holy Spirit who builds the kingdom . Only He can bring a soul into conviction of sin and the experience of being born again. He alone is able to edify the church, giving her fresh life and zeal.

We all need to be regularly filled with the Spirit. Someone said we need a fresh infilling because we “leak”. The Bible encourages us to be always filled with the Holy Spirit.

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit...”

Ephesians 5:18

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13

Destroying the works of the devil

The kingdom of heaven is actually a realm of government. Jesus Christ is the King, and we who believe are the citizens of heaven. Now it is God’s plan to establish His government on earth, in the hearts of men. His purpose is that we should recognize Him as our Lord and King. He is to govern our hearts.

Satan has established another kingdom on earth in rebellion against God. These two kingdoms are in conflict. But Satan’s power was destroyed on the Cross. As we proclaim the Gospel, the Holy Spirit takes the Word and sets people free from Satan’s influence. Satan is defeated. It happened on the Cross. We just have to believe it.

Jesus said that He came to destroy the works of the devil. He came to destroy Satan's rule over the lives of people. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus walked victoriously. We see the effect of the work of Satan in so many different ways: whether sickness, oppression, discouragement, religious bondage, or sin. Jesus came in the Anointing of the Holy Spirit to break the power of the devil. He cast out demons, and demons manifested in a terrible way.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8

Paul was sent out by the Holy Spirit on a mission journey. He arrived in a place called Salamis, on the island of Cyprus. There Paul testified to the government official. Yet he was opposed by a false prophet and magician, by the name of Elymas. Elymas sought to turn the proconsul away from the gospel.

Paul was engaged in spiritual warfare with a spirit of witchcraft who was opposing his preaching. But Paul dealt with the situation by the power of the Holy Spirit.

But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Acts 13:9-12

It was the Anointing that defeated the spirit of witchcraft, and caused the kingdom of heaven to be extended in this powerful way.

We are soldiers of Christ, called into battle for the extension of His kingdom on earth. If we walk in the flesh we will not prevail, for the simple reason that the flesh is opposed to the Spirit of God. But if we will walk in the Holy Spirit we shall victoriously overcome the power of the enemy. Every believer

needs to be continually filled with the Spirit of God in order to do the works of the kingdom . It is the role of the Holy Spirit to manifest the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Kingdom Growth

The kingdom seed

Growth is in the very nature of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus likened the kingdom to a seed. Every seed has the potential to germinate and to grow into something. Jesus compared His kingdom to the smallest of seeds, the mustard seed.

Another parable he put before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Matthew 13:31-32

Sometimes seed will germinate immediately, other seed takes time. There are desert flowers that can lie dormant for as long as 50 years. When the rain comes suddenly the desert is covered in a carpet of flowers.

In 1980 I went to the chapel of Wheaton College, Chicago, to pray for revival on a Friday night. I was sowing a spiritual seed. I know others were also praying for revival. That seed lay dormant for another 15 years. I had graduated and no longer was at the College. Then in 1995 the Holy Spirit fell on the students of the College and a deep wave of repentance swept over them. To God be the glory!

A farmer will sow his seed believing that one day he will have a harvest. After sowing the seed he has to wait until it pops through the soil. When the seed is germinating and growing under the soil he can't see anything. It is the same when you sow spiritual seed. We must believe in the power of the kingdom seed to grow.

This knowledge that God will bring the growth is called faith. We do the work of the Gospel knowing that God is bringing the growth.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:58**

The farmer will sow and water the seed, but he relies on the seed to do its part and germinate. We sow the Word and water it in prayer, but it is God who causes people to respond to the Gospel, to repent and turn from sin. It is God who brings the growth.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

Jesus told the following parable:

The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come. **Mark 4:26-29**

Notice that the farmer has a job to do: he scatters the seed. You and I have work to do in the kingdom : doing good works, loving people, sharing God's Word of hope with people. In all of this we are relying on the Lord to bring the growth. It is from Jesus Christ, from His life giving Presence that people's lives are transformed.

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Colossians 2:18-19

Now the farmer does not know how the seed sprouts and grows. He just does his part and the seed grows. So in the kingdom we trust God to bring the increase. We trust the Holy Spirit to bring the miracle of new birth in people's lives. We trust the Holy Spirit to transform people. We trust the Holy

Spirit to bring God's love and healing power. Praise God. Otherwise we can end up striving, pushing, and bickering. It is God who will bring the increase.

Since the time when Jesus came preaching the kingdom of heaven, we have seen this heavenly kingdom take root, shoot up and spread large branches on earth. Today there are some 2.2 billion Christians on the face of the earth. What a staggering growth! It is the very nature of the kingdom to grow.

Kingdom growth within

The kingdom of heaven is not only in heaven, but it is within you. God wants to extend the influence and authority of the kingdom in your life, so that your heart and life are fully submitted to His rule, until you are filled with His glorious Life. *The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed the kingdom of God is within you.* **Luke 17:21**

The kingdom seed in your life will grow. How much it grows depends on the soil of your heart. With the right conditions the kingdom of God will grow into something beautiful and fruitful. If the kingdom seed gets good soil, water and light it will germinate, spread its branches, and give forth beautiful leaves and fruit.

Jesus told a parable of a farmer who went out and scattered the seed. The parable is not really about the seed or the sower. The parable is about the quality of soil into which the seed is sown.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares

and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Luke 8:11-15

The seed that was unfruitful, was the seed sown on bad soil: it was sown on the path, among the rocks, and in the thorns. The seed that was fruitful was sown in good soil. The quality of seed in each case was the same. What determined the outcome was not the seed, but the condition of the soil. The kingdom seed that is sown in each of our hearts is the same. The potential for kingdom growth is the same in every Christian. What determines the outcome is the soil of our heart.

But those that were sown upon the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold...

Mark 4:20

If you want to be more fruitful in your life, don't blame the seed, work on the soil of your heart. The kingdom seed is full of divine power.

You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord abides for ever." That word is the good news which was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:23-25

Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:21

Are you struggling to hear from God, have you a problem that continues in your life? Don't blame the Lord. He is more than sufficient. Don't let the soil of your heart be hardened with disappointment and bitterness. Keep your heart soft and rich towards God. In due season His kingdom will germinate and grow in your life.

"Keep your heart with all vigilance; for from it flow the springs of life."

Proverbs 4:23

At times in the ministry I have had people who opposed me. I began my ministry in a conservative denomination. People were baptised in the Holy Spirit and wonderful miracles happened. But the denomination forbid me to preach in their churches, banned my books, and told me not to mention healings in my reports.

I remember preaching the Gospel in one church. The priest was so upset that he later said that he almost punched me in the face after the service. He reported me to the bishop who reprimanded me. I knew that the real battle was over the condition of my heart. If I failed to forgive, if I became bitter towards others, I knew that I would be useless to the Lord. The kingdom of heaven would only grow in my life to the extent that the soil of my heart was rich and fertile.

All we have to do is provide the right conditions for the kingdom in our lives and we will experience growth, guaranteed. Let's dig up those weeds of unforgiveness, break up that hard soil of indifference, and begin to seek the Lord afresh. *For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns."*
Jeremiah 4:3

What sort of conditions do we need to be fruitful? More than anything else the attitude of our heart is what determines our growth. What sort of attitudes? A deep love for the Lord that causes us to thirst for Him, hunger for His Word, the joy of fellowship with other believers, passion for the Gospel, and loving service of others. With these attitudes the kingdom will grow and expand in our life. *Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain salvation upon you.*

Hosea 10:12

Making space for the kingdom

Let me put it another way. The other day I decided to plant a vegetable garden with seedlings. Before planting the seedlings I had to check the instructions for each plant. Each seedling needed a certain amount of space from the other. For example, the lettuces have to be planted 30 cms from one another. If I were to plant them only 5 cms apart they wouldn't have the space to expand to maturity.

