
Walking With God

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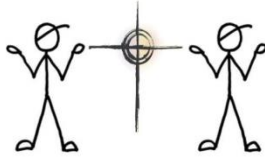
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United Missions, Inc.



Cross Connected

EMAIL: united.missions@aol.com

US MAIL: 2403 Griffin Court
Ocoee, Fl. 34761

URL: www.unitedmissionsinc.com

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Content Focus:

This book was written to share about being a new creation in Christ through the Heaven-sent “Spirit and Truth” of the Gospel and being immersed in the newness of life.

“Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized [immersed] into His death?

Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead, by the glory of the Father even so we also, should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)”

Introduction: Being A New Creation

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2nd Cor. 5:17)” Life for many is the pursuit of finding oneself in this world. What if you have already been found by God? He is above this world and is calling us to live beyond creation as He reveals to us who He has created (found).

What is being a new creation all about? It's about a new beginning of walking with God which radically changes one's life. What does one typically think when they hear someone tell them about something they need to experience in their life because it will be life changing? Typically, one thinks that the person is telling them about an experience that will enhance their life. However, being a “new creation” is more than an experience that enhances their life because it's an event that leads one to a totally new beginning. It's one's personal Genesis 1:3 light and life awakening experience. It's an all-encompassing reset, a new life that places an individual upon an unending journey into eternity. As one meets Jesus and receives His life, Jesus enters and yokes them to the abundance of God's righteousness and love. From the beginning, being a new creation is about Jesus stepping into one's life and leading them on a never-ending journey of walking with God forever.

How does one become a new creation? Jesus explained *“you must be born again (John 3:3)”* to the Jewish teacher (rabbi) Nicodemus, as He explained how one begins to intimately know (walk with) the God of the Bible. One is supernaturally reborn and joined into an unbreakable relationship with God. Faith in God is key to knowing God intimately. The magnitude of one's experiences is secondary. While there can be some incredible encounters with God, one's decision to trust the Lord and surrender their “spirit, body and soul” to Him precedes new spiritual birth.

What happens as one is born again? First, true repentance occurs, one turns from the world being one's highest priority to God's Word (promise) being of most importance. God's Living Word gives His offspring the most thorough cleansing as it cleans one's inside (heart and soul) and begins to sanctify (purify) their walk with Him (outside). Trusting in the sinless life of Jesus connects one to the cleansing (salvation and sanctification) process of being made new and being immersed in the life of Christ. The never-ending newness of Christ' life enters God's children and leads them on a never-ending walk of faith with God. *"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:3-4)"* Baptism (being immersed) into the faith of Christ occurs as one surrenders their lives to God's heaven-sent "Word and Spirit". One allows God's supernatural power to bury one's old life of sin with Christ's body that was laid to rest after His death on the cross AND be raised up in the new resurrected life of Christ.

How does one's dead spiritual heart, beat anew for God? *Ez. 36:26, "I [God] will give you a new heart."* The spiritual heart becomes immediately new by faith as one's body and soul begin the lifelong journey of following Jesus. Faith in Christ replaces one's old heart dead to God's Spirit with a new spiritual heart which now follows the heart of the Lord. God sends His Holy Spirit to empower His children to walk with Him in this life and in the life to come; to have life and life more abundant (John 10:10). They are tied to God's strength described in Scripture, *"The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might. He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength."*

They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)”

Given An Intimate, God-given Name

Does the Lord give His newborns a new name? Just like when someone is first born on earth, there is the giving of a spiritual name when one is born again into the family of God. Like the first Adam gave names (Gen. 2:23), the second Adam gives names to new creations. This name is only known by the Lord and the recipient (Rev. 2:17). It's a unique heavenly name given by the Lord based upon His intimate knowledge of His children. This new name might even be used by His children to pass in and out of heaven's gates unlike the "666" mark of the anti-Christ which imprisons one to outer darkness.

These new heavenly names given by God are spiritual names that emphasize the uniqueness of one's heart and soul. Here is a list of some terms of endearment that may be part of one's new name which the Lord addresses one with: _____ -One.

Beloved (Col.3:12), Delightful (Psalms147:11),
Beautiful (Psalm 149:4),
Unashamed (Romans 10:11), Chosen (Eph. 1:4),
Known (Psalms 139:1),
Precious (Isaiah 43:4), Planned (Eph. 1:11-12),
Sheltered (1st John 5:18)
Gifted (2nd Tim. 1:6), Loved (1st John 4:10),
Provided For (1st Tim 6:17),
Clean (John 15:3), Treasured (Duet. 7:6),
Presentable (Heb. 10:22),
Pure (1st Cor. 6:11), Protected (Psalm 91:14),
Established (Romans 16:25),
Welcomed (Eph. 3:12), Work of Art (Eph, 2:10),
Heir (Romans 8:17), Never Condemned (Romans 8:1),
Complete (Col. 2:10), Sanctified (Heb. 10:10),

Son or Daughter (Romans 8:15), Adopted (Eph. 1:5),
Forgiven (Psalm 103:3), Friend (John 15:15),
Betrothed (Rev. 19:7) and more.

“I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it. (Revelation 2:17)” These names when spoken by God to an individual declare what special qualities God personally sows into the hearts of His unique children.

This book will continue to emphasize how God’s children are new creations, being made in the image of Christ (Gen. 1:27). Each chapter highlights high level aspects of the deep work that the abundant life of Christ is sowing into God’s sons and daughters. As one is born again, they still face the realities of this life, its trials and tribulations. However, they have received a new heart, purpose and future that God has given them as they walk with Him by faith. In addition, now this heaven-bound journey with God transforms earthly experiences into experiences that have the potential to produce an eternal reward after death.

*“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying,
‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and He will dwell with them,
and they shall be His people.
God Himself will be with them and be their God.
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;
there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.
There shall be no more pain,
for the former things have passed away.’
Then He who sat on the throne said,
‘Behold, I make all things new.’
(Revelation 21:3-5)”*

A New Covenant, His Eternal Promises Revealed

Humanity will always need to be sheltered and covered. The Lord shelters and covers humanity through His faithfulness to His eternal promises (Word). He is the ultimate Promise Keeper who demonstrates to humanity through His faithfulness to His promises (covenants) over multiple generations that He is committed to raising up a people of faith. In the Bible, we read about how God's covenants intercede for fallen humanity and work together to bring forth God's purpose for humanity. *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your [satan] seed and her [Christ] Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. (Gen. 3:15)"*

What is the culmination of God's promises for His family?

Jesus. He has come to us as the fulfillment of all God's covenants. He declares this about Himself in Matthew 5:17, *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."* His bodily appearance in this world led to His defeat of sin and its wages, death at the cross and His resurrection which sealed God's eternal promise for humanity within the sinless life of Christ for eternity and has made His return forthcoming. God's promise (Word) being fulfilled in individual lives is spoken about in Romans 8:28-30, *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."* From the time humanity fell into sin, God's covenant promises (Word) spoken over His people has sheltered and covered them as God, the Alpha and Omega sees all of time.

Even at humanity's lowest point when Adam first fell into sin, we see God's Seed pledged (promised) to intercede for humanity despite the attack from the evil one who thought he had foiled God's plan for humanity (Gen. 3:15). Sin led humanity into the seemingly hopeless condition of eternal hostility (separation) between its fallen (sinful) state and a holy God. However, God knew even then that His covenant promise of a Holy Seed (the Christ) planted in a woman who descended from Eve, would be eventually sown into humanity. This Seed (Living Word) would defeat the father of lies and his strategy of sin being employed to lead humanity into eternal death. As we wait upon the promised return of the Christ, we live among the sin (seed) of fallen humanity but are lifted above its enmity towards God through the holy Seed of Christ now alive within the children of God. This condition of hostility we have brought upon ourselves and its judgment, eternal death. However, God has used this failure of humanity to demonstrate very clearly both His Holy purpose (covenant Word) for creation and His rich mercy for all who will receive His Son (Matthew 13:24-30).

God Establishing Covenants

What has every covenant of God accomplished? All of God's covenants with humanity demonstrate God's unending charity and power, covering and sheltering humanity from its sin as God faithfully labors to indwell them with His Son in Spirit and Truth. All things are fulfilled in Christ and now await His return. God has committed His triune being to lead hearts (and souls) to the transformational process of the love of Jesus which molds His children into His heaven-sent image as they trust in His Son and the work of God's Spirit and Truth (Word), *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:1-11)"*

God's covenants have changed human hearts and earth even through the extreme measure of flooding the earth to save humanity from the attack and power of sin. After the earth was flooded the Lord made this covenant through Noah with humanity, *"I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease. (Genesis 8:21-22)"* Often, there is a rainbow displayed in the sky after it rains to remind humanity of God's merciful heart and promises to humanity. God would eventually send His sinless Son Jesus into the world to be sacrificed for the sin of humanity. Now, the rainbow reminds God's people of a new flood of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh.

What covenant established God's family of faith? The covenant God made with Abraham is the basis for God's establishment of an eternal family of faith across many generations and nations who trust God's Word (promises). Abraham was a man with a wife well passed her child-bearing years, but God took this couple and gave them a new home where they started a family despite their infertile situation. In addition to new land and children God gave Abraham, He promised Abraham that he and Sarah would bring forth many descendants numbered like the stars in the sky and many nations would walk with God by faith. *"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.*

I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. (Genesis 17:1-8)” God has established through a couple who appeared to have no seed, a people of faith who build their homes on the foundation of God’s Word and in Christ today are being drawn together from all the nations of the earth.

