

YOUR KINGDOM PURPOSE REVEALED

Brian Moomey

Your Kingdom Purpose Revealed

Copyright © 2017 Sword of the Spirit Ministries; If this book has been a blessing to you, please consider donating at www.impactworshipcenter.net or www.brianmoomey.org or you can mail a check to PO Box 361, Mt. Vernon, MO 65712. All offerings will go toward missions.

Scripture quotations taken from the King James except as noted.

Scripture taken from *THE MESSAGE*. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group

Dedication

I dedicate this book to my wife, Dana, my children, Caleb and Danielle, and to our friend, Shirley Blackburn. Their help, time and energy has made this book possible for the glory of God.

In Memory of My Mother:

Sandra M. Moomey

August 27th, 2008

Table of Contents

Dedication	5
Introduction	9
1. Thy Kingdom Come	13
Study Questions for Chapter 1	26
2. Principles of the Kingdom Revealed	27
Study Questions for Chapter 2	34
3. The Plan of the Kingdom Revealed 35	
Study Questions for Chapter 3	44
4. The Power of God Revealed 46	
Study Questions for Chapter 4	72
5. The Tools of the Kingdom Revealed 75	
Study Questions for Chapter 5	100
6. Results of the Kingdom Revealed	105
Study Questions for Chapter 6	119
7. Personal Stories of the Kingdom Revealed	123
Epilogue	155
Answers to Study Questions	158

Introduction

Many people journey through life and never really discover their God-given destiny, let alone how to fulfill it. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:1, ***“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”*** Here Paul reminds us that we are stewards of the mysteries of God. A steward is a manager or an overseer of a household or an estate. As a steward we don’t own the estate but we have the privilege to serve in, oversee, and manage what has been entrusted into our care. Whether we have been God’s steward for a long time or are a new believer or have just returned to the Lord, it is good for us to focus our attention as stewards over the mysteries of God. Many of the mysteries of God to which we’ve been entrusted as sons and daughters of God are revealed in the pages of this book, *Your Kingdom Purpose Revealed.*

Once we understand what the Kingdom of God is and what the intent of the Father God through His kingdom in the earth is meant to be, we will never be at a loss for our purpose in Him. As you journey through this book, it is our desire to systematically unfold a series of events to you. God is a God of order, and He has specific standards or guidelines of order under which He operates in the earth.

The stage is set in this book with Chapter 1, *Thy Kingdom Come*, describing how God intends on establishing His purposes in the earth through God’s heavenly kingdom. From there the *Principles of the Kingdom* are revealed. Every area of life has certain principles that operate with the ultimate goal or outcome being the fulfillment of one’s highest potential. Once we have an understanding of God’s

kingdom and understand God's order, then and only then can we enter into *The Plan of the Kingdom*. Every great accomplishment carried out either by God or man has a plan with a purpose in mind. Our prayer is that God's grand plan for you and others will unfold in this chapter.

Next, we enter into *The Power of the Kingdom Purpose*. Power is always required for a plan to be executed. The empowerment needed to access or execute the Kingdom of God is provided to all believers. However, the power without the necessary tools and equipment that cause that power to manifest is useless. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, without the equipping to accomplish the job is futile, thus the following chapter discusses *The Tools of the Kingdom*.

The intent of the Father God from the beginning was not just to reproduce the life of God or the Kingdom of God in a man's heart, but that each believer would become a conduit in which the kingdom results can be duplicated. This led us to *the Results of the Kingdom*. We believe that lives changed or people's lives impacted are the results of the very purpose, nature and character of our Father God. It is all about *His kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven*.

In the final chapter of this book we share *Personal Stories of people operating in the Kingdom*. Our prayer is that these true life-changing stories will be an encouragement for you to step out to your fullest potential as you allow the Kingdom of God to be revealed in you and through you as you bring His kingdom into the lives of others. Thanking the Lord in advance that you will accomplish His personal will in the earth as you serve Him. Amen!

Thy Kingdom Come Chapter 1

Jesus was an enigma to His disciples. They loved Him but they didn't understand Him. His actions and some of His words puzzled His disciples. Nonetheless, Jesus patiently taught them and answered their questions. One day when Jesus finished praying, a disciple said to Him, ***“Teach us to pray, even as John taught his disciples”*** (Luke 11:1).

Jesus modeled a prayer for them, which we call the Lord's Prayer. As Jesus laid down some basic principles of prayer He not only taught some basic how to's on prayer, but He seized the moment by revealing the Father and the Kingdom of God to them. This same message that the Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples is also ours today.

COLOSSIANS 1:26

²⁶ Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.

In the following passages of scripture concerning the Lord's Prayer, we will explore as new creatures in Christ from a post-cross viewpoint—after the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

Jesus heard the request of His disciples and began to teach them how to pray by example.

MATTHEW 6:9-13

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:

13 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Abba Father

In verse nine, Jesus reveals God as ***Our Father*** and that He is in heaven. We must have a personal revelation of God as our Father in order for His kingdom to come in and through our lives. Paul shows us in the next two passages of Scripture that God desires to reveal Himself to us as Abba Father.

ROMANS 8:15

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

GALATIANS 4:6

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

According to Jewish historical teaching Abba is from an Aramaic word that was used as a personal name. Later, the Greek-speaking Jews added the word "Father." Abba is a word that was formed by the lips of an infant. The implication of Abba was an absolute, unreasoning trust. The word "Father" was used to understand the intelligent side of the relationship.

We can relate that to the natural aspect of the relationship between offspring of a husband and wife. Our children resemble us in appearance and have picked up characteristics from simply growing up in our home. They respond to our love, discipline, and training. There is no question in their minds that we are their parents. We can say that by the nature of reason and intellect, they know we are their parents.

Similarly we can fully understand the nature, character, and love of Abba Father by combining the meaning of the two words. We can relate to Him with an absolute, unreasoning trust because we know that God is in control of our lives. We have an intelligent understanding and confidence in our relationship with Him as our Father.

When our children were little we often took them swimming. Without hesitation, they would run and dive into the water at the deep end of the pool because they knew that Dad would be there to catch them. It didn't matter that the water was over their heads and that they couldn't swim, Dad was there. Now that's unreasoning trust!

PROVERBS 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on your own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Called to Holiness

Let's go back to Matthew, chapter 6, and verse 9, and look at the word *Hallowed* in reference to the Father's name. *Hallowed* means "He is worthy to be worshiped. He is Holy and to be revered." Just as God is holy; He places the same demand on His sons and daughters to be holy in Him.

LEVITICUS 11:44

⁴⁴ For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.

We are called to live a holy life as unto the Lord. The only way to be holy as He is holy is to receive God's life and nature by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord

and Savior. When we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and come and live in our heart, we become a new creature in Christ Jesus and experience salvation. After we become a new creature in Christ Jesus, we become a part of the Kingdom of God. We now not only have the right to become a Son of God but by experience we understand the meaning of *Thy kingdom come*.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-18

¹⁷ Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

¹⁸ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

The Kingdom

We can define the word *kingdom* that Jesus used in Matthew 6:10 of the Lord's Prayer as "a territory or people that a king rules over."

We know by Scripture that there are only two kingdoms: 1) the Kingdom of God; and 2) the kingdom of darkness (or the devil's kingdom).

COLOSSIANS 1:13

¹³ . . . who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

The Book of Matthew states that we can be converted and leave the kingdom of this world where Satan is god and enter into the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 18:3

³ And said, Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Love Not the World

Here again we can see this world's system—the cosmos where Satan is god, which will pass away—versus those who do the will of God and will forever

abide in His kingdom. John boldly preaches not to love the world or the things that are in the world.

I JOHN 2:15-17

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, are not of the Father, but is of the world.

¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The Kingdom Within You

Here is another definition of the word *kingdom* which is “a kingdom that is ruled by a king.” We have a King in the Kingdom of God and His name is King Jesus! He abides within each of us.

REVELATION 19:16

¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Father God did not relinquish His rule in the face of Satan’s deception or man’s rebellion in spite of Adam and Eve losing their dominion over the earth by their high treason in the Garden of Eden.

In Luke 17:21 the Pharisees demanded to know when the Kingdom of God would come. In this passage we see Jesus’ response.

LUKE 17:21

²¹ The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” is a powerful revelation of the King and His kingdom—in you. The Kingdom of God

has a twofold purpose in your life. The first purpose is present tense; it means you are living eternity out in the here and now. That is why it is so important to make your life count in the Kingdom of God today. The second purpose is future tense, having to do with the results of your life, which we will discuss later.

The Apostle Paul tells the Church to wake up and walk with God with a purpose, understanding the time you are living in, so you can make it count for the Kingdom of God. That is why Jesus tells us to occupy.

LUKE 19:10-13

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

¹¹ And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

¹² He said therefore, a certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

¹³ And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Here we see even in Jesus' day the people thought He was coming to set up an earthly kingdom at that very moment. However, Jesus was talking about a future time when He would return to rule and reign on the earth. Until that time we are instructed "to occupy" or "do the will of God" until He returns. We occupy by using the authority He has given to us ruling and reigning in this earth in this time.

Keys of the Kingdom

MATTHEW 16:19

¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Five years before going into full-time ministry, I worked as a Federal Correctional Officer with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. My duty station was at the largest federal prison hospital in the United States. Let me share a personal experience to illustrate the authority we have as believers in using the keys of the kingdom (ref. Mt. 6:19).

While working a shift in one of the most dangerous psychiatric units, an inmate was beating his fist against the wall in his cell so hard that blood was running down the walls. I knew if something was not done soon a call for the doctor and the security supervisor to put the inmate in restraints and medicate him would be required.

I looked again into his 8- by 6-foot cell through four small glass plates in the 300-pound steel door. The inmate had his back to me and was looking out the window into the recreation yard. I stepped to the side of the door so the inmate and the other guards could not hear me, and began to pray.

Under my breath I began to pray, *“Satan, in the name of Jesus I bind you from operating in the life of this inmate,”* and called out the inmate’s name. I stepped back in front of the door to observe the inmate’s behavior. He was standing right in front of the four glass plate windows staring me in the face.

He said with a demonic growl, *“You’re a good person, but the devil in me hates you.”*

It was obvious that I had stirred up the kingdom of darkness. If we had to respond to his aggressive, demonic behavior I knew there was a great chance that someone would get hurt.

I looked him straight in the eyes and said, “*In the name of Jesus shut up, go to your bed, lie down and get some sleep.*”

He looked at me with a dumbfounded expression on his face and said, “*Okay.*”

He did what I commanded him to do. Glory to God for the name and power we have in the Name of Jesus. Later I found out that on the next shift this same inmate went into a fit of demonic rage. When the staff entered his cell to put restraints to control him, several guards were seriously injured.

The purpose of the authority that has been given to us through the name of Jesus is to bring the Kingdom of God to the earth in and through us. His return is eminent! We need to ever be about our Father’s business of redeeming the time and fulfilling the Kingdom of God. We are to occupy until He comes. In later chapters of this book we will go into greater detail on how we can carry out the Kingdom of God as we live for Jesus.

Where is Your Treasure?

The second of the twofold purposes of *Thy kingdom come* is future tense. Future tense will be the results of your life—what you do while you live out your life on the earth. You’ve heard the statement that you can’t take your possessions with you when you die. You came into the world with nothing and you will leave with nothing. The statement is true in the sense that you can’t take possessions with you, but you sure can send stuff ahead. Pay particular attention to verse 21 in Matthew, chapter 6.

MATTHEW 6:19-21

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

By substituting the word *kingdom* for treasure we get a different picture.

“For where your kingdom is, there will your heart be also.” Remember, there are two kingdoms: the kingdom of this world’s system and the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom you choose to serve is the place where you will end up being.

Accountable to God

We are not only accountable to God for what we do with our lives, but how we steward the possessions we have in this life. Our stewardship on this earth is directly tied to our eternity future. Father God will judge each individual on their giving, based solely on what he had to give and what he did with it.

I CORINTHIANS 3:12-15

¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and stubble;

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

I pray, as you read this next passage of Scripture that you will hear Father God speak to your heart, allowing Him to move in this area of your life so that when you stand before Him, you will hear Him say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

MATTHEW 25:23

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Keep in mind that these remaining verses of Scripture from the Lord's Prayer are for believers who have already committed their lives to the Father, and are fully aware of their responsibility concerning the Kingdom of God—both present and future tense. These are people who are dedicated to serving Him and determined to carry out His will, purpose and plan on the earth.

MATTHEW 6:11-13

11 Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

12 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

13 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Abba Father God will meet our every need in all realms of our life—spirit, soul and body—as we dedicate our lives to serve Him.

Study Questions for Chapter 1 ***Thy Kingdom Come***

1. Jesus taught us how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13. He was _____ His Father and the _____ of _____ to us.
2. If we do not have the _____ that He is our _____ we will not experience His kingdom come in and through our lives.
3. _____ means there is an unreasoning _____ of His expressed love for who He is and that He is in control of our lives because He is our Abba Father God. At the same time we also have an intelligent _____ and confidence of our relationship with Him as our Father.
4. _____ – is a territory or people a king rules over.
5. The Kingdom of God has a twofold purpose in your life. The first purpose is _____ the second purpose is _____.
6. Present tense is His will done on _____ as it is in _____ in you and through you.
7. Future tense is the _____ of your life on the earth.
8. Abba Father God will meet our every need in all realms of our life _____, _____ and _____ as we _____ our life to serve Him.

Principles of the Kingdom Revealed

Chapter 2

It is the Father God's will for us to experience *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven*. In short, it is the will of the Father that His will be carried out by the Church here on earth just as it is in heaven. Some have referred to earth as simply a "branch office" of heaven. In short, the question becomes: How is this to be accomplished? One of the purposes of this book is to offer how to's or an implementation of kingdom principles to the reader, both spiritual and practical (or natural).

Mardi Gras Mission Trip Changed My Life

It was not until I had been a Christian for many years and graduated from Bible school that I witnessed firsthand how to effectively bring the kingdom to others. I had my first full-time staff position at a local church, and it was time for our yearly mission trip to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana. I felt impressed of the Lord to go on the trip. With our pastor's affirmation, I made plans to attend this life-changing mission trip.

My Pastor agreed that I should not only go but he also wanted me to lead the team of 12 people in our group. This was a huge step as I had never led a ministry team outside the four walls of the local church. It was clear I would be exposed to a totally different type of ministry in an unfamiliar setting. Little did I know what a life-changing experience it would be?

After arriving in New Orleans, it became apparent how unprepared I was to lead the team. I had no idea how to take the Gospel to the streets of this modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah (corrupt, sinful world). I was grateful for the zealous believer who God used to help me overcome my fear of witnessing to complete

strangers. Once the fear was conquered, the Word of God began to rise up in my spirit allowing me to boldly communicate the Gospel to the people I met on the streets. It was thrilling to be used by God for His glory. Confirmation of His Word in demonstration and power broke out on the streets of New Orleans! In that one week our team witnessed to hundreds of people who received the Lord as their personal Savior and were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

After returning from our mission trip to Mardi Gras, revival broke out in our local church! Countless numbers of our congregation, children, youth, and adults were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Our church believed in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as a charismatic church, but nearly 40 percent of our church was not filled with the Holy Spirit until after our mission trip to New Orleans. A new fervor and excitement about God and sharing the Kingdom of God exploded in our church. The fire of the Holy Ghost was released!

That was only the beginning! Revival began taking place outside the church walls. On-fire-for-God witnessing teams were going to the streets, to jails, to nursing homes, as well as conducting children's ministry outreaches. Just as the early church was endued with power from on high and went into the highways and byways bidding people to come to Christ, so did we. As an evangelistic outreach, our church built several floats so we could witness in area parades.

What started as a mission trip endeavor turned into a ministry impact and training for what God had planned for our life. Our pastor soon recognized the need to train the congregation in how to lead people to Christ because the

members we're not equipped to do so; so again it became my job to teach the people how to minister effectively to others.

As our effectiveness and years of development ensued, the Lord refined our skills and the Holy Ghost revealed ways to minister more and more effectively for His glory. There are special enduements of the Holy Ghost and many people over the years have referred to a special gift upon my life from God. I'll pass the accolades onto Jesus, but one thing I know for sure that it is God's desire for all of us to be used to share Christ with others. Just as God has used us to minister the Gospel of Christ, you also will learn that He wants to use you in a powerful way.

It is a privilege to share with you what I have learned from my experiences both personally and biblically.

Sharpen Your Skills

When it comes to ministering to people, the more we sharpen our skills in the use of the Word and the more experience we have being led by the Holy Spirit, the more effective we are in helping others receive from God.

ECCLESIASTES 10:10 (Message Bible)

¹⁰ Remember: The duller the ax the harder the work; Use your head: The more brains, the less muscle.

We have to be skilled and sharp like the ax that is used to chop wood. It is better to stop and sharpen the ax than to work with a dull instrument. A sharp ax requires less effort to do the work. The King James translation of the last part of Ecclesiastes 10:10 says, “. . . **but wisdom is profitable to direct.**”

Learn to follow the Holy Ghost and be directed by Him when ministering to people. The Holy Spirit knows how to minister to each person, so lean on Him. And as you learn to use your powers of observation, to probe, and to establish where that person is spiritually, you begin to know how to effectively bring the kingdom into their lives.

Ministering spiritual truths to people can be compared to a visit to the doctor. When you come in the doctor's office, the nurse does a pre-exam to check your overall condition, and then the doctor comes in for the specifics. The doctor will ask you direct, pointed questions while examining you. They need to gain the information necessary to treat you. The doctor will run tests and do everything that should be done in order to have all the information they need for the right diagnosis. With the results of questions, testing, wisdom and experience, and the information you have given, the doctor can help you with your physical condition. We would never think of walking into the doctor's office and expect them to help us by just looking at us. If we say nothing the doctor would have to guess what is wrong with us. The doctor would be unable to help us to the full extent in our situation.

It is the same when we minister spiritually to others. We need to be skilled in the Word, sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and draw from the wisdom of God as we listen and communicate to the one we are ministering to.

