

TITLE: Full Gospel Discipleship

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Full Gospel Discipleship

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Preface

This word was given to me first in a picture form as I lay in bed at around 5:30 in the morning in Walhka, Naga Land. Then I got up and began to write down what I had seen and what I heard the Holy Spirit saying to me. The writing took place over a number of days as I sat up on a rooftop, high up in the mountains, warming myself in the sun, overlooking the city of Walhka itself.

I know many will not agree with what has been written within these pages concerning a new wave of what I am calling Full Gospel Discipleship, but I want to be faithful to what I believe the Lord poured into my heart to write down. These ideas come to me and I wrote them down over many hours and over a number of days. I believe the Holy Spirit is trying to say something both to the churches and to us as disciples of Christ, plus to those who are seeking the true way to God the Father.

I have tried to be faithful in writing it down and I know that I will have to stand before the Lord one day to give an account of what I have said and done during my time here on earth.

I have had this type of event take place before in a major way where God gave me a vision when I was spending time in fasting and prayer, seeking a word from God that I had been forgiven by Him. This time God showed me a blackboard with all my sins written on it. Then blood began to flow from over the top of the blackboard, covering the whole blackboard. Next a voice said, "Do you see your sins anymore?" I said, "No" and the voice said, "Neither do I." Then He taught me a truth from Matthew 16:19, on binding and loosing, that I have used a lot in spiritual warfare throughout my life. The next time, I had a vision it was concerning a sermon that I was to preach in Fort McMurray, Alberta. I

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had gone to a campground in the fall with a little trailer, intending to pray and fast. Again, He poured a word into my heart and the following Sunday when I got up to speak the sermon was like a 45-minute continuous prophesy, or word to the people.

Christ tell us that if we will just ask, seek and knock He will open up to us His word and the treasures that He desires for us to have in Him. (Matthew 6:33; 7:7-8) I must admit I was not seeking Him like I should, but He did tell me that if I would be faithful and go to India He would show me something that would change some of the direction of my life with Him. This He has done.

First he healed me. One afternoon I took a rest, and even though I was tired, I could not sleep immediately. It wasn't long though, after praying and asking God to give me strength because I had been feeling weak for so many years, that I did fall asleep. I had been dragging myself around and it was one of the main reasons that at first, I did not want to go on the India trip. I even complained to my doctor about how I felt. But after he ran several tests and had me checked out again for several things, he finally stated that I should go on the India trip. It was in this state of thinking that a vision came to me.

The vision was of a glass tube full of energy. It was clear like glass but there was a tremendous light radiating from inside the tube, with electrical beams flashing out like lightning bolts from it. It was radiating a lot of power. Then I saw the hand of God take this tub of power and place it inside me. It was plugged into my brain and then it went along the full length of my spine on the inside. This power began to radiate through my full being. The power began to heal and restore. At that moment I woke up and I knew something powerful had happened.

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It was not only a vision but soon I would realize that God had stepped in, answered my prayers, and healed me. He told me that this season of weakness was now over and He was restoring me to full strength. But I need to be wise in how I walk and live for Him.

Second, He gave me eyes and ears to hear what the Spirit is trying to say to His churches. This booklet is a result of that encounter with Him. It has deepened my resolve, re-ignited my heart for ministry of going out and making disciples that will bear the fruit of all the great commissions that He entrusted to us in especially in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-18 and Luke 24:44-49.

Thirdly, He gave me a vision of what Project L.A.M.B.S. ministry would look like in the future. This would help to strengthen and plot out the ministry that He wanted Hkaw Win and me to do together in the future with His leaders and servants. It is time to cast off the old garments and be clothed in Christ Jesus in all that we are to have in Him. It is time to draw closer to Him and to let Him draw closer to us. (James 4:8) It is time to take up the full armour of God, especially the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:16-17) The bigger spiritual battle for the disciples of Christ in the spirit realm is about to break forth into the earthly rounds.

May our Father be glorified through these words, may the Son Jesus Christ be revealed more clearly in our hearts and may the Holy Spirit empower us so that we can stand as Christ true servants in the last days.

Fellow servant in Christ Jesus,
James Paul Humphries

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Introduction

The God of the Bible is a God who creates and uses principles of creation that we can as people discover. From His creative heart, He forms things in a way that show forth both logic and wisdom. He uses patterns of things to interconnect with other things here on earth. He gives to us steps that we must follow if we hope to unlock the trues of His words.

Before the fall of man, all things lived in harmony and unity. In God's creation all things are unique and have their place. Man and woman are His crowning glory, made after His image, made up of a body, soul and spirit, they are able to think, rationalize and understand things. All creation was made for man to discover and explore, but the key to unlocking this reservoir of wisdom and knowledge come through a personal walk with God Himself each day. (Gen 2:1-25; 3:8)

When I look at Scripture I see many patterns or steps of logic God uses so that man can understand and discern how God works through things here on earth. Some examples are the creation story, flood story, Lord's Prayer, fruit of the Spirit, etc. Each has a pattern that helps man to see and understand what the heart of God is and what and how He is working out things in people's lives here on earth.

During the times of the Old Testament many things seemed to be a mystery for the people. They could not have comprehended what God was doing and why He was doing it or allowing certain things to happen. We have a saying in English, "hindsight is always 20/20". It seems that it is not 'til sometime after that we understand the full picture of God's intent. He does have a perfect plan that in the end will cause all to worship Him as God of all creation.

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As we move into the New Testament, the Scriptures tell us things that were once a mystery are now becoming clear to those who seek God's face. God's plan for the world was becoming evident. His steps and His timing are perfect. Plus, with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, He became our teacher and counselor, revealing deeper truths from His word about God and about Jesus. He takes that which was a mystery and brings it into light so that all who choose can see and hear. When an artist begins to paint a picture, he starts off with broad brush strokes and over time moves to add in larger pieces to his picture, but then over time as he stands back and reflects, begins to add in the smaller details, that, when finished, give understanding, boldness and life to what he or she was endeavoring to communicate to the viewer.

The challenge I see in our world today is people want things almost instantaneously. They want the fast food way of life and do not want to wait, but the problem is this type of lifestyle and thinking does not work very well when it comes to God and His teachings. He wants people to meditate, to wait, to tarry before Him. Often He gives to us pieces of the big picture, but we do not see or clearly understand what He is presenting or showing us until the last piece is carefully put into place. That's when the puzzle moves from being a bunch of pieces to being a picture.

I believe that God is a God of miracles, but He also does everything for a reason or purpose, with order and logic built into it. We may not see it at the time, but in due time He shows forth His magnificence and glory. He is omnipresence, omnipotent. (Revelation 19:6) and truly omniscient.

Throughout history God has been unveiling His redemptive picture of grace, a process that has been given to us in steps and is now

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revealed to man and woman by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes truths get revealed by God and then people stray away from His truth, but other times God reveals a foundational truth so that those who seek Him can build on that foundation. We have the great awakenings, movements of revival preaching, movements of evangelism, the Pentecostal movement, the Jesus people movement, the Charismatic movement, the signs and wonders movement, the house church movement and the worship and praise movement that is crossing our lands today.

I believe this is true when it comes also to the works of the Holy Spirit, in the church and personally in the disciple's life today. Over the last 100 years there has been a great emphasis and teaching going forth from the church concerning the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Many have claimed that they have found all truth concerning the Holy Spirit, but the truth is God has not finished the picture yet. The artist is still creating and filling in the final details of the picture so that His master plan can be revealed.

Different churches and denominations have brought to the picture key building materials concerning the Holy Spirit. Over time these pieces that were sometimes walls of division between various groups of disciples of Christ have come down, to make the church more balanced and strong. A true servant's discipleship heart is beginning to be formed within the body of Christ.

The Bible tells us that we need to walk in the Spirit of truth. (Gal. 5:16, 25), a place of coming together with the Words of God, by placing the Word in our hearts so that through the Spirit we can be led and live out the Word and will for our lives. We are to be examples of the living Word to a lost world, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Maybe it is time to start a new movement called "Bapticoctal," a joining together of the Baptist and Pentecostal, a bringing together the way of personal

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faith grounded in the Word of God and linked together with emotions and feelings of the heart of God. I'm reminded of what Jesus told the woman at the well saying, God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must "worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

One-night God woke me up and gave to me what I believe is another piece to the bigger picture concerning the work of the Holy Spirit. Some will not like what I have to say because it might contain too much logic. It may seem mechanical because it is laid out in a step-by-step process. But that is all right because God uses different people to minister to His body in different ways and I believe most people want a truly personal and deep relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, our fast food, emotional approach has led many away from the heart of God. Instead of entering deeper into the heart of God, we have become, as it were, lukewarm. (Revelation 3:15-16)

At Christ's death something happened that few people either know about or few churches talk about. We are told that at the moment of Christ's death the veil was rent or torn in two from the top to the bottom. Why? Because a change had come, (Matthew 27:51) God was opening a new way, no longer was the high priest just going to enter the Holy of Holies just once a year but because of Christ's blood was now once and for all, sprinkled on the mercy seat on our behalf. We can now personally enter into the Holy of Holies, through faith, covered in His blood of righteousness, being delivered from death. We can have a deep and personal eternal relationship with Almighty God.

The disciple's journey is a step-by-step process of dying, growing, maturing and producing eternal fruit in Christ Jesus. As a disciple, I have personally walked through many steps of maturing, starting with the Jesus People movement, then the charismatic movement, then on to the signs and wonders movement, to the deeper

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commitment movement, then to the worship and praise movement and now, sitting on a roof top overlooking the city Wokhaw in Naga Land, I find myself looking back at the journey that I have travelled. People, it was there, that God said, James Paul, there is more, look again, dig a little deeper and see. Take that which you have learned. (Truth, word of God) and experienced. (emotions and feelings) and see that there is still more to the picture. Help others to take the steps of a deeper prayer life, into a deeper heart relationship and come and dine at my table and see what I have to show you and then write it down and tell it to others.

I will call many to come into the next step of the filling and fullness of the Holy Spirit. I beg of you before you turn away and write me off, please take time to read and reflect, to meditate on these Scriptures and on what I am trying to say. I believe God is calling many of us to a deeper walk in Him, so that in the last days we will be able to fulfill all of the great commissions of Jesus Christ, experiencing and living out all that these Scripture verses are commanding and tell us that we are to be doing.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

Mark 16:15-18

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they

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will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Luke 24:46-49

*Then **He said to them**, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and the remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from high.”*

John 20:21-23

*So **Jesus said to them** again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*

Acts 1:7-8

*And **He said to them**, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Now after reading these verses we come to the challenging question. Are these verses written for the church of today? Or, as some say, were they for the Apostolic age, for the time when God was establishing the Church, and once that was completed we moved into the

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age of grace? But it is interesting to note that when you go to other countries and see the church, a church that has developed mainly on its own without much of a human guide from the west, these verses seem to be alive and well, functioning as part of the everyday ministry of the church. These disciples did not know or even aware that this was not what should be taking place.

