

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Rodney W. Francis was converted in 1959 at 17 years of age in an Independent Pentecostal Church at Palmerston North, New Zealand. He is the Founder/Director of "The Gospel Faith Messenger," a literature/prophetic teaching Ministry that commenced in 1964 and has been developed to bring individuals to personal faith in Jesus Christ, instruct them in the foundations of the Christian faith and to equip them to repeat the process. Scores of people in over 210 nations have and are being ministered to through "The GFM" by means of E-Mail and Web Page Ministry, books, booklets and manuals, 3 Bible Correspondence Courses (several thousand students currently), Preaching Ministry, mentoring, fathering, releasing people in the Spiritual Gifts ~ all built around the importance of hearing the voice of God in our lives. Operating in the Spiritual Gifts has opened the world for him to minister internationally. He has proven the benefits of the Spiritual Gifts and desires that all Christians experience the reality and joy of functioning in them too.

Rodney is married to Jean, who has faithfully stood by him and supported him over all the years of his more than 55 years of ministry. They have one son, Mark, who is married to Tania, with two lovely children, Annahise and Brayden. (Mark and Tania are developing their own Christian ministry in the field of prophetic healing and deliverance.)

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Rodney has a number of Timothy's in full-time ministry, both in New Zealand and overseas. His heart is to see others equipped with the love of God, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and a passion to release the reality of Jesus into the lives of others. He has had the joy of seeing many people released into Spiritual Gifts over the years.

S  **ing**
Your

Divine Potential

Rodney W Francis

SEEING YOUR DIVINE POTENTIAL

By Rodney W. Francis

Founder/Director: The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry



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This booklet is dedicated to all those who genuinely and sincerely want to have an encounter with God that will enable them to know their divine potential and to accomplish the vision and purposes of God for their lives in the 21st century.

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FOREWORD

This book is a compilation of a few articles that I have written over the years. It has come about because I felt impressed of God to produce them in book form. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will speak to every reader in such a way that we will not only see our divine potential, but that we will fulfil it here on the earth today! May we all rise to fulfil the potential and purpose of God for us in a greater way! ~ **Rodney W. Francis.**

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Chapter One

SEEING YOUR DIVINE POTENTIAL

GOD SEEKS MEN AND WOMEN today who will be prepared to really believe what He says; to believe the promises of our being new creations in Christ Jesus His Son (and what that means). Through the Word – and by the quickening of the Holy Spirit – He wants us to see the divine potential that He has already placed within us . . . the divine potential as to what God can really do through us when we will give ourselves in total surrender to Him. Can you see it?

OUR GOD IS A BIG GOD:

God is the God of the supernatural! For too long we have (generally speaking) limited God to the comprehension of the natural mind. He is BIGGER than what our tiny minds tell us! He is as BIG as His Word declares! And what does His Word declare?

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" (Jeremiah 32:27, NKJV).

God is so BIG that **"the nations are as a drop in a bucket"** before Him (Isaiah 40:9-18)!

WHY DO WE NEED TO SEE OUR DIVINE POTENTIAL?

We need to see our divine potential because only that which is "born of God" in our lives will stand for time and eternity. There is no divine potential in the works of the flesh. We must have much more than fleshly efforts or "bright ideas" if we are going to achieve great things for God. Anything less than that which is "born of God" puts us into the category of having **"a form of godliness, but denying its power"** (2 Timothy 3:5). (That type of person has no true vision, purpose or goal for life; living only from one day to the next according to the dictates of the world.)

God has called us to be a different people; a people whose one aim in life is to please the Lord Jesus through the divine potential He has placed within us! It is a tragic thing to limit God in our lives – to limit Him from being Who He is, and Who He wants to be within our hearts. Let us not be like it was said of Israel of old, who **"limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy . . ."** (see Psalm 78, especially verses 40-43). We must continually know that the great reality and experience of Christianity is the truth of the Word of God, which declares: **"CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory"** (Colossians 1:27). Jesus Christ lives INSIDE every true believer!

- **See the divine potential of that!**

BELIEVE JESUS!

Jesus said: **"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes"** (Mark 9:23).

Jesus said: **"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father"** (John 14:12).

Jesus said: **"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"** (Mark 16:17-18).

- **Jesus said these things to those who believe Him – and Jesus now lives in you! Can you see it?**

Not one of the above Scriptures make mention that these promises are only for certain ministries, apostles, prophets, preachers, pastors, etc., but to those who BELIEVE ON HIM! Yes, Jesus was speaking of the divine potential of those who believe!