Teach With Patience

II TIMOTHY 2:24-26

²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

²⁶ And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

People are taken captive by the devil and become so ensnared by him that they do not know how to get out of their situation. That is why the Lord wants us to gracefully and lovingly teach with patience and longsuffering to assist those who oppose themselves.

Just as a correctional officer, I carried keys that opened doors to allow inmates greater access to freedom. These were keys of my authority and position in the prison system. So it is the same for us as servants of the Lord. Jesus gave us the keys of the kingdom to His authority and position. In the Book of Matthew we read in Matthew 18:18, “***Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***” Jesus has placed His authority into the hands of the believer for us to rule and reign in the earth as kings.

God has given us this authority for the benefit of others. It is our job to equip people to come out of their captivity and to walk into their freedom in Christ.

How do we accomplish this? The first thing is to locate where they are in the Lord. Do they know Jesus? Are they a Christian? Do they even attend a church?

On one occasion we had a guest speaker at a special service in our church, and a person began to disturb the service and started crying loudly and uncontrollably. The pastor asked me and another associate to take him into the

office and minister to him. We talked with Maynard, a first time visitor, and found out that his wife had left him that day and was filing for a divorce. I told Maynard we would pray for his situation. Before we prayed I asked if he had ever made Jesus Christ the Lord of his life. I made sure that he understood what Bible salvation is. (*Always back up ministry with the Word of God!*)

The Word of God is our standard for truth. Many people think they are a Christian if they belong to a certain church. Obviously, this is not Bible criteria for becoming born again and becoming a Christian. That sounds pretty odd, but many people do not have a biblical standard on what the truth is for their lives. Maynard told us he had accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, according to Romans 10:9-10.

ROMANS 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

We acknowledged how great it was that He knew Jesus, and then shared that God had even much more for him to experience. We told him how God wanted to give him the fullness of the Mighty Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and Greater One to indwell him.

The Comforter Comes

JOHN 16:7

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

We shared with Maynard how we would all leave the company of one another at the end of the service; however, he did not have to go home alone. We could pray for him to be filled with the Holy Spirit who would be with him always. We prayed with Maynard, and he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. When he was baptized in the Holy Spirit, a great change came upon his countenance as his burden was lifted. He was touched by God in a special way as we prayed for him about his situation.

At the end of the service he raised his hand to share what God had done for him. He came forward with great joy and testified that these two nice ministers led him in the power of the Holy Spirit; and he shared he was doing much better. What a great opportunity to witness to others and to change lives!

Called to Know the Truth

JOHN 8:32

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

We have been called by Father God to know truth first so we can bring freedom into our own lives, and then becoming free ourselves we will be compelled to bring this freedom to others just as the Apostle Paul admonished us in Second Corinthians, chapter 5, to be “ambassadors for Jesus Christ.”

It is the will of the God to reveal the Kingdom of God to us as ambassadors on this earth. It is up to us, God’s chosen agents, to make this happen. Father God desires to work in and through us. God is a God of order, and it doesn’t

happen by happenstance. God has a master plan for all of us, and He gives us the power to carry out that plan. He equips us with His tools to work His plan. As we cooperate with Him, we will see and experience the outcome of His perfect plan. In the upcoming chapters, we will see an unveiling of some of the tools that God has provided to accomplish His plan of *Thy will on earth as it is in Heaven*.

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 2
Principles of the Kingdom Revealed

1. We have learned both _____ and _____ how to implement these principles of the kingdom revealed.

2. The first thing we learned when it comes to ministering to people is that the more we _____ our skills in the _____ of God and the more experience we have in being led by the _____, the more effective we are in helping others receive from God.

3. We must be directed when it comes to ministering to people by _____, _____ and establishing where they are spiritually so we can effectively bring the _____ of God into their life.

4. It is our job to _____ people with the opportunity to come out of their _____ and to walk into their _____ in Christ.

The Plan of the Kingdom Revealed

Chapter 3

What is the plan of God concerning His kingdom upon the earth? He desires that we know His plan in a personal way, discovering it for ourselves and for others. The Master's plan is for everyone.

LUKE 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

What is Jesus Christ seeking that must be saved? And what is it that was lost? We can find the answers in the Book of Genesis.

GENESIS 2:15-17

¹⁵ And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God told Adam that he and his wife, Eve, were free to eat of every tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God reserved that tree so His creation would have a free choice to serve Him out of obedience. As we read on, we learn they disobeyed God in the one thing He told them not to do; and they ate of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

GENESIS 3:1-6

¹ Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Adam and Eve were disobedient. Through deception and half truths, the serpent tempted Eve to eat the fruit and share it with her husband Adam. In Genesis 3:22-24 we are told God had to send them out of the garden. He stationed cherubims to guard the entrance of the garden to prevent them from re-entering. Adam and Eve's high treason separated mankind from God, leaving them to serve Satan, the god of this world.

God loves His creation, and He has always had a perfect plan to reunite Himself with His creation. Thank God He did!

The Penalty and the Promised Seed

GENESIS 3:14-15

¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

As God sentenced the serpent to be cursed above all other creatures all the days of his life, then the Lord mentions the promised Seed. Verse 15 is the first mention in Scripture referring to woman's seed. This is foretelling that her offspring would bring about a reversal of the curse, which Adam brought upon all of humanity through his disobedience to the God who created them. By jumping forward about 4,000 years, the Word describes that this promised seed refers to

Jesus Christ. He would come and bring redemption to mankind through His death, burial and resurrection, taking away the sin of the world.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:21-26

²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

²⁴ Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Jesus Is the Only Way

We learn from the Word of God that salvation only comes one way—through accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

JOHN 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

My Salvation Story

My experience with Jesus Christ began as a young boy. I was drawn to attend church even though my parents didn't attend. I would walk up the street to a nearby church. This church preached a basic salvation message. I went faithfully to Sunday school and enjoyed the fun, games, and free candy.

During a program for children at age 11, I gave my heart to the Lord Jesus and asked Him to be the Lord of my life.

I continued to attend the same neighborhood church until I graduated from high school. The church was okay, but there was no real passion or fire in the lives of the people.

Shortly after going off to college I made a big mess of my life, as many young people do. A message taught in many churches, which I also had engrained in me was “once saved—always saved.” For many people that’s a ticket to sin. So as many, I thought I could go out and live it up, and it didn’t matter how I lived because nothing would affect my salvation. I began smoking two packs of cigarettes a day and drinking too much alcohol and began dating a gal I met at the bar. We decided to get married even though we had only known each other for a short time. I had no way of knowing that she had lived a troubled life a long time before we met; however, I soon found out. As two people with messed up lives, our marriage was a bad combination and it brought grief to both of us.

One night while getting drunk we got into a spat. She went to her sister’s house next door. I went over to talk to her, but they wouldn’t let me in the house. I began to pound on the kitchen window to get their attention. Because I was drunk, I hit the window so hard with my fist that I broke the window out. They called the police and when they arrived I spoke with the two of them telling them how I used to go to church.

As I explained this to one of the policemen, he said, “Oh, you’re my brother in the Lord.” At the time I thought that was kind of weird, considering the shape I was in. In spite of my drunken stupor I could see God in his life. The other

policeman talked to me and explained the facts of life according to the way he lived. He let me know in crude and vulgar detail how life is to be experienced. It was amazing how that night I witnessed both heaven and hell through two different people. I could see that each one of them lived in a totally different way. I shared with them that I was in school studying to become a policeman. Since I had no previous record and this was my first violation, they extended mercy to me.

The next night the Christian policeman came by to see me and asked if I wanted to ride patrol with him. I began to ride with him on a regular basis. He used the time while I was riding with him to speak into my life. He said things that grew me up and I really needed to hear. For several years he made a great impact on my life just being my friend.

Recommitting My Life Back to Christ

One day all hell literally broke loose in my life. When I got to work my wife called and said she was filing for a divorce. She left me and remarried within nine months. During this time I recommitted my life to the Lord. I became serious about my commitment to Christ and served God with my whole heart. All the while the Lord had something **more** for me, although I didn't know it at the time. In the next chapter I will share with you how the Lord worked in my life through His great power in the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

If you have never made Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior of your life, I want to give you the opportunity to ask Him into your life right now. Let's pray together.

PRAYER:

Jesus, I ask you to forgive me of my sins. You are my Lord and Savior now. Come and live in my heart. I believe you arose from the dead and with my mouth I confess you as my Savior. Thank you for saving me! Amen!

We know that the first initial step of God's plan for our life is to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior through His Son, Jesus Christ. Salvation is only the beginning. Now that you've received Christ as your Savior and Lord (*if you hadn't already done that*), it's time now to fulfill the destiny He has for you and for every Christian—and that is to bring Christ's kingdom into the lives of others. Remember from chapter one we talked about the Kingdom of God is in you once you receive Christ? God's plan for mankind is to bring others into the fullness of His plan for their lives found in the Kingdom of God.

The Bible tells us that every person must become a new creature in Christ **FIRST!** While we relish in the joy of our salvation and how great God has become to us, we learn secondly, that we have been given a ministry. Every child of God has this ministry; and it is the ministry of reconciliation. Thirdly, we become ambassadors for God, reconciling people back to God through Jesus Christ. So as children of God, our position of authority is to restore men and women, boys and girls, back to right relationship with God before mankind fell and was separated from God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto him, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

The first issue that must be settled and grounded in our heart and mind is that we are a ***new creation in Christ***. Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians, “. . . ***old things have passed away and all things have become new.***”

Well, what is new you may ask? Good question? When you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior you are brought into a new kingdom—the Kingdom of God, we learned about earlier. Now you have a new focus and direction for your life. This is your *new kingdom* from which you will live out your life forever.

After we become founded in the fact that we’re a brand new creation, old things are passed away, and that we’re in this brand new Kingdom with new rules, new operations and benefits galore, we can move on to the ***ministry of reconciliation***. Reconciliation means that we are called to restore others into a relationship with Father God through Jesus Christ. Our mission is to bring this new kingdom life as we have experienced it to others. Once we embrace who we are in Christ and what our first calling in God is, we are now ready to be sent as an ***ambassador for Christ***.

What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? An ambassador is an authorized messenger or representative sent by Father God, just as an American ambassador would be sent to another country representing the USA. So we also

are sent to carry out and fulfill our heavenly assignment, which is to bring the Kingdom of God to others.

In Mark 16 we see that Jesus gave this call to everyone who believes in Him. Every born-again Christian is called. Jesus said, ***“Go into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*** The word *go* means to move from one place to another. So as we move from home, to work, to school, to the gas station, to the store, or to any place we go in our daily business, we are to carry the Gospel to others.

As men and women of this new Kingdom, as ambassadors for God, our job is first off, to believe the Word, act on the Word, and then share the Word. As we do these things, we will see God confirm His Word with signs following (Mark 16:20).

The Commission

MARK 16:15-20

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

¹⁸ they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

In chapter 7 there will be personal experiences shared with the sole purpose to reveal to you how God uses His servants. It is our hope that these experiences

will open a window and help you gain a working knowledge of how to minister to others.

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 3
The Plan of the Kingdom Revealed

1. What is the _____ of God concerning His Kingdom upon the Earth? It's to know the Master's plan personally for _____ and _____.

2. The Master's plan is found in Luke 19:10, "***For the Son of man is come to _____ and to _____ that which was lost.***"

3. _____ alone can only come through accepting _____ as our Lord and Savior. Jesus said in John 14:6, "*I am the _____, the _____, and the _____; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*"

4. Your _____ is to bring His _____ into the lives of others.

5. Paul revealed to us in 2 Corinthians 5:16-19 that we must first become a _____ in Christ. Secondly, we are now given the _____ of _____; and thirdly, we are _____ for _____ reconciling people back to God through Jesus Christ.

6. Our calling is to share His _____, _____ His Word and _____ upon His Word. As we do we will see Him confirm His Word with signs following.

The Power of God Revealed

Chapter 4

How can we carry out the plan of God without the power of God? Obviously, that is not possible. So what is the power of God? We read in the Book of Acts, chapter 1, and verse 8, “***But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. . . .***” We see from this passage that it describes the power of God, which is clearly identified with the believer being filled with the Holy Spirit. That same Scripture goes on to tell us we are to give witness of that power and to manifest the Holy Ghost just as those early disciples showed signs, wonders and miracles as the result of walking in the power of God.

We read further in the chapter over in Acts, chapter 2, verse 4, where it reads, “***They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***”

The content of this chapter is very dear to my heart. It is my desire to shed light on the myths that have been taught around the subject of speaking in other tongues. For tongues is the gateway to the gifts of the Spirit, which we’ll discuss in greater length in the next chapter; but it is through these gifts by the power of the Holy Spirit that God is able to manifest supernatural signs in believers today. Through half-truths and myths that have been carried down through denominations, many people have been robbed of receiving the power of God. Through false religious doctrines and the traditions of men, the devil has endeavored in every way possible to make the Word of God of no effect.

2 TIMOTHY 3:5

⁵ *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

Myths About Tongues

Let's look at a few of the traditional myths that have hindered people from being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues.

Myth 1: Speaking in unknown tongues passed away with the apostles and early church, or the first generation church.

Truth: *We are living in the Church Age or the Age of Grace with the opportunity to come to Christ through His blood. So if one or two things passed away, then everything else in this dispensation has passed away too. Salvation, healing, forgiveness, peace, love, the gifts of the Spirit, tithing, and faith would no longer be available to us. Of course, we know that all of these wonderful gifts are still available today, as well as the gift of speaking in an unknown tongue.*

Myth 2: Speaking in other tongues is of the devil.

Truth: *By stating that speaking in tongues is from the devil and his works of sin, the logic of that statement would lead to the conclusion that we would find people speaking in other tongues in dens of iniquity, such as bars, adult book stores and drug dealers. However, short of a backslidden Spirit-filled Christian drunk, leaning over a bar, you won't find the manifestation of the Holy Spirit of speaking in tongues in these locations, chiefly because speaking in tongues is of God, not*

the devil! Speaking in tongues is the evidence of being filled with the Spirit of God (see 1 Cor. 14:2).

Myth 3: A person cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit unless they have gone through the process of sanctification—or cleaning up their lives.

Truth: *One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to “clean us up,” enabling us to be in a continual state of sanctification, or living a holy life, one that is pleasing to God.*

Myth 4: You must “tarry” until you receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Truth: *Due to lack of knowledge regarding being filled with the Spirit, many people have had to go through many exasperating experiences to receive the power of God or the infilling of the Holy Ghost. People have begged, pleaded, bawled, squalled, hoped and prayed they would eventually receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The only time the disciples tarried in the New Testament (or waited for the Holy Spirit) was when Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them with power, fulfilling the promise of the Father.*

ACTS 2:3-4

³ *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

⁴ *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The Tarrying Issue

The disciples waited in the Upper Room because they had to wait for the Holy Spirit to be released in the earth by the Father. The sound of a rushing mighty wind announced that He had indeed come; and the very minute He came, all 120 believers were instantaneously filled.

From that day forward, no one in the Book of Acts ever tarried for the Holy Spirit. When the knowledge came to be filled with the Holy Spirit, they prayed and immediately received the fullness of the Spirit (see references: Acts 4:31; 8:17; 9:17; 10:44-48; 11:15-16; 15:8; 19:6). The Good News is that God no longer requires the Church to tarry for the Holy Ghost!

The Free Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Bible tells us that God's people are perishing for a lack of knowledge. It is our desire to shed God's bright light of truth and freedom found in God's Word upon this subject of the Holy Ghost.

LUKE 11:13

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?

Let me share one such experience when a lady was having trouble in being filled with the Holy Spirit. I had been asked to explain the baptism in the Holy Spirit to this lady who wanted this experience but was very confused.

Her testimony was that she went forward at a church service to be filled with the Holy Spirit and she was told by the lay minister that her kids had to get saved

first. This minister told her that Jesus would baptize her with the Holy Spirit after her children got saved. This is not what the Bible says.

I was able to encourage and reassure her that Jesus wanted to baptize her in the Holy Spirit; and by so doing, He would teach her how she could pray more effectively for her children to be saved.

She had great joy as I led her into the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is just one example of the ignorance and lies of false, religious traditions, and how it stops many from receiving the *free gift* of the *Holy Spirit*.

Every believer should be empowered by the Spirit to carry out God's work throughout the earth. Now that we have uncovered some basic roadblocks, we will look at the benefits of being filled with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not actually an option. Jesus **commanded** His followers to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them and filled them with power from on high. If we truly love Father God, desiring to operate in the fullness of God's power and desire to please Him, we will gladly receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 1:3-5

³ *To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

⁴ *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

⁵ *For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

Without a doubt this passage in Acts seals the fact that it is Jesus' will for all believers to be baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Eight Benefits of the Holy Spirit

We have seen from God's Word that it is His will for all believers to be filled with the Spirit of God; and in fact, Jesus commanded His disciples to be filled. Jesus knew it would be a necessity to operate in this Holy Spirit power God makes available to every believer. The reasons are innumerable why a person should desire this gift of God but let's look at a few of these benefits.

BENEFIT NO. 1

The first benefit of the Holy Spirit is that He is the third member of the Godhead.

The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus and the Father after Jesus' ascension to abide with us forever. The Holy Spirit gives us power and ability to live in holiness and not walk after the flesh.

ACTS 1: 8

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.

The only way a Christian can live free from yielding to the flesh—not walking in habitual sin—is to yield to the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Ghost gives us the power to be a witness. The word *witness* means “martyr.”

Recently I was talking with a pastor friend of mine about the word *witness* and what it means. Most people think that a martyr is someone who is willing to die for his beliefs. As my friend and I spoke we rejoiced together knowing that in

the Holy Spirit we serve a **living** God who certainly gives us the power to die for Him, but probably even more important is the ability to live for Him as a **true living martyr**. This is what Paul meant when he said to the church at Galatia:

GALATIANS 2:20

²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

We have not only received power to live holy, but also to live for Father God and do His work in the earth. Jesus ministered in this world, flowing in the power of the Spirit, and we also are to minister in the Spirit the way Jesus did. He has sent us as laborers to take the Gospel to the world.

JOHN 17:18

¹⁸ As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

BENEFIT NO. 2

The second benefit of being filled with the Holy Spirit is for personal edification or to build ourselves up.

