

LiveTransformed

Living a Life of Freedom in Christ



For God so loved the world

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MINISTERING AS JESUS DID...

He compassionately met the needs of people with power and purpose, drawing them to Him, and offering them LIFE.

Luke 4:18-19 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*



NT Greek Lexicon. Strong's Number 222 (ZOE): LIFE, ALIVE, LIVING

1. of the absolute fullness of life which belongs to God. 2. life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection, to be consummated to new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last forever.

VISION

Bringing salvation, healing, and equipping through the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT ZOE HEALING CENTER

Zoe Healing Center (ZHC) is a Christ-centered, non-profit organization comprised of multiple ministries for healing, restoration, and equipping to meet the needs of whole families. We desire to see people saved, healed, set-free, equipped, and walking with purpose to be all that God redeemed them to be.

We know God is our Savior, Lord, Redeemer, and Healer. Our trained and anointed teams partner with the Holy Spirit to minister to those in need of healing and restoration. Whether you're sick, hurting, or suffering, our desire is to pray for your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. We minister to people of all ages and to all conditions.

It is also our desire to help others have a greater understanding of what God has already provided and be equipped to minister Gods' healing and freedom to others. If you would like to know more, please contact us at www.zoehealingcenter.com.



Living a Life of Freedom in Christ

Dear Participant,

We are so excited about your decision to take this journey to walk in freedom through Jesus Christ! *Live Transformed* is a Christ-centered discipleship process designed to help you become the person God created and redeemed you to be. Depression, struggles with life patterns such as addictions or emotional instability, wounds, lies, hurts and an unhealthy identity all stem from spiritual problems – requiring spiritual solutions – NOT behavior modification or symptom focused interventions.

Anything that stands in the way of the abundant life of peace, joy, and fruitfulness that Jesus made available to every believer, is an obstacle we desire to help you eliminate. Once root causes of those things hindering your growth in Christ and preventing healthy relationships are revealed by the Holy Spirit, you can walk in total freedom, total victory, and total peace because you are empowered by His Spirit. Exchange depression for destiny and breakthrough from problems into God's promises. You choose!

Jesus loves you and desires to be the only Lord of your life. He wants you to trust Him totally and allow Him to be your Lord and Savior – absolutely no other gods before Him. If you have never repented of your sins and accepted Him as Lord over your whole life, this is the first step – do it now. Friend, we are delighted that you have accepted this challenge and we look forward to sharing this journey to freedom with you!

The Zoe Healing Center Team

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Discipleship Core Components

PART ONE: The Full Gospel

The Full Gospel – God’s complete plan and the foundation upon which all things are built. Without the full foundation, our lives will crumble.

PART TWO: The Foundation for Freedom and Healing

Jesus ministered to the broken and lost and He deeply addressed the personal needs of people. He provided everything to equip us and step out as Christ’s representatives of the Kingdom of God. You will begin to recognize the enemy’s strategy and attempts to steal your identity. Instead of succumbing to a cycle of defeat, you will learn to eliminate the oppression that prevents you from living a victorious life. Jesus gave His disciples a commission to go and proclaim Him in Word and power. He equipped us with foundational instructions and tools to represent Him well. Jesus came to rescue the lost (**Luke 19:10**), heal, set free, restore, and proclaim the Kingdom of God to others. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (**1 John 3:8**). **That is good news!** You will learn how to partner with the Holy Spirit and live fully connected and empowered by the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus proclaimed during His ministry.

PART THREE: Staying Free

As you begin to walk out life, free in Christ, we will focus on the “what now”. Recognizing that you have His delegated authority, you can overcome anything as a child of God. So now, live your life for Him. Represent Him well. And go and grow! Be a disciple (follower of Christ) and go make disciples. God has given you all you need today, to influence the world for His glory.

Introduction

Throughout this course, we will constantly refer you to the Word of God. What you believe about the Word matters! If you believe it is just history, not 100% accurate, or just written by men, your view of God, salvation, and God's plan for your life will be skewed. (You will not have a Biblical Worldview or Biblical perspective).

From God's Word, we see it is "infallible or inerrant" which means it is "incapable of error". It is never wrong and is free from error. The Bible never fails. Interpretations, versions, or mistranslations may fail. We may see something in the Word that appears to contradict itself so we toss it out. When that happens, it is not the Word that contradicts, but our interpretation of it. We need to ask God for the correct meaning and understanding of what He is saying.

So one of the areas we need to settle before beginning this course, is our belief about the Word of God. God's Word is 100% true, accurate, and is always relevant.

For a better understanding, review the passages below in your Bible:

**2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7; John 1:14; John 17:17; Psalm 12:6
Proverbs 30:5; Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 24:35, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22**

The Bible is the sole source of all God has given us about Himself and His plans for humanity. He is enough! We need to take Him at His Word.

This manual is in no way meant to replace the Bible. It is only a guide to help you learn to listen to the Holy Spirit, to know who you are in Christ, and use as a tool to help you live free in Christ Jesus. You will see many scripture references upon which we stand as we grow with God throughout this course. We encourage you to read them in the Bible for yourself as well as their context. It is important for you to read and understand the Word of God on your own.

The Bible is the authoritative living Word of God. It is essential to read it every day, study thoroughly, and apply it to your life. It will strengthen your spiritual walk with the Lord. It is relevant to everything you encounter today. It will transform, renew, and inspire you to become more like Christ Jesus as you walk through this journey in life, because it is the breath and voice of God.

Before studying the Word of God, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth. He will reveal the very heart of God and His desires for your life. Begin today by making the Bible and prayer a daily part of your life as you begin your new-found relationship with your Heavenly Father. May the Lord bless you and keep you always!

PART ONE

Sessions 1—3

The Full Gospel — The Complete Work of Jesus Christ

Live Transformed is a course that is founded on Christ, and Christ alone. If you are looking to medicate your problems, looking for an answer from psychology or therapy, or any other humanistic, post-modern, or alternative spiritual philosophy or tradition, you are in the wrong place. When you've come to the end of yourself and know that nothing you've tried, apart from the Lordship of Jesus Christ, will work, you can find freedom. If you are ready to submit your life to Him or are at least ready to hear what He's all about, then keep going. Those whom we see get healed and set free have an encounter with the Living God and no matter what the issue, the answer is always Jesus!

Freedom is not the absence of something but the Presence of Someone—Jesus!

John 8:36 “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed!”

THE KEY TO FREEDOM: The Full Gospel Foundation

- **Repentance towards God**
- **Water Baptism into Jesus**
- **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
- **Hearing God—What Does God Say in His Word?**
- **Your New Identity in Christ**
- **Be Watchful—Jesus Is Coming Back!**

We are not about making converts to a religion or denomination – but about making disciples of Jesus and Jesus alone!

Session 1: Repentance — It All Starts Here

To understand our need for Jesus, we have to start in the beginning.

⇒ Even if we are already followers of Christ, it is important to remember the beginning and be proficient in sharing the gospel with others. May we never forget the price that was paid so that we may have eternal life in Christ instead of eternal death.

God's restoration theme is found at the very beginning in Genesis. God spoke everything into existence. But when He made man, He formed him from the clay of the earth. He breathed His own life into man's nostrils, and man became a "living soul". He created mankind to be different from plant and animal life. He created male and female in His own image (**Genesis 1:27**), with an eternal spirit. God desired true fellowship and relationship with mankind so He gave them free will. Free will is the opportunity to make decisions and choose for themselves—to choose Him and follow His leading, trusting that what He says is true, or to reject Him.

The Garden of Eden was not only a place of provision and fellowship with God, but was also a place of testing, an opportunity for Adam and Eve to make a real and necessary choice. God placed two trees in the garden, representing that choice. One was perfect and full of God's blessing—the Tree of Life. The other had the appearance of good fruit, pleasing to the eyes, but was the choice that God warned would lead them away from Him and lead to death. (The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil).

Man and woman were deceived with a false promise of blessing. The enemy got them to question God, "Did God really say that?" and led them to believe that God was withholding something from them. Their choice, eating the fruit, was an act of disobedience (sin) against God that ushered in death just as God had said.

All who were born after Adam and Eve were born into sin. Their sin brought upon the judgement of God, and the only just punishment for such high treason against God is eternal death. (**Romans 6:23**)

God, in His goodness, revealed His restoration plan right away, giving hope, by providing a sacrifice—the first shedding of blood (animal skins to cover their nakedness) to atone for their sins. But it was temporary. This was a sign, a symbol that pointed to the day when a more perfect sacrifice would be made. The shedding of blood by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

And Jesus said, "*I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly*" (**John 10:10**)

Hebrews 9:11-12 (AMP) *“But when Christ appeared as a High Priest of the good things to come [that is, true spiritual worship], He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not a part of this [material] creation. He went once and for all into the Holy Place [the Holy of Holies of Heaven, into the presence of God], and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, having obtained and secured eternal redemption [that is salvation of all who personally believe in Him as Savior].”*

Hebrews 9:22 (AMP) *“In fact under the Law almost everything is cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness [neither release from sin and its guilt, nor cancellation of the merited punishment].”*

In other words, the blood of Jesus was required for our redemption!

We Have a Choice to Make

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

The cost of our sin is death. One day we will either spend eternity with God (in Heaven) through receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord, or we will spend eternal separation from God (in Hell). Even though we have to choose which road to take, God, in His infinite love for us, provided a way for mankind to be restored. In His plan, God sent His own son, Jesus, who was sinless, to be the sacrifice for all who would believe and receive, the gift of eternal life (salvation) through Christ Jesus. Through His death on the cross, His resurrection, and ascension to be seated at the right hand of God, we now have access to be restored back to God.

Romans 2:4 *“...the goodness of God leads you to repentance”*

Many times people ask, “How can God send good people to hell?” The answer is, He doesn’t. Every person has a choice to make. In His goodness, He has given everyone a free gift. But not everyone will receive it and choose Him.

Just as one man (Adam) sinned and all of mankind was separated; one man (Jesus) died - shed His blood so that all mankind has an opportunity to be restored to God. His plan for redemption was God’s love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness of our sins. Each person individually must repent for their own sins! Each person individually will be held accountable one day to God **(2 Corinthians 5:10)**.

How do we receive the gift of Salvation?

Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

First, we have to recognize our need for forgiveness, that we are sinners in need of a Savior. We cannot look at others to decide if we are a “good” person or not. If others are our standard, we might be okay. But they are not. **God is our standard.** When we look at our life in light of a Holy God, we fall short every time. In ourselves, we are not sinless enough, good enough, or clean enough to stand before God. Apart from Jesus, we miss it.

We also can't do enough “works” to be good next to God's standard. Many today think they are good because of their good deeds, good morals, attendance in church, because they are generous with their resources, or are kind to people. They aren't murderers, thieves, or abusers, so they must be good. However, the Word says there is no one good but God (**Mark 10:18**). We are born with a sin nature. We are born separated from God because of sin. So its not about being good or bad; it is about being in right **relationship** with Jesus. It is accepting that Jesus paid the penalty for your sin that you could not pay. Salvation cannot be earned by good works, only believed and received by grace through faith. Once you believe, you must count the cost. Following Jesus will cost you everything—surrender your life to live His!

Ephesians 2:8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...”*

Only Jesus' sacrifice can offer you salvation. Once you've recognized your need for Jesus, repent of your sins.

Acts 2:38 *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent and let everyone 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**.’”*

What does it mean to repent?

God gave you free will, just like Adam in the garden. You can choose Him and reap the benefits of that relationship, or reject Him and reap the fruit of eternity without Him. The first step in being in a right relationship with God is repentance. This is not a confession or commitment to take lightly.

Repentance is not an apology or admission of guilt or a promise to try harder.

Repentance means, (besides acknowledging, confessing, and believing Jesus is the Son of God) you will ask Him to forgive you of your sins, make a commitment to follow His ways, and recognize Jesus as Lord over every aspect of your life. The result is a change of lifestyle that reflects your new nature (being like Jesus) that will be evident in your life.

Repentance is a change in the direction and course of our lives.

By acknowledging Jesus as Lord, we change direction because our values change. We are no longer preoccupied with the same interests but our eyes are now on knowing God and His plans. By keeping our focus on God, He will make the change in us. We will see Him transform the way we act, the way we treat people, and the decisions we make, as we diligently commit to walk in obedience to Him. It is a full turnaround – people around you will notice!

Repentance should be a defining moment in our lives.

It is not just about saying a prayer and hoping to stay out of hell. It should be a heartfelt, sincere prayer of surrendering our life to God. That will be a defining moment - one you will not forget.

Repentance is not a religion. It is a relationship.

We don't clean ourselves up and then come to God. We come to God with a repentant heart, and as we walk out the relationship with Him, He will do the cleaning. **Romans 6:22** says "But now, since you have been set free from sin, and having become slaves to God, you have your fruit to holiness (*holy living*) and the end, everlasting life!" When we call on Jesus to be Lord and Savior, we are sanctified (*holy, set apart to be used by God*) to love and obey His commands, and have eternal life in Him.

Repentance is a decision to change your alignment with the Kingdom of Darkness to an alignment with the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

There are only two kingdoms—the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of God. There are no other kingdoms and there is no neutral ground. We will always be citizens of a kingdom. We are born into the kingdom of darkness. When we are *born again* (saved), we are legally delivered into the Kingdom of God. The kingdom of God can be defined as "the rule of a King—Jesus." When the King's Will is being done, He is ruling. Jesus shows us in His Word His Will, what defines the Kingdom of God and who will inherit it. We choose whom we will serve and whom we allow to rule over us. (**Luke 13, Romans 14:17, John 3:5, Mark 10:15, 1 Corinthians 15:50**)

Joshua 24:15 "...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..."

Our Next Part and Responsibility is to Become a Disciple of Jesus

Romans 10:9 (AMP) "Because if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God] and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Yes, there is belief and confession as we have talked about, but Jesus as (not only Savior) but Lord. The Greek word for "Lord" is "kurios" which means "master, owner, supreme in authority". It is Jesus as Lord that brings freedom in our lives. When we die to ourselves and live to please Him.

Savior is what Jesus has “done”- His work. Lord declares the “position” He has in our life. We cannot fully partake in the benefit of His work unless we come under His position as Lord (master, owner, supreme in authority). Many people stop at the salvation prayer - confess they believe in Jesus as Savior, but never allow Him to be Lord over their life. Salvation has been provided for every human being, but as individuals, we have to choose to accept it under God’s terms - Jesus as Lord.

Mark 8:34-35 (AMP) *“Jesus called the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must **deny himself** [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake and the gospel’s will save it [from the consequences of sin and separation from God].”*

Galatians 2:20 *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

Jesus lays out the terms of discipleship. Many desire the benefits of what Jesus did rather than understand who He is. They loved His gifts, not the life to which He was calling them. He knew their hearts and in other words were exhorting them to ‘count the cost’ of following Jesus.

Luke 14:27- 33 *“And whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple...so likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

Although the gift of salvation is free to everyone who asks (John 3:16), the asking requires a transfer of ownership (Luke 9:23; Galatians 5:24) ‘Counting the cost’ means recognizing and agreeing to some terms first. In following Christ, we cannot simply follow our own inclinations. We cannot follow Him and the world’s way at the same time (Matthew 7:13-14). Following Jesus may mean we lose relationships, dreams, material things, even our lives.

