



# Why is it so hard to be a Christian?

We are doing it wrong

By  
Jim Boch

## Acknowledgments

Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Andrew Womack, EW Kenyon and Gavin Lubbe.  
If it sounds like them that's probably where I got it.

King James Bible is used

## Introduction

I talk to God, and He talks back.

If this makes you uncomfortable consider this, the Bible is full of stories about God talking to ordinary people. Did he suddenly stop?

I will tell you that he talks to everyone, you probably don't even realize it when it's him.

Even if you don't believe that God talks to people today, think about this, what if you are wrong and are missing the most important conversations of your life.

This book is about events that happened in March 2021. It was in response to an email I sent to my Pastor, and it had this statement. "Being a Christian shouldn't be this hard", this this book is what God had to say about that.

This book is not meant to be a complete guide for new Christian, it is more of a quick start guide so that you know how it all fits together and where to start looking.

## **Chaper 1 We are doing it wrong**

God is real.

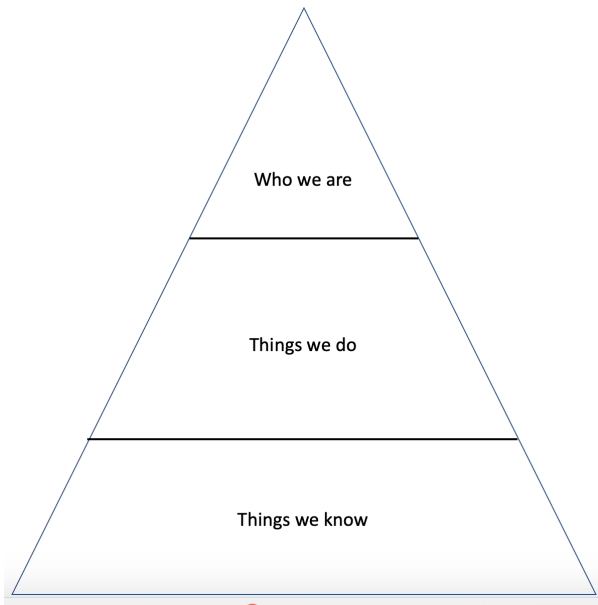
We go through life saying this but many times we act differently. the Bible is full of people having conversations with God, but when it comes to us, we think he has stopped talking. Sure, we pray, but do you really expect an answer. Do you stop and listen after you are done talking? Did you ask a deliberate question?

Covid 19 was a horrible event, and many persons and businesses were destroyed. But this time of isolation was the best time of my life. I had nothing to do but sit and listen, for hours at a time. I will caution you that not every voice in your head is God, but that is a later chapter. When I made this statement that "being a Christian shouldn't be this hard" I got a response. He showed me this pyramid.



These are the three areas we develop as Christians; in fact, this applies to many things but more on that later.

These three areas translate into:



The problem is that we start at the bottom and most of us never get to the upper levels. Let me give you an example. You are invited to a church, and you hear an alter call, you go up and say the words you are told by the preacher, and they tell you, congratulations you are saved. You are now going to heaven.

Great, what now

They may give you a bible

They may tell you to start in the New Testament, or even start with the gospel of John

Or they will give you a tract that says "welcome to the family"

The problem is that you don't know what is critical, what should you do, what area should I study. You are drowning in facts, but you still really aren't sure what to do with this information. The problem is that you are saved as an adult, you think Christianity is about knowing what to do and doing it.

This is totally wrong

God told me we need to start at the top and work down, not start at the bottom and work up.

I use the word God in this book to refer to the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This is a bit generic but i don't want to get into a deep debate about this as they all work together and we are not going to find something where they disagree. This book is intended to be read by the new Christian who may not even know there is a Holy Spirit yet.

## **CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

The bible uses the analogy of a child growing up as a model for our Christian development.

Verses such as

John 3:3 KJV

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

1 Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Luke 7:32

They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

The analogy of being born, being a newborn, children playing are all examples of how the Bible uses human development to represent your growth as a Christian.

So how do children grow up, I turned to google and found some good information.

You start out an infant, you receive love from your parent, you learn their voice, you feel their presence, you receive nourishment from them. Being with them forms the core of who you are.

Then you begin to mature in 3 areas

Motor skills

Verbal skills

Social Skills

Only later when you are older do you progress to learning facts.

God showed me that this is precisely how newly born-again adults should develop in our Christian life.

First, we need to develop our relationship with God before we can go onto skills and facts. Sadly, I went about this is exactly the wrong order and that is fundamentally why this book was written, to show you an easier way.

## **Chapter 2**

### **7 fundamentals every Christian needs to know.**

#### **GODS KNOT**

He showed me a vision of a red heart with 3 ropes coming from it. The ropes were braided together. I came home and googled "heart with 3 cords" and found the picture on the cover of this book. [Link](#) He added another cord wrapped around the 3 cords.

He explained that this heart symbolizes our development and has meanings at many levels.

It turns out that this 3 cords symbol is called "God's knot" and is an actual device that is used in some marriage ceremonies, the three cords, God, husband and wife are woven together as part of the ceremony showing how three become one. The main elements are below:

**The heart** - this is the first thing we need after salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit, he speaks about removing our stony heart and replacing it with a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh:

We need this renewed heart to actually be a Christian, if we don't have this then we are acting like Christians. I'm not saying you can't get to heaven without this new heart but your life here will be much easier with it. When your heart changes you want to do the things, you read in the Bible rather than just using your will to override your natural desires.

### **Authority, Blessing and Faith**

The three ropes are what proceeds out of the Father's love for us, our authority, our blessing and our faith. These are things we do, here on this earth. I realized that these 3 things were present right at the beginning. God created the world by faith, he gave us authority over the things of this world, (notice he didn't give us the earth, just dominion over the things that run around on it), and the blessing.

Genesis 1:3

And God said, let there be light: and there was light. (Faith)

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Authority)

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Blessing)

God told me that these are the three skills that we need to develop to be effective in using the power of his love on this earth. He also showed me that they rank in ease of use, with Authority in Jesus name being the easiest, then blessing and then Faith.

### **Words**

The final blue cord, wrapping around the other three are words. He told me that he can hear my thoughts but until I say something, nothing changes. It's like a king thinking about getting rid of his wife, but until he says off with her head, nothing happens. All our skills are used by speaking words. This is why death and life are in the power of the tongue.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue:  
and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

The 7 fundamentals of our Christian development are:

Salvation

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Heart

Authority

Blessing

Faith

Words

## **First Steps**

Let's clear something up before we get started.

Sooner or later, you will hear, if God is all powerful why does evil exist in the world. This comes in many forms, but it has its root in that God is responsible for everything that happens in this earth. I have news for you, this is simply not true.

God gave Adam dominion over the earth, note he did not give him the earth, he gave him rulership over it.

Genesis 1:26

And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

What happens on this earth has a lot to do with our will. God will never overrule your will, you may wish he did but it's not going to happen. Everything that we experience with God has our will involved.

The problem is free will, God will never make us do something. Right in Genesis, he gave us dominion to rule this world. What we decide is important and all he can do is offer us a choice. You can choose to take your chances on your own or you can accept his offer. This is a very important concept that many miss, God will never do something for you against your will. Consider Jonah, Gods will was for him to tell the Assyrians that they needed to repent or they would die. Jonah preferred that they die, the Assyrians had conquered the Israelites and he wanted God to smite them. God sent a whale after Jonah but did not make Jonah do what he wanted, he had to work to convince Jonah to do it.

### **1. Salvation**

It's a simple thing but although Jesus wants us all saved

1 Timothy 2:4

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

but we must accept it. I think of it this way, Adam was driving the titanic with all humanity aboard, he hit an iceberg called sin and the boat sank and we are all destined to die.

Jesus is in a rescue boat, he is reaching out to you and asking you, do you accept my salvation? The Bible tells us that upon this acceptance you become born again with a new spirit that is alive to God. I'm not sure how this works but the Bible tells us that we are spirit, soul and body and this gets us a new spirit. It's simple

Acts 2:21

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

You now have a new spirit, your soul and body are the same but 1/3 of you is new and alive to God, and you also go to heaven when your body dies. Many people stop right here, God loves you but there is so much more for you but once again, it's your choice.