What covenant established God’s nation of faith? The covenant God made through the prophet Moses containing the Law established the nation of Israel as they were returned to the land promised (covenanted) to Abraham. This occurs after they have been set free from slavery in Egypt for 400 years. As they are led out of captivity, God makes a covenant with the people as Moses gives them His Law. It guards and leads them into the promised land. This Guardian (The Law) was established to keep sin out of their camp (homes and fellowship). *“And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Exodus 19:3-6)”* The moral, ceremonial and civil laws served the Jewish people as a Guardian to keep God’s nation of Israel together as they waited for the Seed (Messiah) to come. The Law was given through Moses to both unite and protect the new nation from the world’s greatest enemy, sinful hearts. However, disobedience to the Law lets sin enter and afflict this new nation.

What covenant establishes God's eternal nation, family of faith? The New Covenant given through God's Son, the Spirit of the Law established a second (final) covenant with Israel which brings about an inward change in human hearts through faith in the life of God's one-of-a-kind (begotten) Son, Jesus Christ. In Christ, all the covenants of God are rolled up into one fulfilled, eternal promise as the God-man Jesus Christ becomes the perfect sacrifice that God requires for His covenant to be eternal.

The great blessing of the New Covenant is spoken about in Hebrews 8:8-12, *"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."* Now, all who walk with Christ by faith, have God's eternal covenant (Word) written in their heart. God's people were drawn into the eternal covenant which God promised to Abraham and all descendants who believed like Abraham that God will keep His people in His righteousness. *"If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'" (Rom. 4:2-3)"*

What are some of the New Covenant Promises of King Jesus?

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)”

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. (John 5:24)”

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; (John 10:27-28)”

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you...I will come again and receive you to Myself (John 14:1-3)

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth...for He dwells with you and will be in you. (Jn. 14:16-18)”

God’s New Covenant promises draw God’s children of faith through the Holy Spirit into the Kingdom of Heaven to follow King Jesus in bringing glory to the Father (John 17:1-2).

“As for Me,” says the Lord, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the Lord, “from this time and forevermore.” (Isaiah 59:21)

A New Faith, Through The “Good Seed” Gospel Life

What is the Good Seed that delivers Eternal Faith? The Gospel (Good Seed) is God’s heaven-sent message, His divine Word and eternal promise that has been supernaturally delivered through the person of Jesus Christ. It’s deposited, planted through the Holy Spirit in the “heart and soul” of those who will receive God’s eternal truth. Can we see the supernatural power of this Word working in Scripture? In the Gospel of John Chapter 7, we observe the chief priests sending guards to arrest Jesus. However, they are prevented from arresting Him. What has stopped them? Initially, they were stopped by the crowd around Jesus. However, as they stood there listening to Jesus it was the divine Word of the Christ (Anointed One) that stops them in their tracks from arresting Him. *‘Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” (John 7:45-46)’* The heaven-sent message of their Jewish Messiah prevented them from stopping its message from being shared. Likewise, in the testimony of many who have heard the message of Christ, we hear about the power of the Holy Spirit supernaturally planting God’s heaven-sent “Good Seed” into the hearts of its listeners.

Have you heard people testify about how they unexpectedly were stopped in their tracks of living their worldly life by the message of the Gospel? Often, this occurs despite the world’s attempts to snuff out the work of the Divine Word which conceives new Gospel life in its listeners. Christ’ Seed (Living Word) is planted (spoken), sealed (by the Spirit) and watered as the Lord’s love saturates lives and draws worshippers to God in “Spirit and Truth”. *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (John 4:23)”*

True worshippers of God walk with God in His grace (forgiveness of sin) on an unending journey that leads them into God's love and holy life. His Seed leads His children to be yoked to Him through the supernatural "planting, sealing and watering" of His Word. The journey of trusting Jesus leads to a destination (heaven) and an unending state of walking (being) with God. *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1:13-14)"*

The Way to a New Identity and Life in the "Good Seed" (Gospel)

What door opens one's heart to The Way of Christ? In this life, there is a Way, a straight and narrow path where the Good Seed is sown and an eternal harvest is promised (John 14:6). This Way leads sojourners in this world to be drawn into the only faith that eternally saves and redeems; it marks people by faith with God's New Identity and Life (Romans 8:16).

Traffic Signs along the Way, Direct One on The Road which Leads to New Life (from the Epistle of Romans)

- <GO> Let God's will of being called into new life be one's new direction (Romans 1:1)
- <GO> Let God set one apart from sin through the Gospel and its Power (Romans 1:16-17)
- <STOP> Being corrupted by this world with its false identities (Romans 1:20-21)
- <ALERT> God is the Judge of Righteousness not the world (Romans 2:2-3)
- <ALERT> All Need a new heart circumcised by God's righteousness (Romans 2:28-29)

- <ALERT> Worldly standards always fall short of God's Life-giving morality (Romans 3:10)
- <STOP> Believing good intentions are God's will and remove sin (Romans 3:23)
- <ALERT> God's righteousness comes through faith in His Word of Christ (Romans 4:3, 20-25)
- <ALERT> Eternal peace, hope and love abounds in the righteousness of Christ (Romans 5:1-2)
- <ALERT> No work compares to the loving and holy sacrifice of Jesus for sin (Romans 5:8-10)
- <ALERT> God's grace (New Covenant) frees slaves of sin who are under the law (Romans 6:14)
- <GO> Be yoked to grace, the gift of eternal life; freed from the wages of sin (Romans 6:22-23)
- <ALERT> The Ten Commandments (Law) identifies moral sin but doesn't bring the life of Jesus into hearts to be redeemed and to overcome the allure and power of sin (Romans 7:14-20)
- <GO> Leave the law as it was fulfilled through the faithfulness of Christ and be joined by faith to the Spirit of the Law who brings a marriage covenant of abundant life (Romans 7:4-6)
- <GO> Live with no condemnation as one submits their heart to the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:1-5)
- <GO> Live with new hearts sanctified and flourishing as children of God (Romans 8:9-11)
- <GO> Let repentance and the Holy Spirit mold one into the image of Christ (Romans 8:23-30)
- <GO> Give full access to God's love which empowers one to overcome the world (8:31-39)
- <GO> Carry and sow the Good Seed from within by testifying of its life (Romans 9:6-8)
- <GO> Learn to trust in the holy life of Jesus to highlight God's righteousness (Romans 10:3-4)
- <ALERT> Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the WORD of Christ (Romans 10:17)

- <ALERT> Faith believes Jesus is Lord and Resurrected (Romans 10:6-9)
- <ALERT> Faith moves hearts to call upon the name of Jesus for new life (Romans 10:13)
- <GO> Live together as one body with various gifts of God's grace (Romans 12:3-8)
- <GO> Overcome evil with the good fruit of the love of Jesus (chapter 12:9-21)
- <GO> Live a life propelled by the righteousness, peace and joy of the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17)

The following is a blessing shared by the Apostle Paul to those who have become sojourners of the Way, *"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)"*

God's Kingdom Come, His Will Be Done

How does God's Kingdom come to earth? The Gospel is continually "planted, sealed and watered" in Spirit and Truth. Since the Day of Pentecost, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon the church (all who confess God's Son Jesus as their Lord and Savior). The children of God walk by faith with the Lord Jesus (God) in this world until they die and are taken up to Heaven; or are joined with Christ as He returns and the age of grace ends. All one can know for certain is that they have overcome this world and the wages of sin, death as they turn from their sinful ways to God's heart of mercy (grace ways). As they receive the sinless life of Jesus, they are made new to withstand the final judgment. The Holy Spirit who brings new life, leads God's children to be ministers of reconciliation as He continues to sanctify all through the love of God.

One can never do enough to earn their salvation and enter the life of walking with God forever. However, as one trusts in the Word (life) of Christ, they can know that they have crossed over from death to life (John 5:24). God desires all to be forgiven (John 6:40), to receive His Son, to receive the Holy Spirit and to carry His Living (Holy) Seed received through the blood of Jesus to every corner of the world. God has chosen for His Kingdom to come and will to be done through the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). It sets people free from the brokenness of living in sin and its eternal judgment (death). As one believes they are both called and set apart to walk with God and to follow (represent) His Son. The first love of Jesus opened the door for the Good Seed, now His followers share the Good News to bring heaven to earth (Rom. 5:8).

How does one respond to the Good News of the Gospel?

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 8:13)” Every heart that hears the Good Seed (Word) of Christ comes to a crossroad where they must decide: die in sin or die to sin and live in Christ (Phil. 1:21). There is only one way to be saved because the Creator who framed the universe is holy and humanity needs His gift of righteousness. He has done everything well to give humanity the opportunity to live as new creations with Him eternally. This is NOT available to those who take delight in the darkness (evil) of this world (Psalm 37:3-6). Those who hear the Word of Christ, believe the message, and desire the life of Christ to save them from final judgment and walk in the new life of faith which is a life marked by prayer. Prayer is a practice which believers incorporate in their lives to know God’s will and to ask God to guide them in following His Son Jesus. Many believers will say a first prayer of faith that contains words like these below. This prayer of itself doesn’t save people but faith in the One who you pray to (The God of the Bible) and the faithful work of His Spirit radically changes lives.

Calling on God through Prayer of Repentance:

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for sharing God's eternal "Living Word" with me.

I confess that I have been living a life in darkness,
in sin and rebellion against God's will.

I want to be led out of this dark and hopeless place into
Your Truth and Light.

Forgive me of my sins against God caused by my sin.

Turn me from my sin and its judgment
which leads one to eternal death.

Turn me to Your gift of forgiveness, Your new life
and Your new way to live.

I know that I deserve death, but you died for me
on the cross so that I could receive God's mercy.

I will never forget what You have done for me
and be forever thankful.

I know that I can't live a righteous life without your
sacrifice and the Holy Spirit,

Come Holy Spirit into my heart,
so I can be made new every day.

Change me to be like You as I surrender ALL
to you Lord now and forever.

In Jesus name, Amen!

Calling on God through Short Prayer of Desperation:

Heavenly Father,

I don't want to live separated from You.

Help me Lord Jesus.

Thank you Holy Spirit.

In Jesus name, Amen!

What happens when the Seed of the Gospel takes root?