It is the same with the kingdom . The kingdom seed is meant to grow to be a huge tree in your life, larger than any other plant. It needs lots of space (actually all of it!). The truth is that we determine the size of the kingdom tree in our own lives. The kingdom will grow and be as big as the space we give it. It can either be just one of the shrubs in the garden, or a massive, mature tree.

If we limit the kingdom to just doing church on Sundays, then we will get a 'Sunday church going kingdom tree'. If we limit the kingdom to a quick prayer in need, and we will get a 'quick prayer kingdom plant'. Or we can take the limits off and give God space in our lives, and let the kingdom grow and grow, and end up with a massive, beautiful kingdom tree.

Add the kingdom yeast

May the kingdom of God be like yeast that you add to every area of your life. May His kingdom be manifest in your work. May it be manifest in your family, in your recreational time, in your social and work relationships. May our whole lives be leavened with His Presence and with His Word.

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

Matthew 13:33

May Jesus Christ be the centre of your life. Mix the kingdom of heaven into everything you do, until Christ is all in all.

...He has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all. **Ephesians 1:22-23**

I have recently been making home made bread. I stocked up on the ready mix flour, buying about 100 kgs. With each sack of flour the manufacturer provides some sachets of dry yeast. I began making different varieties of home made bread with much enthusiasm. But all of a sudden things went wrong. The bread would not rise properly. I ended up throwing out several loaves of bread.

The problem was that we had some very hot days. In all likelihood the yeast had gone off. Although I had the right quantity of water, the flour was good quality, the bread maker was working fine, yet the bread was ruined because the yeast was bad. I threw out the bad yeast and bought new yeast. Once more my family is enjoying delicious home made bread.

While I was struggling with my bread problem, I realized that my bread is like the church. We can have the best bread making machine, the finest quality flour, the right quantity of water, but if the yeast is no good the bread is useless. In the church we can have great facilities, wonderfully gifted people, good administration, resources, but without the kingdom of heaven, it is all useless. We need the Holy Spirit to be moving among us. We need the Presence of God. That is what is critical. Jesus said:

"Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is fit neither for the land nor for the dunghill; men throw it away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Luke 14:34-35

Rich in the kingdom

When you obtain the kingdom you are far richer than you ever could have been without it. In the parable of the hidden treasure. A man finds a treasure in a field. He covers it up. Then with great excitement and joy he sells everything and buys that

field in order to obtain the treasure. Obviously whatever he sold was worth far less than the treasure he received.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." **Matthew 13:44**

The same with the parable of the pearl of great value. The pearl merchant sells all that he has to obtain one pearl. Whatever he had was not worth nearly as much as the pearl. The kingdom has the power to enrich your life.

You are far richer with the kingdom of heaven than you could ever be without it. When you realize this you will give everything for the sake of the kingdom . You will make space for the kingdom to grow and grow. The more it grows in your life, the more blessed you will be.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." **Matthew 13:45-46**

Continually growing

We are to be continually growing in faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. Love is the greatest sign of kingdom growth in our lives. We are to be always expanding in our love for the Lord and for one another. These things keep us from being ineffective and unfruitful in the kingdom .

For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 1:5-8**

Jesus Christ is the King of His great heavenly kingdom . We are to be rooted and grounded in Him. He is our Life. It is His Presence that will cause us to grow into maturity.

... speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16

Kingdom Nuggets

Stroke Victim healed



In 2003 Sue Reid stepped out of her car onto the nature strip in front of her home. She suffered a massive stroke and collapsed on the ground. She was rushed to Liverpool Hospital (Sydney) by ambulance. That night we had church meeting and everyone prayed for her. At the time Sue was not a Christian, nor a church-goer.

After prayer meeting I went to the emergency ward. Sue was lying on the hospital bed having tests done to her. She was very confused and distraught. She had obviously suffered paralysis down one side. Her family were gathered around the bedside very anxious for her.

I said to the doctor that I had come to pray for her. I prayed briefly the prayer of faith for her healing in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ.

Three days later I visited her. The immediate improvement was incredible. Her speech had returned. She had regained almost total use of her paralysed side. The doctor came and said to her: "May I shake your hand? I want to congratulate you on a remarkable recovery."

That day Sue also received Jesus Christ into her heart as Saviour. She has no more stroke symptoms. She also had a blood thickening disease. It was so bad that in 2006 her blood became as thick as paste and the doctors were not able to extract any blood into a syringe. She was having constant blood tests to monitor the situation. In July 2006 she testified that her blood is now virtually normal. Praise God. In April 2007 she was also instantly healed of a serious irregular heart beat.

She is part of the church leadership team, and teaches Sunday School. What God has done in her life is miraculous. To God be all the Glory.

Spiritual Garments

Spiritual Clothes

It is important to realize that there are spiritual clothes, just as there are clothes that we wear every day. The Bible frequently talks about spiritual garments, robes and mantles. These garments have power to change the personality and identity of a person. They can be either heavenly, or demonic and fleshly. Just by looking at a person you can often see what sort of spiritual garment they are wearing.

When you put on your clothes in the morning you are covering your body. When you put on spiritual garments you are covering your soul or spirit. These garments are directly linked to your spirit. In the winter you put on a coat and you feel warm. You put on the mantle of praise and you will feel joy. If God clothes you with the power of the Holy Spirit you will feel a divine boldness to witness for Christ. If you put on complaining and self-pity your spirit will feel it. You begin to feel miserable.

When the kingdom of God comes down people often are clothed with various spiritual garments. Recently I was in a meeting when an African woman was clothed with the garment of praise. She picked up two tambourines and began to jump and dance to the Lord with great joy. It reminded me of how David would have danced before the Lord.

Robes of righteousness

Just as we do not walk around the streets naked, neither are we to walk around spiritually naked. Our soul is to be covered with the robe of righteousness. We put on this robe through repentance of sin, and faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Some people think that they look good before God because of their religiousness or good works. But the Father God sees something completely different. He sees a soul naked before him in sin. Jesus said to the church of Laodicea:

“So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have

prospered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may be rich, and white garments to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see."

Revelations 3:16-18

Jesus told a parable of a king who invited everyone to his banquet. One of the guests arrived without being dressed in his wedding garment. The king cast him out of his banquet into the outer darkness of hell. To enter heaven we must be clothed with the robes of righteousness. Those who try to attend using other garments, such as the robe of religion, self-righteousness, or self-reliance will be cast out.

"But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:11-14

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure" - for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Revelations 19:7-9

When Adam and Eve sinned against the Lord it says that they were naked. It isn't just talking about physical nakedness. Their soul was naked in sin before God. Without the spiritual clothing of righteousness they could not walk with God. So the Lord killed animals in order to cover them with animal skins. Animal blood was shed for atonement of sin. God provided a blood covering for their soul.

And for Adam and his wife the LORD God made coats of skins, and clothed them.

Genesis 3:21

We understand why Aaron and the priests were only to enter the tabernacle wearing the priestly garments. Without the priestly garments the Lord said that they would bear the sin of the people and would die. Their robes represented a covering of righteousness, making it possible for them to enter into God's holy presence.

And you shall clothe Aaron your brother with them, and his sons with him. And you shall anoint them, and you shall consecrate them, and you shall sanctify them, so that they may minister to Me in the priest's office. And you shall make them linen breeches to cover the naked flesh; from the loins even to the thighs they shall reach. And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in to the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place; so that they do not bear iniquity, and die. It shall be a statute forever to him and his seed after him.

Exodus 28:41-43

Aaron's sons died after offering profane fire before the Lord. The Lord warned Aaron not to uncover his head or tear his clothes in grief. If he did so he would die. We cannot dwell in the Presence of the Lord in the nakedness of sin. We must have the robe of righteousness. This righteousness is provided through the Cross of Christ.

And Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his sons, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and lest He be angry on all the people. But let your brothers, the whole of Israel, mourn the burning which the LORD has kindled."

Leviticus 10:6

This is clearly portrayed in the vision of Joshua the High Priest. He came before the Lord with filthy garments. The Lord instructed the angel to remove these filthy clothes and dress him in rich garments. This is what happens when a sinner receives Christ as his Saviour. His sin is removed and he is given clean clothes.

Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will

clothe you with rich apparel." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments; and the angel of the LORD was standing by.
Zechariah 3:3-5

The garments of righteousness and salvation are associated with high praise, and great rejoicing. When a sinner receives the Saviour all the angels of heaven rejoice. The Bible talks of the joy of our salvation. When we think of how God saved us it should lead us into thanksgiving and praise.

Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and Your saints shout for joy.
Psalms 132:9

I also will clothe her priests with salvation; and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.
Psalms 132:16

Garments from heaven

The Bible is clear that we are to clothe ourselves with heavenly garments. These are garments that we can consciously choose to put on. We can choose to complain about life or we can give thanks to God for His goodness. We can just sing songs, or we can choose to put on the garment of high praise, and really rejoice before the Lord, and shout His praises.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
Isaiah 61:10

We are to be clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit. This is something that we are to seek. When we receive Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells within us. But when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit, He comes upon us and we are clothed with God's power.

"And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."
Luke 24:49

Being clothed with God's power is often associated with faith. A person feels clothed with a divine, supernatural confidence. The gift of faith releases strength and power in the Holy Spirit. When Abraham received the promise of a son, the Bible says that he grew strong in his faith.

He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Romans 4:19-21

There are also specific mantles that God will give people. These mantles are part of our calling to ministry. Elijah the prophet was walking along. He saw Elisha and cast his mantle upon him. The mantle of Elijah to be prophet over Israel had come upon Elisha. It was transferred.

So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him.

1 Kings 19:19

In the New Testament we read about how the gifts of the Spirit can be transferred from one person to another. Through prophecy and the laying on of hands, a person receives a mantle to be a worship leader, an evangelist, a prophet, and so on. Early in my ministry I visited the evangelist, Bill Subritzky. He prophesied over me the gifts of the Spirit. I received a mantle from the Holy Spirit to do what I am doing today.

In doing spiritual battle we are to be clothed with the armour of God.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand

therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Ephesians 6:11-18

Our heavenly garment

One day as believers we shall put off mortality and be clothed with immortality. We shall receive our resurrected bodies, and put on garments of eternal life.

Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

2 Corinthians 5:2-4

Garments of darkness

Some people will try to make us wear spiritual garments that aren't from heaven. I talk to people who try to force on me their views of God, of healing, and of life. Recently I talked to one woman who was trying to convince me about some new age view of healing. If I had accepted her thoughts I would have clothed myself with a demonic, doctrinal garment. Paul says:

...the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light...

Romans 13:12

On one mission trip someone got really angry and aggressive with me about something I said. I could have allowed rejection, hurt, and unforgiveness to clothe me like an old cloak, but I chose to put on love, forgiveness and reconciliation. As a result God continued to move mightily in the meetings.

When you clothe yourself in a garment of anger or rejection, you make yourself ineffective for the kingdom of God. The Light of Jesus does not shine from you. People look at you and see the darkness of a wrong spirit. They look at you and say,

“What happened to you? Are you okay? You don’t look yourself.” You don’t look yourself because you have put on a cloak of darkness.

We can put on a cloak of darkness whenever we sin, and gratify the flesh. Especially so when someone is involved with witchcraft or the occult. They cover themselves with darkness.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. **Romans 13:14**

Here are some Biblical examples of demonic garments:

❖ The garment of seduction

And it was told to Tamar, saying, Behold, your father-in-law goes up to Timnah to shear his sheep. And she put off her widow’s clothes, and covered herself with a veil, and wrapped herself. And she sat in an open place, which is by the way to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown and she was not given to him as wife. When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face. **Genesis 38:13-15**

❖ The garment of deception and false doctrine

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles?"

Matthew 7:15-16

❖ The garment of shame & dishonour

Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor together, those who magnify themselves over me. **Psalms 35:26**

❖ The garment of cursing

As he clothed himself with cursing, as with his robe, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.

Psalms 109:18

❖ The garment of death

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." **John 11:43-44**

❖ The garment of sickness

And they came to Jericho; and as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; rise, he is calling you." And throwing off his mantle he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Master, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. **Mark 10:46-52**

An old cloak of heaviness

On a trip to Melbourne, Australia, I prophesied over a pastor: "Throw off the old cloak that people have put on you. When you throw it off you will have God visitations." With that the power of the Holy Spirit came upon this pastor. He sobbed for a long time. After he had been emotionally healed, the joy of the Lord came upon him.

He laughed and laughed. God had lifted off the old cloak of heaviness and sorrow, and clothed him with heavenly joy. As he threw off the stuff that people had tried to put on him, he had a visitation of the Holy Spirit.

Later I was told that individuals in his last church had caused him a lot of heartache. They wanted him to be someone different, to conform to their expectations of what his ministry should be. They rejected his true mantle and tried to force a different one on him. Some people think it their job to stop people from being happy, to put them down, to put a cloak of sorrow and grief on them, to force them to be something they aren't. That's what happened to this young man.

You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have torn off my sackcloth, and have clothed me with gladness, so that my glory may sing praise to You, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever. **Psalm 30:11-12**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me...(3) to grant to those who mourn in Zion--to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:1,3

David and Goliath

At times people try to force their expectations upon us, and they just don't fit us. Let's take for example the story of David and Goliath. David was a young shepherd. When a lion or bear attacked the sheep, David trusted God to deliver him. He took hold of the bear and killed it with his sword. He absolutely trusted God to deliver him. He didn't kill that bear in self-defence. The Bible says that he went after it. He was clothed with an overcoming faith, a supernatural faith that covered him like armour.

When David heard of how Goliath was defying the armies of Israel, he responded in the same way. He had a divine confidence that God would deliver Goliath into his hand. Clothed with the armour of faith he was ready to go after this huge giant.

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and smote him and delivered it out of his mouth; and if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him and killed him. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." **1 Samuel 17:34-36**

King Saul on the other hand was a man whose heart had departed from the Lord. Saul as the anointed King should have

gone out to battle against Goliath in the Name of the Lord. He should have been the one who showed courageous leadership. But Saul was clothed with fear and insecurity. Instead of taking on Goliath he allowed a young shepherd to do the task for him.

When Saul was chosen to be king, he was so insecure that he was found hiding among the baggage. Later in life his insecurity led him to into a passionate jealousy of David. David on the other hand was clothed with faith to take on the enemy in the Name of the Lord.

So when David came before King Saul, he said to him:
"The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

1 Samuel 17:34

Saul tried to change David's armour of faith with an armour of metal. He put his own armour on David: a helmet of bronze, a coat of mail, and gave him a large sword. David had a decision to make: would his armour be of the flesh or of the Spirit, would it come from man or from God.

It is a decision that we all have to make in life.
And David girded his sword over his armor, and he tried in vain to go, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these; for I am not used to them." And David put them off.

1 Samuel 17:39

God wants to clothe each of us with divine clothing. Throw off the stuff that others would try to force you to wear. David took off Saul's armour and took hold of his shepherd's staff and sling. He only had 5 stones against this huge giant. But he defeated the enemy clothed with the spiritual armour of a determined faith in Almighty God.

Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in his shepherd's bag or wallet; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:40

May we throw the old garments of the flesh and clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

Kingdom Warfare

The battle

Angels, demons, and heavenly weapons are all real. Some people may not be directly aware of them, or have any experience of them. This is because they are of a different dimension from the physical realm. Whether we are aware of them or not, does not change the fact that they have a tremendous effect upon the world at large, and our own personal lives.

This week I had a lesson about spiritual weapons. During the night my wife and I were wakened by a demon in the room that we both saw with our physical eyes. We commanded it to leave in the Name of Jesus.