This brings us back to the question. Are these great commission verses in their entirety for the church today? And if not, why not, and if they are to be, why are we not seeing this type of ministry happening in the church today in the West? I know many people will have a variety of answers or to put it bluntly, excuses. I have heard many shared with me that go like this:

One: We are in a scientific age, when it comes to thinking.

Two: We like to have control of things in our life.

Three: We are better educated today; we understand the Bible more clearly.

These are just a few, but then why is it, when you are in what we call a third-world country, where people cannot control or manipulate their surroundings, we often see this kind of ministry and service amongst the people? I believe the difference is we have turned to man-made ways of thinking and have walked away or closed our hearts to what God is speaking to His church. We have stopped living as Full Gospel Disciples of Christ Jesus.

To be able to carry out these Scriptures, we need to move into a greater depth and maturity in our walk, in and with the Holy Spirit. The gifts are not the finishing step, but are tools that we can be equipped with as ambassadors of reconciliation. They are there to help us in our going out, so that through the love and power of Jesus Christ we can truly see the captive set free from the bondages of Satan. It is time for the church

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of Christ to begin to fulfill all aspects of each part of these great commission commands are to be fulfilled in Spirit and in Truth.

Chapter One:

Holy Spirit's Call

From the very beginning of time God the Creator has been calling people to a personal walk of faith with Him. From Adam and Eve all the way through the Bible, God, through the Holy Spirit, has been calling and challenging people to walk and live for and with Him.

When God call Abram it was to be willing to leave his land and people and travel to a new land where God would make of him and his wife a great nation. The key was to trust and obey. Abram had a very deep love for the Lord. Together with each other a covenant was made between God and Abraham. (Genesis 17:1-13)

In the New Testament Jesus, the Son of God, while here on earth, called people to be His disciples. When Christ calls people it is a call to faith in Him, to change from an old way of life to a new way, truth and life. (John 14:6) His desire is to show how people can enter the kingdom of heaven. Because of our sin nature, which came through Adam and Eve, all who have been born have a sin nature that is tied to the ruler of this world.

From the time of Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit of promise was sent forth to the believers on the day of Pentecost birthing forth Christ's body, the Church. The church is to be the channel Christ uses to tell a lost world about sin and death and how individual people can be set free. Christ died to pay the price for our sins and make a way that we can be redeemed, brought back to a personal relationship with God. Our sin makes a wall of division between man and God. Sin and disobedience

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separates us from God. But because of Christ's shed blood which He gave for all on the cross, and because He did not remain in the grave but rose by the power of the Holy Spirit unto life, He has made a way for us to have eternal life.

Christ taught the disciples and later Paul elaborated even more on how salvation can be had. It comes by one's being willing to trust and believe. In the book of Romans Paul shows the way we as sinners must take if we are to be saved.

*"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are the **called** according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first born among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also **called**; whom He **called**, those He also justified; in whom He justified, He also glorified."* Romans 8:27-30

Paul also tell us in Romans 10:9-10 that we need to confess with our mouth and believe in our hearts and by doing this we can and will be saved through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. But there are some truths that we need to clearly understand. We are also told in Scripture it's not so much what goes into the mouth that matters but what comes out of the mouth, for the mouth speaks what is in the heart. Our heart is where our sin nature lives but it's by confessing our sin with our mouth that releases the heart from the bondage of sin to have eternal life. That's why we are told to first believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord and then secondly speak it out through our mouths. Paul tells us that even though we know truth and it's already in our mouth we often choose not to speak it because of fear. But if we hope to have redemption we need to take a

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step of faith and speak out our confession before God our Creator. (Romans 10:14-17)

Paul also tells the Ephesian church, *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of his glory.”* (Ephesians 1:13-14) Paul speaks about trusting in the Gospel of Jesus Christ because through faith in the gospel we can have salvation. Secondly we are then sealed in by the Holy Spirit of promise. This idea of a seal is that God has marked us with his Holy Spirit that when others look at us they will see Christ Jesus has redeemed us. Not only that, the Holy Spirit comes as a guarantee to us, we can have peace to know that when we die we will go to heaven.

Jesus tells us a seed must first die and then after it dies and breaks open it will produce a new life. Jesus Himself states, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”* (John 12:24) We have to die to our will and live for Christ. It is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me. (Galatians 2:20) We die to this world and are raised anew in Christ Jesus. He makes us a new creation. We become covered by His love, grace, and mercy. We take on His righteousness, which enables us to stand before Him in the Holy of Holies before a Holy God. (Ephesians 6:14)

By confession of sins we become cleansed and washed. Baptism is a picture that we have died to self and now live for Jesus Christ. Again by our confession we are committing to a life of servant hood. We are to follow Christ and to live according to His word and to go wherever the Holy Spirit leads us.

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We, as it were, are going through a time of metamorphosis and becoming a new creation, different from the people of the world. There is a change that takes place from the inside out. We see, think, talk and act differently. Plus, at that very moment when we become saved the Holy Spirit also seals us. (Ephesians 1:13) Some have called this the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are being totally covered from the top of our heads to our toes, covered all over by the Spirit of God. We are no longer living a life of selfishness and disobedience but one of eternal life with Jesus Christ.

Christ wants to join together with us in a relationship of oneness with Him. He calls us to a personal relationship with Him. He calls us to be joint heirs with Him.

When Christ Jesus becomes Lord and Saviour of our lives we need to commit our lives to a walk of faith that is important for all disciple to follow and live by (Matthew 7:21). We are called by God to be His discipline as a disciple in at least six different areas.

1. A Disciple is called to Pray

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:6

Prayer is simply two-way communication between God and us. Relationships are built through communication – both verbally and non-verbally, expressing the heart of the speaker. Prayer means seeking, asking, knocking and approaching God first. (Matthew 7:7) It is the door we enter to learn the Father's will for our lives.

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Often we don't know how to pray. This was a question that the disciples asked Jesus. His response was the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13) This prayer is a pattern of how to pray through life's journey.

Again using King David's example, we see the importance of prayer. He asked the Lord to give ear to his prayer and consider the groaning of his heart. He stated that only God was King and Lord. David waited eagerly to hear and watch what the Lord would say and do. (Psalm 5:1-3)

Jesus set an example of prayer for the disciples. (Mark 1:35) Often when Jesus prayed He would bring the disciples with Him. Unfortunately, the flesh sometimes got the better of these men and they fell asleep. (Mark 14:37-41) We are encouraged to pray often. Paul tells the Thessalonians church to pray without ceasing. Stated another way, we need to be to praying in all things. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

We also need to pray when we speak as Christ's ambassadors. (Ephesians 6:18-20) Our biggest enemy in witnessing is fear and worry but through prayer we can be overcomers. (Philippians 4:4-7) Sometimes when one struggles with establishing a habit of prayer, it can be helpful to get a "prayer partner" that will walk along with you. Choose one you can trust to support and encourage you just as you will support and encourage him or her.

Most importantly, we need to see things through the eyes of Christ. Prayer focuses us on Him, lifting our eyes off ourselves. It helps us to view things through spiritual eyes rather than worldly eyes. Prayer gives us renewed hope, peace and strength to face challenges that each day may bring. **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.**

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2. A Disciple is called to be directed by the Holy Spirit

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. John 14:26

When Jesus left this earth He told the disciples to wait in an upper room and be in prayer until the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that unless He went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit could not come. (John 14:16-29) The Holy Spirit is our comforter, teacher and the one who empowers us to overcome the strongholds of this world. He gives us hope, something that much of the world has lost. (Romans 15:13)

The key to the disciple's walk is to ask Christ to fill us with His Holy Spirit. It is what connects us to the rest of the body and aids in our ministry with one other. Paul tells the Ephesian disciples to pray for the Holy Spirit to fill them daily. (Ephesians 5:18) God's Spirit is like fuel in a vehicle – when used, we need Him to fill us up daily. if not we will soon run out.

One purpose of the Holy Spirit is to empower us for service. (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 4:12) As well, the Holy Spirit guides us on our journey. He is our direct lifeline to Christ and is the one that keeps us connected to the family of God.

3. A Disciple is called to Fellowship

What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

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Another important point to remember is that man and woman were created for fellowship. We are not called to walk alone or to be an island unto ourselves. As disciples of Christ we became part of His worldwide Church. He is our head and we are the various members of His body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

The church is where we worship, have communion. (1 Corinthians 11:23-24) and give of our possessions. It is also a place where we can give of ourselves – our talents, gifts and service. We are built up and encouraged in church. We also become connected in smaller house fellowships. The early church went from house to house having communion, teaching God's word and working together to meet the needs of others. (Acts 2:42-47)

Fellowship is at the heart of God and is birthed from love by Him, so that each day we can experience with Him a personal relationship. We are His children and He desires to care for and fellowship with us. John tells us that fellowship is an important between ourselves and God and with each other in the Church. (1 John 1:3-7)

Finally, we should not forsake the assembling together as we often lose out on what God desires to do through our lives. (Hebrews 10:24-25) Fellowship is what binds us together as a body of believers.

4. A Disciple called to Testify

And the testimony is this that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
1 John 5:11

The most powerful weapon you have against the enemy of this world is your testimony of faith in Christ Jesus. A testimony is witnessing of what Christ Jesus has done personally in your life. It is

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twofold: first, testimony is something you give through words and second, (and most powerfully), it is seen through your actions. Actions speak louder than words.

The power of a testimony can be seen when we study the woman at the well. After speaking with Jesus, she went back and told the people in her village what He had said and done. They came to see this man and soon after Jesus shared with them they became believers. (John 4:7-38)

Let us look at another type of testimony – baptism. Baptism allows others to see the change in your beliefs – making Christ Lord and turning your life completely over to Him. (Romans 6:4-7, Colossians 2:12) This is one of the first things every disciple should do.