- **Has Christ changed? Are we living in a different dispensation?**

No! No! A thousand times, No! Jesus is always the same – He never changes (Hebrews 13:8). His promises still hold true to those who truly believe what the Scriptures say.

KNOW GOD:

“. . . the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits” (Daniel 11:32).

The best way to get to know God is to agree with His Word, to believe what He says! God cannot lie (Titus 1:2)! To realize our divine potential we need to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit. His Word exhorts us to ***“be filled with the Spirit”*** (Ephesians 5:18), and to receive the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).

“. . . our sufficiency is from God, Who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). Far too often the “letter” gets in the way and the power of God is lost. It is ***“the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God”*** (Ephesians 6:17) that has to be released to activate the promises of God. It does not “automatically fall into our lap.” We activate the Holy Spirit anointed Word of God through our believing what He says. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see and behold more of the divine potential we have in God, and that divine potential, in turn, challenges us to exercise our faith and to ***“launch out into the deep”*** (Luke 5).

- **Can you see that?**

GIDEON:

Gideon was visited by an angel of the Lord and, after proving God, he led Israel to a mighty victory over the Midianites (Judges 6 & 7). He saw his divine potential and did something about (and with) it! Prior to that, he was a doubting and fearful nobody, who was full of discouragement and despair.

JONATHAN:

Jonathan realized that his BIG God did not have to have a great number of people in order for Him to work. He put God to the test by saying to his armour bearer: ***“Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few”***, and brought victory to Israel over the Philistines. Only two men – Jonathan and his armour bearer! He had seen his divine potential and decided to see what God would do through him. The Philistines were routed (1 Samuel 14:1-23).

ELIJAH:

Elijah, ***“a man with a nature like ours”*** (James 5:17), so believed in the Word of his God that he crippled a nation, and brought it to repentance through commanding there to be no rain. He then challenged and exposed the false, religious prophets of his day and demonstrated Who the true and living God is! He saw his divine potential (1 Kings 17 & 18)!

THE THREE HEBREW CHILDREN:

The three Hebrew children (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego) became an open spectacle because they refused to bow down to idolatry. Through their publicly confessed faith in God they were mercilessly thrown into the fire, but were miraculously delivered from that fiery furnace without even

the smell of smoke upon their clothing! They wouldn't bow! They wouldn't bend! And they wouldn't burn! The result was the changing of the laws of a nation. They saw their divine potential (Daniel 3).

PETER:

The Apostle Peter was greatly used of God to bring deliverance to the captives. Many miracles of healing took place during His Holy Spirit-filled ministry. The dead were raised, those with paralysis healed, and the crippled walked. Even his shadow was used to bring healing and help to many (Acts 5:15-16). After a hesitant start in his Christian walk, Peter saw his divine potential, exercised it, and rose to become a great apostle of the Christian faith.

PHILIP:

Philip, a wise man and full of the Holy Spirit, was serving at widows' tables. He saw his divine potential and went down to Samaria, where he preached the message of Jesus Christ unto the people (Acts 6 & Acts 8:5-8). In his simplicity of faith he moved a city for God. Many were saved, healed, delivered and released into a joy they had never known before.

Those men of God rose above their personal insecurities and fears, and dared to believe that God was BIGGER than their circumstances. They did not allow any excuses or obstacles to stand in their way to rising up and discovering what God can do through those who will step into their divine potential!

WE MUST ALSO DARE TO BELIEVE:

The Bible is full of these supernatural "happenings" that occurred when men and women stepped out in faith. For any Christian to deny these things is really an open confession of unbelief – and the promises of Jesus only apply to those who believe. Today the need is tremendous! God is longing to meet the need of this present generation. But the only way He can do that is through men and women who will see their divine potential, and act upon it. We must dare to believe God's Word to us.

The men mentioned in this message are great examples of what can be accomplished in life, yet God's Word gives us an even greater example: Jesus Christ His Son. As great as those men were, we today, are called to be like Jesus . . . to follow in His steps. Think about this.

- **What tremendous potential – divine potential – dwells within us!**
- **Can you see it?**

HOW ABOUT YOU?

My dear friend, do you really believe God's promises to you? Have you seen the divine potential of your believing, and are you putting that divine potential into practice? Are you being liberated into action by the Life-giving Holy Spirit of God – or are you being choked by the "letter that kills"? God will not fail you. He is with you right where you are to give you all the enabling you need – just act upon your believing. Do what He says you can do through the authority He has already given.