When a person turns to Christ, they come to the end of themselves and receive the Good Seed of the Gospel (Christ) who gives them a new life of being a disciple, a follower of Christ. From the first to the last disciple until the return of Christ they are set apart, marked by God's Word (Seed) to grow in Christ. They carry this personal knowledge of God through the Spirit of the Living Word (Truth) now alive within them and tell others about the life of God in Christ. Jesus indwells them with God's holy life. *"There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)"*

*"That which we have seen and heard we declare to you,
that you also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father
and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

*This is the message which we have heard from Him
and declare to you, that God is light
and in Him is no darkness at all.*

(1st John 1:3-5)"

A New Hope, Christ in Us the Hope of Glory

“The Word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:25-26)” One’s great hopes are founded upon something that is not fully seen and understood yet, a mystery. The greatest hope is “Christ in us the hope of glory” and faith in Christ places this within the heart of God’s children.

How does “Hope in Christ” transform God’s children?

“From now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (2nd Cor. 5:16)” The Word of God is imparted in “Spirit and Truth” via the proclamation of the Gospel. As it is received by faith, living hope in Christ transforms the heart, soul and lives of its listener. *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17)”* The Word of Christ is received as a treasure that’s greater than any other available in this world. It is a living treasure that breathes eternal hope and the intimate knowledge of Christ into those who take hold of it. Through faith the receiver is given knowledge about the mystery of the new reality of living in God’s Kingdom built upon the never-ending hope of glory (gift of eternal life) which glorifies God and eternally leads His children to walk with Him in it. Jesus speaks of what one does who has discovered the hope of glory in a short parable. *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (Matt. 13:44)”* This man has realized that no earthly treasure is worth more than the hidden treasure He has found. He sells all his worldly assets to purchase it. Jesus is calling His listeners to take hold of the greatest asset one can possess, God’s promise of the Savior of the world alive in their heart.

How does Christ bring His Hope to bear? Scripture tells us how Christ conveys God's greatest treasure to His children. *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. (Colossians 1:13)" "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (Colossians 1:15)" "By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:16-17)"* As one receives Christ by faith, they have received the One described in these scriptures. In Christ alone, the mystery of the "hope of glory" is hidden within them as faith in Christ has connected them to eternal hope and new birth into the second Adam (John 3:16-17).

Col. 1:15 speaks of the preeminence of Christ, of Him being the firstborn over all creation. What is the term firstborn revealing in this verse? We know that traditionally, the first born in a family has a greater role in the family than the others. The parents' lives are forever changed as they begin raising children through the arrival of the firstborn. While God's firstborn in perfect human form (very man) doesn't change God, it has changed the way people relate to God. We can take comfort now in knowing that God has brought about intimate knowledge of His love for humanity through the life of His Son Jesus (the Word made flesh, second Adam).

Often, the firstborn models what being a child of their parents is like to the siblings that follow. This makes it easier for those who are born afterwards because they have someone who can show them how to be an obedient child in their family. Often, firstborns can have it more difficult because they are the trendsetters. The role of being the firstborn is yoked to a greater responsibility because of their unique, first position in the family.

The firstborn of creation, Jesus Christ went to the cross to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world for His brethren. Now, every child of God by faith follows the good example of Jesus, always trusting in God's truth and love.

Col. 1:16-17, speaks of what Christ (The Word) revealed in the flesh has made visible, His invisible sovereignty has been made visible. He was, is and shall be seen as very God and very man, perfect in every way. Not only did He operate perfectly in His earthly family of humanity as the firstborn but He does so in sovereignty over God's heavenly family. In the resurrection, one sees The Lord's special authority over the earth as He has redeemed humanity. Through the resurrection, we believe that Jesus is the Son of God (one with God) and that His Word has all authority over creation. Jesus the Word was with the Father and the Spirit when these words in Genesis 1:26 were spoken "*let us make man in our image*".

Jesus is both the sinless Adam, the second Adam and the Potter who molds the clay. Christ brings hope to free both the religious and unbelievers from being hopelessly trapped by the deception that attaining their best in this world is life's purpose. His treasure, the hope of Christ overcomes the world's short-term promises of success which in the end leaves one in a hopeless position. His hope leads God's children to be shaped by the gift of eternal life as the resurrection hope of Jesus keeps God's children eternally in the glorious hands of the Father and Son (John 10:28-29).

Created for the Glory of God

How are God's children connected to His glory? Col. 1:16-17, proclaims that the firstborn of creation, Jesus Christ came with His above-ALL heavenly position to ensure that God's children would behold God's glory dwelling in His Living Word.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:12-14)”

The hope of glory rests in God’s great love. *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-6)”* God’s sovereignty secures the eternal purpose and destiny of His children who live anew in Christ to bring glory to God (John 17:4).

What is the role of God’s children under the Lordship of Christ? The sons and daughters of God through faith are now joined to the Lordship of Christ and the holy life that Jesus lived; one we couldn’t live in the flesh. His resurrection continues to bring God’s glory to God as many by faith await the promised second resurrection. *“Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 17:1-5)”* There is no greater Lord of lords who compares to Christ, the begotten Son of God who was, and is, and shall be. God’s children live to honor His Son Jesus and declare His Lordship over ALL creation.

This newness of life with Christ alive in us through the hope of glory, is NOT a life of “hope-so” faith. Rather, it is a life of vibrant faith because of the One who was, is and shall be; joining God’s children’s hope to the cross and the resurrection of Christ. This living (risen) hope breathes new life “fire and passion” into humanity as God’s beloved are yoked through grace by faith to the “love, light and life” of Christ (Col. 1:27).

This hope in Christ leads God’s children of faith to rest and abide in the Word (Christ) AND to keep the hope alive that one day they will look into the face of the Creator, Savior and Sanctifier. The prayers of the saints who have the hope of glory hidden within is for ALL of humanity to delight in God’s will (Psalm 37:4). The hope of glory submits hearts and lives to be made in the holy image of Christ (Gen. 1:26) and to be dressed each day in the “love and righteousness (new man)” of Christ (Eph. 4:24).

*“For I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,
Whom I shall see for myself,
And my eyes shall behold, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!
(Job 19:25-27)”*

A New Priority, The Kingdom of Heaven Within Us

“I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. (Matt. 6:25, 33-34)” It’s common for many to be consumed by the business of their earthly days trying to build an earthly kingdom, a domain (home) that they might control. However, the Lord teaches that one should be more concerned about the (eternal) Kingdom of Heaven which has been planted within them through the Gospel (Word) and has already conquered every day they shall face.

What leads a person to live a “Kingdom First” lifestyle?

From the time Jesus began His ministry to the time it ended, Jesus’ message was focused on the new reality He brought through His life-giving Word, *‘Repent [turn to God], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’*. (Matthew 4:17)” The Lord brought from heaven to earth God’s revelation that His new eternal, forgiveness of sin kingdom had entered this fallen world. The kingdom first lifestyle flows from the message of Christ supernaturally planted within one’s heart as the Holy Spirit has circumcised (cut) it and placed King Jesus upon its throne. *“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit (Romans 2:28-29).”*

Jesus first made His Matt. 4:17 proclamation after finishing a period of fasting for 40 days in the wilderness. The enemy of God and man, Satan harassed and tempted Jesus in the wilderness while He was fasting.

During this time, Satan offered Jesus total sovereignty over all the worldly kingdoms of the earth. Nonetheless, Jesus rebuked the devil. He obeyed His Father's mandate to make God's eternal "Kingdom of Heaven" coming to earth His first priority, despite Satan's "once in all worldly lifetimes" offer. Jesus rebuked the devil reminding him of the source of power for the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus was bringing with Him as He spoke heaven's eternal Word in response to Satan's offer, Jesus said: *"It is written..."* Think about this temptation from Satan, Jesus was tempted to be the anti-Christ (the embodiment of everything that goes against God). Instead, Jesus chose to be the embodiment of everything that goes with God including humanity in that moment. This decision is what a Kingdom first lifestyle of His followers join Him in, one that goes with God and His plan for a redeemed humanity; a decision to walk with God.

Why does Jesus believe God's Kingdom is worth more than all the world's kingdoms? Jesus has revealed through His "light, love and life" that the eternal Kingdom He has brought down from heaven is greater than everything one can possess in this dying world. His revelation is emphasized as it is supernaturally established in the hearts of all who receive Jesus' heaven-sent Word by faith. All who receive the Lord's Word by faith, have received access to the Lord's sovereignty over all the earthly kingdoms established over all time. Jesus knew it's impossible for anyone or anything that's yoked to a dying world to overcome God's eternal Word and Kingdom. Some kings spent their whole wealth and lives searching for the eternal Kingdom that Jesus offers freely now to common folk. The Apostle Paul writes this about those who receive Christ and His Kingdom in their heart, *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (Romans 8:16-17)"*

When one comes to faith in Jesus, they are supernaturally yoked to Christ who sits upon God's throne of grace in heaven and are joint heirs with Christ even if they may suffer for a season in this life. Those seated with Christ know that like Him, even one's suffering brings glory to God. This foreknowledge of being indwelt to thrive in Christ brings greater understanding to Jesus' Kingdom proclamation which He shared in Luke 17:21, "*For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.*" Through the coming of God's Kingdom into the hearts of believers, Jesus has overcome the offer of the antichrist in those who are yoked to the King. By faith all citizens of the kingdom of God, walk in His love and "place of authority and power (name)" for all eternity.

How does the Kingdom Within manifest in one's heart?