Paul tells Timothy not to be ashamed of his testimony. (2 Timothy 1:8) It is unique to us and different from those around us. We do not know how our testimony can touch others' lives and must purpose to share it. If we do not, how will people know about Jesus Christ and what He desires to do in them? (Romans 10:14-15)

There are all kinds of testimonies that one can give and various methods in sharing them. You can share through song, poetry or reading a Scripture passage that has special meaning for you. Paul testifies to the Ephesians believers of God's grace and power in his life. (Acts 20:24)

You do not have to fear sharing with others. Jesus said that in time of need, God would give the words to speak. (Matthew 10:19-20) We should always be ready to give a testimony of the hope that is within us. (1 Peter 3:15-16) The Scriptures tells us that if we believe in the Son of God we have a testimony and that testimony is one of eternal life. (1 John 5:9-12)

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5. A Disciple is called to live a disciplined life

Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

Deuteronomy 8:5-6

A good analogy on the subject of discipline is planting a garden – there is much work and effort that you must daily put into it to obtain the fruit of your labors at harvest season. John tells us that we are like a branch on a vine that needs to be pruned and nurtured. He tells us clearly that our Heavenly Father is the vine dresser. In due time, the branches will produce fruit. (John 15:1-11) To become mature takes time, (Hebrews 6:1) much effort and discipline in your life. You are not alone as the Holy Spirit guides you through the valleys and hilltops that will come your way. We are at first like babies, then little children, youth and finally adults. This maturing comes by feeding on the Word of God daily. (1 Peter 2:2) We need to grow and develop to reach the goal that Christ has to make us more like Him. (Ephesians 4:16)

The Word of God gives to us a standard to live by. There needs to be a willingness to take off the old self and become clothed with the newness of Christ. (Colossians 3:1-17 and Ephesians 4:17-32) This requires discipline, but through prayer one can overcome and in time change will take place. (1 John 4:4)

There is a measuring stick that we can use to tell whether we are growing. First, do we see fruit from our lives? Second, what kind of fruit is it? Jesus says we will be known by our fruit. (Matthew 7:20) Paul also says that the way we can know whether we have the fruit of the Spirit is by watching how we relate to others. Do we have love, joy, peace,

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patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control flowing through the things we say and do? (Galatians 5:22-23)

Disciplining ourselves in the Word of God also helps us to recognize the difference between the things of the world and the things of God. It helps us to differentiate between truth and falsehood as well as the distinction between life and death. (2 Peter 3:18-19)

Finally, discipline is a part of the character of God. He tells us that He disciplines those whom He loves. (Deuteronomy 8:5) The process of discipline is not easy but those who will labor will see great rewards both in the present time and in the future. (1 Corinthians 9:27, Colossians 2:5, 1 Timothy 4:8)

6. A Disciple is to be a Seed Planter

He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126: 6

We are to be like farmers who have been given precious seed. (Psalm 126:6) Seed does not produce a harvest until it has been planted. Likewise, we must be willing to spread seed for planting. Having received, we now need to give.

God is a giving God. He bestows much to us from His heart of love and desires that we would go and freely give to others. (Matthew 10:8) God wants vessels that He can use to touch people with His love and mercy. He has placed within us a treasure that needs to be shared with others. (1 Corinthians 4:7)

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Paul tells Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. (II Timothy 4:5), taking the Good News of Jesus Christ and broadcasting it to others. This does not mean that we are all evangelists, preachers or teachers. It indicates our need to tell people about our faith in Christ. We all have different abilities and gifting. The key is to take that which we have been given and pour it out to others. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

As an example, we are likened to water in a well. When the water is used it will remain fresh and alive. As it sits, it becomes stagnant and eventually dries up. Christ wants us to have living water flowing from our heart's to others. (John 4:10, 14)

In His last few hours on earth, Jesus gave the disciples what we call the "great commission". This is a command to go and make more disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-18) The Good News must be proclaimed throughout all the earth.

Conclusion

When we answer His call, it brings us into a deeper relationship with the heart of God. It makes us His child. (Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:5), a joint heir with Jesus. (Romans 8:17) It grafts us into Christ's body. (Romans 11:17) so that we can begin to have life more abundantly. (John 10:10) Being a disciple of Christ means that we are to die to self and commit to live according to Christ's way, truth and life. (John 14:6) The challenge that we face is that we must respond fully to the heart of God's call. But what often happens over a period of time, as He continues to call out to us our hearing sometimes becomes dulled towards Him and the longer we wait the quieter the call seems to become. Jesus went out and called the disciples and immediately they left what they were doing and followed Him. In many ways it's not so dramatic today in that we have to leave our job or homes, but we do have to leave our sin nature and allowed our hearts to be broken open so the

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Word can sprout, become a plant, and after being nurtured, produce fruit that will last.

You cannot avoid this step, it is the first door that you must open and you should not move on to the next step until you have an answer from God that He has forgiven you and written your name down in the Lambs book of life (Revelation 21:27). The challenge is that He is calling out to our hearts but question will be, how will we respond to His calling.

My prayer in answer to God's call.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for calling me to be your disciple, I desire to follow You were ever You lead me. I pray that You will open my heart up to hear Your still small voice. Lord I need to see and hear both from Your Word and from the Holy Spirit. Jesus, I also ask that You would help me to walk in Your power and strength and that my will would submit to Your will. I pray that we will be able to walk this journey that you have for me, with much wisdom. I desire to serve Your body of believers in the years to come. Help me Lord to truly be Your disciple, so that when others look at me they will see that I am a Christian and a follower of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for all your help and love.

Your servant in Christ,

Evidence:

List some of the evidences of change that has come into your life, results of fruit that has come forth because of your prayer and commitment to Jesus Christ.

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Remember: we need to keep praying about this until we see fruit coming forth from our life. Change will take place, but we must wait because it starts with the heart and then moves out into our service for Christ Jesus.

Chapter Two:

Holy Spirit's Heart

The next step of going deeper into the heart of God is to make Christ Jesus Lord of your life. Too often people desire to have Jesus save them from something, but then move on serving and living their lives according to the world. For a believer to grow and mature we need to be grafted into the heart of Christ. The two must become one. (John 15:1-11)

Jesus challenged people that were calling Him Lord in the parable of the wise builder. Christ is to be the master builder of our lives. (Matthew 7:24-27) He is the rock and firm foundation that we must build our lives on. This step is so important because it requires dying to self and living for Christ. We turn over our will to His will.

In the Lord's prayer there is a line that we are to pray, not my will be done but your will be done on earth as it is already in heaven. (Matthew 6:10) God has a plan established for our lives but it requires us removing the old and putting on the new. It is like the parable of the wineskin where we are told not to patch the old with a new piece of cloth. We are told that if we do this, the skin will burst and all the wine will be lost. We first need to become a new wineskin before the Holy Spirit can enter in. Many have tried without making Christ as Lord of their lives and have ended in destruction. (Matthew 9:17)

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Christ is to be Lord and King of our lives. We need to invite Him in to sit on the throne of our hearts. The idea of Lordship means that He is owner of all of our lives – the physical, mental and spiritual. We put our all on the cross of Jesus and then as Lord He gives us to be His stewards or servants. All that we have and are is His now and He then entrusts it back to us so that we can use it and bear fruit for Him.

Too many people in the church look at Jesus as fire insurance. They feel if they do something then He will respond by giving them eternal life. But another parable of the sheep and the goats offered a different point of view. The goats said they did all kinds of things in His name and Jesus' response was, "I never knew you." The result was eternal damnation. (Mark 3:29; Mark 16:16)

This step is so key, because it must be built together with the first step of salvation. A new house or temple must be built. The Holy Spirit cannot dwell in things that are built by man. Even when the tabernacle and temple was built, the people and the place had to be cleansed of all sin before God's Shekinah glory (Holy Spirit) could dwell there.

Even in the times of the Passover the house first had to be cleansed of all leaven. Leaven was a picture of how sin could spread throughout one's life. Small amounts affect the whole lump of dough. (1 Corinthians 5:6) We must come to Christ and ask forgiveness and confess our sins to Him as our Lord and Saviour.

This is what Paul was trying to teach the Roman Church in Romans 10: 9 &10, "*That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made under salvation.*" Sin separates us

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from God. The grace and mercy of God comes with a deep price -- the price Christ paid on the cross. With all our good works and personal sacrifice or gifts and offering this could not yet pay the debt of our sins. Only Christ's shed blood could fulfill the price that was required for our payment.

Paul tells the Roman people what needs to happen and it is the same for us all today, if we hope to be saved and filled with his Holy Spirit, he states, "*the word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.*" (Romans 10:8) Now he goes on to explain what this all means.

First we must confess with our mouth. The mouth is a door of our heart and mind. To make a clear vow one must confess. It is like what happens at a wedding. The groom and the bride must confess with words spoken out so that all can hear. Confession causes others to hear so they can bear witness to what we are committing to and vowing to do.

Throughout history a covenant is a confession of our mouth between two parties. It is spoken out in front of witnesses and because of that it becomes binding and lasting. What we vow with our mouth is just not words but we are told from the Scriptures that what comes out of our mouth is rooted in their heart – that which one truly believes.

We have the story of Ruth and Boaz. He became a kinsman redeemer to Ruth. All that he was and had become is now united to her. The two became one. When Boaz took 10 men who would become the witnesses and then spoke and called the other relatives, the setting was now ready to confess a vow before the men and before God. (Ruth 4:1-10) After the confession and vow was made binding, verse 11 tells us, "*we are the witnesses.*" They witnessed and because of the spoken confession and vow, a blessing was proclaimed upon Ruth and Boaz. (Ruth 4:11-12)

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Next Paul tells us that we must believe the Lord Jesus in our hearts that God raised Christ the Messiah from the dead. Christ takes up residence in our heart, we become one with Him. It is because of God's resurrection power that we can become a new creation. Old things have passed away. (2 Corinthians 5:17) When we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we become saved at that moment. A binding covenant between God and man takes place because of Christ's shed blood and resurrection.

He continues to explain by saying, "*that with the heart one believes.*" Our faith covers us with Christ's righteousness. We can now stand before the Father in heaven because we have confessed to Christ our sins and have believed in our hearts and because of this, His righteousness makes us a child of the King. Like Nicodemus we are born again. The first birth by water was our natural birth but our second birth comes through the Spirit of Jesus Christ. (John 3:5) Because of the confession of our mouth we can have salvation. (Romans 10:10)

Paul goes on to explain to the Romans that because we have believed there is no shame, things of the past have been put to death. There is no more dividing wall between God and us. Plus, this way to the Father is also the same way both for the Jews and for the Greeks. Jesus became the only way; it is to Him we must confess and with Whom we enter a covenant. We become rich in Him, He has redeemed us from sin and destruction. The key is that we must call upon Him. There is no other way to have eternal life. There is no other way to become a new creation, a child of God.

Once again we are told in verse 13, "*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" Christ is calling out to all, but will we

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respond by confessing, dying to self and committing our lives to Him as our Lord.

Conclusion

This step is the step of obedience. Sin entered the world because of Adam and Eve's disobedience. Sin entered all mankind and we too all have a sin nature both in our minds and in our hearts. Sin is missing the mark and going the wrong way being defiant and disobedient to God's will for our lives. The world is walking down a wide road leading to destruction but Christ is the narrow way leading to eternal life. (Matthew 7:13)

We need to wait before the Lord and pray that God will show us our sin, to cleanse us from all disobedience, to clothe us in His righteousness. Isaiah tells us that we must wait upon the Lord and those that do will "mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get weary, they will walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31 NKJB)

Take time each day to make sure that your vessel or temple is clean and washed in the blood of the Lamb. When the temple is clean it is in ready for the fullness and presence of the Holy Spirit. No one is too far away from God. He will come to all that are willing to confess with their mouths and believe in their heart that He is Lord.

This step is so important that we tarry until we know that Christ has completed making within us a new life, that our hearts have been changed, and the fruit of this change will show forth in a different attitude and a different lifestyle that others will see.