Know in reality, that through His divine power, you and I have been given all things that are relevant to life and godliness through the knowledge of Jesus – and that great and exceeding precious promises are given to us so that we might be able to share in the divine nature of Jesus (see 2 Peter 1:1-4).

- **What potential is yours!**
- **What potential is mine!**
- **Divine potential!**
- **Can you see it?**

May we all be seeing a greater outworking of these promises of God as we endeavour to release more and more of the divine potential that is within us! Step out on His Word and see what He will do in and through you! Do this and "The best is yet to come!"

Chapter Two

WE ARE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS!

The Bible is full of challenges for the Christian believer. It tells us who and what we are as new creations in Jesus Christ. The Christian believer is given **"exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers** ("a sharer in common, a partaker, partner, companion" – Bullinger's) **of the divine** ("what is God's, especially what proceeds from Him" – Bullinger's) **nature, having escaped the corruption** ("depravity") **that is in the world through lust"** (2 Peter 1:4). The preceding verse tells us that **"His divine power** ("dunamis") **has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue"** (2 Peter 1:3). Notice we have all we need through the "dunamis" of God; "dunamis" meaning "Natural capability, inherent power; capability of anything, ability to perform anything; then, absolutely, not merely power capable of action, but, power in action" (Bullinger's). There is no room for excuses, because God Himself has given to us all we need to fulfil His plans and purposes here on this earth. We are now His representatives! **His ambassadors!**

In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 we are told that we are **"a new creation"**; that **"all things have become new"**; that **"we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ"**; that we now have **"the ministry and word of reconciliation** ("a thorough change" – Young's)"; that **"we are ambassadors for Christ"**, and are **"become the righteousness of God in Christ"** because of Jesus' great sacrifice upon the Cross. *"The Ministry of Reconciliation is not the office of teaching the doctrine of remission or expiation; but it is the office of advising, exhorting, beseeching men to be reconciled to God. For it is not God who is the enemy of men, but men who are enemies to God (Romans 5:8-10)"* (Bullinger's). Now, having experienced the love and forgiveness of Jesus, and been filled with His Blessed Holy Spirit, we are made to be His very ambassadors here on earth. What awesome privileges the born-again, Holy Spirit-filled believer has! All of these truths and promises are given to us to make us capable representatives of Jesus Christ here on earth. As His ambassadors we now carry His Message of reconciliation to a lost world.

WHAT IS AN AMBASSADOR?

An "ambassador" is one who "has been invested (already given) power and authority to speak and act on behalf of the kingdom he represents. He is a diplomatic minister of the highest rank, accredited as permanent representative to another country or sovereign; he is sent on a special mission, one of the first rank with treaty-signing powers." For the Christian that means that you and I have been given power and authority to speak and act on behalf of the King of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. **The King's name is JESUS CHRIST! Our calling, our task is to represent Jesus Christ in such a way that people know that He is alive and rules today in the hearts of all who will obey Him.** We are called to give first-hand evidence of His living presence so others can see and know that Jesus died for them and rose again to give them eternal life in His Heavenly Kingdom. The Great Commission of Jesus (that has already been given to His disciples) is to go into all the world and demonstrate the Gospel by signs, wonders and miracles ~ living evidence that we have been sent from Jesus to represent Him with the power and authority He has invested in us (Mark 16:15-20). **Christianity without the power of God will never convince people that Jesus is alive today!**

So, the questions must be asked:

- **What kind of an ambassador are you?**
- **What kind of an ambassador am I?**
- **How effective are we at representing the King of the Kingdom of Heaven?**
- **Do we function according to the power that has already been given to us?**
- **Are we worthy of the calling He has called us to?**

We do need to be challenged on these matters, for Christianity has become far too much of a "wordy/theoretical religion" instead of a dynamic living force by the **"same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from dead"**. Consider this challenging Scripture: **"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you"** (Romans 8:8-11).

Wow! If we yield our lives to the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, there is no telling what we can accomplish on this earth! As far as God is concerned, He has done everything for us that we need to fulfil His purposes for us here below. He has chosen us, ordained us, and enabled us to be His "living witnesses" of all that He desires us to accomplish here today.