Then the following day, while I was meditating, I saw a beautiful angel before me. He was shining with light, his feathered wings were stretched out before me. I did not see him with my physical eyes but in a vision. Spiritual visions can be more real than physical sight. The Scripture came to me:

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. **Psalm 91:3-6**

That day I also had to deal with a person that was causing me problems. I perceived that both the demonic visitation at night, and the problem with the person the next day, were all part of Satan's strategy. Paul tells us that he was not ignorant of Satan's plans.

Any one whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, to keep Satan from gaining the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Satan's strategy against us is to make us ineffective for the work of the kingdom . Jesus said:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. **Matthew 6:33**

By getting us upset we become distracted emotionally from the work that God has for us. Feelings of hurt often lead to bitterness and resentment. It is through unforgiveness that Satan gains advantage over us. In a battle you don't want to give your enemy an advantage. But that is what we do when we hold unforgiveness.

Praise God, the Lord restored my peace as I released forgiveness to the person. Love and forgiveness are powerful spiritual weapons. God's peace enables us to focus on the work that God has for us in His kingdom .

While I was feeling hurt I had to put myself in line with the Word of God. Our feelings follow our thoughts. How important it is to have the mind of Christ. Our thinking is renewed every day in Christ. Renewal of the mind is a choice of the will. I had to choose all day to bless, forgive and love the person that had wronged me. It is so important not to give Satan a foothold in our mind. It may be a choice that we have to make over a long stretch of time, until we experience God's peace.

How Satan loves for us to think about how we were wronged, how hurt we felt, how it wasn't right, how we are going to respond to them, and so on. The carnal mind is always self-centred. Satan is going to take your side in the matter, and will lead you into a pity party. The only way to follow Christ is to deny our self-gratifying thinking, and pick up our cross.

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men. Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." **Matthew 16:23-24**

I have learned that feelings of hurt may actually be attacks by spirits of emotional pain. There are spirits of physical sickness, and there are spirits of emotional pain. Very often when the spirit of emotional pain is rebuked there is a wonderful peace. This should always be done in the context of forgiveness.

Soldiers of the Kingdom

The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of Satan are at war against one another. We are engaged in this spiritual battle as soldiers of Christ. Our mandate is to extend the authority and power of His kingdom on earth. God's purpose is to manifest heaven on earth through us. The Commander in Chief, Jesus, has enlisted us as soldiers to destroy the works of darkness:

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. **2 Timothy 2:3-4**

It is so important to realize that we must stay on track with God's call on our lives. A soldier must not get entangled in civilian pursuits. There are many things that we could be doing, some of them probably seem quite good. But if they are not God's will for us it will be like we are entangled in a net. A soldier when fighting needs free movement of his body to be able to fight effectively. Getting involved in civilian pursuits will make us less effective. Our primary aim no longer is to serve Christ, but to make money, be successful, etc.

I find people who are caught up with such things are less focused on the kingdom. They lack passion for Christ and His kingdom. Their spiritual focus becomes blurred. They become irregular in prayer and fellowship. They no longer have a strong sense of calling.

Doing battle in the spiritual realm

The Lord has sent us into battle with provision of body armour, weapons, and protective covering from above. Two significant Bible passages stand out with reference to spiritual warfare: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Ephesians 6:10-11. Both

passages remind us that our battle is in the spiritual realm, not in the physical nor in the fleshly.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

So often we approach things from a human point of view. When we suffer an injustice for example, how often our first reaction is fleshly (reacting in anger, self-justification, etc). We respond as if the person was our enemy, instead of seeing that there are powers of darkness controlling people. These powers actually want us to deal with things in the flesh rather than using our heavenly weapons. So many times we turn to fleshly means to win the battle, instead of using our heavenly weapons, such as prayer.

Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise.

James 5:13

I remember preaching in the market in Concepcion, Paraguay. A drunk man came at me to attack me. Someone came to my defence and was going to beat the drunk with a piece of hose. I stopped the man from beating him. But the drunk only came back again. This time I looked at him and in the mighty Name of Jesus rebuked the demon that was controlling him,. The man took a step back. Again I rebuked the demon in the Name of Jesus, and again the man stepped back and fled.

I could have chosen a physical weapon to protect myself or a heavenly one. A piece of hose or the Name of Jesus. If I had relied on the physical a poor drunk man would have been beaten up. By relying on the Name of Jesus, God's power was demonstrated before unbelievers. We are in a spiritual battle.

Lets use our heavenly weapons. The Name of Jesus is a mighty weapon of heaven.

The strength of His might

God wants to clothe us with heavenly power for the battle. In Ephesians 6, before Paul begins to speak about our weapons, he says to “be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.” The Greek word for strong is dunamis, from which we get our word, dynamite. We are to be filled with that spiritual dynamite of Christ’s power.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Every soldier of Christ must be clothed and strengthened with that awesome power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had been baptised in the Holy Spirit, and clothed with heavenly power. It was only then that they were sent out to extend the kingdom of heaven.

Heavenly weapons are not very effective when you have a spiritually weak soldier. A sword is only as good as the arm that wields it. Spiritual weapons are like the stone in a sling shot. Imagine young David whirling that sling shot around his head. The power of his arm whirled that stone faster and faster around his head. The stone was going so fast that when it hit Goliath it smashed through his skull and sunk into his head.

It is the unleashing of the power of the Holy Spirit that gives dynamite power to the heavenly weapons. Jesus destroyed the yoke of oppression through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 10:38

Armour of light

Every soldier of Christ needs to be clothed in heavenly power. It is this clothing in the power of Christ that Paul eagerly sought:

...I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **2 Corinthians 12:9**

If the battle was physical then it would be important for us to be strong in the natural realm. But Paul actually boasts in his weaknesses, because the battle belongs to the Lord and not to us. We are relying on His strength not ours. Our weaknesses should cause us to rely heavily on the Lord. When we do this the power of Christ will rest upon us.

When you put on the Lord Jesus Christ, you are literally clothed with an armour of light. This armour of light is directly related to our righteousness in Christ. We are to cast off sin and turn to Christ.

Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light... (14) put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. **Romans 13:12,14**

When you believe in Jesus you can't keep walking in the darkness. To believe in Jesus is to choose to walk in the Light. Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

"I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." **John 12:46**

This Light of Christ is a tremendous spiritual weapon that overcomes darkness.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined... (4) For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the

day of Midian.”

Isaiah 9:2,4

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:4-5

It is the nature of light to cast out darkness. When you turn on a light in a dark room suddenly all the darkness is gone. Darkness cannot overcome light. God uses His Light to overcome darkness. I remember in Paraguay as a missionary I had a spiritual encounter one night while I slept. It felt like my head had been plugged into the power socket. A surge of electricity went through my head.

I woke up with a start to see an explosion of Light in the room. It lasted for a split second. Everything was suddenly lit up. I looked at my watch and it was midnight. It was probably the hour in which the witches’ coven met to ‘pray’ against pastors and churches. I believe that the Lord came to my rescue by shining His Light in my room and casting out the spirits of darkness.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

Ministering Angels

Any kingdom will have an army to do the will of its king. God's heavenly army are His angels. Angels play an important role in helping and defending God's people. There are 280 references in the Bible to angels. God uses angels to help us in the task of advancing His kingdom.

Jesus said that He could have appealed to His Father to send 12 legions of angels. This is approximately 78,000 angelic soldiers.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Psalm 34:7

Angels are often sent by God to strengthen His people during times of distress and spiritual conflict. When Balaam was going to curse Israel an angelic soldier was sent against him.

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed his head, and fell on his face.

Numbers 22:31

Here are some examples of how God delivered His people in times of need:

- ❖ The angel of the Lord was sent to Hagar and Ishmael when they were dying of thirst in the desert. Their eyes were opened to see water.
- ❖ The angel of the Lord stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac on the altar.
- ❖ An angelic army was sent to protect Jacob from Esau and 300 armed men. As a result the two men were reconciled.
- ❖ An angel appeared to Moses in a burning bush in order to deliver the Israelite slaves from bondage.