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My prayer in response to this chapter.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I pray today that You would help me with this step. I've been faithful to wait upon you for witness in my heart concerning salvation and now I'm waiting upon You that you would fill my heart with Your Holy Spirit and empower me for service. Lord I'm praying that the fruit of the Spirit will be active every day in my life as I walk with You. I pray that You not only baptize me and seal me with Your spirit but that He would also fill me each day so that I may be empowered and be able to understand how to be a demonstration of Your word and light to a dark world. Today I lay myself at your altar and wait upon You to do Your complete work in my life. I thank You for what You will do and I pray that as I died to myself You will produce fruit that will last.

Your servant in Christ,

Evidence of change in my life.

List some of the evidences of change that has come into your life, results of fruit that has come forth because of your prayer and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Remember: we need to keep praying about this until we see fruit coming forth from our life. Change will take place, but we must wait because it starts with the heart and then moves out into our service for Christ Jesus.

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Chapter Three:

Holy Spirit's Filling

I need to make clear at the very beginning that the Holy Spirit is God; He is not a thing or “it”. The Holy Spirit is part of the triune God who functions with man in three different ways. God comes to us as a Father, He comes to us as a Son, and He comes to us as the Holy Spirit. The triune God is one God only, but for our benefit reveals Himself in three different aspects so that we may be able to comprehend the fullness of who the Godhead is.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures we have seen God portrayed as a Father to the people of Israel. The same Father was also the one that sent His Son to this earth to be a bridge between the kingdom of earth and the kingdom of heaven. All the attributes of the Godhead are found in all three. It was part of the eternal plan of God that after Christ ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit would be sent to empower the believers here on earth. (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1-4)

We see in the New Testament several times where all three parts of the Godhead, which is most often called the Trinity, appear. The main one is at the baptism of Jesus Christ, -- we have the Father speaking from heaven, Jesus being baptized in the water by John and the Holy Spirit descending from heaven like a dove. (Matthew 3:13-17)

There are many, many books describing who the Holy Spirit is, what His ministry is and what is His purpose here on earth. But there are at least three aspects that are important to point out. One is that He was sent by the Father to empower the disciples who would together make up the church of Jesus Christ. Secondly He comes as our Comforter, Teacher and Provider. Thirdly He is there to convict us of sin, to draw us

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to faith in Christ and to walk with us through the journey of sanctification.

There is also a personal side that the Holy Spirit comes to do with each individual. The first is to baptize which would mean to cover completely over with His presence. He seals us and marks us as a child of God covered by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit also desires to fill us daily with His power. This is a daily process. (Ephesians 5:18) We need to come to Him in prayer, confess our sins open our heart before Him and ask Him to fill us with His presence. The reason why we need the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives daily is so that we can be true servants of Jesus Christ. The more of Christ that is in us the less of us will be there to hinder the work of Christ. We need to pray that all areas of our lives, every little crevice and small room in our being, needs to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, this shows in our daily walk. The fruit of the Spirit must be flowing out through the disciple both in his attitude and in the service. Too much emphasis has been put on the gifts of the Spirit, but the truth is, that if it is not the work of the Spirit but one own self manifesting itself, then those efforts can be carnal in nature. Such activities have no power of the Spirit of God in them. Paul exhorts the Ephesian church not to be controlled by drink and other things of this world but they need to be controlled and led each day by the Holy Spirit.

Let us take a moment just to look at this one fruit, known as the fruit of the Spirit and how when it is released in their lives manifests its self in nine different ways. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”* Galatians 5:22-23

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- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1) love | |
| 2) joy | God first |
| 3) peace | |
| 4) longsuffering | |
| 5) kindness | Others second |
| 6) goodness | |
| 7) faithfulness | |
| 8) gentleness. (meekness) | Self last |
| 9) self-control | |

When the Father sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost that the Church was also birth forth we are told that He gave gifts of various kinds to the disciples. These gifts are there and given through the Holy Spirit so that we are able to have a unique position and purpose in the body of Christ. We are told that the gifts are given generously but we also know they come in crude form and that over time the gifts need to be perfected in Christ so they can be useful tools for the body of Christ. But again all gifts first must have the fruit of the Spirit flowing through them at all times -- this is the key evidence that one has been filled with the Holy Spirit.

Paul, in several places, gives to us a list of both leadership type gifts and also ministry type gifts that are to be used both in the church, and in our homes and as we spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation.

Speaking Gifts:

Word of Wisdom	I Corinthians 12
Word of Knowledge	I Corinthians 12
Prophecy, prophesying, prophet	I Corinthians 12
Tongues	I Corinthians 12
Interpretation	I Corinthians 12

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Encouragement	Romans 12
Teaching	I Corinthians 12; Romans 12

Leadership Gifts:

Apostle	Ephesians 4
Teacher	Ephesians 4; Romans 12; I Corinthians 12
Prophets	Ephesians 4
Evangelist	Ephesians 4
Pastor	Ephesians 4

** Eph 4:11- for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, for the building up of the body of Christ.*

Serving Gifts:

Faith	I Corinthians 12
Healing	I Corinthians 12
Miraculous powers	I Corinthians 12
Service	Rom 12
Discernment	I Corinthians 12
Helps	I Corinthians 12
Administration	Rom 12
Giving	Rom 12
Mercy	Rom 12

The Holy Spirit comes as a teacher sent by the Father to give us wisdom and knowledge and understanding. (John 14:26) He comes to give direction to show us the pathway that we are to walk on, but we live here on earth. As a teacher His desire is to equip us and to bring us into a place of maturity with Christ so that we will bear fruit that will show that we truly are a disciple of Christ.

The key to walking in the Spirit each day is to die to ourselves and our will and live in obedience to the will of the Father in heaven. This is all made possible and we give our lives totally over to Christ in a

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personal relationship and become one with Him. When we become one with Him the power of His Spirit takes up residency in our heart and together we sit, walk and stand not in who we are but in who He is within us. Through Him we have the ability to do all things but these things must be firsts lined up according to His will and His plan in heaven.

Jesus gives us teaching concerning the Holy Spirit in the book of John chapters 14, 15 and 16. Chapter 14 teaches us on how Jesus said He would send another helper who would come by the Father and instruct us in the things that we need to know concerning God and His Kingdom.

Chapter 15 shows us of the importance of abiding in Christ and that we need to be grafted into Him and then when we are grafted into Him the power and life of the Holy Spirit can flow out into our branch so that we will produce righteous fruit that brings honour and glory to Jesus Christ and to the Father.

Chapter 16 tells us that the Holy Spirit comes as a helper but He also comes as one who brings conviction of sin and that is in our heart. He's the Spirit of truth and He will guide us and He will be with us both in the good times and challenging times.

Later after Jesus was resurrected from the dead and spent time with the disciples one of the last things He spoke to them about was to go and to wait in the upper room and to tarry in prayer until the Holy Spirit came upon them. (Acts 1:4) We know, according to Acts chapter 2 that the fulfilment of Joel took place. While the 170 were praying the Spirit of God came upon them like cloven tongues of fire and filled all their hearts with power from on high.

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This was a change from the way things were done in the Old Testament where people were moved by the Spirit of God, but now through Christ Jesus the Spirit of God comes and dwells within us and empower us for service.

My prayer in response to this chapter.

Dear Lord Jesus,

You tell us in your word that we need to be filled daily with your Holy Spirit. Lord, I desire to walk not of my will but in Your will; Lord, I desire to walk in Your strength and not in my strength; Lord, I desire to walk by Your ability and not by my ability. I pray today that You would fill my entire being with your Holy Spirit and that the evidence of Your filling would be the fruit of the Spirit flowing out through my life but I also know, Lord, that I am part of your church and I pray now that You will give me the gifts you want me to have so that I may be able to serve Your church and be a strong part of your body. Lord, I place myself in Your hands because I want to be Your temple and vessel to my neighbours and friends but also to this lost world that is so bound by darkness. I pray also that You will empty me of all sin so that my vessel will be ready for Your presence. Help me, Lord, to wait upon You that I may know clearly how You desire to use my life for Your glory.

In Your name I pray, Jesus,

Evidence of change in my life.

List some of the evidences of change that has come into your life, results of fruit that has come forth because of your prayer and commitment to Jesus Christ.

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Remember: we need to keep praying about this until we see fruit coming forth from our life. Change will take place, but we must wait because it starts with the heart and then moves out into our service for Christ Jesus.

Chapter Four:

Holy Spirit's Teaching

Salvation in Christ, the Lordship of Christ are like the frame of the picture. The picture itself is covered with one colour to make a base for all the other colours. The base colour of the picture is the Holy Spirit. Each colour and stroke of the brush that is applied to this base coat becomes part of who we are. God desires to paint a beautiful picture of our lives so that we reflect His nature and His glory.

Now to switch the analogy a little bit let us look at a picture puzzle. This picture is made up of small pieces that when properly put together create a beautiful picture to look at. All of the individual pieces are needed and they need to be linked together. This “binding together” gives strength to the picture. It is important that each piece be put in its proper place so that when the puzzle is done a picture can be clearly seen.

For the disciple, these multiple pieces come to us by the Word of God. We need to see the Word, hear the Word and most of all have the Holy Spirit guiding us into a deeper understanding of the Word. Without understanding, the pieces of the puzzle cannot be connected. Today there is very little systematic teaching of the Word of God. The disciples are often confused. It is like we have a truck load of bricks which has been brought to our property and dumped in a pile, but until we add a foundation to place them on and mortar and cement to hold them

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together in a particular way we do not have a building, all we have is just a bunch of bricks.

God wants to build us and to fashion us into a temple that will glorify His name. God wants us to be vessels for the presence and power of His Holy Spirit. The coming together of the Word of God is what gives the building strength to stand firm.

Many people have wisdom and knowledge about a lot of things concerning the Word of God but if they have no understanding then they will find themselves walking in the dark because their lives are being built on religion and not on the Word of God itself. The leaders and teachers in the book of Nehemiah. (Chapter 8) gave to the people understanding and because of that their hearts were changed, they confessed their sins, and committed themselves to God and revival broke out.

When Christ died on the cross Scripture tells us that the veil in the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom, this was done through God's Devine purpose and power. Why was this important? That we as disciples of Christ can come into the Holy of Holies, into the very presence of God, so we could have a deep fellowship and communion with Him. We are told in John chapter 1 that Jesus is the Word. (John 1:1-2) It is the Word of God that sets people free and the reason this Word can change lives is because of the power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the main reasons we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit is that we can be taught by Him. The natural man, or nonbeliever does not understand. (1 Corinthians 2:14) Paul tells the Corinthian church to understand that it is the Holy Spirit who is our great teacher. He will help us to compare spiritual things with other spiritual information or, to put it another way, He will help us to discern between right and wrong to

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discern what the Scripture means. (1 Corinthians 12:13) The Scripture in the hands of the Holy Spirit is a very powerful sword that we are told that it can even divide the bone from the marrow. (Hebrews 4:12)

Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit will help us and even teach us what to say when we are going through a difficult time. He is there to guide and to walk with us moment by moment. This is why we need to understand the bigger picture of the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our life.