John 3:16 *“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.”*

Galatians 5:24 *“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh and its passions and desires.”*

Matthew 7:13-14 *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

Romans 12:1 (AMP) *“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your rational [logical, intelligent] act of worship.”*

When we receive His gift of new life, which cost Jesus His life, how can we spend our lives pursuing our own desires and ambitions? Instead, in reverential awe and profound love, we should be compelled to pour out our lives before Him as an offering, holding nothing back from Him. Giving everything we are and have to the only King who will reign forevermore. This is not a waste—it is our rational/reasonable act of worship to Jesus!

1 Corinthians 1:18 *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

The cross empowers us to walk free from sin and the strong influences of the world. What was previously impossible to do in our own strength, we can now do because Jesus is our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that we are a new creation in Christ. The old is dead. Now we put off the old patterns of doing things and learn to live like the new person we have become.

(Regeneration—spiritual birth and renewal—**Titus 3:5**) When we choose Him, He is faithful to reveal what is in our lives that can hinder our relationship with Him. We don't have to have it all figured out. He knows and in His love, He reveals it.

This is just the beginning of your salvation and sanctification process to become all that God created and redeemed you to be.

Salvation and Repentance Wrap Up

- All have sinned and fallen short. We need a Savior.
- When we repent, we turn away from the old ways and allow Jesus to be Lord over our lives.
- With Jesus as Lord, we will live a life submitted to His ways instead of seeking our own way.
- True repentance will produce a hunger for God's Word. God's Word will renew your mind and will produce total transformation and Godly fruit in our lives.

Prayer for Salvation or Recommitment. (Feel free to use your own words)

Father, I recognize that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Forgive me of my sins. God, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the only way to You. That He died on the cross, was buried, and You raised Him from the dead. Jesus, You fully paid the price for my sins. I choose to follow you always. Come into my life, not only as my Savior, but as my Lord. I lay down all of me and surrender all to You. I trust you with my life. Thank you for loving me; for setting me free; for making me new. Help me to know Your Word, and to walk in Your ways all the days of my life. I love you Lord! Amen.

TAKE ACTION:

Philemon 6—Activate Your Faith!

Philemon 1:6 “that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”

What has God given you?

- **Himself** (Jesus - God’s Son) - He paid my penalty. I have forgiveness and a new life.
- **His Presence** (Jesus / the Holy Spirit in us—working on our behalf—speaking through God’s Word and enforcing God’s Word) - our Counselor, Teacher, Wisdom and Understanding, Comforter.
- **His Word** - to learn His nature, His character, His commands, and His ways.
- **His Promises / Provision** – He never leaves us. He is coming back to take us with Him forever to be with God. (**John 14:2-3**)

This alone should make a follower of Christ shout with praise and thanksgiving to God who first loved us and desires to dwell in us. Everything pales in comparison! We choose!

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. How would you define the difference between Jesus as Savior and Lord?

2. What stood out to you in this chapter that maybe you didn't know or hadn't heard?

3. Are you saved? _____ Made Jesus Lord? _____

*If not, are you ready to? _____

4. Ask the Lord if there is any area in your life that you have not surrendered fully to Him.

*Are you ready to surrender the area(s) the Lord shows you? _____

5. What is the Lord is speaking to you about? Write out your recommitment to Him.

Baptism in Water

Water baptism was important to Jesus. (Jesus Himself was baptized - see **Matthew 3**) After He rose from the dead, Jesus told His disciples to take the news of His kingdom and His great salvation to the ends of the earth, telling them, *“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in (INTO) the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to obey everything I have taught you and I will be with you always to the end of the age. Amen.”*
Matthew 28:19-20

Baptism is so important that you cannot find a single place in the Bible where someone starts to believe and does not get baptized immediately. (Examples: Prison guard and family in the middle of the night – Acts 16; the 3000 who believed at the same time after Peter preached – Acts 2; the Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8). After the cross, everyone who believed was baptized immediately. ***When the gospel is preached correctly and fully, people want to be baptized.***

We are mandated to make disciples of those who choose a relationship with Jesus. That means instructing them in the FULL Gospel and the subsequent responses God requires in obedience to mature and walk in the fullness of Him. Once you have repented, received the free gift of salvation, and are now a follower (or disciple) of Christ, ***baptism in Jesus’ Name*** is the next response.

Acts 2:38 -39 (NKJV) “Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise of the Father is for you and your children ...”

What is Baptism in Water?

The Greek word for “baptize” is “baptizo” which means to immerse or submerge in water (fully wet). The act of being baptized then, would be to go fully under water.

Baptism is the first thing Jesus tells us to do in the Great Commission. (**Matt. 28:19-20** - above) It is not a work for salvation but a result of obedience after receiving the gift of salvation that allows for the working of God in your spiritual life.

Baptism shows you are changing allegiance from this world (Satan) to a commitment to Christ. You are dying to the sin nature, being buried with Christ, and raised to a new life where you now belong to Him.

Romans 6:11 (HCSB) “So you too consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 6:1-7 *“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? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized 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. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.”*

When did you die with Christ? When did you bury the flesh? At salvation with a prayer and confession? Or at baptism, when you buried the old man in the water and were raised with Christ?

A large part of your life of freedom in Christ depends on serving Jesus as Lord and laying down the old man. What better expression is there that shows you are no longer the same person but a follower of Christ through baptism?

Water Baptism Wrap Up

- Water baptism is a very important part of becoming a disciple. You get baptized ‘to belong’ to Jesus - renouncing yourself as belonging to someone else.
- Water baptism indicates the seriousness of your commitment to Jesus Christ. It is an act of obedience to your new found Savior and Lord. It is a visible sign of your spiritual commitment to lay down your life (bury the flesh) and step into His life.
- In water baptism, you bury the old man and are raised new in Christ. It is critical to respond in obedience to Christ after repentance and committing to follow Jesus as your Savior and Lord.
- It is a foundational step to freedom, healing, and victory empowered by God’s grace!

When you really understand Water Baptism, you can walk in freedom knowing you have died to the sin nature and can be led by the Spirit rather than the flesh. When Jesus was baptized in water, the Father and the Holy Spirit were present. He was showing us a picture of the fullness of the Godhead (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit). You too can walk in the fullness of the Godhead when you are submissive to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:24 *“Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”*

Interesting Report

We know the enemy does not create, but only counterfeits the things God has created. It is amazing how many other religions use “water baptism” as a way of identifying someone as a disciple.

A video was released in the past several years of a journalist who was researching various religions in an attempt to find the one he liked the best. He went to India and was researching the Hindu religion. He came upon a “priest” of an extreme tribe who called upon the spirits of the dead, drank out of human skulls, and things of that kind. The reporter told him he wanted to know all about his beliefs. The Priest then asked, “Do you want to be my disciple?” The reporter, wanting the information he was seeking, said, “Yes.” The priest then told him, “If you want to be my disciple, go dunk yourself in the river three times.”

Hmm...very interesting. One of the things the devil has chosen to counterfeit is baptism. He knows it's a marking to whose kingdom that person has allegiance – for whom they are living. And yet, in our Western Churches, it has been boiled down to a symbol, not really of much importance, and optional. The enemy recognizes that there is a powerful manifestation of God's fullness in water baptism – the changing of allegiance, the surrendering of one's life, and yet we have missed it and chalked it up to religion or tradition. That realization should make us really want to understand the fullness of what God has provided for us - not just a watered down convenience gospel with a mirage of Jesus, but full provision and the fullness of ALL Jesus really is.

NOTES:

Session 2: The Holy Spirit — His Work and Baptism

Acts 2:37-39 *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘**Repent**, and let everyone 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.”*

The word remission in the verse means more than just forgiveness. It means “freedom, pardon, deliverance, and forgiveness”. Thayer's Dictionary states it as a “release from bondage or imprisonment, pardon of sin—as if never committed.”

Because of the work Jesus did on the cross, we can live out what we already have (Jesus in us) - total remission. We don't have to say, “I will be free when I stop doing this, or quit something”. In Jesus, we can live free today.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

An important teaching of Scripture is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God teaches the following:

The baptism in the Spirit is intended for all who profess faith in Christ, have been born again, and thereby have received the indwelling of the Spirit. (He was near you; then in you. Now, He wants to come upon you).

John 14:17 *“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.”*

Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you....”*

One of Christ's key goals in His earthly mission was to baptize His followers in the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33**). He instructed His disciples not to begin witnessing until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and ‘endued with power from on high’ (**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5,8**). Jesus Christ Himself did not enter His ministry until He had been ‘anointed ... with the Holy Spirit and with power’ (**Acts 10:38; Luke 4:1,18**).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Spirit distinct and separate from His work of regeneration (initial born-again/spiritual birth, creating in you a new heart). The baptism in the Spirit completes the regeneration and sanctifying work of the Spirit.

On the day of Christ's resurrection, He breathed on His disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (**John 20:22**), indicating that regeneration and new life were being given to them. Then later He told them they must also be 'endued with power' by the Holy Spirit (**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5,8**). For the disciples, it was clearly a post-regeneration experience (**Acts 11:17**). One can be regenerated (a new heart – spiritually alive- after repentance and surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus), and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but still not be baptized in the Holy Spirit (**Acts 11:17**).

Spirit Baptism is a spiritual encounter different and separate from salvation, empowering you with greater anointing for ministering to others – to be a witness and signs and wonders that accompany His Word. The main purpose is to equip believers to proclaim the good news of redemption and bring people into the Kingdom of God.

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

Spirit Baptism occurs five times in Acts:

Acts 2:4 – Pentecost in Jerusalem

Acts 8:17 – Converts in Samaria

Acts. 9:17 – Saul (Paul) in Damascus

Acts 10:45-56 – Gentiles in Caesarea

Acts 19:6 – Converts in Ephesus

Everyone who received Spirit Baptism in the Bible (Acts) was clearly already born-again.

Jesus promised to take the same Holy Spirit (who has lived inside of you since salvation), and drench you outwardly in His person and power! *Baptism means immersion.*

New Testament Christians considered speaking in tongues, or glossolalia (from Greek- glossais lale), as a God given sign accompanying the baptism in the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:4; 10:45-47; 19:6**). This Biblical pattern for the Spirit-filled life is still valid today.

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

The baptism in the Holy Spirit brings personal boldness and the power of the Spirit into the believer's life in order to accomplish mighty works in Christ's name and to make one's witness and proclamation effective (**Acts 1:8; 2:14-41; 4:31; 6:8; Rom 15:18-19; 1 Cor 2:4**). This power is not some impersonal life force, but is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit by which Jesus and His glory and works are present with His people (**John 14:16-18; 16:14; 1 Cor 12:7**).

It is essential that believers recognize the primary importance of the Holy Spirit in God's redemptive purpose. Many Christians have no idea what difference it would make if there was not Holy Spirit in the world. Without the Holy Spirit there would be no creation, no universe, no human race (**Gen 1:2; Job 33:4**). Without the Holy Spirit there would be no Bible (**2 Peter 1:21**), no New Testament (**John 14:26; 15:26-27; 1 Cor 2:10-14**), no power to proclaim the gospel (**Acts 1:8**). Without the Holy Spirit there would be no faith, no new birth, no holiness, no Christians at all in the world.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

He is a divine person like the Father and the Son with an individuality of His own (**2 Cor 3:17-18; Heb 9:14; 1 Peter 1:2**). Thus we may never think of the Holy Spirit as a mere influence or power. He has personal characteristics, for He thinks (**Rom 8:2**), He feels (**Rom 15:30**), He wills (**1 Cor 12:11**), and has the capacity to love and to enjoy fellowship. He was sent by the Father to bring believers into the intimate presence and fellowship of Jesus (**John 14:16-18**). In light of these truths we should treat Him as a person and regard Him as the infinite living God within our hearts, worthy of our worship, love and surrender (**Mark 1:11**).

Paul ends with a doxology in 2 Corinthians 13:14 – “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

We honor our Father God, the Creator of all things; we honor His Son, Jesus, and the precious, powerful blood of Jesus shed for the remission of our sins and we also honor the Father's gift to us – the very presence of the Holy Spirit. We desperately need the presence and leading of the Holy Spirit! The life of a true born-again, spirit-filled Christian is not boring or ineffective, but quite the contrary, adventurous, joyful, effective and fruitful in witnessing and bringing glory to Jesus.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

1 The filling of the Holy Spirit took place in Acts 2 and He continues to fulfill His promise today. It was a normal, expected experience.

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV) “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 filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

2 The Holy Spirit is the agent of Salvation, convicting us of guilt (**John 16:7-8**), revealing to us the truth about Jesus (**John 14:16,26**), giving us new birth (**John 3:3-6**) and incorporating us into the body of Christ (**1 Cor 12:13**).

No one can see the kingdom of heaven unless they are born-again. John 3:3

- He lives in us, He sanctifies us (i.e., cleanses and sets apart to be used by God), leads and motivates us into holy lives, delivering us from sin's bondage (**Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Thes 2:13**). He gives us that inner knowing – revelation that we are children of God (**Rom 8:16**), helps us in our worship of God (**Acts 10:46**) and in our prayer lives as we cry out to God (**Rom 8:26-27**).
- He produces in us Christ-like character (fruit) that glorifies Christ (**Gal 5:22-23 ; 1 Peter 1:2**).
- He is our divine teacher, guiding us into all truth (**John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor 2:9-16**).
- He discloses Jesus to us and guiding us into close fellowship and oneness with Jesus (**John 14:16-18; 16:14**).
- He continually imparts God's love to us (**Rom 5:5**) and gives us joy, comfort, and help (**John 14:16; 1 Thes 1:6**).

3 The Holy Spirit is the agent of service – empowering believers for service and witness. This work of the Holy Spirit is related to the baptism of the Spirit or the fullness of the Spirit.

- When we are baptized in the Spirit, we receive power to witness for Christ and work effectively and fruitful according to His word and will (**Acts 1:8**), enabling us to proclaim God's Word (**Acts 1:8; 4:31**) and work miracles (**Acts 2:43; 3:2-8; 5:15; 6:8; 10:38**).
- Throughout the church age, it is God's intended purpose that all Christ followers experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:39**). In fact it is a command – it is imperative that a believer be baptized with the Holy Spirit to walk in the Spirit, in the fullness of God and to be unwavering in faith and obedience.

Paul says that not everyone will speak publicly in tongues and interpret (**1 Cor 12:30**), but encouraged all to pray in tongues (**1 Cor 14:5**).

4 The Holy Spirit is an indwelling 'earnest' - a down payment guarantee—and first installment to believers that a greater life with Christ will come in the future.

Paul calls the new covenant 'the administration of the Spirit' (**2 Cor 3:8**) meaning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Through faith in Jesus Christ one receives the Holy Spirit, is born again (regeneration—new heart) and is then promised the baptism in the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8; 2:4**). All the redemptive benefits in Christ come by way of the Holy Spirit. It is He who mediates Christ's presence and all the benefits of the cross.