- ❖ An angel stood between the Egyptian army and the Israelites at the Red Sea. The entire Egyptian army were powerless against an unarmed people because of one angel.
- ❖ An angel was sent before Israel to drive out their enemies from the promised land.
- ❖ An angel appeared to Gideon and as a result Israel was delivered from the Midianites.
- ❖ Samson was born after an angel visited his barren mother. Samson brought great victory against the oppressing Philistines.
- ❖ Jezebel vowed to kill the prophet, Elijah. But an angel of the Lord was sent to strengthen Elijah with heavenly food. On the strength of that food Elijah was able to walk in the desert for 40 days and nights until he came to the safety of Mount Horeb.
- ❖ After Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, the angels came to minister to Him. After the wilderness experience Jesus began His ministry and delivered many of evil spirits.
Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.
Matthew 4:11
- ❖ When Jesus sweated great drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane an angel came and strengthened Him. From the garden Jesus went to Calvary where He defeated Satan forever.
- ❖ When Peter and the apostles were imprisoned (Acts 5:21) an angel of the Lord went and opened the prison doors. The apostles left the prison and the next day continued to preach the Gospel.

Angels have a protective role in watching over us. Their powerful wings cover us, they carry us lest we stumble. Their faces are looking to the Father on our behalf.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 18:10

When I go on a mission trip I believe that the Father sends His angel before me, so that my journey is blessed. God has promised us the help and protection of angels in times of spiritual warfare. This is a promise that we can bring before the Father, asking for His angelic help in time of need. We thank God that by faith we are guarded by angels wherever we are.

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your habitation, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Psalms 91:9-12

Kingdom Nuggets

Dying man sees Jesus and is healed

I was asked to go to visit a sick man, Angkas. He is the cousin of our Indonesian translator. I went into his bedroom where he lay in bed on oxygen. His heart was functioning at 15% capacity. The doctors had operated unsuccessfully on his heart. Angkas was sent home to die. His family were gathered around him in grief. I told his family that they looked like they were at a funeral, but it is easy to be healed.



Angkas told me how he believed that Jesus Christ would heal him. He said that he could see Jesus standing before him. I asked him to stand, take off the oxygen, and walk in the Name of Jesus. The family parted as he walked from his bedroom, and then began to do star jumps!

Angkas is healed



Almost everyone in the room gave their lives to Jesus when they saw the miracle. See how happy his family is in the photo below. Angkas continues to do well.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



Disarming the strongman

The story of Candido

In a war one must get to know enemy. The Bible teaches us how Satan and his demons operate, and how we are to do battle against them. I want to start by sharing a story of spiritual warfare which occurred while I was a missionary in Paraguay.

My neighbours visited my house and asked me to come and pray for a young man named Candido. When I arrived I found Candido lying on a bed. He was in a coma and had already been that way for about a year or two. He had probably been cursed. I prayed for Candido in the Name of Jesus. But his coma remained. I felt a strong demonic force over his life. Jesus described such demons as strong men. Jesus taught us...

"But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace; but when one stronger than he assails him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoil."

Luke 11:20-22

So often when a person is not immediately healed someone will say, "Oh well I guess it wasn't God's will to heal." Or they might say, "You see God doesn't always heal people." However the problem is that the demon has not been attacked, overcome, disarmed, and cast out.

In the Name of Jesus I began to assail this strong man, to do battle against him. I used various heavenly weapons against this demon. Virtually every time I thought of this man I gave thanks for his deliverance. I prayed in faith thanking God that He was setting Candido free. I also called the leaders of the church to join me, anointing him with oil, and praying over him in Jesus Name. James speaks of a number of spiritual weapons: the prayer of faith, anointing with oil, and the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:14-15

Still nothing much seemed to happen with Candido. So I visited him several times, laying hands on him and praying the prayer of faith over him in the Name of Jesus. The laying on of hands is actually a spiritual weapon when done in faith. See how Jesus delivered a woman with a spirit of infirmity when He laid His hands upon her:

And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God.

Luke 13:11-13

Afterwards we picked Candido up in our jeep and took him to our house for an outreach meeting. There we sat him up during the meeting in the coma. We all prayed for him. After the meeting finished we took him home still in a coma. Bringing him to the meeting was actually another spiritual weapon, that of acting out our faith.

And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

Mark 2:3-4

To the prayer of faith I added fasting, in accordance with the Word of God.

And he said unto them, "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."

Mark 9:29 (AV)

Then the demonic strong man in Candido attacked me. It happened one day as I was resting during the siesta time in the heat of the day. As I slept that demon came upon me. It is hard to describe what happened. I felt that I was trapped in a cage and

could not wake myself up. It was a big battle. I called upon the Name of Jesus in my sleep, and that demon fled, and I woke up.

I became very discouraged at this point. Candido was still in a coma about a year after beginning to pray for him in faith. Discouragement is a weapon of the enemy. The enemy holds out against us. His plan is that if he can hold things up we will become discouraged, our hands will grow weak, and we will leave the fight.

Paul says that having done all, to stand. In spiritual warfare when we don't know what else to do, we simply continue to take our stand. Don't run away!

Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:13

In my discouragement I cried out to the Lord, and the Holy Spirit clearly spoke to me about Candido. He said to me, "In three years I will raise him up." The Lord also gave me a vision of Candido with raised hands giving thanks to God in church. After the Lord spoke to me a confident faith arose in my heart. I knew that it was done. After that I did not pray very much for Candido, the battle was won.

Incredibly three years later the Lord healed Candido, just as the Lord had said. An evangelistic team were visiting his house from Argentina. They prayed for him and he was delivered. The leader of the team said that it was like there was a crack of a whip in the room. The demon left Candido and he woke up from being in a coma for five years. Truly the strong man had been attacked, overcome, and cast out.

Candido was then disciplined and taught about Jesus. Just before I left Paraguay I was preaching in a local church. There in the congregation was Candido with his hands lifted high to the Lord in worship. Praise be to the Lord who does great things. I think one of the main things I learnt was not to give up in spiritual warfare. Sometimes we are dealing with a "strong

man.” We are to attack, overcome and disarm the demon before the person is healed or delivered.

The Psalmist speaks of how the Lord disarms the enemy, breaks his bow, shatters his spear, and burns the chariots in which he had trusted.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, he burns the chariots with fire!

Psalm 46:9

How demons enter

Demons enter through sin, witchcraft, the occult, curses, trauma, and abuse. They can be then passed on from generation to generation through the operation of generational curses. The emphasis of Scripture is that sin is the open doorway for demonic entry. For example, King Saul was commanded by the Lord to completely destroy the Amalekites, and all their possessions. But Saul disobeyed the Lord.

The Lord said his rebellion was as witchcraft. The Lord rejected Saul as King, removed His Holy Spirit from him, and Saul became tormented by an evil spirit. The prophet Samuel confronted Saul saying to him...

“the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop on the spoil, and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?” (23) For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.”

1 Samuel 15:18,19,23

Demons hinder God’s work

Demons try to hinder us from obeying God’s call. Satan speaking through Peter sought to discourage Jesus from going to the Cross. Jesus said to Satan that he was a hindrance to Him.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be

raised. And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Matthew 16:21-23

Daniel set himself to pray and fast and continued for 21 days. Daniel's ministry was that of a prophet, foretelling the rise and fall of empires. Heaven sent a messenger to bring Daniel a prophecy. However, this messenger was hindered in arriving because of the demon prince over Persia. This principality fought against him. The heavenly messenger received support from Michael, the archangel. So we clearly see how demons fight against the work of the Lord, and try to delay or stop it from happening.

Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, so I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia and came to make you understand what is to befall your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

Daniel 10:12-14

Demons obstruct the Gospel

Demons seek to hinder people from receiving the Gospel.

"When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, named Bar-Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) withstood them, seeking to turn away the proconsul from the faith. But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now,

behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord."
Acts 13:6-12

They torment and harass

Demons torment people. Mental torment is a terrible thing. Saul became tormented by an evil spirit as a result of his rebellion.