To “edify” or to “build up” means *to charge yourself up like you would charge a battery*. According to Jude 20, when we pray in other tongues, we are building ourselves up.

JUDE 20

²⁰ But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

This is our spiritual exercise to maintain a strong walk in both the spiritual and natural realm. We need God in our lives—all of Him! And when we pray in

other tongues, we become more conscious of Him and are more easily led and more than willing to yield to what He has for us.

BENEFIT NO. 3

The third benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is we have a greater measure of His comfort and assurance as we yield to him.

Jesus told His disciples that it was to their advantage for Him to go away. He said He would ask the Father to send “another” Comforter to dwell in them. As the Comforter, the Holy Spirit comes alongside to live in us and help us. We have Jesus at the right hand of the Father praying for us and the Holy Spirit living in our hearts to direct us, help us, and to comfort us.

JOHN 16:7

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

JOHN 14:16-17

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

BENEFIT NO. 4

The fourth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is for refreshing and rest.

ISAIAH 28:11-12

¹¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to His people.

¹² To whom He said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

To be “refreshed” means *relief or freedom*, especially from anything that wearies, troubles, or disturbs. While we live in a world that is filled with turmoil and trials, we have the Holy Spirit who gives us supernatural peace and rest in Him.

Chris, a close friend of ours, was on his way home from work. His wife had called to see when he would be getting home. While they were talking, a van in the right lane tried to change lanes. Chris had no place to go so he kept on driving. The driver in the other car, operating in a fit of road rage, ran him off the road. Chris’ car flipped end over end three times, throwing him out on the pavement into the oncoming traffic. Chris’ wife heard enough before his phone went silent to know there had been an accident. She called 911 then barreled down the highway to find him. Meanwhile, Chris had enough presence of mind to crawl off the highway onto the median so he wouldn’t get run over. The van that had run him off the road just kept on going. The police, ambulance and his wife arrived about the same time.

Chris had a small break in the bone of his dislocated shoulder, but other than that he was okay. We all gave glory to God for His divine protection. Later Chris told us that he could feel the presence and peace of the Holy Spirit in the car as it was rolling. Just before the car came to a stop, he was thrown out. This is one time being thrown out of the car saved his life. The police said when they saw his car that they expected to find a fatality because not many people walk away

from a car that had been flattened the way his was. The devil tried to take his life, yet in the midst of this great turmoil he had the rest and peace of Holy Spirit.

BENEFIT NO. 5

The fifth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is Spirit-led intercession.

We know that we should always pray according to the Word of God. However, there are many times we don't know how to pray effectively. During those times we can intercede in other tongues. When we pray in the Spirit we bypass our mind and pray the perfect will of God.

ROMANS 8:26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

On one occasion my wife and I had to take a trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, on ministry business. We were both restless and sensed something wrong about this trip, but we had an important appointment. We prayed in other tongues until we felt a release in the Spirit, and then committed our trip to Father God. We knew that God would protect us. The peace we both had in the Spirit after praying confirmed that whatever happened, we were covered by the hand of God.

On the way home from Tulsa, a man driving in front of us fell asleep at the wheel and drove off the shoulder of the road. The driver panicked as he jerked awake and overcorrected his car as he tried to get back on the pavement. This caused him to lose control of his car which was now sliding sideways in front of us

at a high rate of speed. Even though I hit the brakes, there was no doubt that we would hit him. We yelled out to Jesus for His help! Instantly, both cars supernaturally moved far enough apart to avoid a crash. We pulled over and stopped for a moment to make sure everyone was okay. The highway patrol, seemed to come out of nowhere, stopped to check on us. We were shaking because of the close call, but otherwise we were okay. We went on our way rejoicing because we knew that our intercession in the Spirit protected us, as well as the other man, from a serious car accident.

BENEFIT NO. 6

The sixth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is keeping your tongue in subjection to God.

JAMES 3:8

⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

PROVERBS 18:21

²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

The use of our tongue affects every area of our lives. When we pray in other tongues it allows our human spirit to hook up with the Holy Spirit. When this happens, along with aiding in and renewing our mind to the Word of God, it brings a transformation in our lives. When our actions correspond to His Word, we bring forth the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God, then we have truly entered into “*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*”

Praying in the Spirit Stirs Up Your Faith

ROMANS 12:2

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

Before moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to attend Rhema Bible Training Center, I knew in my spirit that it was God's will for me to work as an armed security officer for Oral Roberts Ministries (ORM). I had a law-enforcement background and wanted to serve in this capacity in the ministry of helps. People would often ask me where I was going to work when I moved to Tulsa. I told them by faith that I was going to work armed security at Oral Roberts Ministry. How can you explain what you know by your spirit? The next question was how do you know they are even hiring?

My reply was, "I believe it is God's will for me to work at ORM, but they just don't know it yet."

Speaking faith sounds like foolishness to others. However, God instructs believers to live their lives by faith, acting on the Word, and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

When I arrived in Tulsa, I applied for work at ORM. The Lord led me to wait on that job instead of looking for other work. I had saved enough money to live on while I waited for the job to come through. I called ORM periodically to check on the hiring status, and then I waited and waited some more. While waiting I prayed in other tongues, confidently standing firm on God's Word that it was God's will for me to work there.

After a month the job finally manifested. Praise God! When something seems impossible in the natural, God will move on your behalf, and just go ahead and do it!

As a testimony of God's leading and will for my life, I was the last person hired because of a hiring freeze. On my first day on the job I escorted a young lady to the cashier's office who later became my wife. This was how my wife, Dana, and I first met. We dated for a time and then got married. We have been together serving the Lord ever since. We have two children; our son, Caleb, and our daughter, Danielle.

I really enjoyed my time at ORM and it was a blessing to personally serve the Oral Roberts family, Oral Roberts Ministries, and Oral Roberts University.

BENEFIT NO. 7

The seventh benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be led by the Holy Spirit and have spirit-to-spirit communication.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2

² For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. (One translation says divine secrets.)

After accepting Christ as Savior, our spirit is recreated and alive unto God (2 Co. 5:17). Our spirit, which had the nature of the devil, has been born again and recreated with the nature and life of God designed specifically by God to communicate with the Holy Spirit (Col. 1:13).

When our spirits become alive unto God, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit, a good spirit-to-spirit communication can take place. A believer who is baptized in the Holy Spirit now has the potential to communicate in a deep and meaningful way with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that out of our belly [spirit] would flow rivers of living water. Jesus was using the natural illustration of rivers to teach us a spiritual truth. These rivers are a flow of the Holy Spirit bubbling up out of our human spirit. The Spirit of God desires a two-way conversation with us. We share in this deep fellowship with God when we pray in the Spirit; and secondly, take time to listen to hear what He has to say.

JOHN 7:38-39

³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

³⁹ But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Holy Spirit Guides

I remember how the Lord led my wife and me into our first full-time ministry position. We had visited a church in our area and was invited back to preach as a guest speaker. We developed a relationship with the Pastor. It was a new church plant that was about one-year-old. Dana and I were doing the dishes one night when the Lord spoke to my heart that we would be hired as full-time staff at the church. Dana thought it was my burning desire for full-time ministry that was bringing the idea up. The pastor suggested that we get together for lunch. I shared with him we were leaving for Michigan and I would call him when we returned. On our way to Michigan I stopped at a city and applied for a job. After I applied for the

job, the Lord spoke to my heart, “*What are you doing? I thought you heard me tell you were going to be on staff at that church.*” I repented and called the company explaining I was not interested in the job. When we returned from our trip, I met with the pastor for lunch.

While visiting I told him we felt drawn to his church. I said it did not make sense because I lived 30 miles away from his church and worked 30 miles in the other direction. He said, “I am glad you brought that up. We want both of you to come on staff at the church.” He told his church that God was going to bring a couple on staff, but he was waiting for the Lord to speak to them. Thank God we can hear and be led by His Spirit.

Later the pastor explained that he wanted us to hear from the Spirit of God for ourselves. That way when times got hard we would be assured that the Spirit of God spoke to us and we would not cave in and quit at the first test.

BENEFIT NO. 8

The eighth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is a deeper understanding that He is the Spirit of truth and we have a greater revelation from Him as our teacher.

JOHN 16:13

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The Holy Spirit will bring us the revelation of the Word of God to our lives. His job is to reveal spiritual truths to our spirit and to enlighten our mind. I

remember one summer before I was filled with the Holy Spirit I read through the New Testament two times. The more I read the more confused I became. I remember reading about treading on snakes and scorpions in Luke 10:19, ***“Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”***

I thought, *No way is this northern Michigan boy going to start stepping on snakes and scorpions.* Of course, the Scriptures were referring to demons and demonic activity. Have you heard people say the Bible has many interpretations? It does seem that way from a natural standpoint.

Unless we have the guidance of the Holy Spirit leading us into all the truth we will never have the wisdom to rightly divide the Word of Truth. When we do our part He will do His part. He teaches us the truth so we can walk in truth. That is why Paul told Timothy to study.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Holy Spirit Reveals

The Holy Spirit wants to not only guide us into truth, but He wants to show us things to come, according to John 16:13. The Spirit of God wants to lead and prepare us to walk out His plan. We can know the end from the beginning because Father God reveals His will for our future to us. He does this through His Word quickened by the Holy Spirit. It is then received in our human spirit and is

enlightened to our mind. We have put the Word quickened by the Spirit into action, fully trusting Father God to bring it to pass.

How I Was Filled With the Holy Spirit?

As a young Christian without teaching and knowledge of God's Word, my life was a mess. My (former) wife had left me and wanted a divorce. It was one of the hardest times in my life. I recommitted my life to the Lord during this time. People in my church told me I needed to receive the power of the Holy Spirit in my life. There were many books given to me on the subject. I read them and was open to anything that the Lord had for me. I began to thank Jesus for filling me with the Holy Spirit and began to confess, "I thank you, Jesus. I believe I am filled with the Holy Spirit." I had done this for two months to no avail.

A member of the congregation said I needed to talk to a lawyer in our church. He had just gone through the same life crisis the year before. They gave me his office number, and I called him the next day sharing with him everything that was going on. He said he could understand fully what I was going through. We decided to meet for lunch the next day.

The next day at 11 AM sharp he knocked on my door. Just think what a miracle it was for a lawyer to come to the house of a perfect stranger to give free

counsel. I went to the door and let him in. We introduced ourselves since we had never met in person. He got right down to business.

He opened a bag of Doritos and said, "Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit since you believed?"

"No, I have not."

"Would you like to?"

I said, "No, maybe some other time." I was afraid of the unknown.

"I am not leaving this house until you do," he said. He was determined that I would receive.

Thank God for Holy Ghost boldness! I could tell he was a bit nervous, but he was willing to be used of God. We sat down and he shared with me how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He led me in a prayer and had me repeat it after Him. After praying with him, soon I was speaking in other tongues. We rejoiced together praising God. He left and went back to work.

Wow! What a life change for me! It was so great to have Jesus become real in my life. I began praying in other tongues for hours upon end. I had such an overflow of the Holy Spirit that when I answered the phone at work I would have to tell myself to speak in English, not in tongues. During the biggest crisis of my life I walked in love. I was a blessing to my wife even though we were separated. She went ahead with the divorce and was remarried within nine months. People were amazed that I could respond in love in the midst of such anger and strife.

I was beginning to live an overcoming life. Within four months I was delivered from cigarettes and alcohol. I began tithing to our local church and giving

financially to others in need. The Bible had become so alive and exciting to read; it finally made sense. I understood the great truths it held. What freedom to be free of self and to be consumed with my walk with God. It has been over 24 years and I am still going strong for God. Glory and praise to His name for filling me with the Holy Spirit.

How to Lead Others in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

One of the callings of God upon my life is to provide materials to make both the layman and full-time minister more effective in ministry. This book is designed not only to impart knowledge and information about the Kingdom of God but to help you develop skills to lead others in the gift of the Holy Spirit as well as to develop the necessary confidence and boldness to do so.

For over 15 years I have witnessed to countless numbers of people, young and old, rich and poor; from other cultures, in other languages, from one person to hundreds of people at a time, to be filled with this great gift of the Holy Spirit. There have been steady streams of people who have called me to lead their family and friends in the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus used stories (or parables) to teach spiritual truths; so first off, we want to share a short story. Interject Scripture in order to build their faith. Remember Romans 10:17, ***“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”*** The goal here is that we bring the person where they have the opportunity to receive from the Lord. We are leading people to Jesus, who is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit. We are simply a facilitator of bringing people to the will of God for their lives.

Remember all roads lead people in this direction. If a person needs comfort, Jesus is the comforter road. If a person needs power, Jesus is the life power road. If a person needs healing, Jesus is the healing life road. If they need direction, Jesus is the direction road. If they need peace, Jesus is the peace road. If they do not know how to pray, Jesus is the way to the prayer road.

People have different needs in their lives. We serve a personal loving God. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is present in us to meet each person at their place of need. It is up to us to hear from the Holy Spirit and to know what road is the best road for them to receive from Him.

Basketball Players are Filled With the Holy Spirit

Here is a working dialogue I used to lead a group of eight high school basketball players from New Orleans in the Holy Spirit. Our ministry team was at the Café DuMonde in the French quarter and we noticed an entire basketball team just hanging out on the sidewalk. We left the café and went over to them and yelled, “Huddle up!” I started waving my arms with confidence like I was their coach. They gathered around me into a close circle, and I immediately went into action.

“Do you know there are two types of basketball players in the world”? I asked.

One of the players said, “What do you mean by that”?

“Well,” I said, “there are the ‘saved’ and the ‘unsaved’ basketball players.”

They began to chuckle and laugh; my answer caught them by surprise. It was certainly not what they expected. I pressed them further and said, “I need to know which type of basketball players you are.”

“Man, we all go to a Christian school and we are the school team.”

“That’s great, but have you each individually accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?” I quoted a scripture passage to them out of Romans 10:9-10.

As I pointed to each one of them I asked, “Have you prayed and confessed that you are a sinner? Have you asked Jesus Christ to come into your life and to forgive you of your sins?”

One by one they all acknowledged that they had. I said, “Glory to God give me a high five!” We all gave high fives to each other.

“Hold on, now that I know you all have accepted Jesus as your Lord, there is more God has for you. You remember that Jesus went to the cross and died for our sins, and He was resurrected from the dead.”

They all said, “Yeah, we know.”

“Remember when He walked the earth in a glorified body for 40 days and 40 nights?”

Again they all said, “Yeah, we know.”

Do you remember just before Jesus went to be with His heavenly Father, He told His disciples how important it was that He went to be with the Father? Why? Because then He could send the Comforter [Holy Spirit] to the Body of Christ.

Note: I always ask if they remember, whether they know it or not, because I act like they already know it all. It brings them into the conversation as if they have knowledge of what I am talking about.

You know that just before Jesus left to be with His Heavenly Father He gave them a command to wait where they were until they received the promise of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 1:8

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.

Power to be a witness does not mean we run around and hand out tracts. It means that we have the power and ability to live for God the way He desires. You no longer have to live in this fallen world in your own strength, but can have the power of God to live the way that pleases Him.

I drew them in deeper saying, “You know Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were filled with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Well, that day came.” I quoted Acts 2:1-4 to verify exactly what happened on the Day of Pentecost.

ACTS 2:1-4

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appears unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

I said, “Now that we know all His disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, it is time for you to do the same. Let’s pray.” When you tell people, “Let’s pray,” they automatically bow their heads, close their eyes and open themselves to receive.

When I lead people in this prayer I pray the same way every time. It is not a formula but I have found it to be easier for me to stay with my same format.

Prayer to be Filled with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Dear Jesus, I thank you for filling me with the Holy Spirit. I release my tongue to you as the Spirit of God flows through me. Amen.”

I told these guys I was going to start speaking and praying in the Spirit, and the moment I did, I wanted them to start speaking and release their prayer language. We all started praying in the Spirit. They just took right off. What an experience! The entire ball team was in unison praying out loud in other tongues.

Of course, there are times when I do have to work with people. They start thanking God in English and say, “Thank you, Lord,” over and over again. I say to them, “Don’t pray in English because the Spirit bypasses the mind using your tongue and voice. Listen to me as I pray and try not to think about it.” This takes the pressure off of them. After taking the time for a little more instruction, they usually release their prayer language speaking fluently with ease.

Follow up with Teaching after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Once people are Spirit-filled, begin to give them some instruction and teach them the purpose and the plan that God has for them.

First Truth:

The first and most important fact is to explain from the Word that when they speak in tongues they are speaking to God. It is the most perfect way to pray since

their spirit and God's Spirit communicate in the most perfect language. Let them know their understanding is unfruitful (unproductive) while they are speaking in tongues unless the Lord gives them the interpretation. Even though our mind does not comprehend praying in the Spirit our spirit does. It is edified and built up (Jude 20).

I CORINTHIANS 14:14

¹⁴ For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

Second Truth:

It is also vital knowledge that they can pray in the Spirit as they will. They don't have to wait for Holy Spirit-inspired unction to pray in tongues or in the Spirit. This is important because so many people don't know this fact. Many believe they have to wait for the Holy Ghost to touch their flesh by inspiration before speaking in other tongues.

I CORINTHIANS 14:15

¹⁵ What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

To establish a believer in the fact that they can pray or speak in the spirit at will, have them pray and sing in the Spirit, going back and forth from English to other tongues several times by joining you for a couple of minutes each time. After practicing this little exercise, they will have the confidence they need to pray and sing in the Spirit by themselves. Encourage the newly baptized in the Spirit believer to pray and sing often in the Spirit.

Third Truth:

The believer needs to understand that praying in the Spirit is part of the lifestyle of a Spirit-filled believer. Praying in the Spirit keeps us tuned into the spiritual realm where we have communion with God. It's similar to a car radio that you can't hear because of the static. The signal is always there, but we need to keep working the dial until we get a clear signal.

Fourth Truth:

Find a good Spirit-filled Bible teaching church to attend and make a commitment to be faithful.

I have witnessed many people return to their non-Spirit-filled church once they are newly baptized in the Spirit. At first it seems okay, but then eventually they will not grow as God desires, and then spiritual growth will be stymied.