2 Corinthians 3:17 *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom).”*

- *Reference Life in the Spirit Study Bible Commentary & AG Position Paper*

The Work of the Holy Spirit (Continued)

1. He is my seal (Eph 1:13; Mt 27:66)
2. He my pledge (Eph 1:13-14; John 14:16)
3. He is my Helper (Rom 8:26; Eph 3:20)
4. He gives us fellowship with Him and access to the Father (1 Cor 13:14; Eph 2:8)
5. He enables us to wait (Gal 5:5)
6. He casts out demons (Mt 12:28)
7. He teaches us (John 14:26)
8. He speaks (Rev 2:7)
9. He testifies of Jesus (John 15:26)
10. He comforts us (Acts 9:3)
11. He strengthens us (Eph 3:16)
12. He prays for us (Rom 8:26)
13. He bears witness to the truth (Rom 9:1)
14. He brings joy (1 Thes 1:6)
15. He brings freedom (2 Cor 3:17)
16. He helps us obey (1 Pet 1:22)
17. He transforms us (2 Cor 3:16)
18. He lives in us (1 Cor 3:16)
19. He frees us (Rom 8:2)
20. He renews us (Titus 3:5)
21. He produces fruit (Gal 5:22-23)
22. He gives gifts (1 Cor 12:8-10)
23. He leads us (Rom 8:14)
24. He convicts us (John 16:18)
25. He sanctifies us (2 Thess 2:13)
26. He empowers us (Acts 1:8)
27. He gives us revelation that Jesus is Lord (1 Cor 12:3). No one can confess Jesus is Lord without the Holy Spirit.

The Imperative

The mission of the Holy Spirit is to lead people to Christ, empower them to be witnesses of a risen Savior and live free from bondage; to be holy and separated unto Christ for His service.

In **Acts 1:4**, Jesus commanded the disciples to not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift that He promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus commanded – means what He told them it was not optional. It was imperative!

In the church world – there is an idea that you have faith in God, there is the Son who saved us, but the Holy Spirit is this ‘extra – auxiliary’ Christian experience (optional). You can take Him or leave Him.

This is not what the Word says! The Word says to wait until you receive.

The Holy Spirit is everything to us and without Him, we have nothing. There is no life in the Spirit without Him.

Acts 17:28 “*For in Him we live and move and have our being...*”

Acts 8:4 tells us of a revival in Samaria. When the apostle heard that the people had been baptized in water, but the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on them, they departed to them and laid hands on them to receive.

- They had received the Gospel message, they were baptized in the name of Jesus, they were free from demons / sickness – delivered and healed.
- It was not OK that they had heard the gospel and responded to it, but not received the Holy Spirit – it was imperative that they receive.

Is the life of the Spirit imperative to you? Do you understand how important it is for your life in Christ to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Do you take Him seriously in your daily walk or is He relegated to the back burner or deemed ‘non-essential’?

Acts 9:17 – Ananias was sent to Paul to ‘regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit’.

Acts 19:2 – In Ephesus – ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit?’

He didn’t ask when did you believe or what creed you recited. Paul knew that the way they responded to that question would tell him everything he needed to know about the extent, the depth, and authenticity of their experience.

‘I will baptize you with the Holy Spirit’ – this is a mark of the Messiah.

Jesus the Baptizer separates Him from all other prophets.

The New Testament salvation is not just about something that happens to you after death – it is about the realities of the world to come entering into your existence right now. The Holy Spirit is the ‘down payment’ or “guarantee” – the promise of what is to come

1 Corinthians 1:22 “*Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*”

Acts 1:8 “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses unto Me ... and the uttermost parts of the Earth.*”

In **Eph 5:18** – Paul says to ‘be filled with the Holy Spirit. Greek ‘be filled’ is present imperative. The command is always for now and an on-going continuous reality. Be filled now. Don’t wait for everything in your life to line up. You line up with the Word now! You have an unlimited supply – ability to be continuously filled, and the Holy Spirit will flow through you.

You are a conduit for the power and presence of God to flow into a lost and dying world around you. That is why the Holy Spirit has come and that is why the Holy Spirit is imperative.

John 14:15 -17 *“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— 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.”*

Why Should I be Filled with the Holy Spirit with the Evidence of Speaking in Tongues?

1. **To edify yourself**, build yourself up. The spirit man is being empowered when you pray in the Spirit (speak in tongues). It is like recharging your spiritual batteries.

Jude 1:20-21 *“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.”*

2. **When you pray** in the Spirit, **you are praying perfect – praying the will of God**. Many times we don’t know what to pray. The Holy Spirit helps us out through tongues. It is one of our tools—one of our weapons of spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:10-20 *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

Praying in the Spirit allows us to be on the same page with God. We are not praying what we want, what we think, or what we feel. We are praying the will of God.

Romans 8:26 *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

3. **It is a sign for unbelievers.** God can move how He wants to move in the lives of people. This is one of the ways.

1 Corinthians 14:22 *“Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.”*

How do I receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

1. **Receive** Jesus as Lord and Savior. Not looking for the gift, but the Gift Giver.
2. **Invite the Lord** to fill you with His Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Tongues can be received by the laying on of hands or just on your own in private time.
3. **Believe** that you are saved, the Holy Spirit is in you. Ask Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit—to come upon you as in the Book of Acts, giving you boldness and power to witness and walk in the fullness of what He has for you.
4. **Act.** You have to do the speaking. Your voice and your mouth form the words. The Spirit gives the inspiration. You will begin to speak in a language that you don't understand. You may not feel any sense of empowerment at all – but remember that it is not about feeling and sensations. Believe that you have received because you responded in faith to ask the Holy Spirit to baptize you.
5. **Be confident.** If you have submitted yourself to Jesus in this process, you can be confident that the words and sounds are coming from Him.
6. **Pray** frequently in the Holy Spirit when you pray.

Holy Spirit Wrap Up

1. **True born-again believers have the Holy Spirit** residing in them at salvation – but not all go further to embrace the baptism of the Holy Spirit (with the evidence of speaking in tongues—another language). When the Bible talks about being baptized in the Holy Spirit, it is the same word as being baptized with water. It is immersion, complete (immersed is to surround or cover). When we read the book of Acts and see the early believers' response after repentance and baptism in water, it is clear that there was evidence of their filling and baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Acts 19:6 *“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”*

2. **The promise of being baptized in the Holy Spirit** with the evidence of speaking in tongues is a supernatural, God-given promise given to every believer. It is the ability to speak in a God-given spiritual language that you do not understand. It is a gift and cannot be earned, but must be received. You have already been given the gift, so it is a matter of speaking it out in faith.

Acts 8:14-17 *“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”*

Mark 16:16-18 *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

3. **The Holy Spirit** is power in our lives to live righteously, boldly and witness of Jesus. Because of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and by the authority that Jesus gives us, we are able to testify of Jesus to others and live a supernatural life.

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

Romans 15:13 *“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.”*

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What stood out to you in this chapter that maybe you didn't know or hadn't heard?

2. Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues? _____

*If not, are you ready to? _____

*You can ask one of the leaders to lay hands on you or just go before the Lord on your own. Let Him know you are ready to receive and believe you already have it. It is available for every believer not just a select few.

3. What is the Lord is speaking to you? Write out your desire to speak in tongues or thank Him for what He's already done. Ask Him your questions—talk to Him as you would have a personal conversation.

Hearing God

One of the most important weapons for living in freedom, besides prayer and reading the Bible, is the ability to hear from God. We must learn to recognize His voice and discern the voice of God from the voice of our flesh, the enemy, or another human voice. When we get rid of all the junk and walk out our relationship with God, listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and obeying what He says, there is so much freedom! It's not that life doesn't look messy sometimes, but there is a strength and peace that only comes from a relationship with God. Relationships are a two-way street. Not only do we talk to God, but we need to hear what He has to say to us.

Lie: You can't hear God.

Truth: God wants you to hear His voice.

If you are a follower of Christ, you can hear from God.

John 8:47 (NASB) "He who is of God hears the words of God..."

John 9:31 (NASB) "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him."

The Ability to Hear God

1. **It is Innate** - we are His children and have the ability to hear. Even before a baby is born, they recognize their parents voice. Just as a child recognizes the voice of his parents (the accent, tone, language and speech patterns), as we spend time with God, we will also recognize His voice.
2. **It is Learned** – **John 15:15-16** tells us, "all things He has made known to us." In the Word of God, we learn about who God is, and we learn to hear His voice. His voice will line up with His Word.
3. **It is Matured** – as we walk in His Word and pursue it, we find it easier to discern and hear. Just as with a child, sometimes you have to speak louder to get their attention (they might be distracted with other things). But when they are sitting right next to you, you can speak softer. It is that way with God. When we are close to Him, as we grow in Him, we will be able to hear the still small voice instead of the louder voice to get our attention.

As we begin to learn to hear from God, we need to posture ourselves to do so. In other words, He can speak to us anytime, but we need to set aside time to intentionally receive from His Word. As we do, we will hear, and it will help us as we go through busy times or trials to recognize whose voice we are hearing. It comes from time spent with Him.

- **Be still and listen**. “Be still and know that I am God...”(**Psalm 46:10**) - Get quiet.
- **Schedule a set time** daily to spend with God – to worship, read the Word, get still and listen. (We are busy, distracted, and anxious so we sometimes cannot hear).
- **Deliberately eliminate hurriedness and distractions**. Any moments you can grab during the day to get quiet, do so. Example – driving from one place to another. Instead of turning on music, pray and ask God if there is anything He wants to tell you.
- **Sometimes we don’t hear because we are doing all the talking**. We need to pray. But we also need to be still. It takes practice. When you set aside a set time daily and learn to take moments throughout the day to specifically listen and not ask for things, your ability to hear and discern who is speaking will increase.
- **Read the Bible**. People do not hear because they are not disciplined in reading the Word of God.

How Does God Speak and How Do We Know It Is Him?

1. **Scripture** – God revealed Himself – His character, His nature, His instructions.

Psalm 138:2 “...for you have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

Proverbs 2:6 “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

The greatest foundation for hearing the voice of God is knowing the Word of God.

God’s voice will never contradict what He has said in His Word.

2. **People – preachers, teachers, and godly friends**

Word of Caution: Not everyone who claims they have a word from God or follow Christ really does or really hears His heart. The best way to discern who truly is a follower of Christ and is hearing from Him accurately, is to mature in your own ability to hear God. God does speak through other people at times (prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom—**1 Corinthians 12:7-11**). When you have matured in your hearing, you will be able to discern if it is a right word or not. If it is not, let it go. If it is, pray about it and be led by the Lord as what to do with it. You will know if the word resonates in your spirit or does not, or confirms what God has been already been speaking to you in His Word.

3. Dreams & Visions

Some people hear from God in dreams or visions. This isn't true for everyone, but it does happen. It is important to discern the meaning of the dream or vision and ask the Lord what you are to do with it. He is your source for the interpretation—if He is the One giving you the dream. Write it down, pray over it, and do whatever God is telling you to do. Most dreams are direction for you, but sometimes they might be a corporate dream. You have to steward dreams well—knowing from the Lord when to sit on it, pray over it, or share it.

Sometimes the dream might be a warning or something that needs prayerful intercession. Other times it is a word of direction for your life. (Example – Joseph had a dream his brothers would bow down to him. God was letting Joseph know He would put him in a place to save his people). Does the dream line up with the Word? Discern who the dream is from. God? Flesh? Devil? Something you ate?

(Some examples: Joseph in Genesis, Daniel, Jeremiah, Joseph in Matthew 2:19)

Joel 2:28 *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.”*

4. Peace (Rest)

Philippians 4:7 (NASB) *“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

He will give you peace when you are seeking Him. There is a hard to define, internal peace that God gives His people when they are tuned in to what He is saying. For example, others can look at your circumstances and wonder what you are going to do, but if you have heard from the Lord, you have peace about the situation - even if things don't look different yet. That is from God. You are able to weather the storm because you remember the peace you had or the peace you still have about a situation. You have peace and rest in your spirit. True peace comes from confidence of trusting God.

There is a counterfeit peace, that is not of God, that many have been seduced by, leading them away from God. For example, they might say they have a peace in their spirit about leaving their husband to move in with their boyfriend. But they are for sure they are hearing from God. How do we know this “peace” isn't from God? God's peace will line up with His Word, character, nature, and attitude towards holiness. When we are making decisions off of peace, always examine who the peace points to? God or your own desires?

Another counterfeit peace many are fooled by is the “experience of tranquility” in holistic health, transpersonal (or spiritual) psychology, stress management activities dealing with meditation or breathing/heart rhythms, etc. which sound “spiritual” but the Holy Spirit is not the spirit behind them. They might provide temporary peace but the end outcome is far from it.

Faith in Christ produces peace without having to “feel” something. Through revelation knowledge of Who He is and Whose you are, you can walk in true peace that has already been given to you through Jesus Christ, who is our true Prince of Peace. (**Isaiah 9:6**)

5. Other Ways God Speaks (He is the Creator!)

Numbers 22—Donkey; **Daniel 5**—Handwriting on the wall; **Exodus 3**—Moses and the burning bush; **Acts 9**—Saul/Paul’s Damascus experience.

He also speaks through **nature (Romans 1:18-25)**. Creation testifies to the nature of God and the glory of God. NO person has an excuse to not believe God. Because He loves us so much, He speaks in many ways and will do whatever it takes to break through our defenses so we can hear His voice. He created us to have the capacity to hear Him and speaks in a variety of ways.

6. Conviction

As followers of Christ, you have to learn the difference between the **conviction** of the Holy Spirit and the **condemnation** of the enemy.

Conviction, as it relates to sin, will always point to something specific you have done wrong, and lead you to God to repent and be forgiven. Conviction will draw you to God. Conviction will reorient you back to Truth and Life in Jesus Christ. Conviction brings restoration.

Condemnation is usually vague and will always be focused on who you are or are not (your identity.) It makes you want to cover up and hide from God (**Genesis 3**). *Condemnation* will produce shame and guilt. If what you are receiving makes you want to run from God or hide from Him – it is not the Holy Spirit. *Condemnation* leads to hopelessness about your condition. Its purpose is to separate you from God.

John 3:17-18 *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

Romans 8:1 *“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.”*

When God speaks to you, how do you respond?

1. Believe

There are two meanings in the New Testament for believe:

- Intellectual agreement: “Yes, I believe that is true.”
- Action: “I will put my trust in the Lord.” **You will behave the way you believe!**

For example: Imagine standing at the edge of a cliff with a huge dangerous drop-off and you see a bridge going across to the other side. It is one thing to say, ‘yes, I believe that bridge will hold me’ and another thing to walk across on the bridge trusting it will hold you. **Belief is putting what God said into action.**

There are competing voices but the good news is no one gets to tell you who you are without your permission. You get to choose what you are going to believe or in what or who you are going to put your trust.

One of the most crucial decisions you must make as a believer is to determine that you are going to choose to believe what God says above everything and everyone else!

“ I determine to believe what you say is true – and I don’t just believe it in my head but I believe You and put my trust in You. I live my life based on what You say to me and about me.”

2. Confess

We usually use this term as it relates to sin – “Ok, I did it – I confess”.

- Confess literally means: to say the same thing, to agree (declare, praise). Confession is what I do when I agree with God.
- If God calls what I do, sin – I say ‘yes God, it is’. But when He says you are saved and forgiven and sealed for eternity, I say ‘That’s right, yes God, I am saved, forgiven, and sealed for eternity.’ For some reason it easier for us to do the first one!

Confession is anytime you agree with what God says and put your speech to it. Confess His word and believe His truth.

Romans 10:9-10 *“...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

Believe in your heart everything God says about you and confess it to add your voice to His.

3. Obey what God tells you to do. Faith cannot be separated from Obedience!

Luke 6:46 *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord’ and not do the things which I say?”*

John 14:15 *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*

- Surrender your will and trust that He is right, He is good, and He is faithful to all His promises.
- Go back to the last word you received from God – check to see if you obeyed what He said. If you didn’t do what He told you to do, repent and then do it.