The Kingdom within supernaturally yokes its citizens to the victory of the Risen King over ALL temptations and sin that the world throws at them. Kingdom grace is a power base unlike any other (2 Corinthians 12:9). Jesus establishes a never-ending, heavenly Kingdom on earth first in hearts through faith in His Word and then through the manifestation of God's power and love throughout creation. The same Word and power that Jesus stood upon as He rejected all the tempter's ploys resides in the hearts of all who come to faith in Christ. It molds them into His image and bears eternal fruit in the process through their lives. Satan didn't realize who Jesus was, the Word made flesh as he tried to tempt Him. Jesus was the New Shepherd (Holy King) who would shepherd humanity into eternity through God's Kingdom living within them. His Word demonstrated itself true and indestructible as Jesus fulfilled prophecies written about Himself during His journey to the cross and the resurrection. Faith in the Lord's eternal Word truly is more precious than any blessing this world offers. The Kingdom is a treasure hidden within for the glory of God that can never be tarnished or stolen by the enemy.

The citizens of God's Kingdom know and trust in God's will; *"this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I [God] will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:40)"* Therefore, the citizens of heaven look at their life and the lives of others through the glasses of eternity. *"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 136:1)"*

The New Citizenship of Heaven

Despite one's earthly citizenship (nation), just like Abraham, God's people look forward to a greater land promised to them through God's Word (promise). The citizens of heaven through faith in the resurrected Christ, live focused on the Kingdom of Heaven within them being established first in their heart (the throne of Christ) and then upon every square inch of earth. This kingdom focus of its citizens leads them to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (unity in Christ); God's justice in the form of the heavenly city (dwelling) of Jerusalem taking hold of the earth. This is why citizens of heaven commonly pray for this, *"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9-10)"*

How is Kingdom Gravity greater than the gravity of the universe? Abraham's life of faith which parallels all who have a new (awakened) heart of faith in Jesus demonstrates the gravity which keeps one's feet on eternal ground (foundation) because his faith stood on God's promises going beyond his years. *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Heb. 11:8-9)"*

Nowadays, citizens of heaven living on earth have seen and trust in the greater purpose and promise of God fulfilled through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This kingdom gravity of faith in the Risen Christ, impacts those who trust Christ beyond their years and directs them in how to carry the Kingdom (Light) throughout their lives. This gravity is a strongly, rooted truth (Word) that keeps one's first and greatest priority one that seeks after the new reality of being a citizen of the kingdom of heaven, a citizenship above all earthly citizenships.

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)” The Word of Christ takes hold of the hearts of all citizens of heaven as it becomes personal and visible through the work of Christ in one's heart with its new framework for living. This new spiritual framework sets up life-giving boundaries to shape lives for Kingdom living. God's Living Word and Spirit exude new life into the soul of those who become the embodiment of a Kingdom citizen. Here is an example of the Living Word being breathed into Kingdom citizens, *“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)”* Citizens of heaven are built up through words like these shared by Jesus, to overcome seemingly impossible situations through the inward presence of the Kingdom of Heaven. As citizens of heaven are held close to God by kingdom gravity, its grace and power guides their steps in following the Lord's commandments of love (love God and others). *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain [be eternal], that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. (John 15:16-17)”*

The faithful walk with God as citizens of the Kingdom and await His return. *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21)”* It will be a glorious day as the citizens of heaven receive the same resurrection as Christ and be seated like Christ in heaven. This truth leads all citizens to live now to make the case for Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven which they carry within them. *“We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2nd Cor. 5:20-21)”*

How is one raised in/under Kingdom Mentorship? Jesus is both King and Teacher (Rabboni) to the citizens of heaven. *“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:1-3)”* Jesus came to reveal God’s Kingdom. Through His teachings, His ambassadors see themselves as chosen and prepared for representing God’s Kingdom. It’s important to remember that these lessons were learned on their journey of faith which they obediently carried and passed on as Jesus demonstrated Kingdom life to them and instructed them. Now, the Holy Spirit demonstrates and instructs hearts to “do and teach” just like Jesus did with His first disciples. At times, Jesus used parables to share Kingdom instructions.

This is not a hindrance for those who rely upon the Holy Spirit to bring Light to His Kingdom Word within them. Jesus encourages His disciples (followers) with these words, *“For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. (Mark 4:22-23)”*

The Lord doesn't treat His ambassadors as pawns in His Kingdom. He treats them as brothers in the faith and as co-laborers in “Spirit and Truth”. The Apostle John described being mentored by Christ with these words, *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. (1st John 2:20-21)”* Remember, as one follows Christ His anointing has come to bring the full counsel of Scripture to one's new spiritual “heart and mind” to build up His ambassadors.

Why did Jesus speak so harshly to the Jewish Pharisees (teachers)? *“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation. (Mark 3:28-29)”* Both forgiveness through the blood of the Lamb of God and the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven will not come to those who are proud and refuse to receive the counselling of the Holy Spirit. The religious leaders didn't know the heart of God (his mercy) and didn't receive the Lord's life-giving words because they believed that their knowledge was God's life-giving manna. Their religious training separated them from the heaven-sent manna of the Christ. Heaven's manna is received through the supernatural revelation of the Holy Spirit who opens hearts to receive the gift of eternal life. Only God's Son can bring this gift (God Himself) NOT religion or its control.

In religious leadership circles even today, pride keeps many away from operating as true ambassadors for God's Kingdom of Heaven. These leaders are worse than unbelievers as they lead others in the church to choose their own path, one separate from the path of God's charity (love) and Holy Spirit. *"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? 'And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (Matthew 7:21-23)'"* There is power in the name of Jesus. It alone has the authority to glorify God. God can choose to save and redeem people through the name of Jesus alone (Luke 9:49-50). This happens when individuals are focused on self-interests while using the name of Jesus to help others (Acts 19:13-16). The love of self and the desire to control others (a prideful heart) can be easily discerned in those supposed ambassadors who only labor to build up their own kingdoms rather than the Kingdom of God.

Those who possess a kingdom heart have hearts that are humble and desire to serve others as ambassadors for God's Kingdom of Heaven. Love for God and others will be very visible in those ambassadors who truly labor to honor God.

*For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus:
that if One died for all, then all died;
and He died for all, that those who live
should live no longer for themselves,
but for Him who died for them and rose again.
Therefore, from now on,
we regard no one according to the flesh.
Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh,
yet now we know Him thus no longer.
(2nd Cor. 5:14-16)"*

A New Home, Surrounded by God

“Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. (Gen. 5:22-24)”

The story of Enoch was a story of a man who understood what it meant to abide in God as he walked with God. He was a family man who treasured his relationship with God the Father above-ALL. He had children. He imparted the things of God to them and then he was gone, off to the eternal home of God. The believers of today have an even greater relationship with God than Enoch enjoyed.

What revelation of Christ helps His children to feel at home with God? The new relationship that the Lord has brought to the children of God is an eternal relationship that provides an abode for God’s children wherever they find themselves. Jesus comforts His disciples as He tells them about their new home. *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3)”* God sent to the world the fullness of His grace and truth for them to rest in (John 1:14). The Lord has prepared this eternal home for every soul that has been captured by His love. There are many mansions (lots of space to abide in His grace and truth) available for all who believe in Him.

When was the construction of these mansions in the Father’s house completed? They were prepared prior to the Lord’s sending of the Holy Spirit to His followers.

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)”

As the disciples waited on the Lord in Jerusalem and prayed for the return of Christ, they didn't understand that the Lord was opening heaven's door wide for many to enter into an eternal relationship (home) with God which would far exceed the relationship that Enoch enjoyed on earth. Heaven was coming down into the hearts of God's children through the Holy Spirit to prepare them for living in their new mansions. *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ (Acts 2:38-39)”*

Did any of the disciples understand the goodness of God which would come like a flood in that breakthrough moment of Pentecost which the Lord was addressing?

No, and they are NOT alone. Even today disciples miss the mark on understanding the abundant gift of God, a new home of being surrounded by God. *Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way? (John 14:4)” Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. (John 14:8)”* Jesus by the grace of God was going to show his disciples more than the Way (John 14:6) and the Father (John 14:10). He was going to reveal the fullness of God, His triune relationship, His power and His charity and establish this new home for His children to abide in through the Gospel. Why was this earthly relationship greater than the one Enoch enjoyed? Its eternal foundation would stand upon the shed blood and power of the blood of Christ. These works would testify to its foundation, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12)”*

Who is the Helper who builds God's house and walks with His children for eternity? *"Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His (Romans 8:9)." He is Christ's indwelling Spirit which unites one's heart and soul with God. "I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. (John 16:7)"* The Old Testament prophecies of Joel 2:28-29 leading up to John the Baptist' prophecy in John 1:33-34 foretold of the Helper, Jesus would send down from heaven after He had ascended into heaven and completed God's new home. After delivering the sacrifice of His blood to the Father, the Son of God sent the Holy Spirit down from heaven to draw God's beloved children home.

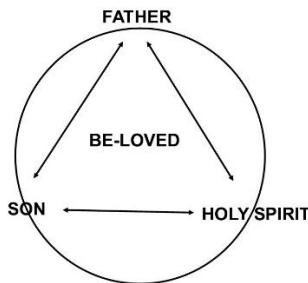
And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)" As Jeremiah prophesied in Jere. 31:33, the Truth would now be forever written (abide) in the hearts and minds of God's children. Wisdom (minds) and compassion (hearts) greater than king Solomon's and king David's would now be activated in God's children of faith.

What work completed the New Home that God's children live in? *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. (Matt. 5:17)"* Jesus perfectly fulfilled the writings of the Law and the Prophets to prepare His new home for God's people. Now, the Lord calls His flock to lay down (rest) in their new pasture (home) with these words, *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. (John 15:3-4)"* The children of God abide in the abode of God built on the foundation of the fulfilled Word of God. The Spirit of Truth helps God's children to stay forever sheltered and covered in their New Home as they live by faith and follow Christ.

How does one thrive in God's New Covenant Home?