- **From a Scriptural viewpoint, what else do we need?**
- **Why do we not more positively believe what it says about us?**
- **Let us make sure that we are enjoying the special privileges of being His ambassadors!**
- **Let us make sure we are using and demonstrating the power and authority He has given us!**

And if we do feel we need more, then look again at the purposes of the nine Spiritual Gifts that are ours to use as true ambassadors of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12). There is not one of those gifts that we can honestly say are not needed today. **So, why is there not more emphasis placed upon the exercising of those gifts today? Do we think we can fulfil the purposes of God by ignoring His gifts and callings?** My personal testimony is that the operation of Spiritual Gifts has opened the world to me. I never "want" for invitations for places to go and minister. I have discovered that through the exercising of the Spiritual Gifts it enables us to minister "*spirit to spirit*" to people. Those gifts help us to "hit the mark" in enabling us to more truly and accurately represent Jesus Christ and in helping to fulfil peoples' many needs. A true ambassador of the Kingdom of Heaven uses those gifts that represent the Kingdom of Heaven; not some earthly endowment from the hand of man. So much more happens when we use what God has given to us, rather than our relying on natural education, natural abilities, etc.

- **People are hungry for the truth that will set them free!**
- **That truth is found in Jesus Christ, alive from the dead!**
- **That truth makes all the difference!** (John 8:31-32, 36).
- **Proclaim it, Ambassador of Christ!**

As an ambassador of Jesus Christ we have already been given the power and authority to speak and act on His behalf. We do not have to pray for it, because it is already given. When we **know** what we have in Jesus, then we will **use** it to the glory of God. We have power to reconcile men and women, boys and girls to a living relationship in and with Jesus Christ. That is our mandate. We are not "Christian apologies" waiting for God to do something. (Have you ever thought that maybe He is waiting for us to do something? That He is waiting for us to demonstrate to Him our belief and faith at what He has already declared and accomplished?).

Be encouraged to look again at the promises of God for you. See, read and believe what Jesus has personally accomplished for you through His death, burial and resurrection. Jesus came to make such a mighty difference in each of our lives! Don't let negativity rob you of who you are in JESUS! Don't let others put you down by telling you what you cannot do. Listen to those voices that tell you what you can do in the name of Jesus!

- **You are an ambassador of Jesus Christ!**
- **Be encouraged to function more actively in that which you already have!**

Chapter Three

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT ANOINTING IS FOR

The fourth Chapter of St. Luke's Gospel sets before us some wonderful, yet challenging truth concerning the Holy Spirit at work in Jesus - **the same Holy Spirit Who now lives in all those who "have been endued with power from on high"** (Luke 24:49). Right from the first verse we see Jesus being led of the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit before He was led into a head-on encounter with His (and mankind's) arch-rival. How interesting that it was the Holy Spirit Who led Jesus into a confrontation with Satan! But that confrontation was vital to what was to follow. That encounter with the devil was all about the power of God's spoken and written Word versus the present, personal, kingdom-building power and desire of the enemy. The winner of that combat would determine the future of Jesus, His power and authority, His ministry and the destiny of humanity. How grateful we should be that Jesus did not succumb to the temptations of Satan. Instead He defeated him by declaring the Word of God. Verse 14 tells us Jesus returned **"in the power** ("dunamis" meaning "power capable of anything") **of the Spirit."** Something very definite happened in Jesus as a result of the wilderness experience.

- **He went in full; He returned power full!**
- **He went in having His authority questioned; He came out having His authority proven.**

Jesus came back from the wilderness victorious! Have we come out of our wilderness yet, or are we still **"being tempted of the devil"??**

- **Jesus now taught with an authority that was not evident before.**

After the wilderness, Jesus returned to His home town of Nazareth and on the Sabbath day He went to the synagogue. There He was handed the book of the Prophet Isaiah. He stood up to read. He spoke some very profound words. He spoke of the fulfilling of the words of Isaiah 61:1-4. He gave the people the essence of what the Gospel, the Word of God, the will of God, the heart of God, and the commission of God is all about! He declared:

"The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; to send forth delivered those who are oppressed - who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity; To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord - the day when salvation and the free favours of God profusely abound. Then He rolled up the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were gazing (attentively) at Him. And He began to speak to them: Today this Scripture has been fulfilled while you are present and hearing" (Luke 4:18-21, AMP.).