Importance of Obedience as it relates to our life in Christ and walking in freedom

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (ESV) *“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.”* (Finish reading all of chapter 28).

God has set principles in His Word that govern His Kingdom and His way of doing things, that we cannot ignore. Many times we want the blessings of God apart of obedience to Him. Obeying the Lord is foundational in our lives and to a life lived in freedom. We cannot pick and choose what we want to obey. Many throw out the Old Testament saying that we are no longer under the Old Testament. But the Word of God stands forever! We need to take the whole counsel of God and be lead by the Holy Spirit how to live. Many will stand on blessing verses but forget the big “if” that is attached to it.

Deuteronomy 28 says “if” you obey you will be blessed. We choose! The “if” is in us.

Deuteronomy 28:15 *“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all His commandments and His statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.”*

We cannot discount certain parts of scriptures to suit our understanding or desires. We are instructed to obey the Lord all throughout scripture.

One of the works Jesus accomplished on the cross was to set us free from the curse of the law.

Galatians 3:16 *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’).”*

So what does this mean for us? In Christ, we are no longer under the curse, but disobedience will open the door to walk in the consequence of the curse. Many are embracing the curse (what they have already been set free from) returning to bondage by failing to obey God. And then we wonder what is going on. Ask yourself what the last thing the Lord told you to do, and did you do it? Start there!

God keeps His Word to the righteous and unrighteous. To the just and the unjust. Which one do you choose to be?

Deuteronomy 30:19 *"...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."*

Wrap Up

There are many voices vying for our attention and many words being spoken over us.

- We hear our own voice or fleshly desires. We hear the voices of parents, coaches, teachers, preachers and friends.
- Ask if what you are hearing is biblical? Causing confusion in your heart or peace from God? Have you quieted your desires and self-interests to hear clearly from God?
- Our enemy, Satan, is always speaking to us. He is very crafty and tempts us to doubt our relationship with God or that we really can hear Him. **Genesis 3 – "Did God really say?"** We need to sort through the voices!
- We need to go to the Word of God (Bible) and hear the only words and voice that matters—God's. We can trust that what He says is true. **His Word is the final authority.**

Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is the discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

One word from the Lord for yourself changes everything!

PRAYER

Father, speak to me. I invite You to speak in ways that impart life, identity, relationship, and purpose. Give me ears to hear what You say and eyes to see what You want to show me. Quicken my heart to sense what You want me to know. Father, I choose today to believe that You are who You say You are. I choose to believe that You will do everything that You said you would do. I put my trust in You. My hope is in You and You alone. I thank You for Your love and Your faithfulness and Your mercy toward me. Remind me every day that what You say about me is the truest and most important thing I can ever believe about myself. Help me to receive it and rest in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What stood out to you in this chapter that maybe you didn't know or hadn't heard?

2. Did you know you could hear from God? _____

3. What did you hear in small group from the Lord or what is the Lord speaking to you today?
What is your response to Him?

Session 3: Your True Identity In Christ

The Effects of the Fall

In **Genesis 1:26-27**, we read that God created us in His own image. Adam and Eve had multiple good choices to make and only one wrong choice to make. Everything they wanted to do was okay except eating from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. You know the story; they made that one bad choice. As a result, now we face a whole multitude of choices, both good and bad. **Disobedience is rebellion against God!**

When they disobeyed God, they were still physically alive but became spiritually dead.

Spiritual Death = Separation from God's Presence

But as a follower of Christ, you receive a brand new identity—you are now spiritually alive!

How you used to identify yourself no longer applies. You are no longer a product of your past. You are a product of Christ's finished work on the Cross. You belong to God because of Jesus.

***2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."*

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

The most important belief that we possess is a true knowledge of WHO God is.

The second most important belief is who WE are as children of God.

**Satan does not want you to know:
Your ACCEPTANCE; Your ASSURANCE; Your SIGNIFICANCE**

As you begin to focus on what God says about you, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. If there are any verses that you don't believe about yourself, read and ponder (meditate on) them (Godly example of meditation: **Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:15**), declare them as many times as needed to get them from your head (knowing it is what God says but not believing it) to your heart (knowing what God says about you and believing it). The Word tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (**Romans 10:17**) Hearing it helps your ability to believe it.

John 6:63 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."*

God's words are spirit and life! As you read—by faith—know that His Word is alive and working in you supernaturally. God is watching over His Word to perform it and it will accomplish what He purposed it to do. (**Isaiah 55:11**)

Hebrews 13:8 *"Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever."*

If God has said it in His Word, it does not change. You can believe and trust Him!

Numbers 23:19 *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

In Search of Identity

What is identity? Identity is defined as "the collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a thing is definitively recognizable or known" or "the quality or condition of being the same as something else."

So, when **2 Corinthians 5:17** tells us that in Christ, we are a new creation, how we used to be recognized or known as, has changed. When we are born-again, in Christ, our life is no longer defined or conditioned by our past, but now identified as in and with Christ. Brand new, not just wiped clean. To be a "Christian" literally means to be a follower of Christ. Our identity is in Him, as a member of God's family in the Kingdom of God. Our names are written in heaven.

If we are truly followers of Christ, our new identity in Christ should be recognizable both to ourselves and evident to others. Our new identity in Christ means we have the same relationship with God, the Father, that Christ has – we are now able to be called "children of God". (**1 John 1:3; John 1:12-13; 2 Corinthians 6:1-18**).

We are to grow in our maturity in the Lord. Jesus gave us the enablement of the Holy Spirit (His power) in order to grow into spiritual maturity, that truly reflects our new identity in Him. We are no longer slaves (**Romans 6:6**) but are reconciled to God (**Romans 5:10**).

Often, however, what we show on the outside is a false front designed to disguise who we think we really are. Our belief in who we are that does not line up with who God says we are. We attempt to cover up the negative feelings we have about ourselves. The world would have us believe that if we appear attractive or perform well or enjoy a certain amount of status, then we will have it all together inside as well. That is not always true. External appearance, accomplishments, and recognition do not necessarily reflect – or produce – internal peace and maturity. God has a destiny for you as His child. The enemy's goal is to derail and thwart God's plan for your life, and one of the biggest ways he attempts to do that is to attack your identity. Why? Because according to **Genesis 1:26-27**, we were created in the image of God (also **Genesis 5:1; 9:6; James 3:9**). We are a reflection of Him and the enemy hates that.

Your identity goes beyond gender, sexuality, and other cultural markers that the world uses to define us. In Christ, we have significance, assurance, worth/value, and have the God-given ability to participate in God-honoring relationships. Self-image is always dependent upon our perspective: How we see ourselves. Our true image or identity in light of what God says, is always dependent upon His Word. It never changes. So when we aren't sure of who we are, we don't have to look to anyone but God for that definition.

What if I struggle with gender confusion or sexual sin??????? God will always see you and relate to you as the biological gender He created you to be in the womb. When one becomes 'born-again', God will supernaturally help you deal with the changes that need to be made in your lifestyle, habits, and physical appearance to become who God created and redeemed you to be. Do not be deceived. You will not enter the Kingdom of God nor are you genuinely born again if you remain in sexual perversion, sin. (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**—lists other sins also).

Healing can be received, sin can be overcome, and lives can be changed through salvation (saved, healed, set-free) that Jesus provides – even if there are perceived biological or physiological factors. Even when the world defines something as a biological/physiological issue (genetics/born that way; think that way; drawn to) it does not mean embracing the effects of that is the right thing to do in light of what God says.

Examples:

- The world says some people are “wired” with a sexuality on hyperdrive. That does not make it right for them to engage in sexual immorality. That is not how God “wired” His creation; God calls it sin.
- Psychopaths/sociopaths have brains with severely weakened impulse control mechanisms. That does not make it right for them to engage in every deviant behavior that crosses their mind. Again, that is a world definition for the excuse to sin.

Many times, it boils down to temptation and ignorance or rejection of God's Word. We are tempted to participate in certain things and the world is telling us its okay or it is a disease. It's normal. Just give in. Meanwhile, people are dying inside because there is something inside them that is not okay with it. Remember, we were created in the image of God. So, anything that is separating us from God, we know it in our spirit. And no matter how much we try to placate ourselves into believing all is well, it is not. And we know it. It begins a crazy cycle of depression, rebellion, addiction, and anything else we can do to try and push down what is going on inside, ending in defeat and destruction. You will live life in constant demonic torment. God said there is no peace for those who walk according to the dictates of his own heart (**Jeremiah 23:17**).

Temptation is "enticement, allurements, attraction, seduction". Remember that the enemy is here to steal, kill, and destroy you. And this can be strong in the area of temptation. **1 Corinthians 10:13** says that "No temptation has overtaken you except such is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it." In other words, you always have a choice to walk away from it.

When you are tempted to do anything that is against God and His perfect plan for your lives, turn to Him. He has already provided a way out. He has already given you:

- His Word
- His Spirit (His Presence)
- The fruit of the Spirit including self-control (**Galatians 5:22-23**)
- Authority to break the bonds of the devil (**Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:19**)
- Salvation (save, healed, delivered – to be whole!)
- Clarity (Revelation), understanding His Word in terms of your gender (how He created you), your identity (who He says you are), power to overcome sin (including sexual sin).

James 1:12 *"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."*

2 Peter 2:9 *"Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."*

No matter what you are going through, what you have identified yourself as in the past, what temptations you are struggling with, Jesus is your answer. He has already given you the power to overcome.

1 John 5:4 *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith."*

1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

The more we study His Word, the more we discover who we are in Christ. We are transformed into the person God says we are when we make Jesus Christ Lord, the pursuit of our lives.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) *“So all of us who have had the veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”*

Romans 8:29 (ESV) *“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*

Philippians 1:6 *“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

Philippians 4:9 *“The things you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do, and the God of peace will be with you.”*

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

Let’s see what the Word says about your *true identity in Christ*.

Who I Am in Christ - My New Identity

Psalms 24:1 (NLT) *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its’ people belong to him.”*

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NLT) *“For God bought you with a high price...”*

Romans 8:16 *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”*

Often Christians feel trapped. We fail, so we see ourselves as failures, which leads to more failure. We see ourselves as sinners, which leads to more sin. **We have been deceived into believing that what we do determines who we are.**

Being a child of God who is alive and free in Christ should determine what we do - not our behavior determining who we are. Then we are able to work out our salvation, (**Philippians 2:12**) not for our salvation. When we understand who we are in Christ, we do works out of our deep love for Him, not out of our attempt to earn His love. You already have it. You “do” because you “are”.

In Christ, You are Accepted

1. You are God's Child.

John 1:12-13 *"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."*

Romans 8:15-16 *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

- You are a child of God and being His child is a right given to you by God Himself.
- You are saved by grace, through faith, not by works.
- You are not saved by how you behave; you are saved by how you believe.

2. You are Christ's Friend.

Think of it like this. How would it be to have an influential person that is your friend? He tells you, "go ahead, we are friends. Use my name. It will open doors for you." You have access to them and their prominence. It is the same with God and His influence. He's not just saying we are buddies—but you have access to all that He is and all that He has.

James 2:23 *"And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed **God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the **friend of God**."*

John 15:15 (NLT) *"I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't **confide** in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since **I have told you everything the Father told me.**"*

A friend is someone you are familiar with. Maybe even someone you are close to. You can confide in each other and be yourself with the person. That is one of the attributes God is to us. We can trust Him and just be ourselves around Him.

3. You Have Been Justified.

Romans 5:1 (NASB) *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

You are justified in, through, and by Christ alone! You have been justified (just as if you'd never sinned); therefore, you have, right now, the joy of peace with God.

4. You are united with the Lord and One with Him in Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17 "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him."

You have a responsibility to safeguard your mortal bodies from sin and keep it from being an instrument of unrighteousness. Failing to do so would be to violate the unity you have with the Lord. Whatever you are doing to the body, you are doing to the Lord. Remember, it is no longer you, but Christ in you.

Think of it this way. There are places many of us go that we wouldn't want our pastor to know about. Or say things we wouldn't want them to hear. How much more should we be aware of and guard the places we go, the things we say, what we watch or read, knowing that Jesus is there with us seeing it all. We are one with Him.

5. You Have Been Bought with a Price, You Belong to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is a 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 honor God with your body and in your spirit which are Gods."

6. You Have Been Adopted (to be God's Child).

Ephesians 1:3-6 "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."

1 Peter 2:9-10 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

Your Heavenly Father didn't need you, but He wanted you!

There are no illegitimate children of God;

none of you were unwanted or unexpected accidents.

We are to stop acting like orphans under Satan's control and instead believe and act like what we are: *Children of God*.

7. You Have Been Redeemed and Forgiven of Your Sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NASB) *"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

1 Peter 1:18-19 *"Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*

8. You are Loved.

Romans 5:8 *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

John 3:16-17 *"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."*

Jeremiah 31:3 *"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'"*

Romans 8:31 *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

9. You are Complete.

Colossians 2:9-10 *"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."*

God's plan is to present you complete in Christ, for without Him you are incomplete. You were never designed to function independently from God.

Your identity comes from what God thinks about you.

***He created and redeemed you to be His, fully alive in Christ,
and walking in power and love, enabled by the Holy Spirit.***

Colossians 3:10-11 (NASB) "...and have put on the new self, who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him - a renewal where there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all."

Our identity is no longer determined by our physical heritage, social standing or racial distinctions. Our identity lives in the fact that we who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior are all children of God.

LIFE in light of our identity in Christ is filled with a heavenly Father, a large loving family (Body of Christ), and the understanding that we are citizens of another kingdom – not of this earth.

PRAYER

Father God, You are wonderful and amazing. You alone are the source of my being. Draw me into the solid revelation of who You are and Your Truth. Come, Holy Spirit and set into my heart a sense of who You say I am. Awaken in me the capacity to connect and bond fully with You and others. I choose to be Yours and belong to You. Thank You, Father! I am alive in You in Jesus's Name. Amen.

Identity—What Does God Say?

I AM GODS'...

- possession (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- child (John 1:12)
- workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
- friend (James 2:23)
- temple (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- co-laborer (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- witness (Acts 1:8)
- soldier (2 Timothy 2:3)
- ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- building (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- husbandry (1 Corinthians 3:9)
- minister/instrument (Acts 26:16, 1 Timothy 4:6)

- chosen (Ephesians 1:4)
- beloved (Romans 1:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- precious jewel (Malachi 3:17)
- heritage (1 Peter 5:3)

I HAVE BEEN...

- redeemed by the blood (Revelation 5:9)
- set free from sin /condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)
- set free from Satan's control & translated into the God's Kingdom (Colossians 1:13)
- set free from Satan's kingdom, saved and raised up in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10)
- chosen before the foundation of world (Ephesians 1:4)
- forgiven of all my trespasses (Colossians 2:13)
- washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 1:5)
- given a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- given the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22)
- adopted into God's family (Romans 8:15)
- justified freely by His grace (Romans 3:24)
- given all things pertaining to life & godliness (2 Peter 1:3)
- given great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4)
- given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- authority over the power of enemy (Luke 10:19)
- given boldness and access to God (Ephesians 3:12)
- been given wisdom (Ephesians 1:8)

I AM...