## **2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

There used to be a lot of controversy about this subject. This is where you ask the Holy Spirit to live inside you. Salvation gets you a new spirit, this gives the Holy Spirit permission to live inside you.

Jesus said he would send another comforter to us to teach us, this is what happened in the upper room where fire descended upon them, and they spoke in other tongues. It must be important because Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they received power from on high.

Luke 24:49

And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Luke 11:13

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

It's as simple as praying "Holy Spirit please come and live in me".

The Holy Spirit really wants to live inside you, he is just waiting for you to ask, you don't have to tarry, to earn it, all you need to do is be saved and ask for it.  
Then your resident teacher moves in

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

He also comes with power and ability; it is as he wills

1 Corinthians 12:11

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

but we are told to earnest desire the greater gifts

1 Corinthians 14:1

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts,

People find that they work more frequently in some of the gifts than others, that really is because of us, The Holy Spirit does not give you a gift and then it's yours to do what you like with it, so saying that I have the gift of prophecy is not correct. More correct is that the Holy Spirit frequently manifests the gift of prophecy through me. It's not yours to turn on and off, its him working through you.

John 5:19

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

It's you and the Holy Spirit working together, you are the switch, he is the power, and the power is love.

I have included these two first steps as a foundation, many born again, spirit filled Christians stop here. There are many books that cover these topics in depth, but this is a simple summary to allow us to dive into what I was shown in response to my question "why is being a Christian so hard?"

## **Chapter 3**

### **3. The HEART**

Many good books will tell you point 1 and 2, but it wasn't until the last few years that I learned and experienced the third point.



The bible refers to your body, your soul, and your spirit. I have heard it said that your soul is your mind, will and emotions. Your spirit is that part of you that is connected to God and your body is that physical skin you walk around in. When you die the body remains and the spirit and soul leave. So where then is the heart. When the bible refers to the heart it is not your blood pump, but it is referring to your center. I have heard it said that the heart contains your core values. These are formed in you as you develop.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence.  
for out of it are the issues of life.

Matthew 12:35

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

I'll give you a personal example, I was late to a business meeting, no fault of my own. This event was noted in my performance review for several years. The effect of this is that I am NEVER late, I sometimes arrive 1hr before and get a cup of coffee so that I'm not late. I don't think to myself i can't be late, I just automatically arrive early. However, I'm married now so sometimes that doesn't work out, but by myself I'm never late. This has become a core value and is part of my heart. I didn't do anything to put it there, but it is there nonetheless. Your heart is full of things, if your parent told you that you were dumb again and again you will act dumb, even if you are not.

This is why we are told to "guard our hearts, as the issues of life flow from it". It is very difficult to change your own heart, perhaps impossible. There is a solution to this broken heart. Jesus said i have come to heal the broken hearted. I always thought that was weird.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

He puts brokenhearted in the middle of preaching the gospel, healing the blind and other things that he is here to do now that he is filled with the Holy Spirit. I realized that he is not talking about the feeling you have when you don't get what you want, he is talking about healing your broken heart, that inner you.

The heart holds the answers to WHY you do what you do, the people who study the mind dig deeply into your heart to find the source of your life problems, and in many cases they are right. They will find these issues and through therapy help you to cope.

God's solution is simpler, its unconditional love. That Greek word Agape that says to love without expecting anything in return.

Unconditional love is not something that you see very often in life. It is a love for you that expects nothing in return. Normal human love is reflective in nature. The most common reason people give when asked why they love someone is that the other person loves them. It's kind of like the moon, it shines brightly in the night sky but the light is actually the light of the sun.

If you have ever been in love with someone and they leave, how do you stop feeling bad. The quickest way is to fall in love with someone else. Even naturally we know that experiencing love heals our wounds. If you fall in love with someone else, you suddenly couldn't care less about the person who left you.

Love causes us to feel good, there is a hormone called oxytocin that we experience when we are in love. In reality we were meant to experience this feeling all the time.

God heals our broken heart by us experiencing his unconditional love

When we are wounded in life, we are told to grow a thicker skin, to become hardened to the hurts of this world, God wants to heal your heart by doing a heart transplant.

Ezekiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh:

He doesn't work through each issue like a therapist, the universal solution to all our heart problems is the same, we need to experience his unconditional love, notice I said experience, not know about it.

Ephesians 3:19

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

To know the love of Christ, you know when God says know he doesn't mean it in your head but deep, like when Adam knew his wife and had a child, this deep experience, this feeling, will completely change your heart and you will truly become a Christian. He changes those core values in your heart, and you become a new creature. Before this heart change you hear scriptures like "become a willing sacrifice, turn the other cheek, do good to those who hate you", and they seem like impossible tasks. But when you fall in love with God you want to be like him, and you actually will want to do these things. I know it seems impossible and 4 years ago I would have agreed, but now I can say that experiencing his love completely changed my "want to" in life.

## **WHAT GOD WANTS MOST**

I often ask this question to people, you get a variety of answers but rarely the right one. Its right there in front of you and he is not a bit subtle about it

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Jesus echo's it with

Matthew 22:39

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

What God wants most, what this is all about, is he wants all your heart. He wants you to love him as much as he loves you. He isn't even subtle about it, I mean it's the first commandment, to love your god with all you have and then Jesus repeats it and adds to love your neighbor as yourself.

This isn't some dry, I love you, but I don't like you kind of love, this is a raw passion, a love so hard your chest hurts, one where you can't wait to see them again, you think about them all the time. God loves you like that. When you experience this overwhelming love, you can't help but fall in love with him. This is where many people miss it, they think he is some far away cold judge waiting to smite them when they do wrong. This is really a lie; this verse shows that even when we are at our worst, he still desires to be with us.

Matthew 23:37

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

I was an emotionless person for the first 50 years of my life, i said love is a decision not a feeling that comes and goes. This is a commitment love; it lacks the passion that is in God's heart. God is very emotional, the fruit. of the spirit is love, joy, peace... all things that you feel, emotional things.

Once God gets your heart and you fall in love with him your life really becomes very simple. You are not looking to satisfy your love need by buying stuff or accomplishing things. Think about when 2 people are in love, that can sit there for hours and just be with each other and they are content and happy. Truly, you can live on love. It's not that I don't still enjoy the things I have, I do, it's just that I don't need to do or have something to be happy, i just am happy. And when something gets me down, I spend time with him and I'm happy again. This is what is meant by being content.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

1 Timothy 6:8

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

It's not that I'm happy having little, it's that I don't care about those things anymore. As long as they don't prevent me from doing what I want to do, I really don't care what I have. He is not trying to get you to be satisfied with little, he is trying to free you from their hold on you.

What's funny is that you don't really hear this in church, but turn on your radio and there are countless songs about love. The Beatles sang all you need is love, Hewy Lewis sang about the power of love, Kesisha said love is a drug and NeYo said let me love you until you can love yourself. That should cover all the generations from boomers to gen Z. The world knows that love is important.

Which brings us to music, music you hear in church is about us praising God, God told me once, "Let me love you". This is hard but I found a way. You have to be cautious about what you listen to on the radio, but you can use secular songs about love to let him tell you he loves you. My friend Steven told me once that since God is love and songs about love is really about God. I'm not totally convinced as there are some pretty worldly songs out there, but he is on to something. The artist Ne Yo singing "let me love you until you love yourself" is one of my favorites, I imagine God singing this to me. I just sing right along with him, and I become overwhelmed and cry. I do this in my truck as no one has ever told me I'm a good singer, so I turn it up loud enough, so I don't hear myself and I sing my heart out. Songs like Madonna Dress you up in my love, and Cherish, Rita Ora I will never let you down, are some of my favorites. If i feel down I can just hop in my truck and in just a few songs I'm good again.

I was wondering if the only way I would feel this love was through music, but I was reading a list of scriptures about love and boom there it was. You really need to let him love you. This seems strange but my prayer was simply "let me feel your heart" and there it was.

Pretty soon you will start seeing him loving you everywhere.