Of course, Christians who are not filled with the Holy Spirit love God, but they can only take people as far as they have personally gone in spiritual matters. The Bible says that people perish for lack of knowledge. Many people stop their Christian growth at getting born-again, but there is so much more available to the believer. It is vital for the person who has just been filled with the Spirit of God to be united with other like-minded Christians who walk in the fullness of the Spirit too.

Ask yourself this question: Were not all the New Testament writers saved and Spirit-filled believers? In the mouth of two or three witnesses let every word be established.

MATTHEW 18:16

¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Go to Your Own Company

Luke writes about the early church, who fellowshiped in their own company.

ACTS 4:23

²³ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

While we were pastoring, a Spirit-filled person come to our church in the middle of a tragic divorce. We witnessed God put his life back together as he surrendered his life fully to the Word and the Spirit. We were amazed at the difference in his countenance. Before coming to our church, he had attended a non-Spirit-filled church for seven years. I asked him what it was like for him as a Spirit-filled believer. He said while he was attending church there, he became dull of hearing in that environment. It shows us how important it is to join the company that is right for each of us. God will and can lead you there by His Spirit.

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 4
The Power of God Revealed

1. List the four myths that have stopped us from being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Speaking in _____ passed away with the first generation church.
 - b. Speaking in other tongues is of the _____.
 - c. We can't be filled with the Holy Spirit unless we have gone through the process of _____ or cleaning up our own lives.
 - d. You must _____ until you are filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

2. According to Acts 1:3-5, Jesus _____ His followers to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

3. List the eight benefits of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The first benefit of the Holy Spirit is that He is the _____.
 - b. The second benefit to being baptized in the Holy Spirit is for _____ or building ourselves up.
 - c. The third benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is for _____ and _____.
 - d. The fourth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is for _____ and rest.

- e. The fifth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is Spirit-led _____.
- f. The sixth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is keeping your _____ in subjection to God.
- g. The seventh benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be _____ by the Spirit and have spirit communication.
- h. The eighth benefit to being filled with the Holy Spirit is He is the Spirit of _____ and He is our _____.
4. To prepare someone to be filled with the Holy Spirit, it is best to tell a _____ Jesus used stories to _____ spiritual truths.
5. Remember when sharing all roads lead people to the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Some roads are: If they need _____, He is the comforter road. If they need _____, He is the life power road. If they need _____, He is the healing life road. If they need _____, He is the direction road. If they need _____, He is the peace road. If they do not know how to _____, He is the way to prayer road.
6. When leading someone in _____ to being filled with the Holy Spirit it is best to pray the _____ every time.
7. You should always follow up with _____ after a person is filled with the Holy Spirit.

8. List the four areas you can teach someone after they are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- a. First let them know when they speak in tongues they are _____ to God.
 - b. The second thing is to let them know they can _____ in the spirit, as they will.
 - c. The third thing they need to understand is that praying in the Spirit is part of the _____ of a Spirit-filled believer.
 - d. The fourth thing they need to do is _____ a Spirit-filled Bible teaching church they can submit and commit themselves to.

The Tools of the Kingdom Revealed

Chapter 5

There once was a carpenter who had two sons. The carpenter and his wife were faithful in training their sons in the admonition and nurture of the Lord. When they were still very young, the carpenter began to teach them carpentry to empower them for success. By the time they were young men they knew how to use the tools of the trade, and had the knowledge to do any carpentry job that would come their way. Finally the day came when they were ready to leave home. Their father blessed them and gave each son a rare gift. He had sacrificed many hours, unknown to them, making each son a special hand-made toolbox and had filled it up with carpentry tools. And so they left home to work, marry, and have a family. The first son put his toolbox on his work bench saying to himself, "These tools are too beautiful to use." He continued to say he was a carpenter although he never made anything or worked the trade. The second son immediately looked for carpentry jobs and put his tools to work. It was his desire to be a great blessing to all those he met along life's journey. He worked until he finally had his own shop. As a result, the second son had the desires of his heart fulfilled and was able to bless many people because he used the toolbox that his father had given him as a gift.

Can we not tell a similar story? I tell you a great sacrifice bought all of us a rare gift from our heavenly Father; His only begotten Son. Now I will ask you a question, "What will you do with your toolbox?"

What Will You Do with Your Toolbox?

We know that every occupation uses tools of some sort for their profession. These tools are designed specifically for a particular job. We must use these tools in order to accomplish what needs to be carried out. A simple definition for the word “tools” is *supplies or equipment regarded as necessary to carry out an occupation or profession*. Just as natural occupations have special tools, Christ has given believers the necessary spiritual tools to carry out the work of the Kingdom. As in any occupation, we gain skill and increased ability by using our tools.

In this chapter we will learn how and when to implement our spiritual tools we have been given by the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures identify nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit, or the tools given the Church by the Holy Spirit. Once we understand the nine Gifts of the Spirit and how to flow in them, we will be enlightened to our potential in God to make the greatest impact possible for the Kingdom of God.

The Bible speaks of teaching by precept and example. Through precept (or laying down the Word) and then sharing examples, it is our desire this knowledge base will empower you for service. As a result, you will have the skills and confidence necessary to step out in faith and be used of God. **Every job has special tools designed for a particular job, but it is the skilled ability and use of that ability that gets the job done.**

As we discuss the nine Gifts of the Spirit we will see that the Apostle Paul desired that both the church at Corinth and every believer thereafter would be informed about the spiritual endowments of the Holy Ghost.

Nine Gifts of the Spirit

The Scriptures teach that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are different in their distinct forms and administrations, but yet they all come from the same God and are given as a profit or blessing to all. See below.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

² Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

³ Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

⁴ Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

⁶ And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

⁹ To another faith by the same Spirit;

¹⁰ To another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

¹¹ But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

The above Scriptures list the nine gifts of the Spirit, but for purposes of understanding we will separate them into three distinct groups. This aids in understanding their operation and function

Revelation Gifts

- A. Word of Wisdom
- B. Word of Knowledge
- C. Discerning of Spirits

Power Gifts

- A. Gift of Faith
- B. Working of Miracles
- C. Gifts of Healings

Vocal Gifts

- A. Prophecy
- B. Divers Kinds of Tongues
- C. Interpretation of Tongues

GIFT OF THE WORD OF WISDOM

The Gifts of Revelation provide a piece of God's knowledge either from the past, present or future. The gift of the word of wisdom is insight or knowledge into God's plans to prepare the believer for the will of God to be carried out in their life. A word of wisdom is always future tense. When you have a hard decision to make about the future, you need a word of wisdom. These revelation gifts are manifested by the Holy Spirit and are not made known through human wisdom. It provides the recipient Spirit-led confirmation about the direction of God for their life, and enables them to act appropriately to a set of circumstances, leading them to rightly apply knowledge to their given situation. A word of wisdom can be spoken directly by the Spirit of God to your spirit or it can be spoken by God through another person to you.

Ananias Receives Word of Wisdom for Paul

ACTS 9:10-16

¹⁰ And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

God gives Ananias a word of wisdom to confirm the future the Lord has for Saul—who later was known as Paul. The word of wisdom was that God had chosen Saul to take the Gospel to the gentiles, the kings, and the children of Israel. God also reveals how much Saul will suffer for the Lord's sake as a servant of God. The word of knowledge, another revelation gift, was in operation when Ananias had a vision to go minister to Saul, who later becomes Paul. Saul also had a word of knowledge that Ananias was coming to lay hands on him to pray for the recovery of his sight.

Later we see Ananias struggling with obedience to the word of knowledge that the Lord gave him—due to Saul's hatred of the believers in Jerusalem and the harm he had caused them. But the Lord assures him and tells him to obey and do what He has asked him to do.

Noah's Word of Wisdom

The Old Testament reveals a word of wisdom when God spoke directly to Noah concerning a future flood that was coming because of the condition of mankind. God tells Noah to build an ark to save him and his family because God

is going to destroy the earth by water. God makes a covenant with Noah and his family; and Noah obeys this word of wisdom and he and his whole family are saved because of his obedience.

GENESIS 6:13, 14, 18, 22

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

¹⁸ But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

²² Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

GIFT OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The word of knowledge is a word of supernatural knowledge given by the Holy Spirit to an individual or one person who speaks it to another, revealing a situation or circumstance in their life. A word of knowledge relates only to their past or present situation. Notice that it is a word of knowledge not word(s) of knowledge. This means that when this gift is in operation you only have a part of God's knowledge concerning the situation—not everything about the situation.

We can see Jesus operating in a word of knowledge with the Samaritan woman at the well.

JOHN 4:18, 29b

¹⁸ "You have had five husbands and the one you have now is not your husband"

²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I did, could he not be the Messiah?"

Prior to verse 29, this Samaritan woman got all excited as she went through the village shouting verse 29. Jesus did not tell the woman everything she had

done but He did reveal a part of her life that He would not have known about her by His natural mind, but He had this word of knowledge revealed by the Spirit of God. So she knew this was supernatural information that a stranger to the village could have not known. She recognized the supernatural in Jesus' words and begins to proclaim throughout the city, ***“Here comes a man who told me everything I’ve done, he must be the Messiah!”***

A Word of Knowledge Concerning Nathanael.

JOHN 1:47-48

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said to him, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Jesus knew the heart of this man and his character. The same Spirit that revealed these things to Jesus is the same Spirit that dwells within us and will reveal things to us by the word of knowledge.

Word of Knowledge in Missouri

While at Church in Action in Arnold, Missouri, pastored by my good friend, Darnell West, I sensed in my spirit that someone had chipped or had a slice of bone causing problems for them. It didn't make sense to me because I had just a small piece of information. Nevertheless, I stepped out and gave the word of knowledge.

A young man in the church came forward and said, "I just had knee surgery to remove a chip of bone that was floating around in my knee. Even after the surgery it is still painful to bend my knee."

I said to him, "The word of knowledge is confirmation of the love of God for you. Two thousand years ago Jesus paid the price for you to be healed."

I explained to the church that the gifts of the Spirit operate to confirm to us what God has provided for us through Jesus. We prayed for total healing for his knee.

He said to the congregation, "I have no more pain! Jesus has healed me!"

Glory to God for the gifts of the Spirit!

GIFT OF THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

The discerning of spirits is the supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to discern whether the spirit is of God or of the devil.

ACTS 16:16-18

¹⁶ And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

¹⁷ The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

¹⁸ And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

We have a demonstration of the discerning of spirits in operation when Paul dealt with the damsel possessed with a spirit of divination. She had followed Paul around advertising the Kingdom of God. Paul, after many days of her following him around, had a revelation by the Spirit that the spirit operating in her was not of

God. Paul cast the spirit out of her, rendering the evil spirit powerless. Paul's obedience to the supernatural discerning of the spirit through the Holy Spirit's revelation helped him deal with the situation with the power of God. I want you to especially take note of verse 16. Paul and his companions began to pray together. The Spirit of God was certainly answering their prayers as they went about doing the will of God. Now the devil brought the possessed damsel to follow him around to cause confusion and to disrupt the word of truth, speaking through the girl by a spirit of divination. This was bringing a reproach to the Kingdom of God—even though what she said was a true statement—because an evil spirit was behind what she was saying. The Holy Spirit revealed this to Paul in the operation of the gift of discerning of spirits. He was then able to deal with it effectively. **Note:** This gift can reveal both good and evil spirits.

Discerning of Spirits in Operation

One day when my wife was vacuuming the house our four-year-old son, Caleb, said to his mother, "Mom, someone is following you?"

She said, "What do you mean?"

"There is a big creature with wings following you around the house while you are vacuuming."

He had a revelation of discerning of spirits in operation and he had seen an angel in the realm of the Spirit.

I worked as a prison guard for many years. This gift operated in my life on a regular basis because of the demonic spirits that were active in the prison environment. What a great blessing for us all when we can always rely on the

Word in us and the quickening of our spirit by the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the spirit behind any manifestation.

GIFT OF FAITH

The gift of faith is the supernatural ability to trust God without doubting or wavering. It is a faith spoken through us by the Spirit. We know it is not our faith in operation, but the faith of the Spirit of God. We freely receive the knowledge that God will bring it to pass.

The gift of faith is like God Himself giving you His faith. We do not do anything other than cooperate with what God's will is for that situation. We see this gift operating in these two Old Testament stories:

DANIEL 6:16-23

¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

¹⁷ And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

²¹ Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

²² My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

²³ Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel believed his God and was delivered from the lions and no harm came to him. The same gift of faith operated in the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace in Daniel, chapter 3. They knew God was well able to deliver them out of the fiery furnace and He did. That takes faith!

Gift of Faith in Operation

When we bought our first house we had the gift of faith in operation. The first time we rode by this house we just knew it was God's will for us to have it. It was as if it had always been ours. It bore witness with our spirit. We looked at it, put in an offer and in less than one month moved in. It is so easy to believe when you have the gift of faith working in your behalf.

THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

The working of miracles is the supernatural intervention of God into the natural fallen realm where Satan is the god of the world system. The word "miracle" itself means *power and might*. We could say God's power and might is able to intervene and reverse the negative outcome to the natural order of things. Here are some biblical examples of the gift of the working of miracles.

MATTHEW 14:15-21

¹⁵ And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

¹⁶ But Jesus said unto them, they need not depart; give ye them to eat.

¹⁷ And they say unto him, we have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

¹⁸ He said, bring them hither to me.

¹⁹ And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

There is no way possible in the natural that 15,000 plus people could sit down, eat and be filled, on just two fish and five small loaves of bread. When the food was multiplied supernaturally we see the working of miracles in operation. When Jesus fed the crowd of people, the gift of faith was at work. No one could deny that the food was supernaturally multiplied.

Lame Man Walks

In Acts 3:1-9, the gift of the working of miracles manifested as Peter instructed the lame man to look on them. We have no money; however, we have something of more value to give you. The lame man looked expectantly on them. By faith, Peter took his hand and lifted him to his feet. The working of miracles was released into the lame man's life.

Abnormal Growth Disappears

One year, while on a mission trip, I had a word of knowledge for abnormal growths on people's bodies. One man who asked for prayer had a growth on his chest. I placed my hand on his chest and felt the growth under my fingers.

I prayed for him saying, "In the name of Jesus the growth on your chest is gone." In the natural I could feel it under my fingertips but by faith I again said, "It is gone."

"Is it really gone?" he said.

“It is gone!” he said as he discovered the growth had completely disappeared.

This is a working of miracles because as we prayed the growth miraculously vanished. Glory to God for the working of miracles!

GIFTS OF HEALINGS

The gifts of healings is a supernatural healing or restoration of the body, mind, or spirit that defy the natural order of things--healing that cannot be explained by the medical experts.

The word “gifts” is plural and reveals that there are as many methods to heal as there are diseases that have need of healing. This gift will bring healing in our spirit, mind and body. God wants us to be healed in every area of our three-part being. Since these are gifts of healing(s) some people have great success in specific areas of healing.

I have a friend who ministers to people with back problems. Almost one hundred percent of the people he prays for receive instantaneous healing in their back. Just as some are used in a certain gift of healing, as my minister friend, there are also many methods of healing according to the Word of God. Some of these methods include:

- Speaking the Word of God
- Anointing with oil
- Laying hands on the sick
- Gifts of the Spirit

These methods are given to allow people a point of contact to release their faith in the power of God.

PSALM 107:20

²⁰ He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

JAMES 5:14

¹⁴ Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

We can anoint with oil knowing the power of God will be released to heal the sick.

MARK 16:18b

¹⁸ . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

THE VOCAL GIFTS “The Gift of Prophecy”

The gift of prophecy is calling forth anointed words divinely inspired by the Spirit of God. These words will always exhort, comfort and edify those that hear. The one who gives the prophetic utterance does so as he yields by faith, bypassing the mind, and speaks the words that are given by the Holy Spirit.

I CORINTHIANS 14:1-4

¹ Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

² For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

³ But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

⁴ He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Paul tells us that it is God’s desire for us to walk in love and to desire spiritual gifts; however, he would rather that we prophesy. Prophecy is the gift that is given to bring edification, exhortation, and comfort to the Body of Christ. When prophesy goes forth it always draws us nearer to God. New Testament prophesy will lead

us to the Word of God and affirm His will for our lives. Satan is the god of this world and he is always pulling at God's people to give up walking in faith and tempts believers to walk after the flesh. His purpose is to stop the will of God. Paul said he would like to see prophecy go forth on a regular basis in the church, so the church can be strengthened and encouraged. A strong church will not yield to the temptations of Satan that pull on the flesh.

DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

The gift of divers kind of tongues is a supernatural speaking forth by the power of the Holy Spirit operating through an individual in an unknown tongue (a language that has not been learned by the individual). The tongue they speak forth may be existent in the world, past or present, or a means of communication by the Holy Spirit.

Every believer who yields to the Holy Spirit has the opportunity to give forth a tongue in a church service. It should be done by no more than two or three people, and in order so that the Body of Christ will be built up. When a tongue goes forth by faith as the Spirit leads, the Spirit will give the person speaking forth the interpretation of the message.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:27

²⁷ If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

The interpretation of tongues is a supernatural revelation of the meaning of a divers kind of tongue. This gift in operation interprets by the Spirit of God the tongue that was spoken forth.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:5

⁵ I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

Paul is saying that prophesy is greater since it does not require another to move in this gift. But when a divers tongue goes forth in a church setting we should have it interpreted so all will be edified. A tongue with the interpretation equals prophecy when both operate simultaneously. Paul was not saying that we shouldn't pray in tongues as worship unto God, but if a tongue goes forth in the gifts of the Spirit we want it to be interpreted so all will be edified.

FLOWING IN THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

As we shared earlier, the intent of this book is not only to offer knowledge of biblical truths but to serve as a handbook to the ministry of helps. In this section we are going to look at how to flow in the gifts of the Spirit. If we don't let the gifts flow through our lives—that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself died for—we are robbing the Body of Christ of a great blessing. The gifts of the Holy Spirit operate in the power of the Holy Spirit through your recreated human spirit. This may sound very elementary but unless we yield our spirit to the Holy Spirit we will not hear what the Spirit of God is saying. We have to hear what the Spirit is saying in order to flow with the Spirit in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Turn in your Bible to First Corinthians 2:9-16 and read.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-16

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things: yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

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.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The Apostle Paul reveals that everything that comes to us by the Holy Spirit comes by Him speaking to our spirits (or by revelation). The deep things of God come by revelation of the Holy Spirit. It is by the communication of God's Spirit that we can know everything that has been freely given to us. The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God because those things are spiritually discerned. As we renew our mind to the Word of God and yield to the Spirit of God, we place ourselves in a position to experience the gifts of the Spirit operating through our lives.