- complete in Him (Colossians 2:10)
- free from the power of sin (Romans 6:14)
- sanctified (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- vessel of honor for the Master's use (2 Timothy 2:21)
- kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (1 Peter 1:5)
- kept in the palm of His hand (John 10:29)
- loved and washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 1:5)

- kept from falling (Jude 1:24)
- kept by the power of God (1 Peter 1:5)
- not condemned (Romans 8:1-2)
- one with the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- made alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:1)
- blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)
- the head and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13)
- a light in the world, a city on a hill (Matthew 5:14-15)
- His sheep (Psalms 23, Psalms 100:3, John 10:14)
- protected from the evil one (1 John 5:18)
- secure in Christ (John 10:28-29)
- set on a Rock (Psalms 40:2)
- more-than-a-conqueror through Jesus (Romans 8:37)
- born again (1 Peter 1:23)
- an overcomer (1 John 5:4)
- healed by His stripes (Isaiah 53:5)
- an overcomer by the blood of Jesus (Revelation 12:11)
- sheltered under His wing (Psalms 91:4)
- dwelling in the secret place of the Almighty (Psalms 91:1)

I HAVE...

- access to the Father (Romans 5:2)
- a place prepared for me in heaven (John 14:1-2)
- all things new in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus (1 Peter 1:3)
- hope as an anchor to my soul, that is both sure and steadfast (Hebrews 6:19)
- authority to tread on serpents, scorpions, and overall the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19)
- power to be a witness for Christ (Acts 1:8)
- the tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak (Isaiah 50:4)
- the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
- been justified by faith and have peace with God (Romans 5:1)

I CAN...

- do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)
- come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- take up the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts (Ephesians 6:16)
- preach good tiding to the poor and declare liberty to the captives (Isaiah 61:1)
- pray always and everywhere (Luke 21:36)
- defeat (overcome) the enemy (Revelation 12:11)
- crush Satan under foot (Romans 16:20)

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What did you hear in this chapter that you didn't know or hadn't heard?

2. Ask the Lord if there is are any names or labels you have received and believed about yourself that do not represent God's best for you. What lies have been attached to that name?

3. What is the truth God says about you?

Let go of what the world says about you and embrace what God says. Begin to study and speak scripture over yourself of what God sees and says. Do it until you believe what God says about you is true. For example: place sticky notes with scriptures on your mirror, on the refrigerator, and in your car to remind you and keep God's Words in front of you and on your mind.

4. What is God speaking to me? How will I respond to what He says?

PART TWO

Sessions 4 & 5

Foundation for Freedom and Healing

Jesus ministered to the broken and lost. He had an ability to deeply address the real needs of people. He provided everything we needed to be equipped to step out as Christ's representatives of the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave His disciples a commission to go and proclaim Him in Word and power. He equipped us with foundational instructions and tools to represent Him well. Jesus came to rescue the lost, (**Luke 19:10**) heal, set free, restore, and proclaim the Kingdom of God to others. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. (**1 John 3:8**) That is good news!

When we partner with the Holy Spirit under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we can live fully connected and empowered by the Kingdom of Heaven.

1 John 3:8 (NASB) *"...the Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."*

"Sozo", which is used 110 times in the New Testament, is a Greek word meaning, "to save or make well or whole." According to Strong's Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, **"Sozo" also means, "to save, deliver, heal, and preserve."** The writers of the New Testament demonstrated the completeness of the word "Sozo" by using it in different contexts to refer to each aspect of salvation through Jesus Christ.

SALVATION

Romans 10:9 *"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved."* (Sozo)

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save (Sozo) that which was lost."*

HEALING

Matthew 9:22 (NASB) *"But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage, your faith has made you well" (Sozo), and at once the woman was made well."* (Sozo)

DELIVERANCE

Luke 8:36 (NASB) *"And those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well."* (Sozo)

**Question Jesus is asking you today that He asked Peter: Who do YOU say I AM?
Jesus is the Son of the Living God! (Luke 9:20)**

Session 4: Overview of Freedom and Deliverance

Freedom is not the absence of SOMETHING but the presence of SOMEONE (Jesus!)

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NLT) “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.”

- Freedom and deliverance are for the believer. It is Jesus that sets us free.
- We may use the terms freedom, healing and deliverance interchangeably because it just means being free—being ‘whole’!
- Freedom is when we can respond to God fully as the person He created and redeemed us to be.

Key Concepts for Freedom

- It is Christ-focused not problem-focused. We start at the beginning with repentance and making Jesus Lord and then as a follower of Jesus, we passionately pursue a deeper relationship with Him.
- It is hearing God for yourself.
- It is being a disciple (obedient followers of Christ) not just “believers” who hear, learn, and know, but never “do” what the Word says. You are zealous, delighted, consistent, and excited with your growing relationship with the Lord.

Disciple (New Oxford Dictionary) means a follower or student of a teacher. A learner, pupil, follower, adherent, believer, admirer, devotee, protégé, upholder, supporter, and advocate.

Being a disciple is more than just praying a prayer of salvation. It is a life lived out for the glory of God. Following the lead of Jesus, and taking Him at His word. You don’t want any hindrances between you and the Lord. You love what He loves and hate what He hates.

- It is a process of diligence and intentional development as God gives a clear path to maturity.
- It is vital to the life of Christ-followers because **“Found people find people”** and **“Free people, free people.”**

The Enemy's Goal is to Destroy

1. To prevent the salvation of the lost.
2. To prevent the praise and worship of the One True God.
3. To weaken and divide the Church (People—not a building, denomination, or congregation).
4. To torment and oppress the entire human race (especially followers of Christ).

(Scripture references: **Isaiah 14:12-15**, **Ephesians 6:12**, **Ephesians 1:20-21**, **I John 5:18-21**, **Revelation 12:9**)

Your Response to the Enemy

1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your enemy the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

To be sober and vigilant is to have a sharp mind. To be focused—not to be swayed by anything. The mind not subdued or compromised by a substance or deception.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (ESV) *“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”*

(Study **Ephesians 6:10-20**. The Armor of God)

Your response is to be sober and alert and not be ignorant of Satan's schemes and to take every thought captive. That means when a thought enters your mind that doesn't agree with the Word of God, you recognize it as a lie and kick it out. Don't meditate on it or receive it as truth. Know it is a lie and counteract it with the truth of God's Word. Ask God to reveal the lie you are believing that is attracting those thoughts in the first place.

Roadblocks to Freedom:

- Unsaved
- Unbelief
- Unhealthy relationships / alliances
- Unforgiveness
- Unwillingness to Repent

FOUR Areas to Recognize as Schemes of the Enemy

1. Strongholds

A negative stronghold is any obstacle – person, thought, argument, or opinion or anything that exalts itself above God, and hinders you from becoming what God called you to be. It is an area in your life dominated by thoughts or actions in opposition to God and His Word. It is returning to the old way of thinking—a wrong pattern of thought.

It is important to catch the lie at the thought stage before taking it in as “truth”, becoming a stronghold. You are to “cast it down”, not meditate on the lie. The enemy likes to keep you trapped, but you no longer have to stay under the enemy's influence!

Review again:

2 Corinthian 10:4-5 (NKJV) “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Once a stronghold is in place, one of three things will happen when the Holy Spirit tries to convict you of sin:

- You may no longer recognize sin as sin. It will no longer seem wrong. (Condone it).
- You may recognize it as sin but have very little motivation to deal with it. (Make excuses).
- You may desire to be rid of the sin but lack the power to deal with it effectively. (Can't seem to quit—looking at problem instead of to Jesus).

If is this you, repent. Ask the Lord to show you the truth, and do what He says.

*Psalm 18:2 “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my **stronghold.**”*

2. Wounds (Hurts and traumas) / Life Patterns (Cycles you can't seem to break)

Time doesn't always heal everything. Jesus is the only One who can truly heal.

- Have you ever been deeply wounded? (Betrayed, rejected, ridiculed, felt inferior, etc.)
- We tend to be programmed to disguise our pain and just say “I’m fine!” or “no problem”.
- Pain is very real! Wounds penetrate deep into your heart and can shape who you become and what decisions you make.

(Example: Something someone said or continually said (verbal abuse), physical abuse, or any perceived traumatic experience).

The enemy takes advantage of your deep **wounds and hurts** at your weakest moments. He is right there to tell you what they mean. If something traumatic happens to you, he may say, “You deserved it!” or “No one will want you now!” Other people, such as counselors, may also interpret the wounds for you derived from humanistic theories that miss the truth. The real truth is what God says. He has already provided for you to be healed.

Psalm 147:3 *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds”.*

Life patterns are areas that are repetitive in your life (a cycle you can’t seem to break). These patterns can also be seen in your generations (your family line) and be influenced by how and where you were raised. These patterns can create a stronghold in your life.

(Drugs, divorce, alcoholism, abuse, poverty / financial issues, sin, etc.)

These areas can be repeated patterns of behavior in families. These don’t have to repeat in your generation, but it can reveal where the enemy has influenced your family in generations past.

3. Lies—How did you respond to whatever impacted you negatively?

Wounds directly partner up with lies. The real issue becomes—are you willing to accept or tolerate Satan’s influence? John 8:44 tells us who the devil really is.

John 8:44 *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father, you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

The enemy is a liar and the father of lies. His primary weapon against you is a lie; he is incapable of telling the truth!

The enemy lies to you in 3 different areas:

- He will get you to believe lies about God.
- He will get you to believe lies about other people.
- He will get you to believe lies about yourself.

The enemy works overtime to bring wounds and lies in partnership. When they begin to partner up you have a stronghold.

Example: A young boy who loves his mom gets news from his mom that she is leaving his dad. The boy begins to believe lies about women; they will always leave you. Because of his hurt he creates a wall. As he becomes a young man, he falls for a beautiful young woman but keeps pushing her away because of the wall he has built to protect himself from being hurt by another woman. Finally, she gives up on him and leaves which confirms the lie that women always leave.

That's how the lies of the enemy sneak in! You don't intend to believe a lie and you typically don't realize you are doing it.

Begin to ask God to show you lies you have believed. The way to break lies is to hear the truth. To know the truth, you have to go to God's Word. Know what is true so that you recognize the lie when it comes.

Example: Counterfeit money - you learn to spot the counterfeit money, not by studying the counterfeit, but by studying the genuine. You come to know the genuine so well the counterfeit sticks out.

John 14:6 *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

When you partner with God, recognize the lies of the enemy, and receive God's truth, you can break free of **ANY** stronghold in your life. It doesn't matter if it is something you've done or something handed down from generation to generation. You can choose to stop the enemy's power over you. The Blood of Jesus (that He shed for you) made you a brand new creation! The buck stops here!

The blood of Jesus gives you a brand new life—
the enemy cannot prevail because of the Blood!

You cannot control the actions of other people, but you can choose how you respond to those actions. As a child of God, you have been given victory and the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

Psalm 100:5 *“For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”*

4. Unforgiveness & Idols

Unforgiveness and hurt are usually connected to an idol in our lives. Blessings from God can also become idols. There is always a spirit behind an idol.

Luke 11:4 (NLT) *“And forgive us our sins, as we also forgive those who sin against us...”*

Mark 11:25 (NASB) *“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.”*

Unforgiveness

Jesus regularly taught the importance of forgiveness, because forgiveness is God’s provision for **releasing you** from the power and pain of sins committed against you. Forgiveness is a two part process. Jesus Himself showed the two aspects of forgiveness when He purchased forgiveness on the cross. (**Luke 23:34**) The **first part** is choosing to forgive, and the **second part** is entrusting the Father with the consequences and impact of a person’s sin against you.

Forgiving doesn’t mean you have to be best friends with the person who hurt you or have them be a part of your life. You have to use wisdom. But it does mean that you no longer cringe at the sound of their name. You have completely released them. You are able to sincerely pray for them and release them to the Lord and let Him do His work. Every time the enemy brings up the past offense, release them again. Forgive as many times as it takes so that the enemy no longer has a hold on you in this area and you can walk in freedom.

Idols

God must have strong feelings on the subject of idolatry, because the first commandment given to Moses on Mount Sinai was, “You shall have no other gods before Me.” (**Exodus 20:3**). We often allow our affections to easily get entangled by people or things other than God, but the truth still remains; we were created to worship the one and only true living God.

An idol is anything you give a higher priority to than God Himself. Idols are the things or people that consume your time and attention. It is a false god. Idolatry involves any object of worship, strong affection, or devotion. Anything you turn to for comfort, security, or a sense of well-being can be an idol. Ask the Lord to identify any idols in your life.

1 John 5:21 *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”*

Matthew 6:21 (KJV) *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

- We look to everyone and everything but God to fulfill or fill what only God can do.
- We recognize something is missing—we want more. We say, “There has to be more than this!” or “I need to know more about myself/others”, or “I need to fill the void.” The “thing” we are searching for, the only one that can truly satisfy us and fill the void in our lives is Jesus.

Psalm 107:9 *“For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.”*

Psalm 145:16 *“You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”*

Prayerfully consider the areas on the next page, where people or things may have become more important to you than God, making sure they have not taken the place of God in your heart. In other words, you give more value, room, and time to them more than you do God.

But first, let's try to understand the nature of deception. The Bible is clear on not being deceived. We don't set out to be deceived or do it intentionally, but many times we do not understand, what we have allowed in our lives may be the very thing keeping us from freedom in Christ—may be bringing separation from God. Not that He has changed or moved, but that we have in our relationship to Him. Many don't want to have that discussion or think there can be anything in their lives as a Christian that is not of God. As we continue through this manual, **we will be asking the hard questions. We encourage you to get before God**, ask Him with an open heart to receive what He is saying to you. If something hits you like, “No way! Nothings wrong with that!” That may be the very place to start and ask God. Ready?

Lets start with the meaning of “deceive” :

‘deceive’ (Strong's G4105 *planao*)

- To cause to roam from safety, truth or virtue.
- To go astray, to err, to be seduced, wander-be out of the way.
- To sever or fall away from the path of truth.

Deuteronomy 11:16 *“Take heed to yourselves lest your heart be deceived, and your turn aside and serve other gods and worship them”.*

Matthew 24:4-5 *“⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many”.*

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 *“Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and the table of demons.”*

2 Corinthians 11:3 *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

Psalms 16:4 *“Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips.”*

Potential Areas That Could become Idols in Our Lives:

- Ambition
- Career/Work
- Power/Control
- Busyness
- Financial Security
- Food or Any Substance
- Spouse
- Children
- Parents
- Friends
- Relationships - Boyfriend/Girlfriend
- Progressive Christianity - ‘you are enough’ (apart from Christ); finding your “True Self.”
- Approval of Others
- Appearance
- Hobbies
- Entertainment/Television/Movies
- Computers/Cell Phone/Electronics/ Social Media/ Gaming
- Activities
- Sports
- Ministry
- Physical Fitness
- Celebrities - Athletes/Singers/ Musicians/Actors
- World “expert” opinions
- Politics

The Bible tells you to confess your sin, renounce and turn away from any areas of idolatry or areas where your priorities are skewed. Ask the Holy Spirit to identify areas.

TAKE ACTION:

Sanctification as an impartation—not imitation.

Tragically, the frequent question we get from ‘the world’ - “how can you tell a Christian from the rest of us? - just as drunk, drugged, depressed, etc.?”

Through Christ, we are on a journey of being “sanctified”. Our lives should look different than those of nonbelievers because of Jesus.

Sanctification means holy, set apart and used for God.

Impartation means to give, convey, or grant; to communicate the knowledge of.

So “sanctification as an impartation” means impartation of the holy qualities of Jesus to me.

- The gifts such as patience, love, holiness, faith, purity, godliness, self-control that is exhibited through every sanctified heart - *your whole being*—is from Jesus in us.
- Sanctification is not drawing from Jesus the power to be holy, it is drawing from Jesus the very holiness that is exhibited in HIM - and He now lives in me!