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is skilful in playing the lyre; and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well, and bring him to me." **1 Samuel 16:14-17**

They are rebellious

Demons are without conscience, evil and rebellion is their nature. They refuse correction and cannot be tamed.

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by humankind, but no human being can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:7-8

They deceive

Satan is a liar and the father of lies.

"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But, because I tell the truth, you do not believe me."
John 8:44-45

Religious deception and false doctrine are basic to the strategy of demons. Did you know that there are demons whose

specialty is false doctrine? Sound doctrine is absolutely imperative. Some people have incorrectly said that the Spirit unites, but doctrine divides. How untrue!

The Holy Spirit unites us through our faith in such essential doctrines of the atonement of the Blood of Jesus Christ, the incarnation, the authority and inspiration of Scripture, the trinity, and the sole mediation of Jesus Christ between God and man.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared,

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Demonic strongholds of the mind

Demons operate through creating thought strongholds of the mind. By repetition of thinking, certain thoughts are built up into a military stronghold. These strongholds are arguments or systems of thought. Demons take up residence in these strongholds. Religious strongholds have bound millions of people. These could be complex religious arguments, the false teaching of cults, or arguments of atheists against God's existence.

Other types of strongholds include, rationalising sin whether it be anger, violent abuse, pornography, stealing, alcohol or drug addiction. There are powerful strongholds involving our heart attitudes such as rejection, unforgiveness, hurt, self-pity, lust, greed, and so on.

For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Demons are unclean

Demons live in the unclean. They are attracted to sin. You will find demons in any fleshly work whether it be pornography, gambling, bitterness, greed, anger, or selfishness. They battle

against the Holy Spirit, and cooperate with our sinful flesh. In the story of the deliverance of the man with a legion of demons, they requested to go into the pigs. Pigs according to Mosaic law were unclean.

And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters.

Matthew 8:31-32

Demons defile

Demons also defile and make unclean. The Israelites defiled the temple of the Lord by putting their idols (and demons) into it.

They have turned to me their back and not their face; and though I have taught them persistently they have not listened to receive instruction. They set up their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to defile it.

Jeremiah 32:34

We defile ourselves when we lose our self-control. Have you ever lost your temper and said things you shouldn't have? Afterwards you feel awful. That's because you have defiled yourself. As soon as we give free reign to our flesh and passions, there is a demonic defilement. Many are emphasising healthy eating and proper diet. It is not the Big Mac meal that defiles the spirit, rather it is our lack of self-control.

There is nothing from outside a man which entering into him can defile him. But the things which come out of him, those are the ones that defile the man. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. And when He had entered into the house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. And He said to them, Are you also without understanding? Do you not perceive that whatever enters into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter into his heart, but into the belly, and goes out into the waste-bowl, purifying all food? And He said, That which comes out of the man is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy,

pride, foolishness: All these evil things pass out from inside and defile the man.

Mark 7:15-23

Spirits of sickness and pain

Demons cause pain, sickness, and ill health. If you are cooking a stew and you add rotten meat to it, the taste of the whole stew will be ruined. Instead of smelling awesome, it stinks. If you eat that stew it may cause you to be sick. So it is with demons. They sicken the atmosphere around them. Their presence makes people ill and unhealthy. Deliverance from demons and healing of the sick go hand in hand.

That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick.

Matthew 8:16

While he was coming, the demon tore him and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

Luke 9:42

Spirits of emotional sickness

Demons can cause mental and emotional sickness. After the man with a legion of demons had been delivered it says that he was “in his right mind.” How many people today suffer depression, strange voices, anxiety attacks, multiple personality, and schizophrenia from demonic causes.

And they came to Jesus, and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine.

Mark 5:15-16

Demons steal and destroy

Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy, in contrast, Jesus brings abundant life.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

We notice how Satan entered Judas with the purpose to betray and kill Jesus.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad, and engaged to give him money. So he agreed, and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of the multitude.

Luke 22:3-6

Judas was under Satan's influence even before this happened. It was Judas who was corrupt, stealing from the money box which was held in trust for all the disciples. It was Judas who in greed opposed the anointing of Jesus. He wanted to sell the expensive ointment for his own personal gain. Greed and corruption are signs of the demonic.

There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it.

John 12:2-6

Satan accuses

Satan is the accuser of the brethren. He seeks to undermine the certainty of our salvation. We must know the difference between subjective and objective guilt. Objective guilt is when the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins. Subjective guilt is when we come under condemnation for things that we have already confessed and been forgiven for.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

Revelations 12:10

Let's take hold of the promise that no weapon of accusation shall prosper against us.

"No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, says the LORD." **Isaiah 54:17**

Demons entice

Demons entice and tempt people to sin. Satan came to Eve as a serpent, enticing her to eat of the fruit. His method was to cast doubt on the word of the Lord that forbade them from eating of the tree of good and evil.

And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; and the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.'" **1 Kings 22:19-21**

Demons are disruptive

Our outreaches in Paraguay were occasionally disrupted by people under demonic influence. I remember one outreach in a village. During the meeting a young man who was involved in witchcraft threw a large firecracker among the children. It blew a hole in the black plastic that the children were sitting on. Thankfully no one was hurt. Later he repented and turned to Christ.

In another outreach a drunk man circled the meeting yelling at us. Interestingly, my wife had previously circled the meeting creating a "Blood line" around us. The drunk never passed this line.

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul

was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

Acts 16:16-18

Demons cause division

Demons seek to bring jealousy, division, confusion, and separation between Christians. They work towards the breaking down of relationships, whether in the church, marriage or the family. They fight against our love for one another. Their weapons is very often our words which destroy, hurt, rob, curse and deceive.

Their throat is an open grave, they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.

Romans 3:13-14

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:14-15

Demons drive and compel

Demons drive and compel people. Such people can become restless and compulsive, lacking self-control. I had a friend who was on drugs and suffered demonic problems. It was impossible to carry on a conversation with him. He was constantly up and down, never staying still. It was after he came to Christ and was delivered that I could talk with him.

For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.)

Luke 8:29

Demons create fear

Demons control people through fear. Millions of people are held by fear in false religions. Afraid that if they leave their religion, the spirits will punish them.

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;
but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry,
Abba, Father.”*

Romans 8:15

Kingdom Nuggets

Emotional Healing & Deliverance



This young man had been regularly beaten by his parents. Then when he was 15 years old, they told him that he was completely useless to this world. This word cut into his emotions like a sharp knife.

To escape from home the young man joined the Bible College. He said that he never told his teachers about the secret of his heart. His secret was that he hated his parents.

In the top left photo I ask him whether he suffered rejection from his parents. He said yes. I then said to him that although he lost his parents, that his heavenly Father loved him and would never leave him. He then experienced a powerful emotional healing as he sobbed uncontrollably (top right photo).

The Lord released him from a spirit of emotional pain in the Name of Jesus (bottom photo). He later testified that he felt something come out of him. He publicly forgave his parents. PRAISE GOD!

How to battle against demons

Understanding the demonic realm

I want to begin by talking about spiritual dimensions. Many times Christians get confused because they are viewing things from a physical dimension. How could a legion of demons (12,000) inhabit one man? Or how can the vast kingdom of heaven and all its riches dwell within us? How can a demon and Christ reside in the same person?

The spiritual is a different dimension from the physical. Demons are not physical beings. They do not take up physical space. Demons enter people as spirit. The demonic world invades the physical. It is like a world within a world. For example when you look through a microscope you see another world of bacteria swimming around in water. These millions of bacteria can invade your body and make you sick. With your naked eye you can't see them, but there they are in your body. One vast world of microscopic bugs inside another world of your physical body.

Another way of understanding the demonic realm is to think of connections. When you turn on your computer and connect it to the internet, you are accessing a huge world. So it is with the demonic realm. You can do certain things that link you to certain evil spirits.

Let me give you one more example of spiritual relationships. A small tug boat pulls a vast ship behind it. The two are connected by a rope. The big ship puts that tug boat under tremendous strain. As long as that rope is between the two, the tug boat will always be struggling.