For years I desired to move in the gifts of the Spirit. I was used in leading others to the Lord in salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I developed these gifts to the point that it seemed as natural as breathing. The maturing in these gifts became so evident and pronounced that others put a demand on me to lead their family and friends in the baptism. It is a great blessing to be used of the Lord for His Glory in these areas. But I hungered for more; I desired to flow in all the gifts and to be an even greater blessing to the Body of Christ. I thought it would just happen in a sense, but it never did seem to come to pass.

One day a guest speaker came who flowed so easily in the gifts of the Spirit, and I knew I wanted that too. The thought of flowing fully and easily in all the gifts stirred my spirit with yearning. I had to know how this minister could move so easily. Being an agent of more blessing and touching lives in a deeper way became a necessity. I also knew that the Spirit of God was nudging me gently to come forth in the abundance of His gifts.

After the service I told the guest speaker, "I desire to flow in the Spirit as easy as you do. Watching you encouraged me, knowing that it is what God desires as well. I want it very much for my life and ministry."

He said, "I know you get people saved and countless numbers filled with the Spirit. The same faith that is used to flow in these areas in which you're comfortable is the same faith flowing in all the gifts of the Spirit."

Little did he know that his simple counsel for me would be life-changing. Before he left he prayed for me during the service that I would be released to step out and flow in the supernatural. That is exactly what happened from that day forward. I am sensitive and listen to the Spirit. He directs and I obey. You will never flow if you do not step out when you hear the Spirit directing you. He's just waiting for you to trust Him and move!

Why People Do Not Step Out in Faith

There are two big reasons people do not step out in faith. They're either waiting for the Spirit to make them step out or they are afraid they will miss God. Let me tell you that you will miss it occasionally, but if you never step out you will never know how exciting it is to be used of the Spirit. While you are doing natural

things such as playing an instrument, you will play a wrong chord. If you sing you might sing a sour note. Perhaps you have made a mistake in your checkbook or perhaps you have made a wrong turn while driving an automobile. These things don't stop you from continuing on in life doing natural things does it? It is the same way in the spiritual realm. As we are in the process of learning we will all miss it, but that shouldn't stop us from continuing in spiritual things any more than it does the natural things. I give the people in our services the liberty to be used of God. I tell them we will learn how to flow in the Spirit together as we live out of the spirit realm. If you do miss it we will let you know, just as they did in the New Testament.

Now that we know the way the Holy Spirit works is by faith and hearing His voice, we will learn to flow in the Spirit. If I learned how to operate in the gifts of the Spirit so can you. It's for every born-again child of God! The Spirit always does His part but we must also do ours. There are several things we can do to get in the flow of the Spirit.

- **Meditate on God's Word on a regular basis.** Remember the Holy Spirit takes the words of Jesus and reveals them to us. The Word of God plus the Holy Spirit together equip us to flow in the Spirit.
- **Pray in the Spirit.** As we pray in other tongues we pray out divine mysteries and it will open the door for the Spirit of God to reveal them through us as the Spirit wills.
- **Yield to the leading of the Spirit.** If we are led by the Spirit we are sons of God, and sons hear what the Father speaks. Jesus said He only did what He heard the Father speak. We can hear from the Spirit and speak

what the Father wants us to speak just as Jesus did. We need to be listening and quiet before the Lord to hear the voice of the Spirit. As we do this the Spirit of God will speak to our spirit. When we hear we need to step out in faith and speak and act what the Father spoke so it will come to pass.

ROMANS 8:14

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Is This the Spirit Speaking?

Recently we did a series of church services. During one of the meetings, I had a word of knowledge concerning someone's ear. I gave the word and the pastor's daughter came forward to be prayed for. She was instantly healed.

Three weeks later, during worship in the church service, I heard these words in my spirit—not in an audible voice—*there is an ear that makes a popping sound and it opens and closes with some pain.* As I got up to open the service for a friend, who was ministering that night, I thought, *I had the same word a few weeks ago. Is this the Spirit speaking?* In my mind it did not make sense. **Note:** *We gain confidence and we learn indeed that we have heard from the Spirit of God by stepping out.* I encourage you to step out and experience the glory of being used by God in the gifts administered by the Holy Spirit.

I shared with the people that God had spoken to me about an ear that makes a popping sound and opens and closes with some pain.

The pastor's daughter again said, "That would be me! I know I was healed in a previous meeting, but last night I told my husband I felt some pain in that ear again." We prayed for her and she was immediately healed. Sometimes we need another touch from God. Whenever the Spirit does anything, the enemy will do his best to mess it up. What a liar he is! The Lord never leaves anything unfinished. We have constant victory because He is victorious. Isn't He the Greater One in us that the Bible talks about?

"The Body of Christ had an earache tonight," I said, "and Dr. Jesus, through the gifts of the Spirit, revealed it to us so the ear could be healed. Isn't He a gracious God?"

Associate with Those Who Flow with the Spirit of God

The Holy Spirit will increase in our lives if we associate ourselves with those who are used of the Spirit of God. If the leadership around you operates in the gifts of the Spirit you can observe and learn from them. Soon you will have the freedom to be used of the Spirit yourself. If leadership does not move in the things of the Spirit, it is highly unlikely that you will. If you do, it will be very limited because the disciple is not greater than the master. Anointing increases by association.

MATTHEW 10:24

²⁴ The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Fivefold Ministry Gifts

Jesus gave the Church the fivefold ministry so we could be perfected for the work of the ministry.

EPHESIANS 4:10-14

¹⁰ He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

The ministry gifts are put in place by God. They are anointed by the Spirit of God to help us grow and mature. Through the gifts we are equipped to be used in the things of the Spirit. The ministry gifts also protect us from the deception of men who would hinder our growth in the Spirit. If you attend a church where the leadership does not believe in the things of the Spirit and does not move in the Spirit realm, find a church where the leadership does believe and move in the gifts of the Spirit. If you stay where you are, you will create discord and it will affect the unity in that ministry.

AMOS 3:3

³ Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

We are to yield ourselves to those in authority. If we cannot be in agreement according to what we know biblically, it is probably a sign that we are in the wrong place. As you grow and draw closer to God and increase in the ways of the Spirit, you will have some life choices to make concerning family, friends, and relationships. Why you ask? It is a spiritual principal that Jesus taught Peter.

What Shall We Receive?

Mark 10:28-31

²⁸ Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

²⁹ And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

³⁰ But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

³¹ But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

Jesus answers Peter's question, "We have left all to follow you. We have forsaken everyone and everything. What shall we receive for this sacrifice?" Jesus said that all who have forsaken the natural things in this life (family and friends and homes and lands for the Gospel's sake) and reach for the greater things of the spirit life shall be rewarded in this life and the life to come. **Note:** *To forsake does not mean that you do not associate with family and friends, but it does mean that the will of God for your life takes priority over the here and now.*

You Can Count on Persecution

You can count on persecution. It will come as a result of your dedicated life lived out on a higher road. Others will not be able to understand you at times. They actually will envy your commitment and passion. You will hear more than once, "How can you forsake your family, leaving them behind while you go gallivanting to a country that is not even yours?" Those who are less committed to the Lord's work or choose to live out their own cause will be uncomfortable around you. Your dedication spotlights their indifference to eternal things, their lack of faith and commitment. The persecution will be there for those who have a

strong dedication to serve God. The Bible tells us to count it all joy when we are persecuted for the Gospel's sake.

For the Gospel's Sake

Every time I leave to minister in Croatia for the Gospel's sake, I forsake [or choose] the will of God over my own family. Thank God that Dana and our family supports and believes the will of God for us is greater than the time we are apart. When you do choose God's will over your own family for a time, no matter what country you are in, He will give you a Christian family, friends, homes and lands as you receive the hundredfold blessing of the godly relationships in this life.

Biblical Order of a Disciple's Life

Here is the biblical order for the life of a disciple of Christ who wants the kingdom revealed to the fullest extent in their lives and the lives of others. We accept Christ as our Savior according to the four Gospels. We are water baptized and move into the Book of Acts and receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit and power of God are available to flow in us just as it did in the early church. We enter into the epistles and yield to Spirit-filled leadership to bring us to a deeper maturity and revelation of the Spirit-filled Christian life. In the Name of Jesus, be quick to yield to the Spirit of God and step out in faith. In so doing, you will be used of the Lord in a mighty way. Amen!

Study Questions for Chapter 5 *The Tools of the Kingdom Revealed*

1. Just as the natural occupations have _____, Christ has given believers the necessary _____ tools to carry out the work of the Kingdom of God.

2. The Apostle Paul desired that the church at Corinth, and every _____ there after, would be informed when it comes to _____.

3. We have broken the Gifts of the Spirit into three groups to have a better understanding of them. According to *1 Corinthians 12:1-11* the nine Gifts of the Spirit are:

A. Revelation Gifts

1. Word of _____
2. Word of _____
3. Discerning of _____

B. Power Gifts

1. Gift of _____
2. Working of _____
3. Gifts of _____

C. Vocal Gifts

1. _____
2. _____ Kinds of Tongues
3. _____ of Tongues

4. If we don't let the _____ flow through our lives—that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself died for—we are _____ the Body of Christ of a great blessing.
5. The gifts of the Holy Spirit operate in the power of the Holy Spirit through your recreated _____ spirit.
6. The secret to flowing in the gifts of the Spirit is the same _____ that flows in all areas of your life. It is the same _____ in all the gifts of the Spirit.”
7. There are two reasons people do not step out in faith.
 - a. They are _____ for the Spirit to make them step out.
 - b. They allow _____ to stop them.
8. The Spirit always does His part but we must also do ours. There are several things you can do to get in the flow of the Spirit.
 - a. _____ on God's word on a regular basis.
 - b. _____ in the Spirit.
 - c. _____ to the leading of the Spirit by stepping out in faith.
9. The ministry gifts are put in place by God for three reasons.
 - a. They are anointed by the Spirit of God to help us _____ and mature.
 - b. Through the gifts we are _____ to be used in the things of the Spirit.
 - c. The ministry gifts also protect us from the _____ of men who would hinder our growth in the Spirit.

10. We are to yield ourselves to those in _____. If we can not be in agreement, according to what we know _____, it is probably a sign that we are in the _____ place.
11. As you grow and draw _____ to God, and _____ in the ways of the Spirit, you will have some _____ choices to make concerning family, friends, and relationships.
12. To _____ does not mean that you do not _____ with family and friends, but it does mean that the _____ of God for your life takes _____ over the here and now.

Results of the Kingdom Revealed

Chapter 6

In Matthew, chapter 28, verses 19-20, we read Jesus' final words to His disciples, "***Go ye into all the world and make disciples. . .***" So the mandate from Him was clear. In this chapter and lesson we will look at some foundational truths that can help propagate the enlargement or expansion of the Kingdom. You and I want to be a part of the results and evidences of the Kingdom being revealed. This chapter will lend itself to such efforts.

Of course, the first disciple to be most concerned about is ourself. We need to be constantly walking toward maturity—bearing the image of Christ. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Christians in the church at Corinth to follow his example.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

¹¹ Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

If we cannot be a good follower of Christ we will never be a good leader. A good leader influences the lives of others, providing an example of the life of discipleship that we are all called to live. Since it is the ultimate result of revealing the Kingdom of God, let's look at what it means to be a disciple [follower] of Christ.

Discipleship Training

To be a disciple is to receive spiritual training that produces Christ-like character. It is a person who is a follower of Christ, believing and living the teaching of Christ. This training is an on-going process. Developing the mature life of a disciple is like anything else of great value, it takes time and experience.

True discipleship is based on the Word of God. When the Spirit leads us, we will walk in the Spirit and not be caught up in fulfilling the lust of the flesh.

GALATIANS 5:16, 17

¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Take note that the Apostle Paul tells us if we allow the flesh to win over the Spirit we will not do the things that we are called to do. What things is Paul talking about? He is talking about living a life of higher purpose. A purpose that goes beyond this life and reaches into the kingdom life that we learned about from Jesus in the Lord's Prayer—*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

How are these results possible in our lives and the lives of others? It is done just as we see in the Word of God. The Scriptures show us that Jesus had His disciples, and that Paul had his disciples also. We are called to have disciples too, helping them in their walk with the Lord. As these disciples grow, they can go into the world and make other disciples. We are multiplying the Kingdom of God through discipleship, bringing it to the earth just as Jesus did.

I want to emphasize this truth: ***You will never become all that the Lord desires for you to be without a mentor to nurture, teach and encourage you in the things of God.***

The same principle applies in the natural realm. You would never bring your newborn baby home from the hospital and expect that child to survive by itself. We

know that a child would die or be severely hindered without the love and proper parental nurturing necessary for the child to become a healthy adult. It is the same way spiritually. We will never grow as a newborn in Christ to our full potential without having someone to nurture us in the things of the Lord.

Submit Yourself to an Elder

1 PETER 5:5-8

⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Peter is telling us that if we humble ourselves, and submit ourselves to those who are older in the Lord, we will be able to excel in the things of God. Peter also tells us that we are to be subject one to another. If we humble ourselves before God and one another, He will exalt us. We can be then used of Him in the way that pleases Him and furthers His kingdom. It is important to be submitted to God and to one another. It offers protection against the deception of the enemy. If we try to make it on our own, operating in pride and a spirit of independence, God resists us and we become an easy prey. Satan is always walking about, seeking whom he may devour. The Apostle Paul shows us in Titus the importance of godly leaders; and the importance of submitting ourselves to them and allowing them to teach us the ways of God by precept and example.

TITUS 2:1-11

¹ But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.

² That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

³ The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

⁴ That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

⁵ To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

⁶ Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

⁷ In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

⁸ Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

⁹ Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

¹⁰ Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

Praise the Lord for the discipleship through His Word and His saints which enable us to grow in Him. These Scriptures show us how to live a godly life in this world, but not be of it. When we do, it qualifies us to reach out to a lost and dying world.

A Christian Mentor

I thank the Lord for a mature Christian couple in Northern Michigan where I lived who made it a priority to become part of my life. They wanted to help me grow in Christ. I have known them for over 28 years and I am still in fellowship with them, even though we live a 12-hour drive apart. **Note:** *This is a great Christian couple and they are great role models together, but my relationship and contact was with the man. Remember men disciple or mentor men and women disciple and mentor women.*

This couple was always there to make sure I was attending church and growing in the things of God. He would stop by my house to check on me, and would give me good Christian books. They would meet me at a restaurant and buy my dinner. My mentor and I often met for coffee and fellowship. I was in constant contact with them in everyday life. As a result of this daily contact, we became so close that when he came by to see me he knew immediately if something was wrong.

Encouragement in a Crisis

On one occasion a member of the church said something unscriptural to me. What they said made it seem like I was not obeying God even though I lived for God with my life. The remark was out of order and it was hurtful to have another believer come against me—I even entertained thoughts of quitting our church. Thank God for my mentor who was such an encouragement to me. He told me that the person who made the statement was wrong and counseled me not to let the incident affect my walk with God. I was young in the Lord but because I had a mentor I was able to continue my walk, growing and maturing in the things of God. Through the years I have done the same for many others. I have taught, instructed and counseled them to help them mature. I was preparing them for the time when they too would go and make disciples. Here are some keys that will assist you in this two-way mentoring/discipleship relationship. If there is not a two-way commitment in the discipleship process, no growth will ever take place.

Spiritual Keys to Discipleship

Spiritual Key No. 1 -- Set a Godly Standard

When we make disciples we must set the godly standard by being committed to live out the Word of God. If there is not a higher level of spiritual growth and maturity to obtain there will never be a higher spiritual level in God for them to reach.

JOHN 8:31

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

All true disciples have to live according to God's Word. If the people we disciple are not continually living out the Word on a consistent basis, we will never see the Kingdom of God revealed.

Benefits of Bible School

It is great to sit down with those you disciple for a regular time of Bible study. For 12 weeks each year we had a Bible school. We held classes for two hours a night. This was in addition to church services, guest speakers, and other special events.

Several instructors, including myself, taught the two-hour class sessions. We followed pre-determined guidelines but we were flexible as needed. The students were expected to be on time and attend all classes. They could miss a number of classes under extenuating circumstances. After each assignment the students were tested on the lesson just completed. During this time of intense training we saw relationships mature and students reach a new level of spiritual growth. We developed our ministry team from this group. This type of instruction

can be done on an individual basis outside of the church setting, or in a small group setting.

Spiritual Key No. 2 -- Train your disciple to live after the Spirit and to recognize they are a three-part being: spirit, soul and body.

People need to know they are a spirit, possess a soul, and live in a body. Your spirit is in contact with the spirit realm; your mind is in contact with the mental realm; and your body is in contact with the physical realm. We must train the disciple to walk in the spirit, to renew their mind, and keep their flesh yielded to their spirit. By doing so, they are equipped to live out of the Kingdom of God. Two great resources on this subject are Kenneth E. Hagin's books, *How to be Led by the Spirit of God* and *Man of Three Dimensions*.

I THESSALONIANS 5:23

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Key No. 3 -- Disciple and train in the ministry of the Kingdom of God.

How do we take people from knowledge to wisdom (or applied knowledge)? This is accomplished by taking the person you disciple with you as you reach out and minister to others. I have heard the question asked, "Are things in life taught or caught?" I believe it is both. We learn by knowledge or instruction, but we must apply that knowledge with hands-on experience. The person you are mentoring will be able to release the ability and the skills learned by precept and example. Knowledge alone is not enough without the opportunity to apply what they know.

We encourage them to step out into experience by modeling for them how to move in ministry by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I PETER 4:11

¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it with the ability that God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The reason the Lord laid it on my heart to write this book was to give disciples a vision of the call of God on their lives and to furnish the information they will need to step out in confidence to minister to others. Throughout this book I have provided many stories, my own as well as others, to help you identify and release your God-given potential to build the Kingdom of God.