Christ built God's New Covenant Home so that His children of faith will thrive eternally in His presence no matter where they physically are through this new covenant relationship; the home established for God's children and the 3 persons of the Godhead, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to live. The revelation of the Kingdom established through the Trinity has reconciled humanity to God and given them a new domicile where they can thrive together. *"For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)"*

God's new home is where the "blameless(holy) and loved" thrive. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved...In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise..." (Eph 1:3-6, 13-14)"*



Jesus said, *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 14:32)"*

A New Spirit-Filled Life

“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28-29)” The Lord has paid the highest price for the salvation of humanity and the holy life of God’s Spirit to be poured out upon His people of faith. For God so loved the world that He sent His one-of-a-kind, sinless Son (John 3:16) to pay for our sins (Romans 5:8). The blood of Jesus, God’s visible charity (mercy) offers new-life and freedom to all from the hopeless future of a fallen world and its judgment.

How is God’s freedom bringing abundant life? New life-giving freedom from sin, through the finished work of the cross, is bringing God’s freedom to one’s “body, soul and spirit”. One’s earthly body is like a temporal tent which houses one’s soul and spirit for a limited period. It is a mobile tent, which we spend our days in moving around from location to location as the world we live in revolves around the sun. God’s freedom brings the promise that one’s body shall be replaced one day by a glorified body (1st Cor. 15:42). The soul encompasses one’s thoughts, emotions and will (decisions) that control and fill the days of their life. The spirit is a special aspect of our being that needs to be awakened to allow one’s body and soul to respond to the presence of God’s “Spirit and Truth”. An awakened (born-again) spirit frees one to live abundantly in Christ as it facilitates the renewal of the mind which guides one’s soul.

An unawaken spirit is captivated by the world’s bondage of sin (Romans 8:20-21) In its sleeping state, it falls captive to wayward thoughts and emotions which lead to destructive decisions. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)”*

One's sin nature inherited from the sin of Adam and Eve initially keeps an unbeliever's spirit from responding to God's Spirit. When one believes (in Christ), their spirit is regenerated so it can be led by God's Spirit. An unbeliever is wide open to being led by earthly, fallen spirits and truths which seek destructive (life-draining) paths. Only faith in God's Word allows one to receive the things of God's eternal Spirit. He has paid the greatest price with the life of His Son to awaken everyone's "body, soul and spirit" to His presence.

What life-giving ways does God's Spirit lead His awakened ones? The Holy Spirit awakens one's faith in Christ to the supernatural realm to bring forth greater: knowledge of being adopted as sons and daughters of God; ability to prophesy (speak life) over creation; ability to dream and interpret dreams that come to God's children; ability to see into the realm that is above creation (God's Kingdom come) AND ability to cooperate with God's "righteousness and love" in order to speak freedom into the lives of others.]

These life-giving ways and others flow through the lives of all who have been awakened to the Spirit-filled life through repentance and the refreshment of the Holy Spirit. As God's Spirit breathes upon the Living Word within a believer, faith and boldness arises in God's children. God loves to bring freedom and abundant life to His children. *"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2nd Cor. 3:17)"* The Spirit of God moves like the wind to breakthrough the challenges of life and to fan the flames of passion for God in "spirit, body and soul" (John 10:10).

What is God's greatest purpose for freedom in this life? God gives freedom in this life to overcome sin and death. *"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)"*

Don't be confused by all that's going on with those who haven't been awakened to God's freedom in this world. *"Another parable He [Jesus] put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into my barn.' (Matthew 13:24-30)"*

God's covenants, His promises allow for both good seed and bad seed to grow together. His covenant is greater than the soil that the seed is sown in. His New Covenant has released the Good Seed of Christ to flourish amid the bad seed of wayward "thoughts, words and deeds". The perfection (holiness) of Christ allows for God's Spirit to be poured into those living in Christ alongside others NOT living in Christ. The planting of His supernatural Seed produces the wheat (eternal life and fruit) that will at His return forever be separated from the tares (temporary and fruitless lives). We shouldn't think that God is slow in bringing judgment upon sin in this fallen world. He acts according to the Truth which emphasizes that His judgment is final. Until Christ returns, in grace God is both nurturing the free will of humanity along with drawing out the fruit of the Holy Spirit, a harvest of repentance.

What labor of love and of first importance is God accomplishing despite these challenging days in this age of grace?

Above-all God has unleashed the freedom “to be” made in His image through the revelation of His love and righteousness for humanity. He is creating masterpieces in Christ (Eph. 2:10). God’s masterpieces in Christ Jesus are Spirit-filled, eternal beings, not temporary dwellings but eternal houses of prayer and worship unto God. *Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. (1st Corinthians 6:19-20)*” The earthly body (tent) of God’s children is repurposed and redirected by the Spirit to proclaim truth in love as it moves from glory to glory.

One’s freedom from sin to be new in Christ, allows God’s children to live, move and have their being in His life-giving presence (Acts 17:28). God’s grace is all-sufficient in producing a new creation out of one’s old sinful self to become a unique expression (like a fingerprint) of God’s love and righteousness. Grace and its unlimited power propel God’s children forward to learn to live beyond their physical abilities. God’s children enjoy the freedom to grow in the gifts (1 Cor. 12:4-11) and fruit (Gal. 5:22-23) of the Holy Spirit. This is all part of the new freedom to discover the fullness of their new Spirit-filled life.

What day was the Spirit poured out upon humanity? On the Day of Pentecost after Christ had been resurrected and ascended the Holy Spirit of Christ was poured out upon His disciples, *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)”*.

The gift of freedom through the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of the Law teaches God's children how to walk with Him, not as one who takes delight in sin, who walks in the flesh but as one free in the Lord's Spirit. *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1)"* Now, as a child of God fellowships with their God, they celebrate God's gift of freedom and seek after their God-given freedom to walk united with God through Christ in His divine nature and power. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)"*

How did people in the Bible receive the gift of freedom in the Holy Spirit? Any aspect of the life of Christ being received by a believer comes to them through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Very rarely does one receive all of Christ in Spirit and Truth in one encounter with God. This is why Paul said he continued to pray for the believers in Ephesians 1:15-23, to receive greater enlightenment through the spirit of "wisdom and revelation" and the exceeding power of His greatness towards us. God is Spirit and Truth. His worshippers grow in their worship of Him in Spirit and Truth as they continue to unpack the gift of knowing Him. All should desire to worship God with greater and greater excellence and direct their freedom in the Spirit towards elevating their loving relationship with God (Deut. 6:5).

People encountering God and receiving the gift of Holy Spirit freedom is recorded in the Book of Acts in multiple places. *"And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."*

Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. (Acts 19:1-6)” These early believers were baptized with John’s baptism in water to have their sins forgiven but they hadn’t received the Holy Spirit like King Jesus (Acts 2:38, Matt. 3:11). The new wine of the Spirit became available to all believers after the ascension of Christ to His heavenly throne of grace. As one receives the Spirit, they live as new creation vessels, like a king’s royal cup for new wine that can fill them and be poured out from them.

When Paul laid His hands upon the disciples, they received the Holy Spirit to enable them and empower them to be obedient to King Jesus. Now, they were equipped by the Spirit to share what they had received freely (the passionate love of God). Paul, himself was filled with the Spirit as Ananias had previously laid hands upon him in Acts 9:15-17.

This story identifies a group of believers who began to consume and be consumed by God’s Living Word (Jesus). With the coming of the Spirit, so comes the Kingdom of Heaven. The Lordship of Christ brings the Kingdom of Heaven and the Holy Spirit into the hearts of its citizens on earth (1st Cor, 12:3). Acts 2:38 gives simple instructions for individuals to have divine Pentecost encounters where one has repented, been baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins and received the Holy Spirit. Freedom from sin and eternal death opens one’s heart to receive the Living Word, the Spirit of Christ.

How does this newfound freedom lead one to consume and be consumed by the Living Word? Their newfound freedom leads them into the love and righteousness of Christ.

Freedom from sin leads one to depend on the Spirit of Christ. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8”1-2)”* The gift of freedom from the sacrifice of Christ and the Spirit keeps them in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:16). God’s freedom is meant to be consumed and to consume His children. Paul described the gift this way, *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2nd Cor. 3:17)”*

The manna from heaven, Spirit of Truth gives one freedom from sin (John 8:32) along with the daily desire to be consumed by His truth daily. As the revelation of freedom in the Spirit takes hold of one’s soul, they are overwhelmed by the goodness of God that now lives in them. This place of freedom gives one a great desire to love God more. It makes them hunger for the abundant life of Christ that He purchased for His flock (John 10:10). They want their lives to have nothing to do with serving the gods of this world.

All who have been set free have accepted this invitation from Christ, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)”* Trying to control one’s life or being stuck in a harmful cycle of chasing after sin is very burdensome. The Holy Spirit sets one free from these wayward endeavors and places them on the path of following the “way, truth and life (John 14:6)” of the Risen Christ. Those who have surrendered to Christ live consumed by the new freedom and walking with God in this manner, *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:25)”* As one allows the Holy Spirit to reign in their heart, grace rather than judgement consumes the way they look at the situations of their life.

As one consumes and is consumed by the Living Word (Gospel) they are filled with and strengthened by joy (Psalm 28:7). Jesus knew His disciples needed to receive the freedom He purchased for them on the cross so that they would walk with God, who is love, in the Spirit of the Law. Shortly before His crucifixion, He told His disciples this, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever. (John 14:15-16)”* *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12)”* Those who believe in the first love of Christ, live to be spirit-filled and spirit-led by the Good Shephard. He is bringing the Kingdom of God from heaven to earth through all who consume and are consumed by His Living Word (Heb. 4:12).

*“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said,
out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
(John 7:37-38)”*

A New Love, to Follow His “Call to Love”

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:15,17-19)” Have you ever thought about what motivated those first families from Europe to risk it all by sailing across the Atlantic ocean to a new world, the western hemisphere? There is a connection between what was going on in their heart and what the Apostle Paul prayed for above. Not everyone who sailed to the new world was motivated by the love of God, however, many desired to be rooted and grounded in love and they didn’t want their governments to interfere. God who is love, has called His family to follow His call to love through one’s life buoyed by the width, length, depth, and height of God’s unlimited love.