John tells us that we need to have the Holy Spirit abiding in us. He will teach us concerning all things. Plus, by understanding His teaching we will be able to abide more deeply in a personal way with Jesus Christ. (1 John 2:27) The work of the Holy Spirit comes out of a personal relationship walk with Him. Paul tells the Galatian Church that if they want true liberty and freedom. (Galatians 5:13) they must walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16), be led by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:18), and make sure each day we are living in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)

Each day, we too face challenges and have to make a choice of whether we will walk and follow the spirit of this world or walk and serve with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit. The evidence that we are walking and living in the spirit will be the fruit of the Spirit flowing out through our lives both to the church and to the lost world. (Gal 5:19-21)

Now let's look at Paul's teaching again to the Roman Church concerning the Holy Spirit. If we can get a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in us, ministers to and through us, we then will be better servants of Jesus Christ.

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There is a daily battle we face, that takes place between our head and our heart. Paul tells us that we are not to walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. (Romans 8:1) When we walk in the Spirit we no longer live under the condemnation because we have been set free in Christ Jesus. We are not under the judgment of the law that causes us to live in sin and death. (Romans 8:2) For the law of the Spirit is life in Christ Jesus, because it is by the blood that we have been set free. (Romans 8:2) The law kept one bound in weakness; we were entangled with the sinfulness of our flesh. Because of the sinful nature of our flesh we were already condemned to eternal death. Christ came to fulfill the requirements of the law, so that we need not fulfill the desires of the flesh but are able to walk according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:4)

If we walk in the flesh we will fulfill the desires and will of our flesh, but if we walk and live in the Spirit we fulfill the will of the Father in heaven. The carnal mind leads to death but a spiritual-minded person will have life and peace. (Romans 8:6) The carnal mind is at odds with God; sin puts a wall between us and God. God cannot fellowship or have a personal relationship with sinful man or woman. (Romans 8:7) and if we live in the flesh we cannot please God. (Romans 8:8)

Now comes the word “because” the connecting word that shows us the way out from our sinful life. We are told that if we are not in the flesh but in the spirit, indeed the Spirit of God dwells in us. This is a promise to all who receive and believe. (Romans 8:9) The Spirit of Christ makes us part of the family of Christ we are now His child and a new creation in Christ Jesus.

The key to this chapter is to know that the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (Romans 8:10) It was the Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead. We know it is resurrection power that breathes new life into us, anointing us with power. What changes our life is the spirit of

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God dwelling in us. If we are going to live a true spiritual life here on earth we must have the indwelling of the Spirit because He is the one who will comfort, guide and teach us. We cannot hope to understand anything about Christ or the Bible if we do not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. (Romans 8:11)

The flesh of man is already dead. We were born into trespasses and sins. We are debtors to the flesh and there is no way we can pay that debt. Even though we have eternal life, we must still crucify our sin nature and this is where we need the Holy Spirit to indwell in us so that by His power we are able to put to death the deeds of the body and live in His power and strength. (Romans 8:12-13) Also by letting the Holy Spirit put to death our fleshly will and worldly desires, we become a child of God, a son of God Almighty. (Romans 8:14) For we have not received the Spirit of bondage that leads to fear, but we have been adopted through the Spirit so that we can look to our heavenly Father and cry out “Abba Father.” (Romans 8:15) It is also the Spirit that bears witness in our spirit, confirming to us and giving us understanding and peace that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16) This adoption also makes us heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17) We may suffer with Him here on earth but there is a day coming where we will be called up to Him in glory. Our relationship through the Holy Spirit makes us children and because we are children we become grafted into His family, which then makes us heirs to all the kingdom of heaven. We do not live any more in our power and strength but in His power and strength. We can overcome because He has overcome. We can have the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit because we are children of God. Paul tells us that we will be delivered from the bondage and corruption and we will have liberty and freedom because we are children of God. (Romans 8:21) But there is more for us to understand about the ministry and working of the Holy Spirit, because of that personal relationship

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through the Holy Spirit, with Christ and the Father we become the first fruits of the Spirit.

Yes, there are many challenges in sufferings and we have deep groaning's within our hearts because we long to be with Christ, but there is a time coming when the fullness of redemption will take place. (Romans 8:20)

Our salvation is based on hope, looking to that which lies in the future. It is not something we understand totally yet. That is why we need to have faith in Christ, knowing He is a covenant keeping God. We must wait with all perseverance and not lose hope. (Romans 8:24-25) We should not fear, but we need to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit. He will help us in our weakness. We need to keep the lines of communication open. We are told that sometimes we will not even know how to pray, but the Spirit himself will make intercession for us. We are not alone; we are joined together by the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ. We may only have groanings that will come up deep from within us, that we have no words to explain to the Father, but we need to know the Holy Spirit will stand in the gap taking those longings and groanings of the heart to the Father in heaven. (Romans 8:26)

Now we need to remember to be quiet in our hearts before the Lord because of the one who is joined to our heart knows the mind of the Spirit or to put it another way the mind and the heart of God. How does this happen? It is because the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us so that in turn we can know the will of God. (Romans 8:27)

The Holy Spirit is our teacher and His ministry is in and through our lives is to give us understanding to what is the will of God. The Lord's Prayer makes this clear to the disciples, "*not my will but thy will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.*" (Matthew 6:10) God has a

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perfect will for our lives and through the power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit we need to die to self and come into line and live with the Spirit of God. Again the Bible encourages us that if we lack wisdom we can ask of the Father and He will give it to us generously. (James 1:5) We are not called to walk a blind faith but enlightened faith illuminated by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

This step is to bring us deeper into the teaching and ministry of the Holy Spirit. He is there each day teaching, guiding, comforting us and helping us. That is why we need to pray each day for the filling of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18) Why? So that one can continue to die to self, to know what the will of the Father is for that day. Thirdly, to have the power to go out and serve in the body of Christ and finally so that we can be carriers of the good news message of Christ to a lost world.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit each day. As you study God's Word and pray He will miraculously guide you and lead you into a deeper understanding of life with Christ here on earth. Our daily walk with the Holy Spirit may have various twist and turns but through hope and trust you will become an ambassador of Christ here on earth, representing to the lost world the kingdom of heaven. Luke 24:45 says, "*and he opened their understanding that they may comprehend the scriptures.*"

My prayer in response to this chapter.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I thank you for Your Church. I can gather with others in the body of believers. Your Holy Spirit can empower me and speak through the lives

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of others into my own heart. Holy Spirit, I am so thankful You are my teacher and comforter and that You bring truth to me, opening my eyes and ears to Your Scriptures and that You continue to speak to me with a still small voice. Help me, O Lord, to do and fulfill all You call me to do. Lord, I know your teaching is the sanctifying process of nurturing me and maturing me so that I can be a better vessel for You. Please Lord, I pray, teach me each day so that I may grow and bear fruit for Your glory. Where my selfish desires are in the way, I ask You for forgiveness and pray You will use my life as a bridge and vessel to touch those around me for You, Jesus.

Your servant in Christ,

Evidence of change in my life.

List some of the evidences of change that has come into your life, results of fruit that has come forth because of your prayer and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Remember: we need to keep praying about this until we see fruit coming forth from our life. Change will take place, but we must wait because it starts with the heart and then moves out into our service for Christ Jesus.

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Chapter Five:

Holy Spirit's Amour

As a disciple of Christ we often take this teaching very lightly. We know we need to put on the whole armour of God daily if we hope to stand against our spiritual enemies (Ephesian 6:11 NKJB), but for some reason we go out in the world naked, with nothing on, spiritually unclothed. This is where a disciple of Christ must change. There are things that we are to take off and there are things that we must put on. There is also under clothing that goes on under the armour of God.

1. Scripture gives us a list of things that we are to **take off**. This step will start by examining what we are to take off put off.

Ephesians 4:20-22: *“But if you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard him and have been taught by him, as a truth is in Jesus: that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,”*

Colossians 3:8-9: *“But now you yourselves are to **put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have **put off** the old man with his deeds,”*

2. Scripture then gives us a list of things that we need to **put on**.

Ephesians 4:23-24: *“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you **put on** the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”*

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Colossians 3:10, 12 to 14: “*And have **put on** the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of him who created him, ... Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ for gave you, so you also must do. But above all these things **put on** love, which is the bond of perfection.*”

3. Scripture also tells us that the most important thing that we need to **put on** first above all else is Jesus Christ and his righteousness.

Romans 13:12-14: “*The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us **put on** the armour of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lusts, not in strife and envy. But **put on** the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*”

4. Scripture tells us also importance of **putting on** the full armour of God and this is something that needs to be done daily in our prayer life.

Ephesians 6:10 to 12: “*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. **Put on** the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places.*”

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We can see from the Scriptures that Christ has called us to be actively involved in getting undressed from the things of this world and clothed in the things of the Spirit. Many disciples pay little attention to this area of the Christian walk and don't see any importance in this teaching but I believe that many of the problems that we are facing today, both in the church and in our homes, is a direct result of not taking things off that are of the world and failing to put on the things that are of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's an activity that we are to do; it's a choice that we are to make, and we must choose to either do it or not to it. We must remember that whatever we do, whether it's positive or negative, we will one day reap the results of our choice.

God has called the disciples of Christ to war, not a war that involves flesh and blood but one that involves principalities and powers and evil things in high places. As disciples we need to take seriously the importance of putting on each piece of the armour of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17) Each piece has a specific purpose and it protects us from our enemies.

1. The belt of truth: protects our reproductive area.
2. The breastplate of righteousness: protects our heart and other vital organs.
3. The shoes prepare our feet with the Gospel of peace: protecting our feet so that wherever we walk, hopefully, our life will bring the gospel of peace.
4. The helmet of salvation: protects our thoughts.
5. The shield of faith: protects us from the fiery darts of the enemy.
6. The sword -- the Word of God: protects us and empowers us for battle.

We also need to see that as part of the body of Christ, all members also need to make sure that they have their full armour on.

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Because Satan not only will attack the individual disciples but he also attacks the church to try to divide and destroy the body of Christ. He often looks for the weakest link in the body and that's where he will focus his attack and try to penetrate so that he can plant a cancerous seed of division and destruction.

Finally, Paul also tells us there is a great battle already going on in the world. He speaks of this to the Roman Church - people who once lived in deep corruption and sinfulness. Paul has to list for them things they should not be doing and things they have to put off. The battle is great and Satan and his army endeavor to bind and chain both the world and any believer in Christ that he possibly can. It is almost unimaginable to believe that these things are also happening in our day and age, all around us. Soon the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords will come back to judge both the disciples and the people of this world.

Now listen to what Paul writes to the Roman Church, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in righteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his external power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals in creeping things. Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lust of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason, God*

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gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the women, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil mindedness; they are whispers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, and discerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only to do the same but also to approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32)

Do you see now how great of a battle that we are in here on this earth? The church must wake up and put on the full armour of God and together defeat the enemy who is out destroying families and churches by the thousands. We as a body of believers must come together as an Army of Christ to take back that territory the enemy has stolen. We must take up the word of God at all costs and take a stand that one day, may even cost us our lives. With God's strength we need to flee the sinful things that Paul is listing and determine in our heart, with God's strength, to change and to live for Him only as our Lord and King.