Process of Discipleship

The world calls this process role-modeling, apprenticeship, internship, personal coach, life coach or even “on-the-job training.” We call it discipleship, spiritual mentoring, spiritual role modeling or ministry of helps training. The process takes people from being a hearer of the Word to a doer of the Word.

James 1:22-25

²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Steps of Discipleship

Step #1 Have the person watch what you are doing for a time—it can be natural or spiritual, the process is the same.

Step # 2 After a time of watching, have them help you do what you are doing.

Step # 3 After they have helped you for a time, let them do it and you help.

Step # 4 Now, let them do it as you watch them accomplish the task at hand.

Through this process of knowledge, confidence, and repetition in a controlled environment we gain experience and with experience comes confidence. My desire is to release the principal, the plan, the power and the tools that will ensure the results necessary to manifest His kingdom in the earth through you and all those you disciple.

Pitfalls of Discipleship

Now that we have briefly covered the “how to” of discipleship, I want you to be aware of the pitfalls you will discover while helping others grow in Christ. One major pitfall is to see someone only after his or her potential. You can mentor a “diamond in the rough” but if the “diamond” does not want to be mentored they are not going to put forth the effort that is required of them. Have you ever wanted something so much for someone else and then found out they were not willing to do what it takes to achieve the result? You will be disappointed time after time because the one you have tried to help does not want any help—if they don’t want help then they will see your “help” as interference. There are people in life that just want what you have but don’t want to do the work it takes to get to that position and growth.

Connection People

Don't lose heart! You are in good company. Jesus experienced the same problem. Many who followed Him just wanted the miracles, the free meals, the attention of the Master, but did not want to make the commitment to take up their cross and follow Him. I call these people "connection people." If you have a car and they need a ride, you are their ride connection. If you pay their electric bill, you are their electric bill connection. If you give them money, you are their money connection. If you give them food, you are their food connection. For example, we had a gentleman in our church that did not have a car. Certain people in the church picked him up for every church service for a period of two weeks. One member, who was one of those who picked him up, came to me and told me he wanted to give this man a car so he could come to church on his own. I found out later the man with no car had been dropping hints to others that he believed God would give him a car. I sensed in my spirit the man was manipulating the circumstances and a car should not be given to him. I told the church member who wanted to give this man a car to pray about it to make sure it was God's will. I certainly couldn't stop him. The member did give the gentleman a car and the man who was given the car never came to church again.

Wait-and-See Plan

I believe in the "wait-a-little-bit-and-see" plan. If a person sincerely has a desire to grow in Christ when conditions are unfavorable, then he is a good candidate. Two weeks is not enough of a testing time to see if there is a real hunger for the things of God. Remember the man who received the car from a

church member so he could come to church? I called him after a week and asked him why he had not been in church. His reply included profane cursing remonstrating, *It was none of my business if he came to church or not.* By acting too quickly we can become the enabler. It allows the person to continue to manipulate people and to live in an immature way. Just remember helping sometimes is not helping. One way to find out if you are just their connection in any given area is to withhold the benefit a time or two. You will quickly find out if they have a heart after God or not. They either grow or disappear!

The devil and our flesh will make certain any opportunity to grow is short-circuited. If we cannot discipline our flesh and submit to the Word of God and the Spirit of God, we will never see the growing process of discipleship. If there is no commitment to the mentoring/discipleship relationship, good-hearted believers will sometimes get hurt.

Matthew 10:16b

^{16b} . . . be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Church Hoppers

Another pitfall to take into account is the number of churches a person has been to before they came to you. Every Christian should listen to other people's words very carefully.

When these Christians have been to every church in the area, and every problem in life is someone else's fault, they do not want to grow nor can anyone correct them. Their mentality is revealed by their attitude of "What's in it for me?" If they don't get their own way they will go somewhere else where they can get what they want. They are also quick to let everyone know how abused and mistreated they have been. I have found that the best way to address the problem is to tell them that if they have issues with others, all parties should come together. This way the truth will come out, and any conflicts are resolved before they move on into any new relationships. The examples above are just a few of the pitfalls in which to be aware.

Qualifying Those Who You Should Disciple

How can we know if we are really helping a disciple to grow in the things of God? How can we know whether or not a person is becoming a truly committed disciple?

Just as a newborn child in the natural needs nurturing, we must do the same spiritually when it comes to discipleship or mentoring. This process, of course, requires us to be led by the Spirit and hear from God. In the natural my children were not toilet trained at the same age nor did they learn to walk, tie their shoes, read and write, swim or ride a bike in the exact same timeframe. It was all a process that we helped them accomplish to prepare them to function in this life. Can you imagine what it would be like to go to the high school everyday to help my 17-year-old daughter tie her shoes or to change her diaper? You would certainly notice that something was not right. It might appear that we did not fulfill

our responsibilities as parents. You would think there was something wrong with our children. They are either defiant and don't want to learn or they both need some special help. Either way in the training process there needs to be growth, commitment, patience and nurturing for them to develop the way they should. It is the same spiritually when it comes to developing in Christ.

1 PETER 2:2

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

There must be continuing growth toward maturity or the Kingdom of God can never be fully revealed or moved forward. As a person grows there should be evidence of their salvation by the way they live their daily lives. Are they renewing their minds by reading their Bible regularly? Are they coming to church on a consistent basis? Are they tithing and giving financially to God's kingdom? Do they witness and share their faith? If they need to be set free from drugs, tobacco, alcohol, illicit sex, cursing and other fleshly hang-ups, are they learning to walk out their deliverance? I believe they must be willing to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, and there must be a renewing of their mind as Paul said to the church at Rome.

ROMANS 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

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

Be Accountable

There should be significant changes in their lives that are obvious. The more faithful they are to the things of God, the more they are conformed to the image of Christ. If there is not a consistent turning from living in the flesh to walking in the Spirit in a reasonable span of time, it is likely they are refusing to grow in Christ. Am I saying we have specific timeframes for discipleship growth? Yes and no. I am saying we can hold people accountable to the mentor/disciple relationship. They must make a choice to continue or not continue in their role as a disciple. That choice should be made knowing that they will be held to a higher spiritual standard. It is not the best stewardship of our lives to continue in a relationship when there is no commitment to Christ and very little growth in the person you are mentoring.

As a pastor, I would never stop anyone from sitting in a church service to hear the Word of God. However, I can make a choice when it comes to pouring out my time, energy and life. I will minister to everyone and mentor those who want to grow in the things of God. We are responsible for how we use our time and energy whether it is discipleship or ministry to others. This is the time when you need to hear from the Spirit of God. I pray this chapter will give you the wisdom and insight to go into your world and effectively disciple others.

Study Questions for Chapter 6 Results of the Kingdom Revealed

1. What are the results and evidences of the kingdom being revealed? That we go into our _____ and make _____.

2. If we cannot be a good _____ of _____ we will never be a _____ leader.
3. To be a disciple is to receive _____ training that produces a _____ like character.
4. True discipleship is based on the _____ of God.
5. The Scriptures show us that _____ had His disciples. We see that _____ had his disciples also. _____ are called to have disciples too, to help them in their walk with the Lord. Then _____ can go into the world and make other disciples.
6. You will never become all that the Lord desires for you to be without a mentor to _____, _____ and _____ you in the things of God.
7. It is important to be submitted to _____ and to _____ another.
8. Spiritual Keys to Discipleship
 - a. Set a _____ standard.
 - b. _____ your disciple to live after the Spirit and to recognize they are a three-part being: spirit, soul and body.
 - c. _____ and train in the ministry of the Kingdom of God.
9. List the four-step process of discipleship.
 - a. Have the person _____ what you are doing for a time—it can be natural or spiritual, the process is the same.

- b. After a time of watching, have them _____ you do what you are doing.
 - c. After they have _____ you for a time, let them _____ it and you help.
 - d. Now, let them do it as you watch them _____ the task at hand.
10. List two pitfalls of discipleship.
- a. One pitfall is to see someone only after their _____.
 - b. Another pitfall to take into account is the _____ of churches a person has been to before they came to you.
11. List some qualifying qualities of those who you should continue to disciple
- a. Do they have a continuing growth toward _____?
 - b. Do they renew their _____ by reading their Bible regularly?
 - c. Do they come to _____ on a consistent basis?
 - d. Do they tithe and give _____ to God's kingdom?
 - e. Do they _____ and share their faith?
 - f. Are they _____ to walk out their deliverance from the flesh?
 - g. Are there _____ changes in their lives that are obvious?
12. We are _____ for how we use our _____ and _____ whether it is discipleship or ministry to others.

Personal Stories of the Kingdom Revealed

Chapter 7

There are many callings upon believers' lives—both laymen and fivefold ministry gifts. However, there is a general call from God for each member of the

Body of Christ—that's you and me (whoever you are). May God's passion urge or force you to reach out to the needs of lost humanity; and may you be cognizant that as a believer you must seize the day-to-day moments that the Holy Spirit provides to touch a life with God's Holy Spirit-given power.

We have revealed God's Kingdom purposes in this book. However, it is up to you to seize those moments and to be a witness of that power for Jesus Christ in the remaining moments of this dispensation.

The stories that follow are mostly my own personal experiences of following the leading of God and being obedient to minister to people in need. Also included are a few experiences of friends and acquaintances that also seized Holy Ghost moments to change a life. May you realize the simplicity of being led by the Holy Ghost and witnessing to God's power just as the early church and Christians throughout the ages have done?

A Friend's Funeral

Several years ago I had to officiate at the funeral of a close friend in my hometown in Michigan. I had been close to the whole family, ministering to them for almost 20 years.

The week before my friend's tragic death his father had passed away. He had accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior just four months before his death—***thank the Lord!*** The night before my friend died his wife called and asked me to call and check on him. Grief for his father was still fresh and she wanted to make sure he was okay. As I talked with him he seemed to be in a good frame of mind. He was excited and thankful about the way the Lord had worked in his

father's life. What a blessing because he knew he would see his father again and was comforted. He also told me he was in the process of moving his mother in with them since he felt like she needed to be with them since his father's death.

The next morning at 6 AM my friend's wife called again screaming hysterically on the phone saying, "He's b—b—been killed in a plane crash!"

I was stunned! I felt like I was living out a bad dream. It took me a minute to comprehend what had happened. It is hard sometimes to believe so much could happen in such a short period of time. He had worked for a company as a pilot for several years, flying mail from city to city. I knew he was a good pilot because I had flown with him. *What on earth could have happened?* I wondered. I was still reeling from the sudden awakening. We packed and left for Michigan the next morning.

At the funeral visitation I met one of his pilot friends. Before I knew it I was sharing with him about the comfort of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our greatest tragedies. *Is this appropriate at a funeral visitation?* I wondered if it was protocol to lead his co-worker in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I looked over at the closed casket with my closest friend resting inside. I knew him well enough to know how important it was to him for the lives of people to be touched with the love of God. I could see him looking down on us and saying, "Go for it! Please just go ahead and be used of God."

I took the co-worker in the other room and led him in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Out of the corner of my eye I could see his mother, who was a short distance away, with "Praise the Lord" written all over her face. I was thinking, *She has just*

lost her husband and a week later her son, but she still rejoices because she knew her Father God was working in the midst of the gravest crisis in her life. Thank the Lord that He will intervene and work in such unexpected ways in unexpected places, and certainly in ways we would never imagine.

PSALM 116:15

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Back to Prison I Go

I worked corrections at the largest federal prison hospital in the United States. It is located in Springfield, Missouri. I had the opportunity to return with an outreach group sponsored by our church in Branson, Missouri, which is only 30 miles away. I went along as part of the team. We held a Saturday Christian Rock Concert that was attended by close to 300 inmates.

At the close of the concert the lead singer was unable to get a response to the altar call from the inmates. Knowing that I had worked in the prison system, he passed the microphone to me.

I knew by experience that in this environment the inmates were not about to show any weakness. They all went out of their way to prove they were macho, tough guys. I knew an altar call would have to transcend the “here and now” with an eternal challenge in order to break the spirit of pride. So I reached out to them and gave one of the strongest altar calls I have ever given—by faith.

“Any one can hide behind a tough guy stance, but it takes a real man to admit he needs a Savior,” I challenged them. “A man is one who can step out regardless of peer pressure or what others may think.” I stepped out in the

boldness of God. I knew if just one inmate would give in to the Holy Spirit, that it would break the negative influence that was prevalent.

In the back of the room one man in a wheel chair with his shoulder in a cast raised his good arm to receive the Lord as his personal Savior. You could hear a pin drop. I motioned him to come down front knowing if he would come forward others would follow. As he came forward, I gave those in attendance the opportunity to know the Lord with another bold challenge.

As I worked with the crowd, the Spirit of the Lord broke through. Nine inmates who were touched by the power of God came to the front.

“Those of you who want to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior repeat this prayer after me,” I said.

Note: As a former guard and now a minister, I prayed with my eyes open knowing that at any time I might be assaulted in such an environment.

After I prayed, I shared about the power of God and how all new believers are commanded by Jesus to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The nine inmates stayed right there and prayed to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Each new believer released their prayer language and was filled to overflowing.

After the service while the crowd was leaving, I visited with one of the inmates I knew who was saved and filled with the Spirit. He had resided in the Psych Unit when I was there as a guard. On many occasions I had saved his life because of attempted suicide. What a blessing of the Lord to see him grow into the things of God. *How ironic*, I thought. I saved his life first in the natural realm, and then God used me to help save his life spiritually. Praise the Lord!

Bear and Limo Team Up for God

While at a men's retreat when I was on staff at a church in Branson, Missouri, a God idea came to me. There was a man in our church who had a limousine business. He told us that he really wanted to use his business for God.

"Do you really mean it?" I asked him.

He said, "I am more than willing to let the Lord use my business; in fact, it is my heart's desire. Do you have something in mind?"

"Yes I do. This is going to be great," I said. "I'd like you to drive us around with our famous seven-foot bear that we use in children's church. We would go out into the neighborhoods and hand out candy to the kids along with a 5x7 autographed pictures of Bible Bear holding his Bible, and with our own created Bible Bear witnessing cartoon tract. What do you think?"

The Limo business owner got excited. "Yes," he said, "Let's do it!"

After I had the 5x7 autographed picture of Bible Bear made up, stocked up on candy and tracts, we started the ministry of the bear and the limo. We went into the neighborhoods, handed out the pictures to the kids along with the Bible Bear witnessing cartoon tracts that we had created. Oh how the kids loved it when Bible Bear came to their neighborhood. Bible Bear soon became a local celebrity.

One night while we were out, a lady came out of her condo with her camera in hand to take our pictures.

She said, "I wish my grandson was here because today is his birthday."

"Where is he at?" I asked.

"He is about four miles away at my son's house having his birthday party."

I opened the limo door and with a twinkle in my eye said, “Get in, grandma, we are going to his party!”

You should have seen the joy on grandma’s face. No one would expect her to show up with the famous Bible Bear in a limo. When we got to the party we met her grandson, and Bible Bear wished him a happy birthday. We gave him candy, a tract, and a picture of Bible Bear to remember his special birthday. We took grandma home after the birthday visit. She and her grandson would not soon forget that Bible Bear came to wish him a happy birthday.

Who would think that a bear and a limo could touch hearts for the Kingdom of God? The unique thing about the outreach we were doing was that when new visitors would call our church they would ask, “Is this the church that the bear in the limo attends?”

My answer was always the same. “Yes, this is the church where the bear in a limo attends.” The Apostle Paul knew a little about the foolishness of preaching.

I CORINTHIANS 1:21

²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Called or Preoccupied With Self? You Choose

Have you ever wondered why we do the things we do? I often ask people, “Are we called of God or preoccupied with self?” Our answer would depend on our belief in what Jesus states in the book of Matthew chapter 20 verse 16, so

the last shall be first, and the first last: ***for many are called, but few are chosen.***

You ask, “Just exactly what does ‘for many are called, but few are chosen’ mean? Isn’t being called the same thing as being chosen?” It can be, if you choose to follow the calling of the Lord. If you make a decision to follow His call on your life, you are chosen. I have a story to share with you that is an example of being called and being one that is chosen.

I knew I was called to take a mission trip to Kiev, Ukraine. Airfare was secured, dates were set and plans were made. I got into my car, leaving the comfort of my home and family, and drove six hours to Dallas, Texas. I spent the night with a friend who planned to take this mission trip with me. The next day we boarded our flight to Newark, New Jersey. We flew from New Jersey to Warsaw, Poland and from there to Kiev, Ukraine. From Kiev we rode in a van to the train station for a nine hour train ride to the city of Dnipropetrovs’k, Ukraine. Next we took a cab to go to our room where we could clean up. Finally we took another cab to the church to preach.

It was hard to believe that thirty-five hours earlier we had been in Dallas, Texas. We had traveled at least 7000 miles by planes, trains and automobiles to preach the gospel. I will never forget this experience.

When we arrived at the church that Sunday morning, we found out that the meeting was outdoors. There were about six hundred people attending the

meeting. I walked up on the stage with the interpreter to preach. As I did I was followed by a pesky sweat bee that was buzzing around me. This seems trivial but it is not when you are allergic to bee stings—I have almost died from their stings so this was critical for me.

I'm sure I was the liveliest preacher they had ever had as I ran back and forth across the stage. Little did they know I had a bee on my tail chasing me. The problem finally was resolved when at last the bee got tired and left me alone. Thank you, Jesus!