When someone is in love you can tell, the Bible tells us that we would know we are saved by the love for one another. Being in love changes things, you are kinder, more generous, quick to forgive, sound familiar. These are the fruits of the spirit. When you have fallen in love you change, and you can tell when others speak in just a few min if they are in love, if they are harsh or critical, they don't know this love, and even if they say that they have you can tell. It's been 2 years since this experience for me and I find it harder and harder to listen to people who don't have the love. But be patient, I heard my previous pastor's daughter get up and preach on love one Sunday, I was bored, I wanted to hear about how to get healed or how to get more faith.

Now that I have experienced it, it's all I can talk about. I wasn't ready for that step at that time. I can't emphasize this enough, the thing that is missing in the modern church is that people have not experienced his love. Not read about it, can recite verses about it, i mean they have felt it. You will find it hard to act like a Christian, all this turn the other cheek, be a living sacrifice, you are constantly having to exercise your will to ACT like a Christian. But once you get your heart changed these traits are what you do naturally, they are not difficult they are a joy because you have BECOME a Christian, all due to your heart being changed by his love.

Now I'm not saying that if you don't experience this you go to hell. I believe that salvation is enough, but if you want to experience all that he has for you this is essential.

John wrote about it, Paul the most theological of the writers tells you that without love you have nothing, even if you do miracles or other good things without love you have nothing. Pretty strong endorsement. But don't settle for knowing about it, you must experience it.

## **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

The one thing that every human needs is love. Studies have shown that babies who are not held are impaired in their development.

God is love

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

We are created with a desire for this love, and I believe that the only source of unconditional love is God, the word Agape is not a common word in Greek. The King James bible translates

this as charity, it references the love that expects no return. This is not a human love because we have a difficult time loving people who hate us, yet the bible tells us to do just that.

I used to say that love is a decision, and you can decide to do good things to people who hate you, just through a force of will. This is the state of many Christians today, they see the commands to turn the other cheek, bless those who curse you and they perform the action without the supporting emotion.

They are in essence acting like a good Christians are supposed to act.

I attend Charis Bible College and one of my professors was Arthur [Meintjes](#). He taught a class called heart matters, this is a Charis class so you can't get it without attending the school, which I highly recommend if the Lord leads you that way. However, he wrote a book called "[Knowing and Experiencing God](#)"

In this book he relates how he was a religious man and did things because he knew he was supposed to, but it was hard, and he was disillusioned. He then described an experience that changed his life. He experienced the unconditional love of God. He didn't read about it, he felt God's love towards him, and it changed him forever. I read this and said to myself "I want this for me" so I prayed, "God, let me feel your heart"

What has happened since I prayed this has astounded everyone who knows me. God wants to show you how much he loves you so much it must hurt. If you sincerely want to feel his heart you need only to ask. This is no small thing, my life completely changed.

To give you a little context I am 6 foot 4 and 300lbs. I am a big, big man. I'm pretty stoic and would never hug, forget kiss other people. My wife and children are enough, well I did kiss my mother on the cheek.

Now I weep riding along in my truck listening to sappy love songs, I apologies to people I cut off at the gas station, I mean if you saw me walking up to your car you would roll up the window, but I feel the offense and I must heal it. I have become patient, tender hearted. My daughter says that Google thinks I'm a lovesick 12-year-old girl based on my YouTube playlist, the algorithm keeps giving me more love songs. Now there is nothing I like better than becoming in a living sacrifice, I would do anything for my love that he desired. That is what experiencing unconditional love did to me. I fell in love with God.

## **HEARING GODS VOICE**

If you are going to experience Gods love you really need to learn to talk to him first.

Scripture says

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

So, it's not that you can't hear him speaking to you. Talking to God and hearing him respond is not that hard.

I have heard him the following ways

Actual words that are in my head

Images

Dreams and Visions

Names of people

Scriptures that suddenly become alive with meaning

Sudden knowing that I know

There are three voices in your head, yours, Gods, and the enemy's. The real skill is to know who is talking and I have heard all three. This is where the bible comes in handy, you know that the Holy Spirit is there to help you, give you comfort. When you hear harsh and accusing tones you know that's not God. It could be you, or it could be the enemy, but it's not God

How to hear from God, first steps

First, put away your phone, computer, and anything that we have been trained to respond to, our world is so connected through social media that we have a hard time hearing that still small voice.

Set apart some silent time, I'm talking about at least 1 hr. You will find this extremely hard to sit in your chair doing nothing. I love mornings before the rest of the family wakes up.

Read your bible for a few min and find something you don't understand, or something on your heart that you want to ask him about.

Out loud ask him, "Lord please show me how the blessing works", or some other thing

I have gotten an immediate answer on occasion but more times than not it's when I'm doing something else, some of his favorites are when I'm distracted, like driving my truck, or taking a shower. I'll give you an example.

I needed money to pay my children's college tuition. College is expensive, God had been showing me that the blessing and not sowing and reaping is how Christians get money.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich,  
and he addeth no sorrow with it.

I sat in my chair before work and said to him, show me how this blessing works.

I got up, showered, and went to work. I work an engineering job as my primary source of income.

A little background, I started a small coffee roasting company two years prior, I love coffee and when I found out you could roast your own, I was hooked. However, you can only drink so much coffee so I started selling it to my friends. I had tried to sell it to my coworkers and finally when I got no results, I even offered it for free. No takers. The engineering company I worked for did buy my coffee for the employees but no sales to the employees.

That morning I walked into the engineering job's office building lobby, and someone stopped me, he said, are you Boch Coffee? I said yes, he said I want to buy some of your coffee. I then went upstairs and got a cup of coffee, and someone said are you Boch Coffee? He wanted some K cups. Finally on the way to my desk another coworker had bought his wife a French press and he wanted some coffee for her.

In 20 min, three separate and unrelated people asked me for coffee, in an environment where I had not been able to sell a single bag for 2 years. I told the Holy Spirit, I get it now. The Holy Spirit showed me a demonstration of the blessing. In this case he answered with a demonstration of how the blessing works in that people came to me to buy coffee. Not by my efforts or slick marketing campaign or some special, just the blessing in action.

On the same topic I was in the shower, and I said Lord, I understand that I need to be in a place to directly receive the results of the blessing and not trade my blessing for a salary. But I need money now, he replied in words in my head "command the blessing".

I answered, that's not in the bible. God commands the blessing, not us. Right? Well, more about this under blessing but this time his response was immediate and in words,

I find that the more I talk with him, the faster I get my answers. However, the enemy does not relent, this happened to me just a few months ago. I have a YouTube channel and a blog. I resolved not to do anything in ministry that God did not tell me to do, and he didn't tell me to post any more content. I asked him "can I post something", I was itching to do something for the Kingdom, and I got this response. "Why do you want to do this, is it so you can show people how smart you are" I was devastated, yes I wanted to show people I was smart, but I wanted to help the Kingdom too. I removed all my content, I deleted my website but when I related the story to my pastor I remarked "I have never had him speak to me that way before, it was so sharp". I later realized that this was not God but the enemy trying to knock me off track. All the content is back up. This is an example of hearing words that sounded like God, but the tone was wrong, so I knew it was the enemy. Remember, God is love. If it was God answering me and he didn't want me to post anything he would have said something like "why do you want to do this", he would let me search my heart and discover it was for me and not him.

I was unsure if it was God or not and had a hard time acting on what I heard. Kenneth Hagin and others gave me some advice through his tapes (remember cassette tapes)

1. do you want to do it? does it bring you some attention? it could be you
2. does it sound like the Lord, is the tone sound like someone who loves you?
3. does it conflict with scripture? God never contradicts his written word.
4. If you think it might be the Lord, determine the impact, if it is small then go ahead and do it. It could be you or him, but the downside is low, so you gave away \$20 but it was just you, so what.
5. If its large, like sell all you have and move to Somalia, then move slowly. If its God the feeling with build as you move, if it's not it will fade
6. Finally, he is rarely in a hurry, we are almost always the one who is impatient. Take your time and talk to him and he will guide you step by step.