My prayer in response to this chapter.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I come today to you and ask that You clothe me in Your righteousness and holiness and further, that You help me put on Your full armour use it

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as You have designed it to be used. Lord, I ask You to forgive me because I often do not realize that each day I am in a spiritual battle. So often I go out to the battle totally “unclothed” and then wonder why I lose the fight with Satan and his host of demons. I also see that my family members become vulnerable when I don’t put on the full armour of God. I also see why so many churches are weak and weighed down by the burdens of this world that they are not able to reclaim that which the enemy has stolen. May I be mindful of each piece of the armour so that I remember that it is all there for a specific purpose, both for defensive and offensive use. So I ask You to clothe me today in Your full armour that I may be able to stand against our enemies.

Your servant in Christ,

Evidence of change in my life.

List some of the evidences of change that has come into your life, results of fruit that has come forth because of your prayer and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Remember: we need to keep praying about this until we see fruit coming forth from our life. Change will take place, but we must wait because it starts with the heart and then moves out into our service for Christ Jesus.

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Chapter Six:

Holy Spirit's Mission

If we want the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we must get aligned with the mission of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been sent to the earth to fill the believer's heart for His purpose. Often we think that God calls only a few people to be His disciples and the rest are just Christians. Some say they believe in Christ but we see from their fruit that they're more involved with their own desires and the ways of this world. God has a divine plan for the world, for the church and for our lives. The Bible cannot be separated into many different departments. The pieces are to come together in unity and harmony and as they do, the power of God begins to flow.

Many Christians have fallen into the trap of dispensationalism that breaks the work and ministry of God into different segments. The truth is, the Word of God is preparing and building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and we need to be wise builders. (Matthew 7:24-27) The church is not a bunch of disjointed pieces. It is a body where every piece has a divine purpose, unique and special to God and to the body of Christ.

There are many things throughout the Word of God that we are all called to be and to do. Yes, there are different giftings and functions we may uniquely fulfill but there are many other things in which we cooperate as the body of Christ to honour God.

The Holy Spirit speaks to all who will listen concerning salvation, sanctification, in the filling of the Holy Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, training and equipping, the commands of God, plus dozens of other things.

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We must stop living as individuals and come together as a community of believers. There is strength in numbers and when we unite together we can overcome the bondage, sickness and death of the world not because of who we are but because of who Christ Jesus is in us. The key is that God has a plan and mission for this world and it has been entrusted to the Holy Spirit to carry it out through people here on earth.

While Jesus was here on earth He instructed the disciples concerning the ministry of service and how the Holy Spirit would help them to carry out the great commission of God.

In Matthew chapter 10 He called the disciples together and shared with them His future plan for their lives. The question is if this teaching was just for the 12 or if it is for all believers today. Again I want to be straightforward as I can. I believe we cannot and should not cut the Bible into different pieces so that it fits one's lifestyle as one desires. We are called to die to self and to live out Christ Jesus through our lives. He is the only way truth and life. (John 14:6) So then, what do we do with Matthew chapter 9:35 to Matthew 10:42? Do we confess God and make it part of our lives or do we tear these Scriptures out of the Bible?

We see that Jesus was moving about from villages to cities, teaching in the synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. He was also healing every sickness and disease amongst the people. We are also told that when He saw the people's needs, He was moved with compassion, because they were weary and scattered. They were as sheep having no shepherd. (Matthew 9:35) It was at this point He called His disciples together and said, "*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.*" (Matthew 9:37-38)

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Jesus wanted the disciples to see something very important to the plan of God. It was the reason God sent His Son here to earth. Jesus said the harvest was ripe and plentiful. I believe that, as I've travelled this world and seen many people are hungry and ready for God. The problem is we have so few labourers. When Jesus looked at the multitude and felt a deep compassion for the people. He saw they were weary and scattered and had lost all they were and had. He saw sheep that had no shepherd. We too need to ask the Holy Spirit to remove the scales from our eyes and the wax from our ears so that we can see also how Jesus sees, this lost world.

We need to have compassion and love for the lost. I believe this can only come through a heart that is filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to pray that God will help us to see the real condition of people around us. The truth is that people are weary (tired) and scattered (confused). They do not know or understand where they fit in. Around the world I have seen people hungry, people wanting to know and understand the true God and Creator, but there seem to be few that care. Jesus tells us they are people who need to have a shepherd. A shepherd feeds, gives, direction, and ministers to their hurts and ills and makes sure the sheep have good food and water. (Psalm 23:1-6) Because we are part of Christ's body whatever moves the head should also move the body of Christ. What is on His heart should be also a part of our heart also.

Again Jesus spoke to the disciples telling them that He would give them power over unclean spirits, to be able to cast out evil spirits and to heal all kinds of sicknesses and diseases. (Mark 16:17-18)

It is important to take some time to view three areas in the Scriptures, concerning the Holy Spirit's mission here on earth through the lives of Christ's disciples. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to empower our lives and to fulfill the Scripture here on earth. So let's

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look at the challenges Matthew records for us concerning the teachings of Christ to His disciples.

The First time the disciples were sent out, Matthew chapter 10. Jesus stated what that they would face as they went out into the world to share the Good news.

Here is what He shared with them:

- He was commanding them and sending them out
 - o they were to go first to the lost sheep of Israel v6
 - o they were to tell the people that the Kingdom of God is at hand. (v. 7)
- they were to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. (v. 8a)
- He told them “freely you have received now go out and freely give”
- what the Holy Spirit gave them they were to speak out freely, doing all in the name of Christ Jesus. (v. 8b)
- they were not to worry about provisions, money, clothes or even sandals and that they didn’t even need a walking stick or food
- God would provide for them and use them to bless others. (v. 9)
- He told them “as you travel and as the Spirit leads, go to various towns and cities”
 - o Stay in peoples home until finished
 - o bless them and pray, leaving peace upon their home
- those who did not receive your words. (v. 14)
 - o many would not want to hear or change
 - o shake the dust off their sandals in unreceptive areas
- Judgment will be worse than that which fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah. (v. 15)
- see clearly now. (behold). (v. 16)

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- they were sheep in the midst of wolves
- they were to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves
- men would torture them. (v. 17)
- their lives would be a testimony to the Gentiles. (v. 18)
- not to worry about what to say when coming before persecutors. (v. 19)
- remember the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, will speak in you and through you in those hours. (v. 20)
- they will have problems with their parents and family. (v. 21)
- they will be hated because of the name of Christ. (v. 22)
- there will be persecution, but keep going because you will not get through all the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. (v. 23)
- it was important for the disciples to listen and obey Christ. (disciple teacher relationship). (v. 24)
- do not fear, for all things will be revealed. (v. 26)
- whatever I tell you in the darkness, (or in your quiet time), this speak in the light; whatever you hear, preach from the rooftops. (v. 27)
- do not fear what they can do to your body. (v. 28)
- God watches even the sparrows and He will also intently watch you v29
- God even knows the number of hairs on one's head. (He knows all the details about us both now and in the future (v. 30)
- you are very valuable to God. (v. 31)
- we need to confess Him before men and to be careful that we do not deny Him. (v. 32)
- there will not be peace, I bring the sword. (Word of God) against people. (v. 34)

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- put God first in all areas of your life. (v. 35-37)
- take up the cross and follow Jesus. (v. 38)
- lose your life for Christ's sake and when you do, you will find real life in Him. (v. 39)
- you can bless others just by giving them a cup of cold water. (v. 42)
- God will reward His children. (v. 42)
- even doing the small things like giving a cup of cold water to a child is a great blessing. (v. 42)

Second time when Jesus gives a great commission Matthew chapter 28 and Mark chapter 16. This is a command all disciples of Christ are called to obey.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus tells the disciples,

- He was giving them all authority in heaven and earth
- they were to go make disciples
- they were to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- they were to teach these new disciples to observe all things that He had commanded them
- He would be with them always, even to the end of the ages

Mark 16:15-18

Jesus tells the disciples,

- they were to go into all the world
- they are to preach the gospel

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- those that believed would be saved and they should bear testimony of their salvation through baptism
- signs would follow because of the Holy Spirit's working through them
 - o they will cast out demons
 - o they would speak in new tongues
 - o things that are deadly will not kill them
 - o they will lay hands on the sick and they would recover

Thirdly there were some other teachings that the Holy Spirit gives concerning His mission here on earth with the disciples.

Luke 9:57-61

We learn:

- the need was now and they needed to follow Jesus Christ
- there was a great cost that was connected to being a disciple of Christ

Luke 24:46- 49

We learn:

- they were to preach repentance and the remission of sins
- they were to go in His name to all the nations
- Jesus would send the Holy Spirit as He promised. (the Spirit of Promise)
- they were to tarry in the city of Jerusalem

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- they were to wait until the power came down from on high

Acts 13:2

We learn:

- they ministered under the Lord
- they fasted
- the Holy Spirit said they should set Barnabas and Paul apart for the work the Spirit had called them to do. (Body ministry)

1 Corinthians 6:19- 20

We learn:

- there were things that they needed to know
- the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
- the Holy Spirit was in them
- the Holy Spirit has come from God
- they were no longer their own but God's
- they were bought with a price
- they were to glorify God in their body
- and they were to glorify God in their spirit which belongs to God

2 Timothy 1:14

We learn:

- the good things had been committed to them by the Holy Spirit they were to keep them
- remember that the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

Remember this teaching was strong drink and meat and after they heard these exhortations, many chose not to follow Christ any longer. (John 6:66) Our walk with Jesus Christ is along a narrow road

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and not many people want to walk it because it is full of trials and tribulations, but there will be great rewards for overcoming, in Jesus Christ. He overcame the world so that we can also overcome. Even though the Scriptures may seem straightforward for Christ's disciples, we have the freedom to choose whether or not to walk that pathway. Christ doesn't want us to walk it in our own strength; that's why He sent the Holy Spirit to teach us, comfort us, and guide us on our journey.

My prayer in response to this chapter.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I pray You help me to get in line with Your mission, Your call on my life. I know You call people into service and that You have a plan for every one of Your disciples. Help me, Lord to be able to spend time with You and clearly hear what Your mission call is for my life so I can take the gifts You have given me and to use them for Your glory. Lord I know from Your Word that it may not be easy and that there will be people that will challenge our faith in You and that we can undergo much persecution and trials as we go out and proclaim Your gospel. But give us strength to walk like the early church disciples, being people who were full of faith. Lord I ask that where we are weak You will make us strong and Lord where we don't understand that You would give us much wisdom where we could see things the way You see them. Help us to be in tune in such a way that as the Holy Spirit leads us that we will know whether we should turn to the right or to the left or to go straight forward. I ask that You would keep us in Your hands each day of our lives until we meet with You face to face in glory. Thank you for calling us all into the mission field as your missionaries.

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Your servant in Christ,

Evidence of change in my life.