Love takes risks so there is always some level of risk involved when walking with God in love. When one’s heart is motivated by love, it becomes open to and a vessel for God’s love to flow through one’s life. One can be called by God’s love to approach the unthinkable; that is to approach life’s relationships and adventures sometimes like one being asked to walk on water. The Apostle Peter literally heard this calling from the Lord. He was asked by Jesus to step out of a boat and walk on water over to Jesus who Himself was walking on water. *“But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’ ‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to you on the water.’ ‘Come,’ he said. (Matthew 14:27-29)”* The courage to answer this call, to walk upon the oceans of God’s love with Him comes as one trusts in the God who gives eternal life and is love.

What are the Lord's visible brackets for His love? Jesus declared *"I am the Alpha and Omega—The Beginning and the End (Revelation 1:8)"* The visible brackets of the Lord's love demonstrate the beginning and the end of His love working within this finite world to eternally yoke our hearts to His. He demonstrates His ability to yoke finite lives to God's eternal love through His First Love and Last Love. *"We love because he first loved us...Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1st John 4:19, 7-8)"* We see everything on this side of life in part (including love), but God sees everything in the fullness (eternity) of His love. The greatest labor of the Lord's First love was displayed as Christ was nailed to the cross to save humanity (Romans 5:8). This first work of the finite being attached to eternity was completed as these words were spoken by Jesus on the cross, *"It is finished. (John 19:30)"*

We see the labor of God's Last love displayed through the resurrection of Christ. We see the End of this work of the finite being attached to eternity as these words were spoken by the angel to Mary about the Lord's resurrection, *"He has risen. (Matthew 28:6)"*. The Lord's first and last labors of love became the book covers for many lives on earth as His faithfulness redeemed His children. One's faith stands upon the Lord's work of love that has joined the finite to the new eternal reality of walking forever with God in His love. From that moment forward the destiny of God's redeemed family was sealed on earth. God's children walk with Him in His eternal love with this assurance, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. (John 5:24)"*

How does Jesus' first and last love impact disciples? His followers view life differently as they are forever love struck.

As one looks through these brackets for His love, they see a new reality for living where Christ has made the impossible possible. One's understanding of walking in love is radically changed. *"Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. (1st Cor. 13:6-8)"*

Seeing life through God's love, reveals to them the depravity of sin. As the revelation of sin's destruction of life turns one to God, love leads them to not take delight in those things that lead to destruction. Love leads one to rejoice with God in His truth as it is spoken with words and deeds to bring light into darkness. The beauty of God's love is: that it is willing and able to bear (carry) all things; that it exemplifies perfect faith in the goodness of God; that it maintains hope even amid the waywardness of this world; that it overcomes every test thrown at it; and that God's holy love remains untarnished and never fails for all eternity. One becomes captured, lovestruck by the beauty (holiness) of God's love that one has been called to walk in with God forever.

How is one compelled to walk in God's love? *"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. (2nd Cor. 5:14-16)"* One responds to the call of love in this fallen world, with a higher regard for life that now comes to humanity from the eternal realm of the supernatural. To begin with, knowing the love of Christ and His resurrection, one should no longer look at others based upon their material existence or even Christ' life solely as a man. The gift of eternal life through the love of Christ compels God's children to respond by surrendering their heart to the amazing love of God. One shuns the vanity of being a person who falls in love with their possessions.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ... raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4, 6-7)” There are exceeding great riches found in God’s grace (charity). Love is benevolent and directed by its accompanying power. Walking in this eternal realm is what lays ahead for all who believe in and are compelled to follow the love of Christ. *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2nd Cor. 5:1)”* Putting God’s love first in life leads one to go against the grain of the thinking only of this world, even when risks are involved. The love that conquers death leads one’s heart across the great divide between life and death. It trusts in the promise of the exceeding riches of God’s grace and in this bold biblical declaration, “if God is for us, then who can stand against us, not even death! (Romans 8:31-39)”

Where does the call to love lead one? *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 22:36-40)”* The Law was fulfilled in Christ (Matt. 5:17) so that the Lord’s call to love, the Spirit of the Law could produce the eternal fruit that God desired birthed out of the new hearts of His children. The fruit of the Spirit are markers for God’s children to recognize when they are operating in “call to love” fashion: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23).”* As Jesus has fulfilled the Law, now God’s children can walk with God in grace and learn how to love God and others without walls.

As one learns to love others they turn away from this list of fruit which is NOT the fruit of one who is being led by the Spirit: “*adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like*” (Galatians 5:19-20)”. This list of fruit will NOT be produced by God’s children in eternity so now is the perfect time to turn away from these unrighteous deeds.

Obedience to the Lord’s commandments of love turns God’s children away from this last list to the former list. Love covering a multitude of sins (1st Peter 4:8) is provided in this life to lead God’s children to emulate living in a Christ-like fashion NOT to remain living in bondage to sin. “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (Romans 6:1-2)*” To be a sweet-smelling aroma to God, the aroma of Christ seen in His first and last love, should always be one’s motivation for following the “call to love” NOT a “religious calling” to earn one’s salvation. “*Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering, and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Eph. 5:1-2)*”

*Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.”
And to him He said, “See,
I have removed your iniquity from you,
and I will clothe you with rich robes.
(Zechariah 3:3-4)”*

A New Doctor, Christ the Healer

“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5)” The prophet Isaiah spoke of one who carried the grief, the sorrow, the wounds and the sin of the world to the cross in order to replace the enmity between man and God with the peace of God. Jesus, the Christ brought healing to the world even as they judged Him as one who deserved everything He got as He went to the cross. Yet, by His stripes heaped upon Him by unbelievers there is healing. His obedience to the cross released the power of His shed blood. Now, Christ the Healer offers: salvation, reconciliation, restoration (healing) and a new life to ALL who call on Him. The Gospel embodied in the Christ brings healing and holiness into the “body, soul and spirit” of God’s children as they trust in Him.

Do you cry out to Jesus (pray) for healing breakthroughs? As John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him for baptism in the river Jordan he declared, *“Behold, The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)”* What was John declaring about Jesus when he said this about Him? He knew that Jesus was the One prophesied about in Isaiah 53. John knew through the voice of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus would be the sacrificial lamb for the sin of the world. He knew that Jesus would be anointed by the Holy Spirit to give His life to cover all sin and to remove its power as He entered the baptism waters.

Christ the Healer came to bring divine healing breakthrough into the lives of all who believed that He was the Lamb of God. The greatest healing breakthrough is the redemption of one’s soul. Still, there are other healing breakthroughs Christ has purchased for humanity on His cross.

A stream of healing breakthroughs is flowing into the “spirit, soul and body” of many through the power of the blood of Jesus shed on the cross which overcomes sin. The Bible teaches that the same Spirit with its healing power that resurrected Christ is available to all who call on the Lord.

Is the healing power of Christ available today? What “has, is and shall” be manifested in this world through the ministry of Christ the Healer? *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence. (2 Peter 1:3)”* The divine power sent from heaven to earth through the Son of God continues to glorify God (John 1:33). ALL who live to lift up the name of Jesus have access to His divine power and nature to glorify God. God sends that same power that descended from heaven to Jesus during His baptism to be immersed into the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, as one is baptized (immersed) into Christ and the Holy Spirit, they receive God’s divine power to be ministers of reconciliation throughout their lives. Do God’s people believe this? Unfortunately, many are taught NOT to trust the healing scriptures that Jesus gave His disciples. Fortunately, many have personally experienced God’s healing as they cried out in desperation during a crisis time in their lives. This is what Jesus says about healing miracles and the power of the Holy Spirit, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (John 14:12)”*

Do you trust in God’s work of being made in the image of Christ and becoming partakers of the divine nature? *“God has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. (2 Peter 1:4)”*

Partakers of God's divine nature trust in His precious and very great promises. They believe that God is NOT a liar and therefore are NOT double minded about becoming partakers in God's divine nature and power. *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:6-8)"* As ministers of reconciliation, they intercede for others in faith as they pray for healing and call on the name of Jesus. They believe that Christ the Healer heals through their prayers. They believe the scriptures place a high calling on their life as they partake in the divine nature and power, *"to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)."*

Why would God shake up all things to heal one's afflictions? *"Now he [Jesus] has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. (Hebrews 12:26-27)"* God's children who work with Him in the ministry of reconciliation, believe God's redeeming love and power can supernaturally shake everything created to its very core.

God acts supernaturally on one's behalf to get to the center of one's affliction to stir up people to live anew by faith. *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19)"* God goes to the extremes of shaking both the heavens and earth to turn wayward hearts to be blessed by His holy and loving presence.] The carnal mind can think that shaking people and situations up is NOT indicative of a God who is compassionate. The regenerated spirit understands that God's mercy can at times shake all things up to remove unbelief from His children's hearts.

Is the healing ministry relevant for the church today? “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and revelation, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Ephesians 1:7-10)*” [The healing ministry is a very important part of carrying the Kingdom of Heaven into this world. From the beginning of the Lord’s ministry in the Gospels, Jesus was healing many.]

Soon afterwards in Matthew 10:7-8 we observe Jesus instructing His disciples to heal the sick, [*“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*] The Healing ministry is something that believers should embrace as they grow in the revelation of how the Lord’s riches of grace have apportioned the gift of healing to His body for the accomplishment of God’s good pleasure; to draw many to Himself.

The first disciples served in the Lord’s healing ministry and today many in the body of Christ move by faith in the healing ministry. The Apostle Paul recorded for the body of Christ strong testimonies about how the healing ministry powerfully continues after Christ ascended. “*But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.” But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm...*

In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. (Acts 28:3-5, 7-9)” Here is a summary of what Paul shared in this testimony: God afforded Paul grace and its riches for the gathering together of souls into the Kingdom; Paul believed God to be unaffected by the snake bite to continue his healing ministry; others took notice of the power of the Kingdom coming through Paul’s faith in Christ the Healer; Publius a leader witnessed Paul’s healing and through faith was healed; AND finally the rest of island who were sick came to Paul for healing and were healed.