Remember God doesn't say "Go to Somalia and start an orphanage, call me if you get stuck or have a question"

He leads you step by step and he does it together, you and him. Here is something to think about, God works in miracles, if it can be done through your own natural ability it's probably not the way God wants to do it.

Consider Moses, he knew that he was to liberate the Jews from Pharaoh. He could have raised up an army and freed them. But God had another better way to free the Jews, without thousands of Jewish deaths and with all the gold in Egypt.

If it doesn't take a miracle to bring it to pass, it may not be God.

## **LEARNING TO TRUST HIM**

You learn to trust someone when you get to know them and spend time with them. When you understand what kind of person they are and someone tells you something contrary to what you know you say, that couldn't have been them. The same is with God, people have this idea that God is this cold judge waiting to smack you when you do wrong. They can even point to scriptures where God kills people, for example the Noah flood. But when you know his heart and have experienced his love you read this differently.

Joshua 24:14

Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

Genesis 6:4

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

Genesis 6:11-13

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

I'm not trying to create doctrine here but apparently there was some serious problems here that caused God to have to wipe out all life except Noah and his family.

God wanted to get his family back and he needed Jesus to come and do it as a man. God did what needed to be done to ensure that this happened. This is why the Jews slaughtered all the inhabitants of the promised land.

Genesis 15:16

But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

Deuteronomy 7:22

And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

Apparently, the Amorites were wicked but not so wicked that God was going to have Israel destroy them, he gave them another 4 generations to repent. Apparently, there was a limit to how evil you could get before God acted in the Old Testament, thank God for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Chapter 4**

### **SKILLS:**

Just as there are 3 major skills that we develop as babies, God showed me that there are 3 major areas that we need to develop in our Christian life. Here is the disclaimer he gave me, I'm not saying that these are the only ways, they are intertwined and related but that these are the basics that are under our control.



#### 4. SKILL-Authority

There are 2 Greek words translated power in the New Testament. As this is not a deep dive book so I'll simplify the definition to make a point. If you are into studying the meaning of the original Greek these are good ones to study.

Greek word exousia translated as power

Matthew 10:1

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Greek word dunamis also translated as power

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

in English these are the same word, power. They have 2 different meanings, exousia is authority and dunamis is power like electricity is power.

I like the use the example of a policeman. His badge represents his authority, his firearm represents his power.

When he says "stop in the name of the law" he is exercising his authority. If he were to use his gun, he would be using power.

Simply put Jesus gave us the right to use his name to overcome with sickness, disease, demons, and death.

The Holy Spirit is the source of power. You can use the name of Jesus without being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Consider this example:

Jesus gave the 70 disciples direction to go throughout Israel and use his name. It doesn't specify what they said to do this but when they returned they rejoiced because

Luke 10:17

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Peter and John at the gate called beautiful gave a detailed example of how this works.

Acts 3:6

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Basically, this is the equivalent of saying "stop in the name of Jesus"

Power is another matter entirely, Jesus told his apostles not to leave Jerusalem until they were clothed with Power from on high, i.e. Baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has the power, not us. We can direct the flow of this power in the methods known as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. However, these are as he wills, not us.

Authority is another matter; we should always follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but authority is ours to use. Consider the 70, they were not saved, they were not baptized in the Holy

Spirit, yet they successfully used the authority in Jesus' name to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons, etc.

You will notice that they are not praying and asking God to do something, they are using the authority to tell the sickness, or demon to leave, or the body to be healed.

The mistake most people make is that they pray to God and ask him to heal them. Jesus told us to heal the sick, not ask him to heal the sick.

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Now when you are a newborn you need others to help you he tells you to ask for help.

James 5:14

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

If you can't seem to make it work by yourself, then get some mature believers to help you.

But God expects us to develop over time. One example is Moses standing at the red sea:

Exodus 14:15

And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

God said why are you crying out to me, part the sea. God told him to part the sea, apparently, he should have understood by this time how things worked. This is not the only time.

Jesus in the boat in the storm was irritated that they woke him for a storm. These were fishermen and they were afraid of sinking so it must have been a big storm. Jesus didn't say good thing you woke me up, we could have sunk. He said:

Mark 4:40

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

And again, when the apostles were not able to cast out the spirit, Jesus said:

Matthew 17:17

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

Faithless and perverse, clearly, he felt that they should have advanced more by then, or maybe he knew time was running out and was a bit impatient.

Clearly God expects us to develop and start doing some things for ourselves after a time. All these instances were far along in their time experiencing God's power, and they had seen many miracles, and had done them themselves.

Simply put, we are to say to the person, be healed in the name of Jesus, it should work. Jesus was never much for long prayers, nor it seems were the disciples. In Jesus name, rise and walk is concise. But if you go to the altar for prayer you may hear some long prayers. Why, because they are afraid it won't work. You need to know it's going to work when you pray. And not by psyching yourself up.

My own testimony reflects this truth, I was saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit at 13. I listened to Kenneth Hagin and if he taught anything it was faith and healing. Many miracles were done in his ministry. I listened to everything he did. When I graduated college I called his office and bought his entire cassette offering, every one. My job had lots of travel by car, I have listened to all these tapes many times.

Yet I had never seen a supernatural healing, in 25 years not a one. I got sick just like everyone else, if I prayed for someone I can't tell that it did something. I believed it without a doubt, at least none that I knew of, and the bible is clear on the subject and I had all that Hagin teaching, but nothing.

One day I was reading a book by EW Kenyon called New Creation Realities. It's an older book and he is long dead, but somewhere in the middle of the book I suddenly realized.

"I'm not trying to get God to do something, I'm using his authority to heal"

Since this time (20 years) healing works in my body almost every time, and in those I pray for about half of the time. What they believe has a lot to do with healing.

What changed? I had what is known as a revelation. The bible says that these truths are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

This revelation allows me to believe and not doubt. I have no doubt when I use the name of Jesus and command whatever is trying to get on me to leave, that it will leave.

Now, if I let it get a foothold, it might take a bit longer. Another issue is getting too specific. Jesus told them to rise and walk or be healed. Not, I command your right ventricle to be well. I have prayed for the wrong sickness and had to suffer through it. You don't need to know the sickness, or the demons name, or all the details about the disease. You can either command them to be well, rise and walk, or the evil spirit to leave.

When you try this on someone else, what they believe matters. I like to ask them, what will happen when I pray and why. This allows me to get in line with what they believe if I can. I may believe they can be instantly healed; they believe that the doctors' hands will do a good job. I may try to get them to stretch a bit but it's easier to get results if I meet them where they are.

### **Faith is a formula**

Mark 11:23 gives us the formula for faith, you are going to say you can't put God in a box, but Jesus gave us the formula.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he

saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Faith is (Belief-Doubt)/Offense

It's kind of a word problem, you remember these from school. Don't check out on me now its pretty simple.

He said Believe and do not Doubt and if you have anything against anyone forgive them (Offense)

(Belief – doubt)/Offense is how you get, great, little and no faith, basically NET faith.

You have the measure of faith; you hear that you can be healed, and you believe. It's an on and off thing. You either believe or you don't. The word of God contains the faith for you to believe.

But that's not the end of it, what if you had seen someone get prayed for in the past and it didn't work, or you did something bad and feel unworthy, or you were mad at someone and were offended. The measure of faith is still there but you are adding doubt and offense to the equation.

If you don't believe or are offended you have no faith, this was true of those in his hometown, they were offended and he "could do no mighty work there" I'm guessing that they were thinking, who does he think he is, the son of God. Actually...

Little faith is that you believe but have lots of doubt

Great faith is that you believe and have little doubt.

Now I'm not saying you have to do math to understand faith, just understand what the parts are Believe - this is a yes and no thing, and it's in your heart, where you keep your core beliefs, not your head. Belief in your head is commonly called mental assent. You see the facts and can't refute them but you don't really believe it.

Doubt - yes you can believe and doubt at the same time, a good examples besides Mark 11:24 is, where Jesus said all things are possible to those who believe and the man responded,

Mark 9:24

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Offense -Faith is love flowing, if you are offended or otherwise not in love, it doesn't flow. That is really why we can be trusted with this great power; it only works through love.