List some of the evidences of change that has come into your life, results of fruit that has come forth because of your prayer and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Remember: we need to keep praying about this until we see fruit coming forth from our life. Change will take place, but we must wait because it starts with the heart and then moves out into our service for Christ Jesus.

Chapter Seven:

Holy Spirit's Witness

Most scholars state that we are very close to the Lord's return, the second coming, when He will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to set up His Kingdom here on earth.

All the signs point to His return where many Scriptures concerning Israel are being fulfilled. Even the prophecies concerning the church are also being fulfilled and how believers of Christ are falling away to false doctrines. Satan is attacking in all areas of the world and he is raging war against the believers in the church. The Gospel is given out to all the corners of the world but our enemy is raising his ugly head again for one final battle both here on earth and in the heavenly realms.

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One can also see that there has been a cooling off or a lukewarmness towards the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. People are not listening anymore to his voice. (Revelation 3:22) Apathy has settled in the heart of many disciples of Christ. They are walking straight into many traps of Satan. They are becoming bound, worried and almost lifeless.

People it is time to return to our first love, to go back to the days when we listened and walked in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 51:11-12) We have joined as a harlot to other kinds of people and things and have made them our lovers. We become like Israel by turning our backs to the living God. The time is coming where grace will be removed and the righteous Judge will begin separating the sheep from the goats. (Matthew 25:32) If ever there was need for discernment it is in the last days. Satan is going to counterfeit everything that is in the church. He will lead people into a false belief by giving to them a false peace. There will be false teachers and Antichrist doing things that once was thought only could be done by Christ Jesus.

People, this chapter's purpose is to turn our hearts back to the fullness and ministry of the Holy Spirit, to come back to our first love of Jesus Christ, to confess our wicked ways and restore Christ to His Lordship of our whole lives. The time is now for a latter day revival to the fullness and infilling of the Holy Spirit. We need Him more than anything because the church is going to war. All the believers of Christ are called to take up a life-and-death stand for Him and the only way we will be able to overcome the minefields in this war is by being baptized and filled in the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit.

The Church in North America is in a lukewarm state, like Jesus prophesied would be in Revelation 3:14-22. The church that is neither hot nor cold is a church Christ wants to vomit out of His mouth. It is true

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that some of us are saying we are wealthy and that we have no need of anything. Because of our being lukewarm we do not see that we are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. We are living and being clothed not by Christ but by the things of the world as it pulls us into bondage. We do not see any more the fullness of God. Jesus is reaching out to us in these last days and is trying to counsel us, and exhorting us to buy from Him gold refined in fire. We become rich and prosperous in Him as we are clothed in His righteousness with His garments. Jesus' prayer is that our eyes would become anointed once again, that we would use our eye salve. (Holy Spirit's anointing) to open our eyes so we can see the real truth. (Revelation 22:18)

Christ is rebuking us and chastising us because He deeply loves us. (Revelation 22:19) Once again, Christ is calling us to repentance, to be zealous. (bold, giving our all) This is the true call of the Holy Spirit to the Church of Christ today. Time is short and we must once again draw near to God because as we do, He will draw near to us. (James 4:8)

Jesus tells us through the prophet John, *"Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with me."* (Rev 3:20)

The Holy Spirit has not changed in His work or ministry either in the disciple or in the church. He has not yet departed from this world. He speaking louder than ever before, but the problem seems to be that we are not listening. Some are, but most are not. Revelation 3:22 states, *"he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* Remember the Spirit is saying this to the churches that are scattered throughout the whole earth.

Jude 1:20 encourages us to build ourselves up in the most holy faith. We as believers in Christ are to be made firm; to get into the Word

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of God so that the Word of God can get into us. We are to be disciples who are praying in the Holy Spirit. We are aligning our minds and hearts with the will of God. We are praying in the Spirit for wisdom and direction, for guidance and help, encouragement and peace. We do not face this world alone but through prayer we can become tuned to what the Holy Spirit is saying and leading us to do. To keep ourselves in this place of prayer we must keep ourselves in the love of God.

We need to look intently at Christ Jesus and to take in the mercy He has for us. He is giving and as we take it all in by the Holy Spirit we come into the fullness of our Lord Jesus Christ's life.

We must walk daily in Christ Jesus with the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit invigorating us to press on forward in our service for Christ. Let us hear what I John 5:6-13 states, *“this is He who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on the earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God's greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who hath the Son has life: he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”*

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Let us go back one more time to the book of Revelation, the last chapter. Christ proclaims one more time to the church, *“In fact Jesus says, ‘I Jesus, have sent an angel to testify to you these things in the churches.’ ”* Christ is appealing one more time to the churches, to give the church a clear understanding who He is. Jesus states, *“I am, the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning Star.”*

We are being reminded first that He is the root and offspring of David. He the source of life as the root of all things of the Church. We as believers are grafted into Him and all our power and strength should flow out through Him into our lives. There is no other way to live or to have eternal life. He is the only way, truth and life. (John 14:6)

My prayer in response to this chapter.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I come to You today asking that You would empower me with Your Word that will pierce deeply into my heart. Lord Jesus, please use the testimony You have given to me as a bridge to speak into other people’s lives so they may hear Your good news. I know, Lord, unless the Holy Spirit touches men’s and women’s hearts, things will not change, but I pray for Your guidance, truth and a heart that is willing to serve You. Give me the strength and power to overcome the fears of people, the fears of the enemy and to stand strong with You against the wickedness of these evil days. Lord, I know we walk hand-in-hand, that together we are able to overcome. I know the testimony You have given me is like a sword in Your hand that will speak deep into people’s hearts. May I show to others the same grace, mercy and love as You have shown me. I place myself in Your hands as a vessel to be used however You see fit.

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Your servant in Christ,

Evidence of change in my life.

List some of the evidences of change that has come into your life, results of fruit that has come forth because of your prayer and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Remember: we need to keep praying about this until we see fruit coming forth from our life. Change will take place, but we must wait because it starts with the heart and then moves out into our service for Christ Jesus.

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit is now pulling all the pieces together. Soon the ministry will become clear in our hearts to the point we will understand. Each of these steps must be secured deep in our hearts. They are foundation stones that disciples and the end-times Church must build upon. One needs to pray each segment through until there is deep-seated assurance. They are like stepping stones to draw closer to God. They should not be taken lightly, but through study and meditation settle our hearts on the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. They will anchor us so when the winds and the waves come, we will be able to stand firm on Christ Jesus. (Matthew 7:24-27)

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The sad part is that just like in the times of Christ here on earth, disciples are short-term followers and unfortunately many will fall or walk away. (John 6:60-71) They will no longer abide as a branch in Christ, the vine; they will no longer produce everlasting fruit. (John 15:1-11) Jesus proclaimed it is the Spirit who gives life to the word that he speaks. It is saying with the Bible today, it is He who makes the Word of God alive and powerful in our hearts. The Word is like a mirror showing us who we truly are. (James 1:23) The Spirit and the Word are one. (John 5:6)

When the truth is proclaimed in the power of the Spirit it will cause people to draw closer to God or to run away from God. Even the 12 disciples struggled with believing the words of Christ. (John 6:46) You may wonder how it was possible after meeting the Son of God, hearing His teaching, seeing the miracles of healing and deliverance, but it is written, "...many of the disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.". (John 6:66) This again shows man has a free choice just as in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve could make a choice. They were given a free will, freedom to make a choice, freedom to obey or to disobey the Word of God.

Paul wanted to remind the Hebrews that God's work through the Holy Spirit, brings signs and wonders, plus various kinds of miracles. Even the gifts of the Holy Spirit that were given to the disciples were to be witnesses of God. But there is something more which often does not get shared or heard by the church to often and that is that all things are to be done according to Gods own will. (Hebrews 2:4) We are given freedom, yes, but that freedom comes only within the parameters of God's will both in the church and in our lives as disciples. Too often things are done or prophesied as the words or will of the Lord, but when the fruit begins to come forth one soon sees that it is either fleshly and has been contrived by man's will and ways. It is because we do not

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become like a grain of seed and die to self, we become more like tares, growing up together with the wheat. (Matt 13:36-43)

It is also stated again in 2 Peter 1:21 that things do not happen according to the will of man but it is God moving in people by the Holy Spirit. The key to God's moving in our lives is to be holy and obedient before God. The prophets were men of God; they belonged to Him, they did God's will in and through their lives.

God wants to move through His people so we become people of holiness. This involves daily putting to death our sin nature and coming to the Father to be filled with His Spirit. We need to carry within us the full Council of God. The Word of God is relevant and life changing for all who will receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

There is one more area that I believe adds another important piece to what it means to be a Full Gospel Disciple and it is found in Joel 2:21-32

“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done marvelous things! Do not be afraid, you beast of the field; for the open pastures are springing up, and the trees bear their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their strength. Be glad then, you children of Zion and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you a former rain faithfully, and He will cause rain to come down for you – the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floor shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dwelt wondrously with you: and My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. And it shall come to pass afterward that I will

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pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, and the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls.”

There are four main things that the prophet Joel gives to us and they are very relevant to our walk in Christ today.

1. Glad and rejoice
 - fear not, be glad and rejoice
 - the Lord has done marvelous things.
 - things are changing on the earth

It is important that we understand that things are continuing to change. God is still doing marvelous things throughout the earth and drawing many people to Himself. It is important in the last days that Christ's disciples not be overwhelmed by fear, but that they be full of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit and to let Christ be poured out to others through their lives here on earth.

2. Rain and harvest
 - former rain will faithfully come
 - He will cause the rain to come down for you
 - in the beginning of the last days
 - there will be a great harvest, the threshing floor would be full

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- there will be new wine and new oil, it will be overflowing
- He will restore all that the locust has destroyed

All throughout Scriptures God has wanted His people to be people who plant and people who harvest. All farmers will tell you that neither one of these events can take place until there is rain. God is going to continue to pour out His rain in the latter days, because He wants His house to be full. He desires that none should perish but all to have everlasting life. He desires that threshing floors would be full. There will be enough harvest, which represents God's grace and mercy and there will be enough new oil that often represents the Holy Spirit, for all to receive if they so desire. Even with the locust has destroyed over the years God is going to restore many times over. Often Satan is represented by the locust that destroys and kills. In the last days God will put a stop to that and there is going to be great blessing and abundance in Him.

3. Know and understand
 - that you shall know
 - I am in the midst of Israel
 - I am the Lord your God

There are at least two things we need to know and understand. One is that God is still in the midst of Israel and has not forsaken them or left them. He will come again one day to Jerusalem, to the mountain of Zion to set up His Eternal Kingdom. We also need to remember that He is the Lord our God, the Creator of all things, Who has made heaven and earth. We do not need to fear because God is with us. He is in our midst and most of all, He is in our hearts.