As it turned out the sweat bee was not my only challenge that Sunday morning. When I began to preach a police car pulled up behind the crowd. Four policemen got out of their patrol car. They all leaned up against the car and just stood there. While they were watching it seemed like an eternity because I wasn't sure why they were there. *Could I go to jail?* The only thing I could do was just to keep preaching—it was too late to change the circumstance. The police finally got in their car and drove off. Whew! Thank you, Jesus. No jail time for me. Later I found out the police were checking to make sure the pastor had a permit to hold an outdoor meeting. When I came to the end of my message on the great commission Christ gave the church I gave an altar call. Several came forward to receive Christ as their Savior. Then I gave a call for those who wanted to be baptized in the power of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues. The response was overwhelming. The people just kept coming. About two hundred people came forward to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. I wanted to

pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming! It is so exciting to minister where the people have such a hunger for the things of God. When the ground is fertile you reap an abundant harvest. I know we did that Sunday morning in spite of sweat bees, police and all.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Children's Pastor Equipped for Service

Ministers from our area were beginning to arrive at the Ministerial Association's summer camp for children. The voices of happy children and spontaneous laughter filled the air. The camp was buzzing with activity and excitement as the final plans were put in place. Each service would be geared to minister to the children in worship, praise, drama, skits and teaching of the Word. The ultimate goal was to provide opportunities for the kids, who did not know the Lord, to ask Jesus into their hearts and to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I was asked to do the altar call on the night they were going to teach on the power of the Holy Spirit. Leading others in the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the easiest thing in the world to me; recognizing it as a gift from God, I was overjoyed to help.

While we were standing in line waiting for dinner that night, a children's pastor started a conversation with me.

"I am glad you are doing the altar call tonight," he said.

"Why do you say that?" I asked him.

“I am not filled myself,” he confessed. “I have been seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit for the last 10 years. I wait and wait but nothing ever happens.”

“Well, I have good news for you: Tonight is your night! You will be baptized with the gift of the Holy Spirit tonight after the service.”

We held service that night for about 230 children. After the worship, teaching, skits, and drama they had me come give the altar call.

I gave the first altar call for salvation. Many children responded and gave their hearts to the Lord. After this I gave the call for the power of the Holy Spirit, and the children who were not Spirit-filled began to come. I was stunned! Almost all of the children came forward. I led them all in a group prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I asked the adults and the children who were Spirit-filled to go into the group and pray with them and to help them release their prayer language. After about 30 minutes, all were praying in the Spirit; being touched by the Lord in a special way.

At the end of service I went to the children’s pastor and said, “Do you remember I told you earlier that tonight is your night?”

“Yes, I sure do.”

I shared with him for about five minutes on the Holy Spirit. Then we prayed and he was filled with the power of God.

As he prayed in the Spirit he stopped to say, “If it is this easy, why have I had to wait all this time?”

It was obvious that he was disturbed so I asked, “What is it that puzzles and disturbs you?”

“In all the 10 long years of seeking the baptism,” he said, “nobody came to show me the way or help me receive the power of God.”

“Some of God’s people are timid when it comes to stepping out in the things of the Spirit. They mistakenly try to work up confidence in themselves and so they never move. It is confidence and trust in God that produces the results. Our job is to be an available vessel.

“Yes, it is that easy. Our Heavenly Father wants to give you the Spirit. Don’t grieve over the years that you have spent seeking the Spirit. Rejoice that tonight you are filled. That 10-year wait is over and the past is overwhelmed by joy in the Holy Spirit.”

After we left the meeting he said, “I am so thankful that you came alongside and led me in the baptism. Now I won’t have to get someone else to lead the kids, I can do it. I can serve the Lord and I can minister to them more effectively.”

“Glory to God,” I said, rejoicing with him. “It is the Lord’s will and it is His desire that you are equipped with power for His service.”

Christmastime Blessing

One Christmas a couple who went to our church invited us to join them for dinner. The wife’s father and grandma were visiting from Louisiana and they wanted us to meet them.

After dinner grandma went to take a nap while the couple, her father, and my wife and I settled in to enjoy some after-dinner fellowship. During the conversation the father told us about the many struggles he had with his health and began to ask questions about spiritual things.

“You know,” I said, “many times I have witnessed people being completely healed when they receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

You could tell that he was hungry as he listened intently as I explained to him what the Scriptures said about the Holy Spirit. The longer I shared with him the more I could sense the level of his confidence rising. At last he was at the place where I knew by the Spirit that he was ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He not only received his prayer language but he was completely healed at the same time.

The couple, the father, and my wife and I rejoiced, praising God that the wife’s dad had been filled with the Holy Spirit.

“What’s all the fuss about?” Grandma said. She had just walked into the room after her nap.

Her son, the wife’s father, immediately began to tell his Mom what the Lord had done while she had been sleeping. We could see by her expression and the look in her eyes that she felt like she had missed out. The wife added that her grandma had been having vision trouble.

“No one is left out of the things of the Spirit,” I said. “You can be healed and filled with the Spirit too right here right now.”

The son was nodding his head in agreement as if to say, “Go ahead Mom!”

“What do you think, Grandma? Are you ready to be filled like your son?”

“Of course!” she said enthusiastically. “I’m not missing out on a blessing from the Lord.”

Everyone in the room joined with Grandma and me as I led her in prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. She was gloriously filled!

“Let’s agree in prayer for your sight too. I prayed, “Jesus, in Your name we pray for Grandma’s sight to be restored. Amen.”

As she opened her eyes she said, “My sight is getting better already!”

We all had a wonderful time in the Lord, but now it was time to leave. They all thanked us as we headed toward the door. Grandma and the wife’s dad said their goodbyes—they would be leaving soon for their home in Louisiana. I am sure this visit will not be forgotten; a Christmas forever etched in their memories because of God’s great gift to them.

Now I have a word for you, dear reader. As long as you have breath, no matter where you are, whether you are young or old, you can be filled and energized by the Holy Spirit. God has a plan and purpose for your life and with all of His heart He wants to release it in you. Thank God for the Holy Spirit moving in the lives of people. He is a God who knows your need whether you are in Louisiana, Missouri, or the uttermost part of the world.

Four Guys and a Cross

On many occasions during our yearly mission trip to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana, a man named Paul would dress up like Jesus and carry the cross out on the streets. He wore a crown of thorns and was covered with blood; representing to the people what Christ went through for all humanity. It was a visually powerful tool as we witnessed to the people we met along the way.

We had an interesting opportunity while returning to the church we stayed at in the ghetto of New Orleans. We had spent the evening street witnessing and as we were getting ready to unload the cross that Paul carried on top of the van, we saw two men passing by.

As they approached I asked, "Hey, would you give us a hand unloading the cross?"

"Sure, be glad to." They walked over to the van to get the cross down from the top.

"Thanks a lot guys." I introduced myself and told them we had been out witnessing on the streets of New Orleans using the cross to bring home the stark reality of Christ's sacrifice for our sins.

"That's cool." They continued to look at me as if they were expecting the rest of the story.

So I began to tell them about the cross, paraphrasing what Jesus said in the Book of Luke.

LUKE 9:23

²³ And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

"Wow! We have never heard that before. We didn't know there was such a thing. How do we follow Him?"

I shared with them about the Cross of Christ and how He died for our sins.

"Would you like to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?"

"Yes, we would!"

I prayed with them and they asked Jesus into their lives as Lord and Savior. The street lights reflected light illuminating the cross right next to them, showing their faces aglow with redemption. We could sense the presence of Jesus in our midst. Thank God for His prompting to use the “natural” cross to bring these men to the “real” cross.

God Makes House Calls

One day while I was visiting a local chiropractor, she told me her son, a senior in high school, had just gotten saved. “Would you talk to my son about the infilling of the Holy Spirit?” she asked.

Once again, I heard an opportunity knocking on my door. Being eager to see her son filled with the power of the Holy Spirit I naturally said, “Most certainly. If you will give me his phone number, I’ll set up an appointment with him.”

We set up a time to meet at their house. When I arrived we introduced ourselves, and I immediately began to talk to him about the things of the Lord, how great it was that he had gotten saved.

He shared his testimony with me and then said, “I’m having trouble breaking away from my old lifestyle. I struggle and struggle but don’t seem to be making any headway at all. I just know I want to be free of it!”

I looked at his troubled face, heard his heart’s cry and with compassion said, “You can have the power to overcome your past.”

“Yeah, yeah, I want that very much, but how?”

After teaching him about the “why” and “how to” of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, he was gloriously filled as I led him in the baptism. His life has not been the

same since. He went to Bible School for two years and is now married and continues to serve God.

About three years later this young man's sister came to a healing meeting at our church; she was healed of a lung problem. The next day, a friend and I went to her mother's home to meet with her—she had just been saved two weeks before and was healed the night before. It was time to share with her about the infilling of the Holy Spirit. As she said yes to the Holy Spirit, Jesus filled her with this special gift from heaven.

I was at the same chiropractor's office about a year later. She said, "My husband was raised to believe speaking in tongues was not of God. Now, however, he is surrounded by a Spirit-filled family. He is out-ranked by the truth."

"He either has to change his mind and be open to be filled or he will continue to deceive himself. With all the evidence operating in the lives of this family, it would be pretty hard not to change his mind. However, I'll call you when he is ready to talk."

Two weeks later she called. When I arrived, the doctor went back to her office so her husband and I could be alone in their house. I asked the husband about his commitment to Christ.

"God has done a lot for your family," I said to him. "They have all been filled with the Spirit of God, and they are all empowered to live the Christian life in His sustaining power. Would you like the Lord to do the same for you?"

He said, "Yes. I would like that."

I shared with him about the Holy Spirit infilling. We prayed and Jesus baptized him in the Holy Spirit. I'm so glad that opportunity knocked for this family, and that God still makes house calls.

On a Mission for God

While I was attending a minister's meeting, another minister—who had a church about 50 miles from ours—began telling me about a man he knew that lived 20 miles from the church my wife and I pastored.

The minister said, "I've known this man since he was a teenager. He was in and out of trouble, and finally went to prison for five years for stealing a car. His life was so full of meanness and hatred. One day this hatred drove him to come to my house. His plan was to kill me. With God's providential care protecting me, that particular day I was not home. He left with the intent of returning another time. Later he told me that while he was driving down the interstate on his way home, the Lord's presence came into his car. A powerful peace overwhelmed him and he immediately surrendered his life to the Lord, accepting Christ as his Savior. If not for the Lord's intervention, I might have been murdered. Thank God for the man's salvation!"

"Whew! I'm glad too. Has he been filled with the Holy Spirit's power into his life?" I said.

"I don't think so. He didn't mention it anyway."

"Do you have his phone number?"

"I don't have his number with me, but I know where his automotive shop is. Let me give you the directions."

About two weeks later, I decided to go get some groceries in that town and while I was there I stopped to see him—turning my journey into a mission for God. I found his automotive shop and introduced myself to him.

“Yeah, the Pastor called me and told me you would probably be coming to see me,” he said, giving me the once over. “Come into my office and have a seat.”

He confessed to me how he had gone to kill the preacher he had known since his youth. “It’s a good thing he wasn’t home,” the man said. Then he witnessed to me how he had gotten saved in his car on the way home.

“That’s great,” I said, and then I shared with him how the Lord had worked in my life. After 30 minutes of sharing with him, I brought him to a place of decision to be filled with the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He was baptized right there in his office. You could tell it was a little awkward for him. **Note:** When you first start operating in the Spirit, you may feel clumsy because you are accustomed to operating in the natural realm of the flesh and moving in God’s Spirit is not comfortable to the flesh.

One hour after I left his shop he came to my house, which was located by the church, and He wanted all the books about the Lord that I had in my possession. I gladly loaded him down with enough reading material to satisfy his hunger to learn about the Lord.

During the time he came to our church, the Lord used him to bring several people, in circumstances similar to his own, into the Kingdom of God. He would come by the house and enjoin me to talk with others he met needing the Holy

Ghost. I would lead them to the Lord and in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Thank God for Holy Ghost boldness.

One day he said, “You took a big risk coming to see me at my shop. Even though I was saved, the Lord still had to knock all that hate out of me. I was glad you led me in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It gave me the hope of a new beginning.”

I told him later as our relationship developed that I am not intimidated by any person or devil because the Kingdom of God is greater than the kingdom of darkness.

MATTHEW 11:12

¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

Piano Player’s Back Healed By Shirley Blackburn

In the spring of 1964 the rain was coming down in sheets, all but blinding drivers. I was waiting at an intersection to make a left turn when out of no where, “Whack . . . Screech!” It took me a minute to figure out what had happened. Then I realized I had been hit from behind by a car that had been rear-ended by a pick-up truck. I was treated for severe whip lash, wearing a neck brace for two months and undergoing therapy. Little did I know that the pelvic bone had been thrust forward and up, causing my hip and back to be out of place. For 33 years I had constant back pain.

I had little grandbabies that I couldn’t lift plus being limited in the type of house work I could do. I longed to pick those babies up to cuddle them. I could

only take care of them for a short time because I couldn't pick them up out of their playpen. I also loved to work in the yard but those days were long over too. I didn't have full body x-rays at the time of the accident, so no one knew about my hip, back and pelvic injuries. Later on in life, x-rays revealed the damage. I just knew in my spirit that one day God would heal my back. I didn't want anyone to operate on my spine until Dr. Jesus did it.

In the mid-90s our church—where I play the piano—had a guest evangelist in to minister for several services. After the morning service as everyone was leaving, a woman came up to the Pastor and said, “Your piano player’s back is going to be healed in tonight’s service.”

My Pastor didn't say a word about it to me; he just kept it to himself. He wanted to see how God worked it out. Sure enough, at the end of the service when the evangelist was ministering healing to the people, she stopped looked at me and called me out. “Come up here, sister,” she said. “The Lord wants to heal your back.”

She began to pray as she laid hands on me, and... Zap!!! There was power rushing up and down my spine. I was dancing around because the heat made me squirm, and I continued to squirm for several minutes. [*It was powerful, believe me, and wonderful.*]

“After 33 years I’m healed,” I shouted. “Hallelujah, hallelujah. Praise God.”

The church is always edified when they see God working right before their eyes. No one could deny the healing power of God. He had announced His intentions by a word of knowledge.

The next day I lifted my grandbabies over my head twirling them around in delight. I worked several hours doing yard work. Needless to say, I was sore, but it was a “good sore” from using back muscles that hadn’t had a good workout in years.

Later my Pastor said, “A lady in the morning service told me on her way out that your piano player’s back will be healed tonight.”

A word of knowledge shared with my Pastor from someone I didn’t know and who knew nothing about my back made it even more amazing.

MARK 16:17-18

¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and it will by no means hurt them;

¹⁸ They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

The Power of God Reaches the Youth and Changes Lives

ACTS 1:8

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.

There were so many opportunities to witness changes in people’s lives while my wife and I were on staff at a church in Branson, Missouri. One such opportunity began at an indoor arcade where Dana and I led a youth event. The young people were all having a great time. However, I saw my opportunity while they were all gathered in one place to talk to them about the infilling of the Holy Spirit . . . so I immediately went into action!

I called them over one by one to where I was and began to share about the power of God. After ascertaining that they knew the Lord, I shared that He wanted

them to have the power to live for Him. The great thing about young people is that they are always ready to receive from the Lord. They have not had enough life experience to be embalmed with religion. As I shared with them, each one would pray and be filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

One particular family that had no former church experience caught my eye. Each of the four, two girls and two boys, were filled that night. When the father picked up the young people, I told him about his children being filled with the baptism in the Holy Spirit that night. He thanked me and they went on their way. Little did we know that the Holy Spirit had ignited a fire in the belly of his 11-year-old son? That 11-year-old would witness for the Lord everywhere he went, especially on the school bus and in his subdivision.

One day he came to his father and said, "Dad, can we move somewhere else"?

"Why in the world do you want to move, son?" his father asked.

"Well, Dad, all the kids in the neighborhood are now saved and filled with the Spirit. I want to move where there are other lost kids."

Each week he would bring five to ten kids to church. On Wednesday nights the kids would fill his dad's station wagon. Sometimes his father would have to make two trips to get all of them to church and back home.

This "on-fire" young man would come in and tell me, "I led them to the Lord, now you need to get them filled with the Spirit." Of course, I honored his request.

After a couple weeks of doing this I said, "Son, I love to assist you, but you need to learn to lead those you bring with you into the baptism of the Holy Spirit

yourself. I'll tell you what, for the next couple of weeks you come with me and learn for yourself. Then you won't need me to assist any longer."

I let him watch me for a short time and then I stepped back and let him minister the Holy Spirit. I was there to give him moral support as he began to lead others in the Holy Spirit. After a couple of weeks he was on his own, bringing others to Christ and leading them into the baptism of the Spirit.

Never underestimate our youth! The Spirit of God knows no age limits. God will fill the young, fire them with passion, and use them to reach their world for Christ.

Robin and Horace

One night while witnessing on the streets of New Orleans during Mardi Gras, we noticed two women standing on a street corner by a local grocery store. Our mission team began a conversation with them about the Lord. While we were sharing the one lady walked away, but her friend, whose name was Robin, seemed to be drawn in by what we were saying. Although she said she knew the Lord she had been drinking that night. Robin was like so many Christians that I have met in the past. She had no power to live for God and was just hanging out with her friend doing what people do during Mardi Gras. I knew I needed to lead her in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I began to share with her about the power of the Holy Spirit.

"I also had trouble living the life of a believer," I said, "until I received the power of the Holy Spirit in my life. It totally changed me. I experienced a new

freedom from “self” and could totally commit my heart, mind, and strength to God. Jesus became so real to me. It was wonderful then; and more importantly, He still is today.”

“I want to share some words with you that Jesus spoke to His disciples.” I reminded her that Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. “If He commanded it,” I said, “then it must be very important.”

ACTS 1:4

⁴ And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father which, saith He, ye have heard from Me.

ACTS 1:8

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 Samaria, and unto the utter most parts of the earth.

As I spoke with Robin about the Holy Spirit and the power of God, tears began to run down her face. The Holy Spirit was already softening her heart and preparing her to receive.

“Do you want this power of the Holy Spirit that empowers you to live the way the Lord desires?”

Robin wiped the tears from her cheeks with the back of her hand and said, “Oh, yes!”

We prayed right there on the street corner and she received from Jesus, the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. Robin’s countenance brightened and her eyes had a new light as she was filled with His presence and power.

Many people do not realize that even if a person has sin in their life they can still receive from God. It is the grace gift from Him that delivers us from ourselves. She thanked us as we said goodbye. We moved on to minister salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit to others. The streets were full of people who needed to know about the free gifts Jesus had for them.