Now my pastor and I had a discussion on can you believe and doubt at the same time, his assertion was that you cannot have conflicting core beliefs in your heart. Yet the above scriptures say you can also have doubt. I was meditating on this, and grilling some burgers and I heard clearly, "you believe in your heart and doubt in your head". I offer that for your meditation.

Andrew Wommack does a great teaching on how you can believe and doubt at the same time. You need the word of God to get that belief, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Someone has to preach to you that you can be healed, or you read it in your Bible, but you need to get this info. If you don't ever hear that you can be healed, you won't have something to believe.

You can work on your unbelief/offense by meditating on scriptures and prayer and fasting. You are basically trying to convince your mind that its true. Keeping things out that add doubt, like the news, can help greatly or you can get a revelation from the Holy Spirit like I did, and you can believe and not doubt. By the way, this revelation is not universal, a magic solution for doubt. This revelation was about using the authority of Jesus name. I still fight doubt in other areas.

Now getting this revelation took a long time, but frankly I didn't know what I was looking for and kind of tripped over it. Now that I know what I'm looking for (revelation) and who has it (the Holy Spirit), who just so happens to live in my body this process is getting easier and easier. It took me about 5 more years to get a revelation on the blessing and now it rarely takes more than 3 days to get it. I find the scripture that I don't understand or is not working for me, I ask the Holy Spirit to help me understand it, I sit quietly for a few hours, he has answered right away but only sometimes, usually some days later I'm in the shower, or driving to work or I'll have a dream, or a scripture will jump out at me and then I know my answer.

My theory is that when you focus too hard your mind is in full control, but when you are partially distracted you can hear the Holy Spirit better. I have no scripture on this, but it's happened enough in my life that if I'm stuck, I'll get in my truck and drive somewhere, listening to some love music. I have had quite the conversations with God in my truck.

## **Chapter 5**

### **5. SKILL-Blessing**

Blessing is an interesting topic, I have heard preachers teach that if I give God my tithes and offerings, have a willing heart to give and I will have a lot of money. A lot varies sometimes 100-fold, sometimes pressed down and shaken together but in all cases, a lot. He's God after all and loves to give good gifts to his children.

Matthew 7:11

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

I can say that I did this without fail for 20 years, I gave sacrificial offerings, I have emptied the entire savings account, I have made big donations to church building funds and airplanes. But when I look at my W2 I see that I'm no better off than my peers, many who are abject pagans. How can this be, is God a liar? Of course not, so I assumed I was missing something. Now people will try to abstract this to, something like "but you have good health". I don't buy it.

### **Seed time and Harvest**

A popular message today is seed time and harvest, this comes from Genesis 8:22 after the earth was destroyed, he promised several things, cold and heat, seed time and harvest etc.

Genesis 8:22

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Oral Roberts told a story at my church about a farmer that gave him an offering and told him, even I know you can't have a crop without seed in the ground.

I was very frustrated; I was giving for years but no supernatural growth. What is the problem? So, I investigated this, well I was certainly sowing seed, I was watering my harvest with my words, and yet no harvest. I decided that this harvest thing must be what I'm missing. How do you harvest, well if its corn, I take my machine into the field and chop down the stalk and get the grain. Since we do practically everything in God's kingdom with words, I started claiming my harvest. I was a name it and claim it guy. I saw some results, I named a certain bonus for a certain amount that came through before taxes. After taxes it was much less, so don't forget to claim NET income when you do this. The bonus was for the exact amount that I asked for, but I would have been far better off if I just got my tithe back. So, I have seen this work at least a few times but not on a regular basis.

I was struggling with this over time wondering what was wrong. We moved to Virginia to a new job so I could get off the road and be home with my children. My job with Philips was almost 80% travel, the airlines called me Mr. Boch for sure. My 2 girls were 10 and 12 years and I didn't want to miss their entire childhood. I had peace with the decision and my wife found the house of her dreams and since it was 2009 during the housing crash, we got it for less than it was built for 8 years earlier. But things were hard here, we had found a good church before we moved, and they were preaching the same prosperity message, but we just had a hard time making ends meet. The bonuses that I got being a sales and marketing manager at Philips didn't exist in the engineering role I was in. I poured myself into the job and did the same things that produced success at Philips, I got more responsibility, but the money was seriously lagging. Soon we had to borrow to make ends meet. We kept tithing because we knew it was an eternal deposit, but the debt started piling up. We cut all fun, eating out, vacations, but still it was not getting done. My frustration was building, we just couldn't seem to make this seed time and harvest thing work. We finally had to stop tithing.

I got frustrated and determined that I would get an answer. I poured over the scriptures, I memorized all the relevant promises, i repeated them and then I did a study on seed, Seed is very prevalent in the bible, 279 times in the KJV. It refers to three main things, people, actual growing things (fruit, wheat, etc.) and the word of God. I really didn't see money listed in any of them. I would think that if God wanted us to use seed time and harvest, he would have mentioned it in the 140 KJV times he mentioned the word Money. This was very interesting, so I dug deeper, he brought this verse to my remembrance.

Malachi 3:10

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,  
that there may be meat in mine house,

and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven,  
and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

If you have sat in any church for any time, you have heard this verse. It talks about tithing, and it says that he will open the windows of heaven and pour out money that I don't have room enough to contain. Wait, he didn't say money he said blessing. But I heard money, I have heard money for a long time. What is this blessing thing? I grew up Catholic, so I know the word. I have heard bless me Father for I have sinned, bless you my son, people you do things for say you are such a blessing. But how can I have a blessing that I don't have room enough to contain. What am I containing, I have plenty of room in my bank account, I mean I gave money, I should get money, right a seed produces after itself?

Genesis 1:11

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

## **The BLESSING**

The word Bless (127) Blessed (302) and Blessing (67) is all over the bible. In fact, the first words Adam heard were a blessing

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

I did some digging and I saw Isaac at the end of his life give his blessing to Jacob. Jacob and his mother deceived Isaac into thinking that Jacob as his older brother Esau. Talk about playing favorites. When Esau and Isaac found out what had been done Isaac said something very inciteful

I have already given my blessing, I have nothing for you.

Genesis 27:34

And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

Genesis 27:36

And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?

It hit me, the blessing is a thing, not some nice thing you say to people, or bless me by giving me things, no a blessing is an empowerment to prosper.

Esau was so mad he was going to kill his brother because he stole his blessing.

Genesis 27:41

And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

Wow, I have never felt that strongly about somebody saying something over me to kill them. I did some digging and, this blessing thing is powerful and it is everywhere and good news the blessing of Abraham came on the gentiles through Jesus. The blessing of Abraham is:

Genesis 12:2

I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

We inherit this blessing through Jesus

Galatians 3:14

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

I happened to look up on my bookshelf and there big as life was a book with the word The BLESSING, it was a gift from Kenneth Copeland Ministries, they give away things and my daughter was keen to get free books, so she sent in for it.

I didn't even know it was up there, I read the entire book in one sitting, it's not small. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to know more than what I'm giving you here. It was after this book that I asked the Holy Spirit to show me the blessing.

Giving and Receiving

So, what about this seed time and harvest thing, well seed time and harvest is entirely true and totally natural. Did you know if you plant a seed of corn you typically get 2 ears with 800 kernels each. That is more than a thousand-fold return, forget 100-fold every corn farmer is getting 1000-fold return. We see this in action every time we plant a garden, and it works for the poppy farmer as well as the pastors garden.

The essential elements are in this verse,

1 Corinthians 3:6

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

Plant, water, God gives the increase. This seed is the Word of God, but it applies to natural seed also.

So as long as you have seed and proper ground and a bit of water you can get a harvest, What about the 3 seeds named in the bible, well the ground of children is a woman, the ground of plants is dirt and the ground of the word of God is the human heart. Not complicated at all, you must have the proper ground for the seed. Obviously mixing these up won't work. So, what is the proper ground for money. If I bury it in the ground, nope, if I give it to my wife, she gets shoes, nope, I can't put it in my heart.

If you make this case to a believer in seed time and harvest, they will tell you that you get other things. Well, that is seriously bending the rules. Seed is something that reproduces after itself,



parent and children, that's why they look like you, apples make apple trees that make more apples and the word of love produces love.