How does Paul’s testimony back up healing today? Paul was baptized and healed by the laying on of hands by Ananias. Paul wasn’t one of the twelve disciples who walked with Jesus in the flesh. Yet, God gave him the healing ministry. Jesus still instructs all His disciples to freely give what they have received. The gift of Holy Spirit empowers all to pray for healing and propagate the Kingdom of Heaven through Christ in us. God blesses those who honor His Son by believing that God’s divine power can work through them to heal others (Hebrews 11:6). As one lays hands on the sick and prays, they always depend on Christ the Healer to work through them and to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth (Matt. 4:17). This is why the Apostle Paul fervently prayed this way in Ephesians 1:18-19 for the body of Christ, *“that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”*

The healing ministry is for every son and daughter of God because like Paul who was bite by a snake, we can be bitten by this fallen world and overcome it. We live as kingdom vessels so that others will be impacted by the divine power and nature of the Living Word (Gospel). This occurs as faith arises and one believes that the Holy Spirit has set them apart to be ministers of reconciliation.

Those who think that praying for healing might make them look crazy, have forgotten that their faith in the unseen, supernatural power of God which redeems them from sin has already made them look crazy to unbelievers. As the Holy Spirit moves one's heart to compassion for those who are sick, don't believe that there is nothing that one can do about this situation. Be daring, take a step of faith and become the "hands and heart" of Christ the Healer. Intercede and pray for the afflicted. It's part of one's calling to love others, glorify God and be molded into the image of Christ.

*"For if we are beside ourselves [look crazy],
it is for God; or if we are of sound mind,
it is for you [believers]. (2nd Cor. 5:13)"*

A New Discipline, Being a Living Sacrifice

“They came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me. (Genesis 22:9-12)” A good son doesn’t escape the discipline that must be passed down through a good father. As Abraham went to Mount Moriah and laid his son (and his future descendants) on the altar, his son Isaac found himself in an extremely uncomfortable position of being disciplined.

Father Abraham had laid his son Isaac on the altar of sacrifice to obey the will of his Heavenly Father. Through this act of faith of laying Isaac on the altar, God’s Word that He had spoken over Abraham would now become an eternal Word spoken over the life of Isaac (descendants of Abraham) as well. Every one of God’s children for all eternity would hear in their hearts this word, *“now I know that your fear God.”* Submitting one’s life to God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10) because of the eternity it touches. God disciplines the hearts of those willing to become a living sacrifice for another. This act of great love was on display as Abraham laid his willing son on the altar. Both Abraham and Isaac accepted the Word of God that day and received eternal blessings as they believed God. This started an unending chain of sacrifices in God’s family line as they come personally to understand the work of faith and the role of discipline even at the cost of great sacrifice. The greatest sacrifice would come through Jesus as He allowed Himself to become the ultimate discipline of God at the altar of the cross of Calvary.

How do these two stories of Abraham taking Isaac to Mount Moriah and Jesus going to the cross of Calvary relate to disciples today? Being laid upon the altar of agape is exactly what Jesus was talking about as He shared the following, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (Luke 9:23)”* The price of one’s sacrifices in this life because of the Word of God (Isaiah 55:11) can become secondary because of the eternal fruit (offspring) they produce as God’s children through death see themselves becoming a living sacrifice. *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain. (John 15:16)”* The willingness to be placed on the altar of agape love sees the altar as the place where one joins Jesus in His sacrifice. This altar in the “Light of the Good Shepherd” can look like a green pasture that God makes His sheep lie down in because of its eternal fruit bearing capabilities. *“He [Good Shepherd] makes me to lie down in green pastures (Psalm 23:2).”*

Faith Between Father(parent) and Son(child), Releases Great Blessings

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12)” There are special blessings for those who learn to operate respectfully in parent/child relationships under the Lord’s discipline. Discipline is gained through sacrifice but only sacrifice brings about great blessings. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:2)”*

How does one maturely handle the Lord’s Discipline?

“For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary...”

and discouraged in your souls My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. (Hebrews 12:3,5)” These words were spoken to encourage the children of God in difficult times. The discipline coming from the Living Word of the Lord does NOT operate to tear down God’s children but to build them up, sanctify them in Christ. Just like in a garden, there are seasons of pruning required to cut off unproductive branches (free God’s children from sin) and to bring more life-giving sap to the good branches (to bear more fruit). Through grace by faith God’s children are saved. From that point forward, the pruning work of sanctification increases the flow of God’s “Spirit and Truth” to bring more nourishment to His masterpieces (branches) in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:10) as one is bearing good fruit.

The Apostle Paul wrote this about the work of pruning (being disciplined) by God’s Holy Word. *“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2nd Timothy 4:2)*” God’s Word is a two-edge sword cutting whether we are the one preaching or listening to His Word. Sons and daughters expect to be made ready and directed by their God’s “Spirit and Truth” daily. Jesus prayed daily at the start of every day to receive direction from His Heavenly Father. He did this to live in tune with the Kingdom of Heaven while on earth, something we best accomplish through Christian disciplines. Discipline goes beyond just hearing the Word preached. It happens as one interacts based on God’s Word with all they encounter daily. Grace has been provided for God’s children to learn through experience how to better relate to God and others. The following is a short list of disciplines one practices to mature in Christ: prayer, fasting, studying Scripture, serving others, assembling together and worshipping God, etc. Those who want to experience heaven coming to earth approach these disciplines wholeheartedly on a regular basis.

How important is prayer? It is very important to learn how the apostles prayed so we might pray unto the Lord in agreement with their prayers recorded in Scripture. In Colossians 1:9 Paul shares this prayer, *“we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”* Every child of God continues to pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding (revelation) daily. Every child of God continues to pray as the bride of Christ seeking the things of the Spirit, their husband. In Colossians 1:11-12, Paul shares this about prayer, *“that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”* The finished work has purchased many blessings and a great inheritance for the children of God to access. The saints of God pray daily to walk in His marvelous light.

God’s children pray from the place of being partakers in God’s divine nature and power. Therefore, one constantly prays for increased faith to live this way. Faith filled prayers bring forth abundant life in and through one’s being. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)”* Often during prayer time, one should proclaim in faith that God is granting them blessings and an inheritance. As Job faced extreme poverty and death he made this proclamation to God, *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. (Job 19:25-27)”* Every prayer of faith stands upon the preeminence (Lordship) of Christ over all created things. His followers pray to the Lord as ministers of reconciliation who desire to glorify God.

As one learns to surrender everything to God to bring Him glory, it changes the way one prays. Even when words fail to come forward to one's lips during their times of prayer, God has made a way for them to pray in the Holy Spirit to stir up His love in one's heart. *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 1:20-21)"*

How does one approach fasting? *"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:16-18)"* Fasting is a discipline that blesses one's personal fellowship time with the Lord. It moves one's spirit to focus more on the presence of the Holy Spirit as one is praying and meditating upon the Word of God. It's not a discipline to make one more worthy of God's presence. Rather, it is done in agreement with God's promise of His eternal presence being available through the blood of Jesus. At the heart of fasting should be a strong desire to draw closer to God's heart. The brother of Jesus, James wrote this about drawing close to God, *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (James 4:8)"*

What makes for an acceptable fast and how does one know they are drawing closer to God during the practice of fasting? Periods of fasting interrupt one's normal routines as one fasts. These routines can be mealtimes, dessert times, TV watching and other routines that the soul and body are clinging to for satisfaction. Fasting can be planned or spontaneous as one desires an increase in faith or to overcome trials, tribulations and fear (John 16:33).

A meaningful fast will lead one to spend more time in prayer and meditation on the Bible. It opens one up to experience breakthrough in areas of one's life that is troubling them. Fasting makes the declaration to God through its practice that one desires to commit what they receive to be a better steward of God's power and love (blessings) for His glory. Sometimes, fasting even leads to permanently changing one's daily routines and stopping destructive behavior.

Who leads one in studying the Scripture? *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-2, 14)"* One reads the Bible to consume and be consumed by the Word of God. Jesus Christ the Word took on flesh so that all might know God personally. In Christ, the world saw God. Now, the Risen Christ works in the hearts of the lives of those who His Word is transforming. God gives us His Spirit to help us learn how to discern if what we are hearing from others is biblical. *"The anointing which you have received from Him abides in you...the same anointing teaches you concerning all things (1 John 2:27)."*

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God and His Kingdom of Righteousness are revealed. The Scriptures have been preserved for all of humanity to encounter the God who gives life through His Word. The books of the Bible detail God's journey with humanity across multiple generations as God labored to redeem them. It speaks of hearts being made new (Ezekiel 36:26). It tells how God plans to redeem humanity. God's grace permeates the books of the Bible. God's manna from heaven brings hearts of faith to abundant life as the Lord opens the Scriptures to many hearts and breathes His Spirit upon them.

How should one serve (love) others? “*And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. (1st Peter 4:8-11)*” The Living Word moves the hearts of God’s people to minister to others with acts of love and by speaking the oracles of God in love. Jesus came serving (loving) others to draw them to repentance and He has put forth this example for His disciples to follow.

When Christ returns, He will judge people according to the eternal fruit of His Living Word working in their heart. James, the brother of Jesus spoke of the importance of serving others this way, “*faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:17)*” Jesus spoke of the final judgment of one’s heart based upon their willingness to bless and serve others in Matt. 25:37-40. Jesus remains committed to bringing glory to His heavenly Father and His followers should follow His example.

How does God view regularly assembling together? “*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47)*”.