The tug boat represents our physical body. The rope is the entry point for the spiritual realm. It could be a visit to a palm

reader. That one visit binds the person to the demonic realm. The big ship is the demonic realm. It could be a demonic strong man. The bigger the ship the slower that tug boat will move. The greater the demonic influence on a person the less control they have over themselves.

When Jesus enters a person, His Holy Spirit and heavenly kingdom enters. It is like that tug boat is now being tied to a second ship, called Jesus. Jesus is pulling the tug boat in one direction, while the demons are pulling in the opposite direction. Deliverance occurs when the rope is cut. We need to understand that the deliverance may happen after attacking the strong man in spiritual warfare. For example, in prayer and fasting.

Demonic partnership

There are two types of situations in dealing with demons. One where there is an ungodly partnership with a demon, and the second where no such partnership exists. An ungodly partnership may exist between a demon and a person, or with a group of people, or with an object, or a place.

When there is an ungodly partnership between a person and a demon it is formed through the sins of a person's ancestors, or their own personal sin, or through an emotional crisis. For example, a young girl came forward in a meeting in South America. When I prayed for her she fell on the floor manifesting a demon. The pastor of the church said that she was known as the "school gossip". Her sin of gossip had brought her into an ungodly partnership with the spirit of gossip.

Demonic partnerships can also exist with a group of people, or a nation. For example, the nation of Vanuatu was dedicated to the devil through the John Frum Cult. This occurred on the island of Tanna in the 1930's. This partnership was later renounced and broken by the people in about 2003. Revival swept the island after this ungodly partnership was broken.

Ungodly partnerships also exist between demons and objects. An object used in witchcraft or idolatry is cursed. A demon becomes attached to that object. I remember in Fiji I was visiting a Christian's house. The family requested prayer. However, the Holy Spirit would not give me permission to pray until they had removed a head-dress from the house. I later found out that it was a witches' head piece that had been given to the family. I felt an evil spirit around that head-dress. When the object was removed from the house, the Holy Spirit fell in power upon the people. (The family should have repented and destroyed the head dress).

A place can also be cursed and under demonic influence. For example, I stayed in a flat while preaching in Singapore. One night when I was about to go to sleep I became aware of demons in the flat. I bound them in the Name of Jesus and went to sleep. I later found out that the flat was only used to house guest speakers. Most of the time it was empty. The maid who cleaned the flat was using it to have sex with other men. This had defiled the place.

The flat belonged to a Christian lady. She and her pastors came with me. I said a simple prayer commanding the spirits to leave. I felt them go. I never had any further problems when I have used that flat.

In such circumstances it is important that the legal owner of the place be in agreement with the deliverance of the property. Otherwise simply bind the spirits effecting the property, and plead the precious Blood of Jesus upon yourself. This applies in such situations as when you are traveling and staying in hotels, or your church is renting a place used by other groups during the week.

The Bible tells us that ungodly partnerships are formed by breaking God's moral standards. There are certain moral decrees that govern the universe. Paul speaks of ungodly people breaking these decrees:

They were filled with all manner of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them but approve those who practice them.

Romans 1:29-32

When these decrees are broken, demons partner with people. Through sin, an ungodly relationship is formed between a person and a demon. This partnership may be something that a person consciously and willingly enters into. Other times people do things in ignorance and end up with demonic bondage.

An example of a willing partnership is with witchcraft. Here a person invites evil spirits to enter them and becomes tormented by demons. In Freemasonry a person calls down curses upon themselves and their descendents. Through these curses the demons afflict and harass. Paul warns the Corinthian Christians not to become partners with demons.

Consider the people of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons.

1 Corinthians 10:18-20

Through the partaking of communion through the eating and drinking of the bread and the cup, we are partnering with Christ. We are in covenant with Him through the Cross.

Paul teaches that ungodly partnership is based on an agreement to enter into sin.

*What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. **2 Cor 6:16-18***

A person is to separate himself from all involvement with idols, witchcraft, the occult, false religions, free masonry, and cults. Repentance is the key to destroying these ungodly partnerships with demons. A person is to destroy all such objects belonging to false religions, cults, witchcraft and the occult. This includes ungodly music, magazines, videos, etc.

Many also of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all; and they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew and prevailed mightily. **Acts 19:18-20**

Many people enter into a demonic partnership without realizing it. Let's take for example a man who follows his lustful desires and commits adultery. Without realizing it he has entered into an ungodly partnership with demons of lust and adultery. He is bound and entrapped by these demons. Other spirits also partner with his sin, such as lying and deceit.

We need to discern whether the battle we face is because of our own partnership with demons, or not. If there is a demonic partnership we need to humble ourselves, receive the truth, repent and turn away from our sin. Then the spirit can be cast out. One of the keys is to be honest about our sin.

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

There was a woman who came to a house meeting in Paraguay. She was involved with the Mormons. She requested prayer for a stomach problem. The Holy Spirit spoke to me that she had a demonic partnership with Mormon doctrine. Paul speaks of the doctrines of demons. The woman refused to renounce her beliefs and in front of everyone insisted that we pray for her. So I prayed for her, and she collapsed on the floor, rolling around. The demon seized control of her mouth, making it shut like a vice. She was unable to call upon the Name of Jesus. She ended up being humbled in front of everyone because of her stubbornness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **1 John 1:10**

God's promise to us is if we will confess our sins, He will not only forgive us but cleanse us. I believe that this cleansing also pertains to unclean spirits.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9**

How to do battle

The first type of situation is where there is an ungodly partnership with demons. The second type is where we are engaged with the demonic world without any such partnership. This is all part of the spiritual battle that we are engaged in as Christians. For example, Jesus who committed no sin was tempted in the wilderness by the devil. Jesus often had to silence demons who were calling out and disrupting his meetings.

We are all involved in this spiritual battle. Demons will seek to tempt and entice us into sin. They seek to undermine our confidence in Christ through accusation. They seek to rob us of our peace through mental torment, fear and anxiety. They may attack us through demonic manifestations and through people. For this reason we need to know what the Bible says in how to overcome them. Here is a brief outline of what God has provided for spiritual warfare.

The Blood of Christ

The Blood of Jesus is our righteousness. We overcome the enemy, not relying on ourselves, or upon our own good works. but by the righteous blood of Jesus. The righteousness of Jesus has been imputed to us by His Blood.

We can confidently come to the throne of God because of the Blood of Christ. It is His Blood that has cleansed us from sin. We come to God's throne to receive wisdom, power and grace in times of spiritual battle. The enemy seeks to hinder us from receiving God's help, by accusing us of our sins.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

Revelations 12:10-11

The righteousness of Christ is a heavenly weapon. Paul gives us the picture of a soldier armed with a sword in his left and right hands doing battle with the enemy. Evil is the very nature of the kingdom of darkness. We overcome this evil with the righteousness of Jesus.

...the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;

2 Corinthians 6:7

Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Ephesians 6:14

Therefore we are to walk in godliness and not gratify our fleshly desires.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would.

Galatians 5:16-17

Live a pure life. Don't mix the things of God with the things of darkness. Resist the devil. Don't cooperate with him by holding unforgiveness, allowing wrong thoughts to dominate your thinking, watching violence and sex on the TV, or listening to ungodly music.

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

1 Corinthians 10:21-22

Submit to God

Submit to God. Totally obey Him without holding back. Obey His Word. Walk humbly before God, turning away from all arrogance and pride. This is the correct position to then go on to deal with the devil.

But he gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:6-7

The comfort of the Holy Spirit

The enemy seeks to destroy our emotional health whether by trauma, abuse, violence, grief, gossip, false accusations, or bitter disappointments. People are held captive by these types of emotional injuries. The comfort of the Holy Spirit releases captives, and brings healing. Many times once a person has experienced the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they will also be delivered. The love of God is a powerful heavenly weapon.