The next night we were out on the streets of New Orleans once more. As I looked ahead of me, there was Robin—the last person I expected to see, coming up the street with a man. We stopped to talk to them.

“Hi! Robin, how are you doing since last night?”

“Great!” she said, smiling from ear to ear. “I want to thank you again for spending the time to lead me in the baptism of the Holy Spirit last night. I want you to meet my fiancé, Horace.”

“Hello Horace,” I said, grinning at him. “Let me ask you a question. Do you know the Lord Jesus as you Lord and Savior?”

“Yes, I do,” he said

“Did Robin tell you what happened to her last night?”

Horace glanced at her fondly. “She sure did, and I am grateful to you for sharing with her.”

“Would you like to be filled with the Holy Spirit into your life like Robin did?”

“Of course, that would be great.”

Jesus wants us to have a powerful as well as an abundant life. He sure proved it to Horace that night because as I shared with him, he too was filled with the Holy Spirit.

“Thank you,” they both said, waving back to us as they went on their way.

What a miracle of God for our paths to cross again 24 hours later, in the midst of millions of people. A coincidence? I don't think so. I watched Robin and Horace as they walked down the street. *I know they are in good hands, I thought, God's hands.*

Seeking to Save the Lost

One Wednesday night after church, a friend and I went downtown Branson, Missouri, looking to minister to someone. With my experience as a former policeman, we could ride around “patrolling” for someone who needed to hear the Gospel. While riding down a side street, we saw a man walking and carrying a bag of groceries. I pulled off on the shoulder of the road and stopped the car behind the man. We got out of the car to talk to him.

“Hey,” I said, “we've got something we want to give you.”

I think we startled him since it was after dark. As I approached him he took off walking at a high rate of speed, as if he was trying to get away from us. I caught up with him and I introduced myself to him. I said, “We have a Gospel tract for you.”

He relaxed and my friend said, “Let me hold your groceries so you can read what we gave you.”

As he read the Gospel tract from the illumination of the street light, tears began to stream down his face.

He said, “I've been dealing with some issues in my life and I asked God to send someone my way to talk to me.”

I shared with him about the love of God and the plan He had for his life if he would give his life to Christ.

JOHN 3:16

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.

“Would you like to receive the Lord Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?”

He said, “I would like that very much.”

“I am going to pray out loud and as I do I want you to follow after me.

SINNER’S PRAYER:

I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ came to shed His blood for me on the cross of Calvary. I believe that He died for me and that God raised Him up from the dead on the third day. Lord Jesus, I invite you into my heart and life as my Lord and Savior. Amen.

As he raised his head we could see the expression on his face had totally changed. The weight of the world had been lifted off of him.

“Glory to God,” I said, congratulating him as a new believer in Christ. I continued on saying, “Father God has even more for you now that you are a Christian. He wants you to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit who will enable you to live a life that is pleasing to Him.”

“I would like that very much. I want whatever God has to offer me.”
“Here we go again. Pray after me as you did to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. ‘Thank you Jesus for filling me with the Holy Spirit and giving me the power to live for you. Amen.’”

I knew he was ready to receive his prayer language. I said, “I will pray in my prayer language and as I do you speak and release the Holy Spirit to pray through you.”

As I did he did and he was filled with the Spirit. There we stood on the side of the road praying in other tongues giving glory to God! My friend gave him back his bag of groceries and sent him on his way saved and filled with the Spirit. **Note:** We always follow up with people as much as possible. I gave him a little mini-book on the things of God, and the church business card with all our information. He gave us his name and phone number so we could follow up on how he was doing. We wanted to help him in his walk with God.

You don’t have to be an ex-policeman to “patrol” your area of influence—you don’t even have to have a car. Just be sensitive to people right where you are and answer the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

What Does a Croatian Drunk and a Little Dog Have in Common?

The most unusual circumstance occurred on one of my overseas mission trips to Croatia. Nothing like it had ever happened before, at least not to me. I was speaking at a church in the city of Bjelovar. The Pastor there was a young man of twenty-three. About seventy people were attending the meeting that night. Thomas, the Pastor, was interpreting while I preached.

During the middle of the service a very drunk young man, wearing a plastic Irish leprechaun hat, walked into the service. He came forward and acted like he was going to take the microphone out of my hands. Of course, I did not give it to

him. Through the pastor I told him to go sit down. About five minutes later he came forward again and wanted me to give him the microphone. I told him to go to his seat one more time. Another five minutes passed by and he came forward again. After several disruptions I knew it was time to ask him to leave. He would be welcome to return when he had not been drinking and was sober—I had used patience up to now in order to give him a chance to hear the Word of God. I told him, through the Pastor, he was going to have to leave. At this point many thoughts were going through my mind. I believed God would give me the words to say as promised in Luke. **Luke 12:12 *For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*** I sure needed the input of the Holy Spirit because if the man would assault me this could bring the police into the picture. At home this would not be a problem, but being a foreigner could get you arrested or deported. It could also create problems for the Church and Pastor Thomas since I was his guest in the country. I began to walk over by the door so the young man would get the message that it was time to leave. Through the Pastor I told him we would see him some other time. The Pastor opened the door, the drunk stepped out and as he did a little wiener dog came through the door into the building. So there we were, the drunk was out and the dog was in. He began running underneath all the chairs where the people were sitting. Finally the dog left the building and the Pastor quickly closed the door, his eyes as big as saucers.

He said, "I have never had anything like that happen before!"

"You and me both brother," I said. "This is a first for me too."

This one-of-a-kind evening left me somewhat at a loss as to how to close the service—no matter what I did or said it was a tough act to follow. I ended by telling the people that the enemy of our faith, the devil, will always try to disrupt what the Lord wants to accomplish. Praise God the enemy's tactics failed. We prayed and gave an altar call. Many were saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and healed by the power of God.

So now you know what a Croatian drunk and a little dog have in common, they were both in church that night.

Word of Knowledge Brings Healing—Shrivels Ovarian Tumor
By Marilyn Shepherd

It was the spring of 2000. I was in the doctor's office waiting for the results of a series of tests I had undergone while getting a check-up. I was not concerned because as far as I knew everything was okay. The doctor came into the room and closed the door. "I'm sorry; Mrs. Shepherd," the doctor said, "but your check-up and your tests reveal an ovarian tumor."

I was not prepared for this. At first I just sat there in shock, stunned by the news. Finally, I went on home and called my son, Randy, who lives in another state, to tell him the news.

Randy, like me, is a Spirit-filled Christian. I had not found a Spirit-filled church in the area and was attending a church with a friend. I had recently seen a notice in the paper about a meeting at a Rhema church in a nearby town and had previously mentioned it to Randy, although I hadn't checked it out yet.

He said to me, “Mom, you remember telling me about the notice you saw in the paper about a meeting at a Rhema church? I think you should go to that church. The pastor is Spirit-filled and the congregation will be too. I really feel that God has something for you there.”

I knew I was hearing from the Lord through Randy. It was a Wednesday, so I called the church and found out the meeting time and directions to get there. I arrived at the church, trying not to let my concern about the tumor interfere with my thoughts.

We entered into a time of praise and worship. Then the pastor, Rev. Brian Moomey, led us in a Bible study. At the end of the teaching session, he looked out over the congregation and said, “Does someone here tonight have a growth or tumor in the abdominal area? If you will come up, we’ll lay hands on you for healing.”

I looked around to see who would go up, but no one responded. Again, Pastor Brian said, “This word of knowledge is so strong in my spirit that I am going to ask again if there is someone here with a tumor or growth in the abdomen.”

This time I realized that the call was for me. I got up and went forward. I told Pastor Brian where my tumor was. He called his wife to come and together they laid hands on me and began to pray, both in the Spirit and in English.

All of a sudden the tumor began to twist and turn within my belly, and a wave of heat went through my whole body. The tumor seemed to kick and turn, then became still. I knew without a doubt that God had indeed healed me. The evidence of this tumor was removed sometime later. When I questioned the doctor

about it, he told me that it was all shriveled up. God had not only healed me, but he led me to the church where I was supposed to be.

Not long after this, my sister visited me from Texas. Leta was experiencing pain in her feet and was having difficulty walking without the aid of a cane. When Sunday arrived, she was eager to attend church with me. Leta is Spirit-filled and really loves to worship the Lord with others.

At the end of the service, Pastor Brian gave an altar call for healing, saying that he had a word that someone present had foot problems.

Leta answered, "That's me. I've had a hard time walking even with my cane."

She wasted no time going forward. Pastor Brian laid hands on her and began to pray for her healing. The next thing I saw was my sister dancing around and proclaiming, "I'm healed! I don't need this cane!"

When Leta went back to Texas her cane was left propped in a corner—no longer needed—a silent but constant reminder of how truly awesome God is.

Word of Knowledge Saves Marriage

My wife and I were on staff at our church which was located in Branson, Missouri. This was my day off and I was heading for town. As I was riding by a church member's house, I felt that I needed to stop by and see if the person was at home.

Oh man, I thought, maybe I can do this tomorrow. After all it is my day off. I was wrestling with my flesh, not wanting to obey the leading in my spirit. I was

tempted to pass by the road that was the turn off to their house, but at the last minute I changed my mind and obeyed the direction of the Spirit.

It was 10 AM in the morning when I knocked at the door. *Maybe no one will be home, I thought, and I can be on my way.* As I knocked the husband answered the door and let me in the house. He went back to the phone and continued his conversation. While I waited patiently I blocked out his conversation from my mind because I didn't want to be rude or nosey.

After he got off the phone I asked how his marriage was going. Those words just came out of my mouth by the Spirit of God.

"Okay," he said with some hesitancy in his voice.

We chatted a little longer and finally he said, "Well I've got to go on to work. I have to take my step-daughter to the babysitter on the way." With that we both went our separate ways.

After about six months he asked me, "Do you remember the day you stopped and asked me about my marriage?"

"Of course I remember that day," I replied.

"I want to tell you what happened that day. Do you remember I was on the phone when you came in?"

"Yeah, I do remember that you were on the phone. I didn't pay much attention to your conversation because I didn't want to intrude."

He said, "I was talking with an old girlfriend who lives in Tennessee. My wife and I hadn't been getting along so I had my bags packed ready to leave my wife and head for Tennessee to be with the former girlfriend. My plan was to take

off as soon as I took my step-daughter to the babysitter. When you dropped in unexpectedly and asked me about my marriage, I knew God showed up to stop me. My usual response to my problems was to run away and I had been doing that all of my life. God was putting a stop to it.”

Since the day I stopped at his house and knocked at his door, my wife and I have developed a close relationship with them. We took the time to mentor them as new believers in Christ. I didn’t realize for those six months the importance of the day that I stopped by to speak a word by the Spirit of God. Even though I wavered at first, I thank God for my final obedience to Him.

This couple has become a wonderful testimony to God’s handiwork in their lives. The husband has raised the step-daughter as his own and together they had two more daughters. Later they moved to Dallas, Texas, and are now both graduates from Christ for the Nations Bible Institute. To this day they are touching lives for the Kingdom of God and helping others live for God.

How could I possibly know the outcome God had in mind the day he prompted me to stop at this couple’s house? The most important thing is that the Lord knew and I obeyed His promptings and leading. Praise the Lord for working in and through the lives of His servants!

I pray this book has touched your life and given you the tools and wisdom you need to minister the Kingdom of God! Keep serving Jesus until He comes!

Epilogue

I would like to personally thank each one of you for taking the time to read *Your Kingdom Purpose Revealed*. Our prayer for you whether you have just accepted the Lord Jesus or have recently rededicated your life or are a mature believer is that we made a spiritual impact in your life.

As you have journeyed through the pages we believe you have been refreshed, strengthened and equipped by each area concerning His Kingdom. We believe His plan, His power, His tools, His results and stories have made a difference in your life.

In closing I would like to pray and speak a blessing over you and those whose lives you will make a difference in. Let us pray.

Dear Jesus,

I come to You in Your precious name and lift up to You each person who has read this book. I ask that You have revealed Yourself to them in a very personal way.

We believe Your very presence is felt as we speak Your words of love, strength and encouragement from the very throne of Father God above. Father God we ask in Jesus Name that Your presence power and glory will flow from Your throne in and through the very life of the one in whom we pray for. In Jesus name, amen!

The Ministry of Sword of the Spirit Ministries

International Minister Brian Moomey and his wife, Dana, are graduates from Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They have been married for 30 years and have two children, Caleb and Danielle. They have traveled and pastored for 28 years.

In 2002 they expanded their ministry internationally. Their heart and passion is to minister the Word of God to the world and see lives changed by the power of Jesus Christ. They currently establish, encourage and equip churches in the United States and overseas. They conduct evangelistic, pastor and leadership conferences to equip the churches for the work of the ministry. They also minister overseas and help Pastors with material needs such as church equipment, musical equipment, monetary gifts, and other items to help them reach people for the Kingdom of God. If you would like Brian to come and minister at your church or special event and if you would like to donate musical

instruments, equipment or would like to make a tax deductible monetary donation for missions you can contact us at www.brianmoomey.org.

Answers to Study Questions

Chapter 1

1. Revealing, Kingdom, God
2. Personal Revelation, Father God
3. Abba Father, Trust, Understanding
4. Kingdom
5. Present Tense, Future Tense
6. Earth, Heaven
7. Results
8. Spirit, Soul, Body, Dedicate

Chapter 2

1. Scripturally, Practically
2. Sharpen, Word, Holy, Spirit
3. Observing, Probing, Kingdom
4. Equip, Captivity, Freedom

Chapter 3

1. Plan, Ourselves, Others
2. Seek, Save
3. Salvation, Jesus Christ, Way, Truth, Life
4. Destiny, Kingdom
5. New Creature, Ministry, Reconciliation, Ambassadors, God
6. Word, Believe, Act

Chapter 4

1. a. Unknown Tongues b. Devil c. Sanctification d. Tarry
2. Commanded
3. a. Holy Spirit b. Personal Edification c. Comfort, Assurance d. Refreshing e. Intercession f. Tongue g. Led h. Truth, Teacher
4. Short Story, Teach
5. Comfort, Power, Healing, Direction, Peace, Pray
6. Prayer, Same Way

7. Teaching
8. a. Speaking b. Pray c. Lifestyle d. Find

Chapter 5

1. Special tools, Spiritual
2. Believer, Spiritual Gifts
3. Knowledge, Wisdom, Spirits, Faith, Miracles, Healing, Prophecy, Divers, Interpretation
4. Gifts, Robbing
5. Human
6. Faith, Faith
7. a. Waiting b. Fear
8. a. Meditate b. Pray c. Yield
9. a. Grow b. Equipped c. Deception
10. Authority, Biblically, Wrong
11. Closer, Increase, Life
12. Forsake, Associate, Will, Priority

Chapter 6

1. World, Disciple
2. Follower of Christ, Good
3. Spiritual Training, Christ
4. Word
5. Jesus, Paul, We, They
6. Nurture, Teach, Encourage
7. God, One
8. a. Godly b. Train c. Disciple
9. a. Watch b. Help c. Helped, Do d. Accomplish
10. a. Potential b. Number
11. a. Maturity b. Minds c. Church d. Financially e. Witness f. Learning
- g. Significant
12. Responsible, Time, Energy

Acknowledgements

Brian Moomey has done an excellent job at awaking the believer to the hour in which we live. The Kingdom of God is going to be birthed in this earth. The question for us is will we allow His Kingdom to come through us?

Terry Nance

Author of God's Armorbearer

www.godsarmorbearer.com

Brian Moomey has written a book that is so needed today in the local church. As I read this book I thought of the hundreds of churches I have minister in that did not give salvation calls or baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is a much needed handbook to strengthen and increase the Kingdom of God. Every church needs to start a class on Kingdom Living with this book as the textbook.

Dr. Buddy Bell

Ministry of Helps International, Inc.

www.mohi.org

Much of the church world has grown cold and complacent and at-ease forgetting the command of Jesus to the church. The believer is to be in the world but not of the world; kingdom-minded, not earthly-minded.

In *Your Kingdom Purpose Revealed*, Brian Moomey urges believers to awake to their God-given purpose and calling—The Great Commission! Jesus last words to the infant Church were to “make disciples” and to teach and train them to do what He had taught them. What did Jesus do and what did He teach His disciples? Jesus preached the Gospel; healed the sick; cast out devils; and raised the dead. That’s the commission of the Church and every Christian, both preacher and layman alike.

In this book, Brian lays out simple, step-by-step instructions on how to lead a person to Christ and in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The text is replete with personal experiences to build confidence and encouragement that you too can be used by God, as well as providing helpful guidelines. Brian wrote this book to Christians to discover their God-given purpose and to instill God’s heart for daily outreach into our world, becoming on-fire for God, witnessing Christians. This book is about learning how to reach people for Christ in your daily life and being empowered by God to make a mark that cannot be erased. You will be inspired, challenged and empowered to another level of life in Christ!

Brian Moomey, a RHEMA Bible Training Center graduate (1987) has traveled and ministered God's anointed Word for 28 years. Brian and his wife, Dana, pioneered and pastored a church in Mt. Vernon, Missouri, for several years. However, Brian's real passion and heartbeat from the outset has been to the nations, which has led him to the Ukraine and Croatia in recent years.

He has embraced the Great Commission, *the forgotten calling of Christ to the Church by many!* His heart is to see people come to Christ; be disciples and then join the cause of the Body of Christ to be "goers and doers." Brian is convinced by God's Word that every Christian is to be a minister of reconciliation, bringing the world to Christ, empowered by God's Spirit and stepping out beyond themselves and being used by God for HIS purposes!

Brian travels in the United States and overseas equipping both pastors and laymen alike in discipleship; teaching and training others how to minister effectively through the empowerment of the Holy Ghost. He conducts evangelistic meetings and pastoral and leadership seminars equipping churches for the work of the ministry.

Brian has ministry tools to help the church become more effective for Christ not only in the church but on the street in their daily walk of life. Learn more about Brian Moomey, through his website www.brianmoomey.org or www.impactworshipcenter.net.

To contact the author, Brian Moomey, or to schedule a meeting for him to speak in your church or area, please write or call:

Brian Moomey
Sword of the Spirit Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 361
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
(417) 861-6544