Do you know what giving someone money and getting something else back is, buying things. If I go to Walmart I don't sow into Walmart and reap a harvest of tires. No, I buy them. So, if I give God money and get something else back am I buying something from God?

Of course not, but clearly God wants us to give, there are countless verses on giving. I'm going to shock you. Seed time and harvest in your own ground is selfish. You take YOUR seed, you plant it in YOUR ground, you harvest YOUR fruit from YOUR tree and YOU eat it, or sell it if you have a lot. Completely selfish, not wrong but you are not giving anything away.

Ah you say what if I sow in your field, that would be giving and well I guess that is MY harvest now. Not selfish anymore but you don't get any harvest, maybe a few free apples from my new apple tree, if I'm grateful for your gift of seed.

No when you give to ministry you are going precisely that, giving. There is no harvest from your giving, there is blessing but that's later. In fact, I'm going to shock you again, if seed time and harvest of money worked in your church, your church would be cutting you a check every year. And worse it would be by works. This totally invalidates the woman who gave the tiny offering, but it was all she had to live on. In seed time and harvest this would be a little offering, but Jesus said it was the biggest one yet.

If money is a seed, then business is the ground. The story about the talents shows the use of money as a seed, they did business and got a return, in fact the master took the talent from the one who buried it and gave it to the other.

Matthew 25:28

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

### **Why Give**

So why give, well its really at the core of our transformation. The opposite of love is not hate, it is selfish. Love gives, selfish takes. There are many verses about this, the most famous is:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The purpose of our lives is to grow up and become like our Father, and he is Love Giving helps us become less selfish. All he really cares about is changing our heart. The reward for giving is that God gives you a blessing. Not seedtime and harvest.

### **How the blessing works**

Let me look back to my life and my giving. Clearly that blessing should be manifesting somewhere, after all does anyone think that Abraham was constantly speaking over his sheep, yet he was so prosperous that the locals asked him to leave. Do we really think he was saying I'm blessed in the city , blessed in the field every day. Well since Moses hadn't written it yet

probably not. He knew he was blessed because God said so and everything he did prospered. When they got into a squabble about a well, he just dug another one. He gave Lot his choice and Lot took the good land, but Abraham prospered anyway.

I joined Philips USA tanning division and managed to turn it around and went from number 5 in the industry to number 2, From sales of \$300K to \$7 million dollars a year in just 5 years. Clearly the blessing was working here. I got promoted 3 times to positions that I didn't even know existed. My money increased a little but not a lot. Philips sold that division for a good profit and the blessing helped make it happen.

Did I get a huge bonus when they sold that division, nope I got a "can you do it again to this other division", I later realized that I had traded my blessing for a salary.

I'm not saying that I didn't get some of the results of the blessing, but it was filtered through my employer.

Consider this, you want to paint you house to sell it. You want to paint it one color, but the painter is a tither and says I think you should paint it some other color, you sell your home, and the buyer tells you that the reason they bought your house was that they just fell in love with the color.

Do you call up the painter and give him the extra profit, it was his blessing that got you this money. You may tell all your friends about him, and he get some more business, but he won't see that extra money. The same is true about us, if you work at McDonalds and discover a better way to make French fries and they sell another billion dollars of fries because of it, you won't get a cut of this profit.

Why is this not in the bible, well it is actually. When Jacob was working for his father-in-law, he was cheated repeatedly, he changed the deal several time, sounds like a sales bonus plan to me.

An angel even came to Jacob and gave him some help, he didn't have the Holy Spirit resident in him like we do. He eventually had to sneak off to get away with his wives and possessions.

Jacob's blessing produced prosperity but his father-in-law was keeping it for himself.

You don't see a lot of this working for a wage in the examples, Abraham, Issacs and finally Jacob owned their own business. As did the fishing apostles. I'm not saying that you can't work for someone but those witty inventions are property of them, not you.

I couldn't afford to stop my day job, so I started BOCH Coffee so that the results of the blessing on me would flow down to me, the owner.

I was in the shower and I was talking to the Lord, I understand that I have traded my blessing for a salary but I have 2 girls in college and money is tight, what do I do? To my surprise I got an answer, "command the blessing". I of course answered "that's not in the bible"

I recall Kenneth Hagin having a similar conversation with the Lord about another topic and the Lord answered him with a scripture. Me, nothing.

I went back to the Kenneth Copeland book and he had a section in the middle of the book that said that the Lord told him that people don't realize that they can command the blessing just like me, well Kenneth Copeland is good, but he is not God so I wanted to see this in the Bible.

I realized that when Isaac said his blessing over Jacob, he was commanding the blessing.

When Paul in Philippians 4:19 commanded a blessing on those who gave into his ministry.

Here is the offering:

Philippians 4:18

But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Here is the blessing:

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

In fact, surprise, the bible is full of those examples of people commanding the blessing. The feeding of the 5000 loaves, Jesus took the bread, broke it and blessed it. Read all the accounts to see it. You need to start looking for the blessing.

The blessing is how we get rich and have no sorrow(also toil) and we are not just able to command it, we are told to command it.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich,  
and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Bless those who curse you is telling you to command a blessing upon them, not give them money.

Luke 6:28

Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Blessed to be a blessing suddenly brings new light. The command to bless and curse not, if blessing is real then cursing is real. In fact, if you read the opposite side of blessing, study the curse and cursing you can understand that this is the empowerment to fail. The earth was filled with the curse when Adam sinned

Genesis 3:17

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Thankfully, through Jesus the blessing is available to all those who are born again and we are free from the effect of the curse caused by Adam. Jesus cursed the tree and it withered from the root. However, we are cautioned to bless and curse not.

Romans 12:14

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

I'm not going to say much more about cursing someone or something as we are told not to do it but you can see it all over the Bible.

So how does this work in practical terms, well, armed with this knowledge I was writing proposals for my engineering job. We normally win about 1 of 4. That year I commanded the blessing upon each proposal. I said something like "I command the blessing upon these

proposals that they find favor with those who read them and that our solution would be perfect for their needs.”

That year, we won 6 of 7 proposals that I wrote. And to prove my point I received the same bonus as our admin, a simple holiday bonus. The blessing works, and you should bless your employer as they are paying you but understand that your return from your blessing is filtered through your employer.

The best thing about blessing is that it's not limited to money and you have it because of what Jesus did.

Galatians 3:14

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

There are other blessings and I'm not going to get into it, but it can cause a woman to become pregnant, to find favor with others, cause crops to grow bountifully etc. The blessing is transmutable.

One word of caution, the blessing works automatically, you can command the blessing, but you can also undo the effect with your words. If you are always saying things like "I'll never get out of debt", or "my employer won't pay me what he owes me" you are undoing your blessing, and the Bible says a double minded man should not expect to receive anything. So, pray for that cheap employer, bless that business even if you don't get anything. Freely you have received, freely give. If you need money, find some way for God to bless you, start a business, grow a garden whatever you have use your blessing and do some business.

## **Chapter 6**

### **6. SKILL-Faith**

Faith is a widely used word, it can mean that we are of the Christian faith, it can mean that we believe something. What I want to speak about is the mountain moving, tree tossing kind of faith. My pastor once told me that the bible is full of stories about God telling someone something. He told Abraham to go to the promised land, that he would have a son by Sara, that he needed to sacrifice Isaac and to stop and sacrifice the ram instead. This is God talking to people. And not just the famous ones, the only mention of Anaias was that he opened Paul's eyes. God had a back-and-forth conversation with him because he was afraid of Paul, he told Paul that Anaias was going to come to him. God talks to everyone. My pastor also said that anything God tells you to do, already has the faith inside to bring it to pass. I thought about this, and I think he is right. When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water he said command me to come to you.

Matthew 14:29

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Peter walked on the water because Jesus told him to, it was because he doubted that he started to sink. Peter was given the faith to walk on water when Jesus told him to come, but when doubted he began to sink.

Matthew 14:31

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

As I said before Mar 11:24 shows that NET faith is (Believe-doubt)/offense. Peter was not offended, he believed using the faith he was given but when he added in some doubt the NET faith is less.