God loves to move supernaturally in the gatherings (assembling) of His children. The body of Christ is refined and blessed to a greater degree when they gather together around the teachings of Christ. The people of the Gospel draw close to God and fellowship with Him in greater power through the Holy Spirit as they gather together in a group. *“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them. (Matt. 18:19-20)”* Worshipping God is enhanced when gathering in a group. Jesus prayed for unity in John 17:20-21 and spoke against a kingdom / house divided against itself in Mark 3:24-25. The loss of blessings and power is experienced when people don't gather together regularly around the Gospel.

How is the sweet aroma of Christ lifted up to God by His worshippers? When the children of God are overwhelmed with thanksgiving for the love and goodness of God, they enter into the worship of God in “Spirit and Truth”. *“The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24)”* God's children as they worship God, should radiantly express His righteousness and love. The heart of their worship should express what God's people have been expressing in worship to Him for many generations as they encounter God's manifest presence. *“But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel. (Psalm 22:3)”*

When Christ is enthroned on God's children's hearts, He becomes the embodiment of God's “Spirit and Truth” in them. It leads to sweet surrender during worship and a heavenly dialog in “Spirit and Truth” between one's heart and God's heart. The Spirit intercedes for worshippers to unite their heart with the heart of Christ and the will of God.

Often, burdens are removed as the supernatural peace and joy of the Lord strengthens His people during their worship of God. Worship should be approached as an unending dialog between God and His children in “Sprit and Truth”. As one invites God into their presence during times of worship, they are actually calling on God to be their Worship Leader. *“He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)”* God sings His delight over His worshippers.

The Lord’s discipline empowers His followers to face their trials in this life. It molds them to bring glory to the only One who deserves it. It repeatedly calls His worshippers to bring Him worship for His grace which is NOT given in vain but fruitful in many different situation, places and times as one’s sacrifice is required to share the love of Jesus.

*“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
(2nd Timothy 4:6-8)”*

A New Legacy of Walking with God

They knew; they know; and they are known. God's children of faith have stepped into the eternal, unending moment of God's promised presence. It is a supernatural moment that transcends time, space, and matter. It is a life that is connected by faith to a new reality where lives have overcome all transgressions, sins and injustices through faith in the power and love of the eternal life of Christ who conquered death. There is a river in heaven that even now is pouring out eternal life over and through the lives of God's redeemed, to bring heaven to earth. All the sacrifices in this life, some even feeling like one has been placed on a sacrificial altar, have been joined by faith to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Faith in the "life, death and resurrection" of Christ makes one a co-inheritor in the royal inheritance that Jesus purchased for all as it transforms ALL to His image. Faith is the hallmark of God's family legacy. This hallmark for all God's children is one of embracing this truth about God shared by the Apostle Paul to sustain them in this life during their times of testing, pain and anguish, *"My grace is sufficient. (2nd Cor. 12:9)"*

A Supernatural Lineage and Story Line

Those born of supernatural faith, faith in the resurrection, are born into God's supernatural lineage. These personal testimonies of God's faithfulness working in them and through them, the faithful acts which glorify God, are recorded for eternity in heaven. *"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God, day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev. 12:10-11)"*

God's supernatural lineage, His eternal family in "body, soul and spirit" shall glow with His eternal love. They are joined together with Christ like a beautiful bride at a wedding joined with her husband. How is this lineage recorded for eternal posterity? It is written by the Spirit in the heart of God and in the heart and soul of His Son's bride.

Where does the Bible reference this recording of God's supernatural lineage? It references a list of names written in the Book of Life. *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (Revelation 3:5)"* Also, the Good Shephard of Eternal Life (Jesus Christ) knows His flock and His beloved know Him. *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one. (John 10:27-30)"*

What has placed them eternally in God's supernatural lineage? *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach); that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:8-9)"* The Word is always near and dear to His children. It has recorded the names of God's redeemed in the Book of Life (John 5:24). At every new birth, these names are recorded and there is a celebration in heaven. *"I [Jesus] say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (Luke 15:10)"* All who have turned from loving this fallen world to loving God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, have their names recorded in the Book of Life. This lineage is a complete list of ALL who have been born from above, from faith in the Word of Christ and the understanding that the fruit of God's love is obedience.

What other book uniquely identifies the children of God?

The Book of Remembrance contains personal stories of all those who have walked with God in faith. *'Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another and the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name. "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. (Malachi 3:16-17)'"* The wisdom of God, is treasured and gladly received by all who believe in His Word and its power to produce testimonies of the Word's fruitfulness. God's children who fear the Lord submit to His Word above all other words.

They have witnessed that God's Word does not return void and that God's Spirit is limitless in power. The fruitful works of God's Word brought to life through His Spirit in His children has been recorded for posterity in the Book of Remembrance. These jewels (events of God's faithfulness) testify to the goodness of God and the lives that have walked with Him in His most excellent way, the love of Christ (1 Cor. 12:31).

These works of love and righteousness are recorded in a heavenly book, the Book of Remembrance that leads heavenly hosts in giving eternal praise to God. The Book of Remembrance gives a full record of every faithful deed done as God's Word has interceded on behalf of humanity in bringing glory to God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. It can be thought of like a celestial family picture album that brings to memory (contains pictures of) the good works and times of God's family. All the sinful pictures of deeds performed because of unbelief will not be in this album. The recordings of these deeds will be burned by God at the final judgment.

Both books are the recordings of God's family that have been born into His lineage through the Good Seed promised in the beginning. In God's perfect timing, He brought forth the Seed promised, *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed He [Christ] shall bruise your head, and you [sin] shall bruise His heel (Gen. 3:15)."*

This Seed (The Word made flesh) was sent from heaven to earth and would eternally be the foundation for God's Family Legacy. This Seed (Holy Word) which contained God's promised Redeemer who would bring together all of God's family, record their names and record their deeds in the Book of Life and Book of Remembrance for posterity. These books elaborate about the eternal lights that God spoke of as He promised Abraham that his descendants would be numbered greater than the stars in the sky (Gen. 22:17). Each of these stars in God's eternal heaven have both a name and a story to declare the faithfulness of the One, true God who deserves all the honor, glory and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

*For the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and the days of your mourning shall be ended.
Also your people shall all be righteous;
they shall inherit the land forever,
The branch of My planting, the work of My hands,
that I may be glorified.
A little one shall become a thousand,
and a small one a strong nation.
I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.
(Isaiah 60:20-22)"*

Conclusion: A New Purpose, Reconciliation in Christ

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ. (Eph. 4:14-15)” God is calling humanity to walk with Him. He is NOT calling people to live an average pedestrian life trapped in their fallen nature (sin) on earth. The children of God have been joined by faith to the extraordinary testimony and supernatural life of Jesus (Gospel) that is revealed through the Bible (Truth).

All who receive Christ by faith, have embarked on a journey of becoming the embodiment of Jesus (Living Word). It's a supernatural journey, a journey begun through the personal knowledge of Jesus' righteousness and love rescuing them. The God above all, the Father of Lights endows His travel mates with wisdom and revelation as they call on the name of Jesus. Through Christ, God has poured out the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon His children. The Spirit of Truth captures one's heart so they may become a new creation enabled and empowered by grace to walk with God forever.

Let each day be a non-stop, life changing encounter with God as one lives to witness His Kingdom of Heaven and its justice cover every square inch of earth. Like the first disciples, many look for the return of Christ. Meanwhile, like the first disciples who waited for His return, one should live to be a witness for the Kingdom of Heaven to manifest on earth. Jesus shared these words with those who wanted judgment to come so they could see the time of His return; *“when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”* The Lord was emphasizing to the church, that the children of God should focus more on being a “faith and love”-filled expression of the Kingdom of Heaven than seeing the return of the Risen Christ.

Speaking the truth in love is how one shares the Good News of Jesus. Laboring in the harvest field of “all things growing together in the Lord” is God’s labor of love. Only the holy love of Jesus can unite all hearts together forever. The Kingdom of Heaven eternally unites lives and is above all unlike the kingdoms of this world which are divided and temporary.

Therefore, one walks with God to be consumed by one’s purpose and destiny found in God’s highest priority; *“to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33)”*. This purpose brings about the manifestation of God’s glory as this world is being transformed to manifest the love of God. Jesus gave us this simple commandment for walking in God’s presence: love one another by carrying God’s love and sharing freely the fruit of God’s love.

Living from the eternal hope of the Gospel planted in one’s heart is the springboard from which spiritual maturity and change should come forth one day at a time. Just think if ALL of humanity was willing to surrender to God’s Word and Spirit and co-labor with God in making the world a place where it was saturated with the love and righteousness of King Jesus.

I hope that this book draws its readers to spend more time meditating on God’s Word and faithfulness. When Jesus said “it is finished” on the cross, He was speaking about conquering death and fulfilling Scripture. Humanity was given back the responsibility of stewarding the gift of life; to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to every heart and in doing so bring heaven to earth. The lifestyle of approaching God in “Spirit and Truth” with a hunger for the eternal knowledge of the Heavenly “Father and Son” never ends for His children of grace (John 17:3). Holy Spirit Come!

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev. 12:11)”

Appendix: The Holy Spirit Makes All Things New

The Spirit descending from heaven

John 1:32-33 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"

Matt. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Luke 3:22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

The Spirit sealing God's promise

Ephesians 1:13: In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13: If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 24:49: And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

The Spirit commissioning witnesses

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:32: And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

The Spirit leading our being

Acts 17:28 ***In Him we live and move and have our being.***

1 Corinthians 6:19 ***Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;***

1 Corinthians 12:3 ***No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.***

2 Corinthians 3:17: ***Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.***

The Spirit overflowing

Romans 15:13: ***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

John 14:26-27 ***The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.***

John 7:38 ***He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.***"

Invite the Holy Spirit Daily to Have His Way in Prayer

Dear Lord,

I surrender all to You for the glory of God alone.

Come Holy Spirit!

In Jesus name, Amen!