4. Watch and see
 - it shall come to pass that I shall pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
 - Your sons and daughters shall prophesy
 - old men shall dream dreams

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- young men shall see visions
- menservants and maidservants will receive the Holy Spirit
- wonders in heaven and earth
 - blood, fire and pillars of smoke
 - sun will turn to darkness
 - moon will turn to blood

All these things that are listed above will come to pass and it is important that the disciples of Christ remain firmly grounded, standing and walking in the power of God's Holy Spirit. There will be great challenges that will come upon this earth and unless disciples of Christ walk in the power of the Holy Spirit they may find themselves being overwhelmed with fear and doubt in those last days. There will be great destruction on the earth and we are told that even the sun will turn to darkness and the moon will turn to blood. The key will be to keep one's eyes focused on Jesus Christ and one's ears open to what the Spirit of God is speaking both to the church and to us as individuals.

Finally, Joel proclaims in verse 32, "*and it shall come to pass*".

- Those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved
- there shall be deliverance for those who call upon the name of the Lord.
- There will be a remnant that the Lord will call upon.

Timing is always key when it comes to the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. We must be in step with His will and timing and as we seek Him in prayer God will make things clear to us. The harvest is ripe but again the labourers are few. There will be a remnant that the Lord will and is calling upon to stand up. Why? so that more will be saved and delivered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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The final word comes to us concerning Full Gospel Discipleship from the book of Revelation 22 :16-17. The Scripture states, *“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”*

Dedication Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you again today. As we’ve been reminded of the importance of being a Full Gospel Disciple, help us by your Spirit to walk through these seven points where we can come to a place of truly knowing that we have been empowered and filled with your Holy Spirit. May we know “that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.” Jesus, we ask that we may be able to sit at Your feet, to walk hand-in-hand with You and to be able to take a strong stand against the enemy of this world. Please help us to see all the areas of sin in our lives that keep hindering us and entangling us in the things of this world. We ask. Holy Spirit, that as we take time to wait before You and to meditate on God’s Word, that You bring us into a deeper and newer walk with You so that in these last days we will be able to hear clearly Your Spirit speaking to us, teaching us and guiding us here on earth in our journey as we hold fast, in faith, to the fullness of the triune God.

Your servant in Christ,

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Appendix:

Vision One, Rod of Fire

One afternoon I took a rest, and even though I was tired, I could not sleep immediately. It wasn't long though, after praying and asking God to give me strength because I had been feeling weak for so many years now, that I did fall asleep. I had been dragging myself around and it was one of the main reasons that at first, I did not want to go on the India trip. I even complained to my doctor about how I felt. But after he ran several tests and had me checked out again for several things, he finally stated that I should go on the India trip. It was in this state of thinking that a vision came to me.

The vision was of a glass tube full of energy. It was clear like glass but there was a tremendous light radiating from inside the tube, with electrical beams flashing out like lightning bolts from it. It was radiating a lot of power. Then I saw the hand of God take this tub of power and placed it inside of me. It was plugged into my brain and then it went along the full length of my spine on the inside. This power began to radiate into my full being. The power began to heal and restore. At that moment I woke up and I knew something powerful had happened.

It was not only a vision but soon I would realize that God had stepped in, answered my prayers, and healed me. He told me that this season of weakness was now over and He was restoring me back to full strength. But I need to be wise on how I walk and live for Him.

Vision Two, Full Gospel Discipleship. (This booklet)

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Vision Three, Missionary Train

It was between 4:30 to 5:30 on Friday morning March 13, 2015. I woke to the sound of someone shoveling coal into the fire bin of the steam engine. When I looked to see who it was, it was Jesus smiling at me and He said “morning.” That was the end of the vision but even though I woke the vision was very clear and fresh in my mind. What you are about to read is what I saw during the vision.

The steam engine was sitting on a side track and there was a switch in front to the mainline. The engine, coal car and train car were all hitched together. There was not yet a coach, because along the journey more cars would be added. As the trip continued, they would come from other sidings and cars would be switched off and on to the mainline. Sometimes we backed up from a different point and connected with them. There were times we backed up and times of going forward. People from the past, in those extra cars, were connected to the future.

The first switch that was before me was one that would be changed that Friday, the day that we were leaving. As we moved from Nagaland to Asia the Holy Spirit was about to throw open a switch. It seemed also that in the future the train would come back to many of the same places, but this time with people and supplies. This would encourage and feed and help people along the mainline.

It seemed the train itself had been sitting idle for a while, being refitted and overhauled and being prepared for the journey that lay ahead. I believe this vision first took place when the rod of fire was placed inside me during the first vision of healing and restoration in Pastor Joe’s church in India.

Today there is a readiness as we get into the car for Asia, this will be the first chug of the engine as the wheels would begin to move. The Holy Spirit is waiting at the switch. Praise the Lord He is ready to

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throw the switch and open the line so that we can continue to travel on and minister to others.

The train itself was made up of a refurbished steam engine, clean, black and shiny. The fire was going and the steam was now building. Jesus Christ was standing with the coal shovel and a beautiful smile on His face. It seemed that He was excited that the trip was about to begin. Within moments He called out to the switchman that the line would be open and the journey would begin.

The coal car was filled with gifts and prayers. It seemed like the different pieces of coal had written on them the names of people who had given and prayed for this ministry. The coal car was now full and ready for the trip and Jesus was shoveling these precious gifts into the engine. This was to heat the boiler and to drive the wheels.

The car that was attached behind the coal car look like a box car, but as I glanced inside I saw Bibles, books, school courses, resources, gifts for children, children's books in different languages and even some bags of food. There were over 1 million pieces of material and these would be delivered along the way. Many things that were made up of different languages filled the car.

As we traveled down the mainline a little farther we picked up a passenger car and in this car were people from various countries who would connect to help distribute, translate, teach and serve other people with the vision wanting to bless, and serve and lead others to Jesus Christ. We were to pick them up for a season and/or drop them off at places where they will need to serve and be. We also would pull into stations along the way and give out supplies freely but it seemed like the more we gave out the more there was inside the large train car. God was doing a miracle of multiplication.

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When I looked down at the tracks a voice came to me and said, “These tracks represent the will of God.” They would lead us and direct us to the places we were to go, there will be sidings along the way where we will make short stops. At each stop we seemed to connect to more people and each time that there was a connection the train seemed to jerk forward with a little jar connecting us all together for service.

As I write this vision, something powerful is arising within my heart and my soul with a fire that I have not experienced before. It seems that my lungs are filling with fresh air and there is a strong readiness to see the wheels turn. My eyes seem to be on the engineer who keeps shoveling, and on the gauges as the pressure is building and on the giant piston and wheels that are about to begin turning. The whole train is ready. Soon the brake will be released, the cars will tighten up, the switch thrown and the journey will begin. Ah, Lord let it be in using my engine for Your glory, let the call of the people turn to anointing power that will fire the wheels of this old engine to turn again for Your glory.

I can feel the power rising up and surging out through my bones. All that the anointing flow Lord the renewing has come in the call from the altar has been placed deep within my heart. It seems to be a deepening feeling of faith and assurance and much anticipation of the future, knowing no matter what happens I feel like the athlete in the starting blocks ready for the sound of the gun. I feel strength in my legs that they are firmly planted. The train is all connected, the coal car is full, and the rest of cars are now tightened up ready for the first thrust of the steam that is coming from the fire in the engine. I can almost feel it literally. Ah, my Lord I am ready with excitement. My eyes are clearly focused on You and Your will for my life. I may be an old steam engine but Christ has refitted me and I feel totally renewed and ready. His one hand is now reaching for the brake to release it and the other is reaching for the throttle. I feel the power surging through my veins.

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I pray, Oh Lord, that this vision be fulfilled in your timing and that You bless others who desire to serve You to get on board and to be refired also for service to the countries and nations that still need to hear Your Gospel around the world.

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Project L.A.M.B.S. International

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urged the disciples to follow Him. He laid down before us the teaching and the walk that we need to follow with Jesus as our supreme example. It is imperative for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

Dr. James Humphries has been ministering for over 40 years, and has experience in a variety of ministries including church planting, children's ministry, street ministry, youth ministry, camp ministry, pastoral work and directing and teaching in schools all over the world. In addition, he has taken part in traveling and ministering in the USA, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Thailand and across most of Canada. He completed his B.R.E. and his M.A. from Briercrest, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Providence Theological Seminary in the spring of 1999.

In January 1996, Dr. James Humphries resigned as pastor of a local church with a vision to reach further abroad with the Word of God and to use it to train labourers for Christ (Matthew 9:36-38). He shared this with Dr. David Smith and Dr. Chuck Nichols of Providence Theological Seminary and they greatly encouraged Dr. James Humphries and his wife Irene to develop what God was laying on their hearts.

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In March 1997, they traveled to Jamaica where they met several pastors who were very concerned about the need for training and disciplining their young people as leaders in their churches. Dr. James Humphries and Irene did not know this would be the starting point to an international ministry of discipleship training around the world known as Project L.A.M.B.S. International.

To date, Project L.A.M.B.S. has ministered in Canada, Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel, Thailand, Japan, Dominican Republic, Naga Land and China. We offer over 30 different courses. Our graduates number over 1000, and are serving worldwide. Out of this group of graduates, we have equipped and trained directors, teachers and pastors who in turn are carrying out II Timothy 2:1-2 to an even larger group of people.

In 2002 it was discovered that Irene had cancer again. God gave Irene another three years and because of that she was still able to travel and teach in many different countries. Shortly after what was to be her last trip, Irene was hospitalized in February, 2005. A few weeks later she went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 9.

My second wife Hkaw Win was raised and trained mostly in the land of Myanmar. She has earned B.th, University Degree and a master of Divinity Degree in Myanmar. In April 2007 she finished a second Master's Degree at Providence Theological Seminary in Christian Education. After July 1st, 2007 she headed back to Myanmar to head up the Christian Education Department

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for the Myitkyina Kachin Baptist Association and oversaw various ministries to 62 churches. After her four-year term was completed, she has been traveling and working as an interpreter and doing translations concerning various kinds of discipleship books and materials.

Over the last ten years we have lived in the countries of Myanmar and Thailand preparing a variety of resources in the Burmese (Myanmar) and Kachin Languages. To date we have published over 20 different kinds of books. Our goal is to equip and establish people as Disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom. Our walk with Christ has taken us down many challenging pathways but we have seen the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior in every area. His grace has been sufficient.

Founder and Director,

Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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Discipleship / Leadership Booklets

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2. Called to His Purpose
3. Abiding in the Vine
4. Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding
5. Scripture: The Disciples' Anchor
6. Baptism: The Disciples' Testimony
7. The Disciples' Church
8. Servant Leadership
9. Teacher / Learner, Learner / Teacher
10. Being Wise Builders
11. Shepherds of God's Sheep
12. End Times
13. Relationship Pilgrimage
14. Christ's Disciple
15. Disciple's Prayer Life
16. Communion
17. Ambassadors for Christ
18. Full Armour of God
19. Good News for Challenging and Changing Times
20. Christ our Mediator
21. Jesus our Deliverer
22. Mission and Missionaries
23. Full Gospel Discipleship
24. Romans Road of Discovery

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1. Bible Information (18 different languages)
2. Bible Dictionary and Concordance (Kachin, Burmese)
3. Disciples' Principle of Faith (Kachin)
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