This is how you can be given the measure of faith but have various levels of net faith.

The centurion had great faith,

you see little faith and no faith. No faith is when you either don't believe or have offense.

When Jesus was in his hometown, he was not able to do any mighty work

Mark 6:5

And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

It says that they were offended.

Mark 6:3

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

Offense creates no faith.

### **How then do we get great faith, its a secret**

Jesus told us "I only do what the Father shows me to do"

John 5:19

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

We like to put Jesus and the apostles on a pedestal, surely, they must have had some special faith to do all those miracles. Yet Jesus said I do what the Father shows me. Many times, Jesus was acting out the scene that the Father showed him.

So that was Jesus, this fact jumped out at me one day in church. We were reviewing Elijah's showdown with the 450 prophets of Baal, he basically said let's see whose God will light the sacrifice. The 450 went first and Elijah was mocking them all the time. I mean 450 to 1, and he is

mocking them, then when it's his turn he has them put water on it. I was thinking to myself, boy do I wish I had faith like that and then I saw this verse:

1 Kings 18:36

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Elijah knew what was going to happen before it happened. I don't know if God showed him mocking the 450 or if he just threw that in on his own but he knew, because he had been told, or shown what was going to happen. It is far easier to be the faith hero when you KNOW because you have already seen it.

God seems to work with me through visions, mostly a series of images. They come randomly but when they come to mind, they come again and again until I do them. I remember that I saw myself standing at a minister's front door. I had a bag of kcups in my left hand, the sun was shining a certain way. I thought it odd that I was holding the bag in my left hand as I have a handicap in my left arm and heavily favor my right hand for doing things.

I really didn't want to bring them coffee for reasons that are not relevant, but I saw this image again and again, so one Saturday after Charis Bible School let out, I drove down to their house and walked up to the front door. Coffee was in my right hand, and I realized that I had to push the doorbell, so I moved it to my left hand. I could pick out the exact spot that someone would have stood to have that image in my head. I dropped off the coffee, had a short chat and left. I realized that the weekend before was dark due to daylight savings time and the weekend after it was raining. I was in the exact spot, at the exact time doing what I had been shown to do. This is an awesome feeling by the way, to know you were where you were supposed to be and doing the thing you were supposed to do.

Back to Elijah, so coming off this fantastic victory a messenger arrives with a death threat from the queen. Elijah freaked out and went and hid, why? Because apparently the vision he had, didn't have this part in it and he was afraid. So not afraid against 450 prophets with death on the line, but afraid of a note from the queen. The bible says that the Holy Spirit would show us things to come, in the Old Testament only the king and prophets had the Holy Spirit on them. But in the New Testament all believers baptized with the Holy Spirit have access to this future knowledge.

I have no control in this process, I can't ask him what will happen tomorrow, I can ask but I have yet to get an answer. But from time to time, I will get an image or a scene about something I can do, and it doesn't go away until I do it, and then I never see it again.

I had a dream where Jesus told me, you have been hesitant with the opportunities I have given you, and Sylvia needs help. Sylvia is the director of the Washington DC bible college where I attended. Later I told her this dream and she almost cried, she told me that she told Jesus that she couldn't do it by herself and she needed help. And Jesus told me she needed help. Of course, I helped her that summer to get her through the gap.

Notice that Jesus told me that I had been hesitant about the "opportunities" he had given me. Not commands, not tasks but opportunities. We ask to be used by God, apparently, he took me up on my offer.

I was always concerned that the voices I hear, or the visions I had. Are they from God? me or the enemy. I have had all three experiences so, how to know the difference?

I already wrote this, but it bears repeating because it's a common question.  
The best advice I got was a combination of Kenneth Hagin and Andrew Wommack.

1. is it in line with the Bible? God will never tell you to do something contrary to the word
2. Does it sound like God, was it the nurturing and comforting manner of the Holy Spirit or was it critical or harsh?
3. Do you want to do it, does it bring you glory and make you look good?

If you get past these tests and it's a small thing then just do it, what's the damage if it's just you?  
If minimal you can take the risk

If its major then move forward slowly, listen carefully, and keep your eye on God, if it gets stronger then its not you, its him.

One thing, God does not seem to be in a hurry, we are always straining at the leash so to speak. He is never late but never seems to rush. Look to the Bible when Jairus daughter or Lazarus was sick he didn't rush over to heal them. He knew he was going to raise them from the dead and planned accordingly. He seems to be very deliberate so if it's a major thing you are probably safe in moving slowly and verifying that it is God and not just you. I am now quick to act, no longer hesitant.

So, we hear that I am believing for a truck, or a new house or a job. I have had little success with this. I do know that you must believe and not doubt to speak out and say Truck be. How do I do that, well if God didn't tell or show you, how do you have faith without doubt.

I will say this, I believe that when we reach our full maturity we will use this exact thing, we will say to a mountain to move, and it will move. This is how God works. But remember we were just Born Again, we are little children compared to what we will become in a few thousand years. It says that we look through the glass darkly, not clearly.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Not because it's some mystery God is keeping from us.

Hebrews 6:5

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

These verses tell me that there is a learning curve, I believe that just simply having faith without doubt and speaking will create things, but as simple as it is I believe that it's hard for us less than 100 years old to believe and not doubt.

I believe that we can fly, walk through walls, walk on water, be teleported, turn things from one substance to another, call fish to the net, but I have doubts. I have never seen anyone do this, I know Jesus or a select person did these things once. But can I do these things, yes you can. But if you just say it, will it happen? Well so far not for me.

I have seen authority, blessing and anything that God has showed me to do come to pass but I have yet to make something that God did not tell me to do work just by exercising my faith.

So that brings me to can you build up your faith?

I believe you can in the following ways, first you must hear the Word of God to know it's something that is promised to you. He said the things that I do, you will do also and greater things. Jesus said that the word of God is like a seed. So, if you find it in the Bible then you are safe to believe it.

Andrew Wommack has a teaching about imagination. He saw that you could raise the dead, he meditated on it, he had dreams that he was raising people from the dead. And now he has had several people raised from the dead in his ministry.

So he relates how he can take something he knows God promised we could do, he now believes it and he then meditated on it until he removed the doubt that was present by using his imagination.

Now for things he has not promised in his word, I'm not sure we can get to the place where I can say truck be and it appears. One day I'm pretty sure we will but so far nothing. So how do we get that truck, you can see I'm focused on that truck. Presently my wonderful truck is full of rust and has 325K miles on it, so yes, I would like a new truck.

I was talking to God about this and he said, "does it matter if I give you the truck or I give you have the money to buy one". I thought to myself, no it doesn't matter, as long as I get a truck.

There is in my opinion 3 ways to get things, one is to use the blessing and just buy it. That's how Abraham and Lot did it and they were very rich.

The other is to ask God to get it for you. He said ask anything in my name and I will do it,

John 14:14

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

but remember God has to get someone to give you that truck. he doesn't conjure up one. The Ford Motor Corp. makes trucks, not Jesus. He would tell someone to "give Jim a truck" Now I have given away 2 vehicles a boat and a camper. I have been prompted by the Lord to buy people things, so this works. But the person must cooperate with this. How many times has God asked you to do something you didn't do?

The last way is how we got our house. Debbie and I used to talk over coffee on what we would have in our dream house. Hardwood floors, attached garage, a wraparound porch and some little details, I wanted 40 acres and she wanted street lights and sidewalks, we met in the middle and said a neighborhood with paved roads, a dining room that opened to another room so we could put 2 tables together and sit lots of people and the real detail, a cook top positioned so that I could talk to my guests while I cooked dinner. We never asked God for this house, in fact until 4 months before we moved, I had no intention to ever moving from our old home. It was close to being paid for, it was big enough, I was good.

We got all these things in the home in Virginia. The colonial is the home of choice for Virginia. It's a big box. No one has a wraparound porch. Well, we heard the tale from the neighbors, when the prior owners were building the home, they wanted a wraparound porch. She was from Georgia and porches were common. The builder told her colonials don't have porches. She fought with the builders until she got her porch. Guess what, I have the only colonial with a wraparound porch in our development and I can say that I have not seen another colonial like it yet. There was a certain upgrade that put the cooktop on an island, we have that. Literally everything that we discussed is in this house. When Debbie saw the tiny image in the MLS she stated, "that's our house".