Therefore, NOW, I can begin to live a life of inexpressible order, soundness, & holiness.

No excuses! Jesus must be Lord! You must completely surrender - no other gods!

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What is the definition of freedom?

2. Are you struggling with any area mentioned in this chapter? _____ Are you saved? Have you been baptized in water? Are you baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues? Are you struggling with 'Unbelief'?

Strongholds, unforgiveness, core lies, life patterns, idols?

3. Ask the Lord "if I could just _____, I would have peace or joy".

4. What is the Lord showing you? What lie am I believing in this area?

5. What is the truth of God's Word over this area?

- Release it to the Lord.
- Renounce the lie; ask Him for forgiveness.
- Embrace the truth and walk as a new creation in Him. Healed, set free, delivered.

6. What God is speaking to me.

The Healing Ministry of Jesus

Introduction to Healing: Love is the Foundation

Galatians 5:6 (NIV) “...the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (NASB) “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have **love**, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have **love**, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have **love**, it profits me nothing. **Love** is patient, **love** is kind and is not jealous; **love** does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

We love people and we know that love connects people to God. God so loved the whole world that He sent Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. Jesus ministered with love, compassion, and power. He instructed His disciples to go and do the same.

1 Peter 3:8 “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.”

Perspective on Healing

In **Exodus 15:26** God said, “I am the Lord who heals you.” (Jehovah Rapha)

- **Healing is the nature of God.**

Jeremiah 30:17 (NLT) “I will give you back your health and heal your wounds,” says the Lord.”

Psalms 103:2-3 (NASB) “Bless the Lord...forget none of His benefits...who heals all your diseases.”

- **Healing is the promise of God.**

2 Corinthians 1:20 tells us that all of the promises of God are “**yes**” and “**amen**” in Jesus Christ.”

DECLARE: I am a receiver of everything that Jesus died and paid for in my life.

The Ministry of Healing Began with Jesus. It's Jesus being Jesus!

Acts 10:38 "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him."

Luke 4:40 "When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them."

People need to see and hear of signs of God's love and power in order to believe.

- A witness to Jesus being alive, the same today and forever!

John 20:30-31 "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

John 2:11 (NIV) "What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him."

- **Jesus commissioned others to heal the sick.**

Matthew 10:1-8 (NIV) "1. Jesus called his twelve disciples **to him** and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. 5. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions... 7. "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' 8. **Heal the sick**, raise the dead, and cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

Luke 10:1 & 9 (NIV) "After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 9. **Heal the sick** who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

- **Jesus was crucified, buried, risen and ascended into heaven and left His ministry to His disciples.**

Healing ministry continued after Jesus' earthly ministry. He poured out His very Spirit on 120 people in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord (already ascended) worked with them and confirmed His Word by the signs that accompanied it. (**Mark 16:20**)

- **Healing is being restored as a ministry of Jesus today.**

Mark 16:17–18 tells us those who believe will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover. There are still believers today, so those who believe in Jesus have the same power and authority the disciples of Jesus' day had.

Hebrews 13:8 *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”*

John 15:3-8 *“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*

Your Authority in Healing (in context with a close relationship with Jesus - ABIDE)

Jesus healed by commissioning others and giving them authority.

- **Power** is the ability to affect something or make it happen. (God's part)
- **Authority** is the right or authorization, and responsibility to do it. (Our part)

We have the fullness of God in us. After Jesus secured victory over sin and death through His sinless life, His death on the Cross, and resurrection, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name (**Philippians 2:9**). Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father (**Mark 16:19**) and was given absolute authority with direct access to the Father at all times. His absolute authority has been granted to us, as believers, within the context of His closeness to the Father AND in the context of a close relationship with Jesus and His Father.

We can now access the throne room too, because of Jesus. We can come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in a time of need (**Hebrews 4:16**).

Our authority is not something to take lightly, nor is it something delegated to just anyone. It is something bestowed by a Father upon His children. True authority is directly related to one's relationship with God as our "Father" because only from this relationship do we go forth as 'sons'.

Jesus sent out His disciples before leaving this earth. He said “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go...” (**Matthew 28:18-20**). His followers went out with the assurance of Jesus’s absolute authority, granted from the Father. They went out in response to Jesus’ command to them and using His Name to trample on the power of the enemy.

We are instructed to go do the same thing in the same authority and assurance of Jesus’ power flowing through us. He trusts us – the question becomes, do we trust Him?

When we speak words that are authorized by the Father—our Father—they have supreme weight in the spiritual realm. When you are submitted to God (under His authority as a son), the devil has to flee from you (**James 4:7**). Sickness and disease are no match for a son who knows his (or her) authority in Christ! If we speak a word of authority to a sickness or condition (like Jesus rebuked the fever from Peter’s mother-in-law in **Luke 4:39**), then our expectation would be that it will leave. We must be submitted to God our Father, through His Son, Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6-10 *“And 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. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Luke 10:19 *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

What Jesus modeled was the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing. Healing ministry should be part of every ministry, because it is God’s desire to heal. Jesus is perfect theology. He modeled and demonstrated the heart of the Father in every situation. In the New Testament, Jesus never turned anyone away. He healed everyone who came to Him.

Mark 16:17-18 *“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

“Divine healing is the act of God’s grace, by the direct power of the Holy Spirit, by which the physical body is delivered from sickness and disease and restored to soundness and health.”

Marie Woodworth-Etter

These signs WILL follow you if you will simply believe Jesus. He wants to heal the sick and set people free through you!

***Our job is to lay hands on the sick and agree with God’s Words in Jesus’ Name.
God’s job is to heal them.***

Healing is God’s Redemptive Plan

Ephesians 2:8 (KJV) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God."

It took faith to become a child of God. By grace we were saved through faith. As children of God, we own all that Jesus has done for us – He gave His life for our salvation – our wholeness – body, soul (will, mind & emotions) and spirit. Now we can understand why Peter said, "... by whose stripes you were healed". **The manifestation of our salvation becomes reality when we believe and act on the Word of God – we simply believe and act on what the Word says.** Healing becomes a reality in our lives when we act on the words, "By HIS stripes, we were healed." **1 Peter 2:24** – It is acting on the Word that brings results.

**Biblical faith is not just intellectual trust—it is obedience!
This is critical—acting on and responding to what God said!**

Psalms 107:20 "He sent His Word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions."

The Bible teaches us that we have an enemy – the devil- fighting against us, and he is going to do his best to rob and cheat us out of our healing. **John 10:10** states that 'The thief comes not, but to steal and to kill, and to destroy ...' But when we are equipped with the Word of God, we can resist the devil.

If we will give the Word of God the same opportunity that we give natural medicine, a doctor, or what another practitioner prescribes, we will be healed! We urge Christians to believe because God’s Word has lost its reality to them. We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ if we only believe and take Him at His Word.

Proverbs 4:20-22 (KJV) "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and **health** to all their flesh."

NOTE:

According to The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the Hebrew word in verse 22, "health" actually means medicine. This scripture actually says, "... they (God's words) are life unto those that find them and medicine unto all their flesh."

There are **three** things we are told to do with the Word of God: 1) *Attend to it or put it first;* 2) *listen to it;* and 3) *keep it in the midst of our heart.* (**Proverbs 4:20-22**)

John 6:63 (NKJV) *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak are Spirit and they are life."*

Ephesians 1:3 (KJV) *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."*

1 Peter 2:24 (KJV) *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."*

Remember—Jesus said on the cross, 'It is finished!'

Matthew 8:16-17 (KJV) *"When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself (Jesus) took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."*

Infirmities: disease, sickness, weakness.
Sicknesses: malady, infirmity, disease.

Isaiah 53: 4-6 (KJV) *"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."*

Psalm 91:16 (KJV) "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation."

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Psalm 103:2-5 (NKJV) "Bless the Lord, O my soul. And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Mark 9:23 (KJV) "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Romans 10:17 (KJV) "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

Psalm 119:89 (KJV) "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

Hebrews 10:23 (KJV) "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised."

Receive Healing

1. Start with a right heart before God and pray.

James 5:14-18 (NIV) "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And **the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well**; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**"

2. Know and believe that Jesus has already provided healing.

Isaiah 53:4-5 "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."

3. Settle the issue that healing, like salvation and deliverance, is in the atonement.

- Jesus, by giving His life on the cross, paid the price for our salvation and healing. There is power in the blood of Jesus!

1 Peter 2:24-25 “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

John 3:16-17 “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.”

- Saved is “Sozo” meaning not only saved from sin, but salvation of soul, body, and spirit - saved, healed, & delivered.

Through Christ’s atonement, God provided many blessings for the world He loves. Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection became a complete triumph over Satan and the kingdom of darkness.

The Atonement Affords Freedom From Every Bondage:

- Freedom from bondage to sin, guilt and shame, demonic oppression, to any or all satanic activity, to sickness, disease, and mental illness.
- Labels keep you trapped. Labels predict and control behavior—who you become; your actions begin to mold to the label!

NOTE: PULL off any labels that have been spoken over you or that you have spoken yourself. NO excuses! Labels—psychology, trauma, informed care, programs using — “I AM” this, etc. You can now say “I WAS.” **1 Cor. 6:9-11:** *You were these things!* Labels keep you trapped. Life is managed around the label. Let the Kingdom of God manage your life as you ‘**seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**’ (Matthew 6:33)

We receive healing like we receive salvation or deliverance. **We receive His free gift by grace, not works. We believe in Jesus and believe Jesus** - not only believe in the man but take Him at His Word.

4. Focus on God's Grace - His Goodness.

Let Jesus be Himself and do what He does – saves, baptizes, heals, and delivers because He is good.

Acts 10:38 (NLT) “And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

2 Corinthians 12:9 “...My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Colossians 2:13 “And you...He has made alive together with Him.”

John 10:10 “...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

5. Rest

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

If God said He'll do it, He will. You can count on His Word. We walk by faith, not by sight. Don't look at what you are seeing, but rest in knowing that God is at work and He who began a good work in you will complete it.

6. Leave no room for doubt.

The enemy's strategy is to lie to us. **Doubt is the result of believing or entertaining a lie.**

Many people want to see the results before they believe they are healed. **Faith demands we believe we are healed before we see results.** For example, if the symptoms come back, the enemy would say you are not really healed. That is a lie! Give the enemy no place. Choose to take God at His Word and stand on it until you see the manifestations of His promise to you.

All lies lead to hopelessness, and hopelessness is not of God. He is our Hope!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11: You were those things, but now I can declare ...

Declare the Truth

Just as I accepted Jesus as my Savior for life, I accept Him as my Healer for life. I no longer live with sickness and disease. I can enjoy a long life of health. Jesus, Himself, took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses. What He bore, I need not bear! Because He bore my infirmities, because He bore my sicknesses, I am healed! I am free! I choose to live long on the earth, to go home when I am full of years and at God's appointed time.

I am a believer, not a doubter. God's Word works! All things are possible to those who believe. And I believe God's Word. I believe God is my Savior, Healer, Deliverer, and Provider in Jesus' Name! I accept His Word and I acknowledge that God's Word is truth. I will not forget His benefits. He is my Healer, and according to the Word of God, I am healed and I receive it. I keep the Word of God before my eyes. I am well and whole and doing what God has called me to do.

In the face of symptoms, pain, or anything else that the devil tries to use to cause destruction, I will speak the truth of God's Word and receive my healing because by Jesus' stripes I am healed. I want everything that belongs to me in Christ. I don't want to settle for second best or third or fourth best. If the Bible says its mine, I am going to believe it and receive it through faith in Christ's finished work on the Cross.

Healing was not just for the first disciples. The power of God is still present today to heal, deliver and set people free. I receive the healing power of God through faith and prayer. I can minister that healing power to others because Jesus is the Healer flowing through me. I pay attention to the Word of God. I take heed to the Word that I hear. And I line myself up with the Word. For as I am in agreement and obedient to God's Word, I will see results. Thank you, Jesus for saving me, healing me and filling me with your Spirit so that I can become all that God has created and redeemed me to be – a witness to your goodness and grace!

Session 5: Recognize Oppression and Eliminate It

Oppression is real and is from the enemy. We don't want to give the devil a place or platform; however, the devil is real and he is your enemy. His plan is to steal, kill, and destroy. (**John 10:10**) Part of being aware of the attacks of the enemy's schemes is to understand his role and his place. While he may seek to destroy you, his place is under your feet!

Romans 16:20 (NASB) *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet..."*

Psalms 8:6 (NASB) *"You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet."*

Where do Satan and Demons Come From?

They are created beings – **Satan is not the opposite of God. He is not equal to God in any way. God has no rival (no equal)!** Satan is a being originally created by God to be good.

1. He was an Angel of the highest rank (a Guardian Cherub) named Lucifer. (**Ezekiel 28:12-18**) He knew the Glory of God as few other creatures knew it.
2. He became jealous of God's Glory and desired to be like God, if not become God himself. (**Isaiah 14:12-14**)
3. Because of this pride, he was cast out of God's presence and lost his position. He became the epitome of that which is ungodly. (**Luke 10:18**)
4. When he rebelled, he took one-third of the angels with him. (**Hebrews 12:22; Matthew 25:14; Revelation 12:3-9**).
5. He desires to be worshiped (**Matthew 4:8-9**). He is murderer and liar (**John 8:44**). He is waging war against you (**Ephesians 6:11-12**).
6. He does not have the power to create – only to imitate or counterfeit, manipulate, confuse, and deceive. He has power, but it is limited. He doesn't want you to know that. (Read limitations in the book of **Job**) (**1 John 5:18; Hebrews 2:14; Matthew 4:1**)

Man was given dominion (authority, control, and rule) over the earth at Creation but gave it over to Satan when he sinned. Satan now has limited rulership over the earth until Christ's return. Satan knows he is defeated but he tries to hurt God by turning His creation whom He loves away from Him. Satan desires that man worship him, not God. It is a battle for our souls. Whom will we serve and worship? We get to choose! **There is no neutral ground.** If we belong to Christ, and know our identity in Him, Satan's legal right to have dominion over us is broken. This doesn't mean he will automatically leave us alone. However, Jesus won a decisive victory over Satan on the cross. The battle is won, but we participate in occupying our territory until Jesus comes. Satan's power is broken when we stand in our authority in Jesus Christ. It is when we don't understand and exercise this authority or don't come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ that he easily influences and destroys.

Can Demons Affect Christians? The Wrong Question.

Because we live in a world under the rulership of Satan, he can oppress the body and soul of a Christian particularly in areas not under the Lordship of Christ. He can oppress (persecute, abuse, torment, depress, and keep someone in hardship through the unjust use of authority).

Jesus came to save the lost; heal the sick; deliver the tormented and provide reconciliation to God and eternal life with Him. If the believer is dealing with something, Christ came to set them free!

1 John 3: 8 *"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."*

It doesn't matter what the issue is; the answer is always JESUS!

Healing, Deliverance, and Freedom really can be used interchangeably. **Remember that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. It's about the presence of Jesus - us being full of Him - not just the absence of the enemy.** Anything that stands in the way of our relationship with Him needs to be removed, whether anger, unforgiveness, strongholds, bondage, addiction, or even demonic oppression. *No matter how we define it, the key for the believer is to receive freedom that is only found in Jesus.*

Divine healing is the act of God's grace, by the direct power of the Holy Spirit, by which the physical body is delivered from sickness & disease and restored to soundness and health.