I will seek the lost, and bring again those driven away, and will bind up the broken, and will strengthen the sick. **Ezekiel 34:16**

Jesus quoted this Isaiah prophecy and said that it was fulfilled in Himself. See how the anointing brings hope and comfort, as well as deliverance.

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:1-3

I remember a teenage girl who received prayer in a house meeting. She collapsed on the floor manifesting. When we commanded the demon to leave she shook her head. This demon

refused to leave. Some people would start yelling and carrying on to get that demon out. We need the wisdom and discernment of the Holy Spirit to know how to do battle.

We made an appointment with this girl to talk with her. It turned out that she had been raped. When she had experienced emotional healing, the demon left without a struggle. Many times people need to experience the love of God in order to be delivered.

Do the work of the Gospel

For many years I suffered from migraines. My healing from migraines was manifest when I obeyed the Lord and went to Paraguay as a missionary. Jesus said that if we would seek first His kingdom and righteousness, all these things would be ours as well.

The best form of defense is offense. Attack the enemy by doing God's work. Give yourself to the work of the Lord. Be steadfast and immovable in serving the Lord. Share the Gospel with others. Occupy yourself in doing good works, and helping others.

...and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace;

Ephesians 6:15

Preaching the Word of God is to accompany the casting out of demons. The preached Word brings people to repentance of sin, which is the foundation for deliverance.

And he appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons. **Mark 3:14-15**

Pray for boldness to preach the Gospel. Satan wants Christ's soldiers to be weak, timid and fearful. God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of love, power and a sound mind.

...(pray) "also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,"

Ephesians 6:19

Be Christ centred

Be Christ centred, not demon focused. Demons want us to be focused on them. But it is in Christ that we have the power to defeat the enemy.

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:3**

The Word of God

Use the Word of God as a sword against the enemy's thoughts and arguments. Confess and believe the Word of God. Your faith is not based on what you feel and experience. Your faith comes through the Word of God. God will deliver us from all attacks on our mind. The Lord's deliverance is called the helmet of salvation.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." **Ephesians 6:17**

The Shield of Faith

Walk by faith. Take up faith like you would a shield to cover yourself.

...besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. **Ephesians 6:16**

Fast & Pray

When the battle is intense many Christians get discouraged and say: "Oh well it wasn't God's will." We need to attack the strong man in faith. This most certainly will involve fervent prayer and often with fasting (Mark 9:25-29).

Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, **Ephesians 6:18**

Praise and Worship

Sing songs of deliverance, thanksgiving, praise, and worship. By singing songs we are declaring our faith in Jesus

Christ, and the victory of the Cross. Paul and Silas were delivered from prison as they prayed and sang to the Lord.

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. Acts 16:25-26

In dealing with demons we should always be guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. The Lord will lead us and show us how to fight the battle. The battle belongs to the Lord. He will see us through to the victory. Amen.

Kingdom Nuggets

Girl is caught up into heaven and hears the angels singing



We had been in a healing meeting in which the Lord did wonderful miracles. As we were shaking hands and saying good bye, I came to this girl. By means of the Holy Spirit I asked her if she sang in the church band, and she said yes. I then went on to say that heaven would be opened and she would hear the angels singing.

With this the power of the Holy Spirit came upon her and she collapsed on the floor. The Glory of the Lord filled the room. A number of us began to weep in God's Presence. I was unable to speak. Afterwards the girl described how she saw heaven open and the angels singing. She described how the angels were rejoicing over the sinners that were being saved.

Jesus said, " Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Friend, the angels were

not rejoicing over the physical miracles we had seen. They were rejoicing over something far more important, the salvation of souls from hell. The Bible teaches that signs and wonders, gifts of the Holy Spirit are done to confirm the preaching of the Gospel. God's priority is the salvation of sinners. He is the Shepherd that leaves the 99 sheep and goes out into the wilderness to find the one lost sheep.

Ambassadors of the King

Sent by Christ

A rhema Word that has greatly impacted my life is that we are sent by God. We are ambassadors of His powerful kingdom . It is the knowledge that the Holy Spirit has sent me that rises like yeast on the inside of me. I don't just go to a miracle meeting or to the nations because it seems like a good idea. I go because I am sent by Jesus.

We are ambassadors of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit. We go in the knowledge that the King of Heaven has sent us to represent His kingdom . We don't go just because it seems like a good idea, or because we feel obligated. We go because heaven has sent us. We are sent as messengers of the King of Kings.

Jesus has sent us to be His ambassadors in the power of the Holy Spirit. He has promised us that the Holy Spirit will be with us. We go armed with His heavenly armour. As we go, the kingdom is manifested, demonic chains are broken, and darkness is shattered by the Light of Jesus.

The Father sent Jesus

Again and again Jesus spoke about how He was sent by the Father. This truth was so important to Him. He was empowered by the knowledge that His heavenly Father had sent Him. May it likewise be a revelation to us that we also are sent by Christ. Take a moment to meditate on these Scriptures.

... the works which the Father has granted me to accomplish, these very works which I am doing, bear me witness that the Father has sent me.

John 5:36

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded and came forth from God; I came not of my own accord, but he sent me."

John 8:42

“For I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak.” **John 12:49**

He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

John 14:24

The Father sent the Son in the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit. As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

John 20:19-22

And why are we sent? We are sent to usher in the kingdom of heaven through the preaching of Christ.

And preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay... (16) Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” **Matthew 10:7,8,16**

Jesus says “Go”

The voice of Jesus rings loud and clear today. He said, “Go”. That word, by the Holy Spirit, continues to echo down the halls of history to us today. It works like yeast in our hearts. The words of Jesus have power on the inside of us. It quickens the spirit of a man to do the works of God.

Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.”

Matthew 22:8-9

May we stop making excuses why we can’t go. May we stop debating whether we should go. May we stop waiting for an

invitation to go. We have already been sent. May we have a conviction that we are ambassadors sent by the King of Kings. May it be a revelation of the Holy Spirit that acts powerfully like yeast in our hearts.

When I was 17 my pastor came to me and prophesied that God had called me into full time ministry. A little later the Lord spoke to me through His Word confirming what had been said. His living Word propelled me forward to serve Him full time in the preaching of the Gospel. As a result I began formal studies in the Bible and later became a pastor.

Then in 2004 I had a dream to go to Kalimantan, Indonesia. The Lord said: "Go to Borneo to pray the prayer of faith for revival." His living Word stirred my heart. Like yeast that causes a chemical reaction, so His Word changes the atmosphere of the heart. By God's grace I began traveling to the nations.

Then in 2007 I had a dream in which I was on Tanna Island in Vanuatu. I heard the Lord say to me: "The work is vast. Go and help them." The Lord opened the way for me to go. I knew I was sent by the Holy Spirit. As a result of the trip the Lord planted a new church, souls were saved, and people testified of wonderful healings.

Sometimes the Lord will speak through a dream, other times He will put a desire in our hearts to go somewhere. Whether He speaks to us in this special way or not, He has already spoken to us through His Word.

The question is not whether we should go? But why aren't we going? Sometimes people will question me why I go out preaching. Why don't I just stay at home and pastor my church? If I didn't go I would be disobedient to the Lord.

Paul was so passionate about taking the Gospel that the Holy Spirit actually had to tell him not to go to certain places. The Holy Spirit did this, not because Paul was doing the wrong thing, but because the Lord wanted him in another area. We can

trust the Holy Spirit to both open and shut doors for the Gospel. May we be so passionate for the Gospel that the Holy Spirit has to redirect our steps.

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing beseeching him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:6-10

We are all sent by the Lord. Let this mandate of Christ become a living reality in our spirit.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Daniel's vision of Jesus, the Son of Man

**“I saw in the night visions, and
behold, with the clouds of
heaven there came one like a
Son of Man, and he came to the
Ancient of Days and was
presented before him.
And to Him was given
dominion and glory and
kingdom, that all peoples,
nations, and languages should
serve Him; his dominion is an
everlasting dominion, which
shall not pass away, and his
kingdom one that shall not be
destroyed.”**

Daniel 7:13-14