You see the Father loves to give good gifts to his children, one of the most frustrating things is when you ask your children what they want for a present and they say they don't know. I want to bless you, what is it that you want.

Dream out loud, Gloria Copeland kept a book with all the things she wanted in her home. And she got it.

So, I told the Lord, my truck is getting old, and it will soon be time to replace it, I love big red 4X4's. I'll leave that out there and see what the future holds.

## Chapter 7

### 7. WORDS

Words are how things get done, in Genesis God said, and it happened. Everything that was created was created by words. Not idle words but words that are filled with faith. I have already covered the faith part, but the activation of the creative process is by speaking words. God didn't think and it happened, God said.

You can talk to God in your head, the Holy Spirit is inside you so you can certainly hear him and speak with him. The enemy can also put thoughts into your head. But when it comes out of your mouth, that's when it happens.

I heard Kenneth Copeland preach that Genesis said that God created a "speaking spirit." We are made in God's image, and we work the same way.

You can think many thoughts in your head but until you say it, nothing happens.

This is what tongues is all about, you are praying but you don't know what you are praying. The Holy Spirit is using your body to say some things.

Words spoken aloud is how you heal sickness and disease, how you drive out demons, raise the dead, command the blessing, and create things through faith.

The church has been good at being the word police, don't say that you are sick. Even though to everyone else you obviously are. It's when we say my cancer, that it really gets a foothold in our body so not saying things that we don't want to come to pass is important. But it can look pretty silly to the unbeliever.

The enemy has no authority in this earth, Jesus took it away from him. What he is trying to do is get you to do his work for him. If he can get you to say, I have cancer, then you are helping him get his mission done. We must resist the urge to talk about the trials we are presented with, maybe the bit of sympathy we get feels good but reinforcing the trial will only make it harder to get healed.

This can be why people who have had a condition for a long time have an issue seeing their healing. They have formed an identity with this thing. I'm an alcoholic is reinforcing its hold on you. Better to say, alcohol will no longer have any place in my life because I had a problem with it, than I'm a recovering alcoholic.

There is extensive teaching on how not to use words to reinforce the enemy's work. I became so sensitive to this that I stopped saying anything. If I told my wife that there is no money in the checking account so don't write a check it became a negative confession. What am I to say when the checking account is empty, we are supplied for every good work and let Debbie write those rubber checks?

There really needs to be a balance, you can't deny that there is no money in the checking account, but you can deny its right to stay that way. Look at Jesus healings, the lepers did not

deny their condition, Lazarus sisters didn't deny that he was dead, Jesus said you are healed, come forth.

Sometimes we look a little silly in trying to keep from making a negative confession.

What is more important is to say what we want to happen; we can't stop speaking because we are afraid, that we will make a wrong confession. We need to speak to that sickness, command the blessing and we do it with our words.

This is why when you pray over your food you do it aloud. You don't have to yell it in McDonalds over your happy meal, but a silent prayer is not an effective prayer. It can be barely above a whisper, but it must be out loud.

## **Chapter 8**

### **TIME**

If you have gotten this far and you say, it's still not working, this is the reason why. The bible says

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. Not those who casually drop in from time to time on the way to work. Consider this analysis, if the apostles were with Jesus for 3 years for 16hrs per day they would have spent 17520 hrs. with him.

If you go to church and listen for 1hr per week it would take you 336 years to have the same time. If you added in 1hr of time per day, it would take you 48 years to get the same time in.

If you are going to church weekly and reading your bible most days, you are on life support. Now don't be condemned, even if you did nothing but get saved, you go to heaven and that's awesome. You will live your life just like an unbeliever and you will feel guilty that you aren't behaving like the Bible says a Christian should act. I know this because this was my life for the first 20 years of my Christian journey. I knew that the things that I would do were wrong but I was powerless to stop it, plus now that you have declared Jesus as your Lord you are now a target of the enemy. I have heard many times from newly saved people that life was ok but when I became a Christian the wheels really came off. God never intended you to get saved and stuck, he gave you everything pertaining to life and godliness,

2 Peter 1:3

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

but the decisions are yours. he will never force you to move ahead, that is your decision.

However, if you are frustrated with not seeing the promises of God manifested in your life, you are going to have to make some changes. The reason most of the church is where they are is they are comfortable. You need to want this, to get hungry, to need to see miracles no matter what it takes.

1. you need to read your Bible, you need to get very familiar with the scriptures, the way God deals with people, the difference between New Testament believers and Old Testament Jews. This is critical but unfortunately many believers stop here. This is a

book about what God has said to other people, you need to know what he is saying to you.

2. you need to talk to God, he is right there inside you, he is speaking all the time. If you have ever said, "I knew I shouldn't have done that" it was the Holy Spirit giving your direction, which you ignored. There are three possible voices in your head, you, God and the enemy. You need to learn the difference. And you need to spend a-lot of time talking to him. But you don't have to just sit there, you can do this all the time. Remember God can hear your thoughts, you don't have to speak with him out loud. My favorite time is in the car driving somewhere like work. The car is basically on autopilot and I spend the whole time talking to God.
3. Meditate on the word, this doesn't mean just keep repeating a scripture but think about something, if it's the blessing then read the scriptures related to the blessing and think about how Esau and Jacob interacted, picture it in your mind, ask, why was Esau so mad. The Holy Spirit will bring other scriptures to mind, this is why a good knowledge of the Bible is helpful. I would be thinking about how did Jesus feed the 5000?, that looks like the blessing and you do some digging and sure enough he blessed it.
4. Pray in tongues, this is the Holy Spirit using your mouth. If someone ask me to pray for them but then say "I'm not going to tell you about what", that is time to break out the tongues. Just tell the Holy Spirit I want to pray for this person, and I need your help. You can do this all the time and I almost always do it when I'm doing something else. Walking upstairs, taking a shower, driving to work, mowing the lawn.
5. Pick a topic, don't just play bible roulette, don't just read the bible in a year, pick a topic and dig. Then find other writers who have teaching on the subject. I have gained revelation from other books on a topic, it was just presented in a slightly different way and suddenly it clicked (that's revelation)

I can promise you this, if this is new to you it's going to be tough going for a bit. You are going to just sit there and after an hour of quietly waiting to hear from the Holy Spirit and hearing nothing you are going to go and shower for work and one day boom, the answer you were seeking will just appear in your mind. Once you understand the process it happens faster. Today it rarely takes me more than a day or two to get my answer. Once you get a taste of the powers of the world to come you will lose interest in the things that so consumed you before. I'm not kidding on this. I'm an outdoorsman and I love hunting and shooting. There was nothing I loved more than going to some shooting competition. One day I was looking at my gun cabinet and it was like a film was peeled away. Kind of like the Claritin commercial where you didn't realize you couldn't see clearly and then you can or its when you clean your windshield and realize how dirty it really was. Anyway, after that day I could care less if I go shooting, I mean it still like it but if I go or don't go it really doesn't matter. If he told me to bring someone some coffee that would make me much more excited

But, email, Facebook, YouTube are all things that will take you away from some dedicated time with him. In the early days I had to put my phone in the other room because I would compulsively check my work email, desperate to stay on top of whatever crisis was brewing today. The cares of this world will constantly pull at you, and you need to set some time apart with him. You need to get those 17,520 hours in. I'm kidding but I can say that when I decided that it wasn't my pastors 1hr a week teaching that was going to get me to see the supernatural promises of God in my life and I started digging on my own that I started getting results. No one

can give you their revelation, they can tell you what it is, how they got it and how it changed their life, but they can't give it to you. You must get it on your own.

Remember, he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him, it's not that the concepts are hard, it's as simple as "In the name of Jesus, rise and walk" but it's the changes inside of your heart that cause it comes to pass.

You were not meant to struggle with sin all your life, Jesus didn't just get you a ticket to heaven, he died to give you access to the entire kingdom. it's up to us to take it and be the sons of God we were destined to become.