Marie Woodworth-Etter

No Fear in Deliverance

Deliverance is probably not what you've heard that it is. It is not like in the movies or Hollywood. It is in the Holy Word! It is for believers! It is nothing to be afraid of and is totally non-threatening to the individual. It is simply healing by removal of the cause of the problem. Deliverance is often without any significant manifestation (outward sign) and is completely non-threatening to the one receiving the ministry. It is simply praying for the individual, inquiring of the Holy Spirit, and letting Him do the work. We are just facilitators for people to encounter God's Presence. We do nothing apart from Jesus!

If all permission to be there, and to stay there, is canceled, then the demons must be obedient to the command, in the name of Jesus Christ, to leave. Deliverance cannot take place against someone's will and can even involve more than just his or her *willingness* to be free. Often it requires a *desire* to be free.

Deliverance is a truth encounter, not just a power encounter. It is not a ritual or formula. God will speak to the person personally. Demons are all liars, but they will submit to the truth of the Word of God and the powerful name of Jesus Christ. The bottom line - you choose if you want to live free. You choose to follow Jesus. No demon can stop you from calling on the name of Jesus!

Command the demons to go and never to return in the NAME of JESUS. They will do as they are commanded, period. Every demon power will bow at the name of Jesus Christ. Now that you know the foundation of the gospel, are aware of the enemy's schemes, and how you as a believer are set free, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any access points, lies, sins, or beliefs that give the enemy an entrance to your life. Ask Him to reveal them so that you can walk in the freedom Christ paid for you to have.

Spiritual Warfare Should Not Be Complicated

The world of magic, sorcery, and witchcraft has captured the minds, imaginations, and hearts of this generation like nothing else before it. Yes we are at war – but how do we enforce the victory that is already ours through the cross?

It is easy for Christians to be led off course. The enemy has used spiritual warfare as a decoy within the Church to absorb time, effort, and valuable resources to focus on past wrongs, when everything we have is already given us in Jesus. People are searching everywhere for healing and deliverance, when the true key is **obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit**, not simply taking someone else's method and expecting the same result.

One of the greatest needs in the Church is that we return to the simplicity and fullness of God's Word. We have complicated things to the point that the average believer stands confused and in needless bondage. **Our view of God should be so much greater than the view of evil.**

Psalm 81:13-14 *“Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! I would soon subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries.”*

There is only one reason why we suffer defeat at the hands of the enemy and that is because we take our eyes off Jesus and are enticed by sin. It is just like the Old Testament – Israel’s sin was disobedience in failing to keep God’s Word. Loving obedience to God and His Word places God on our side and victory is assured.

The Finished Work of Jesus

We have lost track of this one simple, yet imperative truth and replaced it with a vast spectrum of complex ‘solutions’ and interventions. Unfortunately, the average believer, in his biblical insecurity **and** knowing of God’s word, has become caught up in various false doctrines, thinking ‘experts’ have discovered some lost revelation that holds the key to spiritual victory. The finished work of the Cross is all we need to receive answers to our prayers, healing, and staying free. May God open our eyes afresh to the value of getting alone with Him in prayer and in His Word – a right heart before God is all that is necessary for answered prayer and to become the person God created and redeemed us to be.

When Jesus ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God, His fulfillment of the new covenant was completed. We now have access to the throne room of God because Jesus is our High Priest (**Hebrews 5**).

The Good News

Jesus came to set the captives free.

Luke 4:18 (KJV) *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”*

Acts 10:38 (KJV) *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”*

Jesus Gave You the Same Authority

Luke 9:1-2 (KJV) *“Then he called his twelve disciples together, {Divine call} and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.” {Spiritual authority is never exercised over people, but only over the spirit world of darkness.} “And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.”*

"Jesus" is the Name of absolute authority. His name is above all other names. The authority of Jesus' name is given to everyone who believes in Him for salvation through the forgiveness of sins. Every believer has the right to tell demons, "GO" in the name of Jesus, and the demons must obey.

Know who you are in Christ. Know who you are fighting and know how to fight.

Jesus says in **Mark 16:17-18**, *"and these signs shall (not maybe) follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues."* Verse 18 says, *"they shall take up serpents..."* (this refers to putting away demonic spirits not actual snakes).

In **Luke 10:19** Jesus says, *"I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."* (This is the domain of spiritual authority. It is only over spirit beings, and not over humans).

We are told in **2 Timothy 1:7** that *"God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind."* Such power comes from the Holy Spirit.

Legal Permission of the Enemy

When you enter into the spiritual realm by participating in demonic activity, you are inviting (invoking) spirits and are entering by your own authority, making it legal! Since Jesus came to set the captive free and you as a follower of Him have authority, the enemy can only gain access by your own consent. Permission can be granted in many ways. The Holy Spirit honors your will; demons must also. They cannot intrude without some kind of permission. Once permission is granted, the demon takes up residence in the soul or flesh and begins to build a kingdom bent on destruction. Jesus says that Satan works to kill, steal, and destroy. (**John 10:10**) There isn't a demon power with any other function. Once the door is opened then **oppression** begins because the demon has been granted permission to be there.

Participation = Permission

Part of the freedom and deliverance process is to determine what entryways are granted to evil spirits or what permission the demons have to be there. The fact that they are there indicates they have permission. **The question now is, do they have permission to stay?**

Example: There was a shed whose door was left open overnight. The owner realized things were being chewed on and destruction was happening in the shed. The opened door let a rat in! Once the owner realized a rat was in there, he kicked it out and shut the door. It no longer had permission to be there (door was now closed) or to stay.

Things to know and remember:

1. “Manifestation” of something does not equal the Holy Spirit.

Many times in churches or other places, if we see a manifestation of something or feel something, we assume it is always the Holy Spirit. We need to not take things at face value—being moved by what we see or feel, but discern. Just because it may seem crazy to us does not mean that it is not the Holy Spirit. But just because we see it in a religious setting (in a church, ministry meeting, etc.) does not mean that it always is the Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:1 *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

2. Signs and wonders (or manifestations) do not equal right relationship with God.

Many places in the Bible, we see God moving mightily through signs and wonders. He will do what He desires to get His peoples attention or to move on their behalf. However, many today who call themselves believers, operate in gifts (seen to some as signs, wonders, or manifestations of the Holy Spirit). We begin to see these gifts and assume that the person using these gifts as someone who is right with God and everything they do and say must be of God. However, the Bible warns of false signs and lying wonders that are not of God. There are times when God uses someone not right with Him to prophesy, to accomplish His will. (Ex: Balaam, **Numbers 22-24**) We need to believe God and His Word and not put more value on what is seen than what He has already said. God can use signs, but He has already given His Word. We need to believe without having to see.

John 4:48 *“Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”*

Matthew 24:24 *“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” (Also, **Mark 13:22**)*

2 Thessalonians 2:9 *“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”*

Example: A true story of a Pastor in Africa — Jesus said “If I came today I would not take you.” Shock of all shocks! He was seeing marvelous healings and miracles; hundreds of people getting saved at his services. He had hidden sin that was separating him from God. God was telling him to deal with it. Go and sin no more! Eternity is at stake.

3. Check your own heart and life to make sure you are right with God.

Use God-given discernment when “seeing” or “experiencing” manifestations as to whether it is of God or not. If not of God, have nothing to do with it.

1 Corinthians 10:21 *“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.”*

Matthew 6:22-24 *“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

Romans 1:18 *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”*

2 John 1:7-11 *“For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”*

1 John 5:21 *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”*

Possible doors to enemy oppression.

1. **Unconfessed Sin**—Sin in your life leaves areas still under the control of the enemy of your soul. **Romans 13:14** says, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust.” Paul was writing to Christians like you and me, not to pagans.
2. **Unforgiveness, Bitterness, Anger**—Will give permission for demons to torment believers. (**Matthew 18:21-35**)
3. **Immorality**—Sex outside of marriage or any perversion or expression outside of genetic and biological male and female. This not only opens doors to demonic oppression but can also create a soul-tie that gives demons permission to stay until the influence is broken—the sin dealt with through repentance.
4. **Pain**—both physical and emotional—Pain will many times invite an addiction, demonic influence, to numb the pain resulting in more bondage. Pain causes people to become vulnerable and react impulsively, be irrational, or violent to stop the pain. Emotional pain can be feelings of rejection, abandonment or negative words spoken by other people, such as a parent, doctor, or teacher that result in ridicule, humiliation, or condemnation.
5. **Pornography**—A very powerful addiction, a perverse spirit bent on your destruction.
6. **Negative Words Spoken**—As children of God, our tongues have a lot of power. “Death and life are in the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruits...” **Proverbs 18:21**. “Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life...” **Proverbs 13:3**. God greatly desires for us to use this power to bring glory to His name and His kingdom. He wants us to speak with love and boldly declare truth, declaring or speaking in agreement with God’s words. Satan tries to keep people in the dark about the power of our words, entices us to use them for harm instead of hope. That is why we must surrender our whole selves to Jesus Christ. When we call Him Lord, that makes Him our Master and makes us His slaves so that the Lord can enable us to speak in agreement with His Word. When Jesus is Lord, negative words you have spoken or that have been spoken over you lose their power. Going forward, the Holy Spirit will convict you putting voice to the negative thoughts about yourself or others.
7. **Lust**—This includes lust for money and material things or for bodily appetites such as food and sex. Envy, covetousness, and jealousy are certain doorways or demonic influences.
8. **The Mind**—The mind is clearly the battlefield. Whatever you allow through your eyes and ears can be entryways for demon powers. Entry points can be books you have read; something as simple as fascination with Greek, Roman, or Egyptian mythology; or movies that involve fear, depict sin, as well as TV programs and cartoons. Fantasized creatures becomes children’s friends—these imaginary friends are familiar spirits. Children can become tormented by nightmares and act out. Parents bear a heavy responsibility and yet many simply turn their heads.

If you are looking into the Word to condone or get permission to do something, that is a red flag! There are no gray or neutral areas!

Closing Spiritual Doors to the Enemy

Don't dabble in, or play games with the occult - even out of curiosity!

Today, many people dabble in the mystical, occult arts. Is there anything wrong with being involved in these practices? Yes, the Bible takes a clear position on this subject, strongly denouncing these practices. God created us and therefore owns us. He has a right to set the rules for our lives. God's Word indicates that these practices are part of Satan's strategy of evil tricks and deception, designed to lead us astray. Satan and his demons are real beings set on our destruction. Christians are warned in **Ephesians 6:11** to...

"put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"

The word "occult" is generally associated with secret knowledge and practices dealing with the supernatural or "psychic" phenomena, often for the purpose of obtaining personal power. Occult practices rely on demons or spirits to achieve their goals. Occultism is rapidly increasing throughout the world. There are now thousands of publishers of occult books and magazines (not to mention websites). Interest in the occult has been promoted by the New Age movement, the rise of Neo-paganism, movies and even some music artists/genres. Always check the source - where did this originate? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to stay away from and close the door. The enemy comes in like an angel of light, trying to make things look innocent and fun. But they are not. They are access points - permission for him to oppress.

There are many doorways. Here are just some that may surprise you:

- Freemasonry, Elk Lodge, Secret Societies, Illuminati, Kabbalah, Knights of the Templar, Illuminated organizations
- Ouija boards
- Harry Potter or any demonic, horror book, movie, or game.
- Pokémon cards and characters
- **Psychology** - study of the 'soul'. Carl Jung (Occultist) founded theories and inspirations from a 'spirit guide named Philemon, and other dead people (necromancy), which has become the basis of modern psychology. He is just one of many occultist or atheist founders of psychology that Christians submit to and practice their theories as truth. Psychology / Psychiatry is secular humanism, which is a religion without God. There is no such thing as 'Christian' psychology. Tragically people are trapped in deception by these theories for diagnosis, behavior modification, mind control, predictive conditioning using pseudo-science bogus labels, and chemical alteration of the mind/brain with drugs. Interestingly, Rev.18:23 God uses the word 'sorcery' for deceiving the whole world. Sorcery (GK pharmakeia—drugs, magic potions). Do your own research! *PDF: Calling the Church out of Egypt. www.zoehealingcenter.com*

- **Mythology** (i.e. Greek and Roman mythology were real religions and worshipped real demons – they are still real demons on the earth. They are just repackaged today because we believe these demons or gods are fictional as mythology). What deception to the believer today!!
- Mormonism, Catholicism, Christian Science, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism
- Spiritism Eastern and mystic religions, *to include Native American religious traditions*
- New Age – New Thought
- **Enneagram**—*sometimes called the Sacred Enneagram*. An occult tool repackaged today by New Thought/New Age spiritual leaders such as Richard Rohr. Used as a self-enhancement, personality assessment, leadership building, & prayer tool to find your ‘True Self’. **This is a false gospel using Christian language and Scripture out of context**. This is in our churches and Bible schools as harmless and spiritually neutral. Don’t be deceived! This is a false Jesus!
- Witchcraft, Occult, (witches, sorcery, etc.)
- Satanism, Demon worship
- Fortune tellers, Mediums, Spirit Guides (**are invoked in Mindfulness**), Contemplative prayer
- Black magic, Voodoo, Vodun, Chaos magic, (any magic)
- Spells, Enchantments, Omens, Oracles
- Levitation, Séances, Hypnotism, Clairvoyance, Astral travel
- Color therapy, Handwriting analysis
- Crystals, Horoscope, Tarot cards, Palmistry, Lucky Charms, Magic 8 ball, Tea leaves
- Astrology, Vedic Astrology
- Water Witching/Dowsing (looking for underground water with a stick) / Pendulum swinging, hand fastening/pagan wedding, Feng Shui/Chinese geomancy, singing bowl.
- **Channeling—Reike, Therapeutic Touch, Raindrop Therapy** aka Holistic Health Energy Healing
- **Energy Healing** - energy has divine properties (origin Taoism)’ or consistency of a ‘Life force’ or psychic/mystic energy flow through psychic energy centers or ‘chakras’ (mystical and mythological energy centers assigned to the body and organs, which also correspond to a specific pagan god. The basis of all Eastern religions, New Age, and Energy Healing modalities). Many alternative medicines are *packaged* with occult teachings and procedures and treatments behind the product – such as essential oils (the word ‘Essence’ in aromatherapy has a different meaning than just the juice of a plant; philosophy is that god (divine life force in pantheism) is in all matter. Energy therapies such as Therapeutic Touch and Reiki are dangerous occult practices taught and practiced by health care professionals. Beware!! Believers are being deceived. They are consenting to invoke (summon, command) demonic spirits simply by participating.
- **Yoga** – Yes, YOGA!!! Believers again are being deceived and wonder why they are chronically sick, in bondage, not happy – stressed, obese, hopeless. These practices are packaged as ‘wellness’ or ‘exercise’ programs. It began as and still is a religious practice/form of worship to other gods in other religions, but sold as exercise in America. Because we view Christianity as intellectual religion, we are deceived. Other religions embrace movement and sound as vital parts of their spirituality. Yoga means ‘yoke’ or ‘unite’: ‘union’ with the god consciousness! The word ‘namaste’ a Hindu word that literally means ‘the god in me bows to the god in you’. Know before you go.

- Gnostic wisdom
- Hermetic Traditions
- Fetishism
- Cabalistic knowledge
- Eckankar—'co-worker with god', worldwide religion—demonic path promising spiritual freedom.
- I Ching—Classic of Changes (book), ancient animal divination—numbers, hexagram.
- La Regla Lucumi—African Caribbean inspired religion paired with Catholic saints and rituals. Lucumi means "my friend".
- Lycanthropy—transformation into animals (Ex: a wolf).
- Macumba—Brazilian spiritism paired with Roman Catholic religion—uses sorcery and rituals.
- Psychometry—Greek (meaning "the soul") - paranormal activity and history through touch of an object.
- Rosicrucianism
- Santeria—'way of the saints' - same as Regle Lucumi.
- Runes—reading like tarot cards, etc. Norse mythology—language before Latin.
- Shamanism - African magic through a witch doctor. Founders of wellness companies actually boast about this being one of their founding philosophies among others for promoting healing products.
- Scrying—looking into a crystal ball or anything to give visions. (Ex: fire, smoke, water, mirror).
- Thelemite—English term from the Greek word meaning 'to will, want, wish, or purpose'. "Exploring and expressing myself is my right and my purpose". Social/Spiritual philosophy—1900's, Alexander Crowley—English mystic and ceremonial magician. He believed he was a prophet of New Age.

***This is not an exhaustive list, but a few of the more common ways the enemy could gain a foothold in our lives. It is important to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas that are under the control of the enemy. Our intellect, reason and natural minds are capable of being deceived, however, when we invite the Spirit of Truth to expose the hidden (occult) things in our heart, He is faithful to do it. Spiritual beings need to be invited through spiritual doors. We have authority to prevent spiritual doors to darkness from opening through the Blood of Jesus Christ.*

**DISCERN the Source. From what 'womb' was the origin or conception?
John 10:10 RULE: God / Life? Or Satan / Death? You choose.**

For more detailed information: free PDF on website www.zoehealingcenter.com
Calling the Church out of Egypt / McGuffin

Eliminating the Enemy's Influence and Oppression: Prepare Your Heart

- Make sure that you are sincere. Don't clean the house without the intention to make Jesus the Lord of it or you invite a worse condition than before deliverance. (**Matthew 12:43-45**)
- Desire to be free so that you can serve the Lord.
- Repent of all known sin. Submit to His Lordship in every area in Jesus' Name.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of participation invoking demonic bondage or torment.
- Quickly acknowledge any obvious and known influences & REPENT in Jesus' Name.
- Determine or resolve to be free no matter what the problem or how long the problem has been in place. (Such as addictions.) YOU choose the flesh or Jesus! He doesn't just 'take' things away; but you choose to repent. (Repent means to turn around and walk the opposite way; your response to what Jesus did on the Cross for you). You choose.
- Don't be intimidated by what others may think. (Pride)
- Associate deliverance with Jesus and freedom rather than demons and bondage.
- Exercise your faith.

Philemon 1:6 "that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

- Believe that freedom and healing, just like salvation, are God's gift to you through grace in Jesus Christ. The same faith you believed in Jesus to save you (the greatest miracle of God).

Example Prayer of Deliverance

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I come against you demonic spirits and I bind your activity in my life. I declare that I have confessed and repented of every known sin, and that Jesus Christ has forgiven me. I declare that Jesus is my Lord. My life belongs to Him! I confess that I am redeemed by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) out of the hands of the enemy!

Spirit of _____ (if you know it, if not just identify the evil), I speak directly to you. The Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed me and set me free from your oppression. You have no legal right to touch me. I drive you from my life now and I command you to leave in the Name of Jesus!

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that Your blood and Your authority have set me free!

Activation Questions and Prayer

1. What did you hear in this chapter that you didn't know or hadn't heard?

2. Ask the Lord if there is any area that you have given entrance to the enemy in your life.

Renounce (repent of) the areas you have participated in that are not of God and have opened doors to the enemy.

3. Ask the Lord if there are there any items that you need to get rid of. Are there lies I have embraced?

4. What is God speaking to me? What is the Truth over me?

Receive His forgiveness and be restored back to God. Begin to praise Him and thank Jesus for what He has done.

PART THREE

Session 6

Staying Free —You Grow and Go!

Grow - Be a Disciple of Jesus.

The world is desperate for hope. You carry Life & Hope!

We want to encourage you to continue growing in the Lord and be a true follower (disciple) of Jesus Christ.

A disciple is someone who:

- Obeys/follows His commands.
- Lives a life laid down, fully surrendered to Jesus.
- Accepts the teaching (the Word of God) as truth; learns from the Word, acts and speaks like his Maker; teaches others and assists in the spreading of His message.

Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled with a yoke of bondage.”

The last part of that verse in the New Living Translation (NLT) says “... don’t get tied up again to slavery of the law.”

- Once you have been set free, walk as free. Don’t turn back to the old ways of doing things, the bondage, wrong thinking, etc. Catch the plot of the enemy at the thought stage. Follow God with your whole heart and expect to see Him move mightily in your life.
- Don’t put the chains back on! Things happen but we walk free. The armor of God is real—we are ready to contend for what we have been given—victory!
- ***Proverbs 23:7*** “As a man thinks so is he”, NOT *what*. God’s perspective, His instructions, His outcomes are good!

Matthew 16:24 (NLT) “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If any of you wants to be my followers, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.’”

- Jesus calls you to take up your cross and follow Him. In other words, be His disciple. To be His disciple, you must put your own life aside in order to follow Him, learn from Him, to listen to Him, and obey what He says. You can trust that He will take care of the rest.

Philippians 4:9 (NKJV) “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

John 8:31-32 (NKJV) *“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”*

- You have to abide first! (**John 15:5**)
- The evidence that you are His disciple is that you know and obey His Word.
- As a disciple, you are to read and study the Bible and obey what it says. *It is not possible to be a disciple of Jesus without obeying His Word.* (**John 13:31-38; John 14:15**)

John 14:6 (NLT) *“Jesus told them, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’”*

- The Bible, the Word of God, is the source from which you get Life.

Through the Word, you get to know Jesus as:

The Way - the way you should go. You can build your life on the foundation of Gods’ Word and see the world through His eyes (biblical worldview).

The Truth (Jesus) which will set you free.

The Life that is found only in Him.

- There is a difference between a biblical worldview and a Christian worldview. Biblical worldview sees the world through the “lens” of the Word of God. A Christian worldview sees the world through the “lens” of a religion, denomination, or self interpretation. We have to take God at His Word and use the Word to interpret the world, our lives, etc.
- Not everyone who calls himself a “Christian” is a follower of Christ. To grow and go, you will want to make sure to know who you are following.

Go! Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT) *“Jesus came and told His disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”*

Mark 16:15-18 (NLT) *“And then He told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.’”*

In Christ you have been given the command and authority to “Go”. You don’t have to wait for a special word to be commissioned. Jesus has already given every believer the “go ahead” of what to do in His name. You will get a more specific assignment from the Lord as you walk out life with Him, but for all of us - the main commission is the same. Go! Make disciples, heal the sick, set the captives free. You can do that today. Below are some things to remember as you step out in faith and pray for people as the Lord leads you.

Why should you pray for the sick, lead people to freedom, or preach the gospel?

1. There are sick, oppressed, hurting, and unsaved people needing Jesus.
2. Jesus did it. He healed, cast out demons, raised the dead, all while preaching the Gospel!
3. He instructed us to go represent Him, making more disciples.
4. Step out—even if you don’t feel like you are ready. Don’t let the enemy stop you. Trust the Lord that you have all you need to represent Him well.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. God’s Word tells us it is through the Blood of Jesus and His finished work on the Cross, people can come to repentance, be healed, and set free.
2. Know in your spirit that God extends grace to us through faith in His Son, Jesus. It is His will to save, heal, set free, and equip people to live fully in Him.
3. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Everything He has said is true and He will do what He says.
4. His righteousness is greater than our sin. There is nothing too big or too bad for Him to restore.
5. Everything must bow to the name of Jesus. There is nothing that can come against the name of Jesus. We have authority in His name to tell the enemy to go.

6. The Word of God is Spirit and Life (**John 6:63**); Health to our body (**Proverbs 4:20-23**).
7. There is an element of mystery in praying for people, but it is wonderful and amazing to see lives changed by the power of God and see them falling in love with Jesus.

Wrap Up—Now What?

You are commissioned to go make disciples. Free people free people.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV) *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”*

1. Live your life with Jesus as Lord and Savior

Remember when we only emphasize the work Jesus did for us as Savior rather than submission to His position of authority as Lord, it creates a significant flaw/fault in our foundation.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV) *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”*

We submit to Him as our supreme and only King and then we benefit from His salvation. This plays out:

- Whether we see the reason or not – we firmly adhere to His words, wisdom, counsel, correction, and instruction.
- We no longer evaluate what is good or evil by our perspective. We evaluate by God’s perspective as revealed in His Word – even if it is good. (The tree of good and evil – both lead to destruction). God is LIFE.
- We live in Him; His life becomes ours.
- He will not come into our lives as second to anything or anyone else.
- Disregard for His Lordship is a reason why some prayers aren’t answered. (Disobedience, unforgiveness, not treating spouses well, etc.)

- It is impossible to follow Jesus without denying ourselves (forsaking our ways) and embracing His supreme authority. Take up our cross (incorporating empowerment to walk away from sin and the world's systems).
- We can't use human reasoning to determine our actions or beliefs. We must truly follow His leadership. I am no longer independent. Now we can take up the cross and be empowered to live like Christ. We draw from Him.
- The life we have now is by faith in His ability working in and through us.

Jesus warns us – that after His departure another gospel would be proclaimed and widely accepted which would offer salvation apart from lordship.

***Matthew 7:21 (NKJV)** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

***2 Corinthians 11:4 (NKJV)** "For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! "*

- Man would reduce Lord to merely a title rather than a position that Jesus holds in their life.
- People will call Him Lord, but not deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him.

The foundation is vital! A house must be founded on the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

2. Stand firm in the Lord

***Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)** "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,*

- Crowd darkness out. Begin to fill your life with the things of Jesus. Let Jesus dominate your life and any demons will become more and more uncomfortable.
- Starve darkness out. Demons feed on the works of the flesh. They feast on hatred, bitterness, and unforgiveness. Remove from your life the things on which demons feed.
- Command darkness out. As you fill your life with the things of Jesus and cut off the works of the flesh, the position of any demonic influences will become weaker and weaker.
- Stand your ground. If demons resist you, take up the sword of the Spirit (the Word of God). Submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ - Confront the enemy with the truth of God's Word and stand against him until he flees – He has to!

God assures us that when **we submit to the Lordship of Jesus, we can then** “resist the devil... he will flee” (**James 4:7**). When you have confessed and repented of every known sin, take your stand against the enemy by praying a simple prayer like the one below. You don’t generally need to know the name of a demon. Simply address the demon in terms of what he does. (For example, spirit of fear, spirit of lust, spirit of infirmity, etc.).

Pray in faith and boldness, based on the promises of God’s Word. As you pray the following prayer, take your stand against every demonic spirit that is oppressing you! Take your stand, resist the devil, and He WILL flee! Thank God, by faith, He has set you free!

Sample Prayer of Deliverance

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I come against all demonic spirits and I bind your activity in my life and tell you to ‘GO now”, in Jesus’ Name! I declare that I have confessed and repented of every known sin, and that Jesus Christ has forgiven me. I declare that Jesus is my Lord. My life belongs to Him! I confess that I am redeemed by the blood of the Lamb out of the hands of the enemy!

Biblical HOLISTIC Health : The Lord is the Shepherd and Healer of His People

1 Peter 2:23-25 (NKJV) *“who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”*

Psalms 23 (NKJV) *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.*

We pray that you have been blessed through this study and that you continue seeking God and walk out His plans and purposes for your life!

Go back through this manual as often as needed and review the additional material at the back as you walk out your life in freedom in Christ. Remember to always seek the Lord. He knows where you got off track or were derailed by something. And He is the answer to fix it. He is all you need!

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

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Scripture References for Salvation

*Scriptures are King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned."

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 3:10-12 "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.'"

Romans 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith."

Romans 5:6-8 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:9-11 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, 'Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.'"

1 John 3:4-10 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

1 John 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:4 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. "

John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 10:10 (NKJV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. "

Colossians 2:13 (NKJV) "And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven your trespasses."

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Revelation 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God".

1 Peter 2:22-25 "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously: Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Isaiah 53:4-6 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said unto her, ' I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To with, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then are we ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

John 8:31-32 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Scripture References for Water Baptism

*Scriptures are King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Mark 16:15-20 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

Acts 2:36-47, 41 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ... ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Galatians 3:26 -27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Acts 16:14-15 “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.”

Acts 16:30-33 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”

Acts 10:48 “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”

Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

Acts 8:12-13 “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”

Scripture References for Healing

Old Testament

God Said.

Exodus 15:26 “And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

Genesis 20:17 “So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children.”

Job 5:26 “Thou shall come to thy grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.”

Exodus 12:13 “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 23: 25-26 “And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.”

Deuteronomy 7:15 “And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.”

Deuteronomy 11:8-9 “Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it; And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.”

Deut 23:5; Nehemiah 13:2 “I turned the curse into a blessing unto you, because I loved you.”

Psalms 30:1-3 “I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.”

Psalms 29:11 “The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.”

Psalms 41:2-5 “The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.”

Psalms 91:10 “There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come near thy dwelling.”

Psalms 91:16 “With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Psalms 103:3 “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”

Psalms 107:20 “He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions.”

Psalm 118:17 "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."

Psalm 147:3 "He health the broken heart and bindeth up their wounds."

Proverbs 4:20-22 "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

God's Will to Heal

Isaiah 32:3,4; 35:5,6 "The eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. The eyes of them that see shall not be dim and the ears of them that hear shall hearken. The tongue of the dumb shall sing. The tongue of the stammerer's shall be ready to speak plainly. The lame man shall leap as a deer."

Isaiah 38: 20 "The Lord was ready to save me."

Isaiah 40:29,31 "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 46:4 "And even to your old age and gray hairs I have made and I will bear, even I will carry you and I will deliver you."

Isaiah 53:4-5 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:4-5 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 57:19 "I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him."

Isaiah 58:8 "Thy light shall break forth as the morning and thine health shall spring forth speedily."

Jeremiah 30:17 "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord."

Jeremiah 33:6 "Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth."

New Testament

Matthew 8:17 “He took Himself our infirmities and bare our sicknesses.”

Matthew 14:14 “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”

Matthew 4:23 “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”

Matthew 9:29 “According to your faith, be it unto you.”

Matthew 10:1 “And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”

Luke 9:1 “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.”

God's Will to Heal

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

Matthew 14:36 “As many as touched Him were made perfectly whole.”

Matthew 15:26 “Healing is the children's bread.”

Mark 7:37 “He hath done all things well: He maketh the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak.”

Mark 9:23; 11:22-24 “If thou canst, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

Mark 16:17-18 “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

Luke 9:11 “Jesus spoke unto them of the Kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.”

Luke 9:56 “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.”

Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 13:16 “Sickness is satanic bondage and you ought to be loosed today in Me is life.”

John 1:4 “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

John 6:33, 35 "For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ... ³⁵ For I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth in me shall never thirst."

John 6:63 "The words I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life."

John 10:10 "I am come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly."

Acts 4: 29-30 "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus."

Acts 9:34 "Jesus Christ, maketh thee whole."

Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Romans 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

I Corinthians 6:19 - 20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

2 Corinthians 4:10-11 "The life of Jesus might be made manifest in our bodies."

2 Timothy 4:18 "The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and preserve me unto His dear Son's heavenly kingdom."

James 5:14-16 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

I Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

2 Peter 1:3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

NOTES



For God so loved the world

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