Jesus made it very clear that the Holy Spirit had anointed His life for a specific purpose. That specific purpose can be divided into seven areas of outworking:

1. **Anointed to preach the Gospel to the poor.**
2. **Anointed to heal the broken-hearted.**
3. **Anointed to preach deliverance to the captives.**
4. **Anointed to bring recovery of sight to the blind.**
5. **Anointed to give freedom to those who are bruised.**
6. **Anointed to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**
7. **Anointed to fulfil the Scriptures.**

Take a good look at these seven points. **The Spirit of the Lord anointed Jesus to effectively minister healing to people: spiritually, emotionally and physically.**

1. To **"preach the Gospel to the poor"** is a proclamation that the Gospel carries privileges, advantages and answers to those who are poor. **"Poor"** in this verse means "crouching, cringing in the manner of

beggars; hence, begging, beggarly, poor ... living on the alms ("charitable donations" - Collins Dictionary) of others, having nothing at all" (Bullinger's). The Holy Spirit anointing provides answers to those who are needy. Those answers come as the Gospel (God's Good News) is proclaimed to the people by Holy Spirit-filled believers. Outside of the benefits of the Gospel and the born-again experience in Jesus Christ, all humanity is **"poor"**.

- **The Gospel preached gives hope and answers for the healing of humanity: spirit, soul and body.**
- **It is the message of wholeness.**

2. To "heal the broken-hearted" means to minister effectively to those whose lives have been "shattered; rubbed together as to the heart" (Bullinger's). To be "shattered" means to be "1. broken into many small pieces. 2. impaired or destroyed: i.e. his nerves were shattered by the torture. 3. to be dumbfounded or thoroughly upset" (Collins Dictionary). We tend to use the word "shattered" when referring to broken windscreens on motor vehicles. It speaks of a major splintering and breaking. **The anointing of the Holy Spirit enables people to be tenderly and marvellously put back together again; sufficiently healed so as to be able to put the brokenness behind us and get on to fulfil the purposes of God for our lives.** Nothing else can do that.

3. To "preach deliverance to the captives" is all about taking authority over powers, circumstances, habits, situations that prevent people from being free. The word **"deliverance"** means "a letting go, a sending forth; dismissal, a setting free as from captivity, or as from sins, hence, remission, pardon" (Bullinger's). **"Captives"** is a word that is linked with war: "being taken captive by the spear and being held as a prisoner of war" (Bullinger's & Strong's Concordance). **Clearly the ministry of the preaching of the Gospel (through the anointing of the Holy Spirit) is to capture the captives and set them free from the enemy, bondage, habits; whatever has made them a prisoner. They need to be recovered, set free and healed to get on with life to the glory of God!**

4. To bring "recovery of sight to the blind" is self-explanatory. Whether you apply it physically or spiritually, it is still a great healing. Jesus demonstrated that the Gospel is very much for the healing of the physically blind as it is for the spiritually blind. **"Recovery"** is "restoration" (Strong's); it is "1. the act or process of recovering, especially from sickness, a shock, or a setback; recuperation. 2. restoration to a former or better condition. 3. the regaining of something lost" (Collins). In the context of the usage of the word it is clearly speaking of the restoration of one's eyesight back to its original condition (or even better)!

5. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is also "to set at liberty them that are bruised." It is speaking of freedom for those who have been "crushed, broken down or into pieces" (Bullinger's). One translation quotes it: **"that the downtrodden shall be freed from their oppressors"** (TLB). It represents the bringing forth of new freedoms, no longer being bound by oppressors of any kind. **Jesus came to set us free!** Sin, sickness, disease and evil spirits are all oppressors of the human race! We are failing the anointing if we are not giving freedom to others.

6. Jesus preached these truths as "the acceptable year of the Lord." This is the day of God's favour! It is the time of God's release to those who are sick (spiritually and physically). The same Holy Spirit anointing is available today for the believers in the Word of God to take hold of and minister to others who are desperately in need of being set free. The Gospel according to Luke Four did not pass away after Jesus left this earth. He sent the Holy Spirit anointing to those who would wait until they were **"endued with power from on high"** (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8). We either accept the truth of God's **"acceptable year"** Word, or we deny it (through unbelief of it and hardness of our own heart). **May the Holy Spirit grant us more revelation of the truth that is in Jesus the Living Word!**

7. "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears." Jesus was anointed to fulfil the Scriptures. How did He fulfil the Scriptures? How could Jesus make such a statement? Who was this Man Who could publicly read Scriptures over 700 years old and say, **"This day (today!) this Scripture is fulfilled in your ears"**? Jesus could say that because He had won the right in the wilderness when He defeated Satan with the Word. **The power of the Holy Spirit in a person was greater than the temptations of the devil!**

- **Jesus had power and authority - and He knew it!**

- **Jesus had power and authority - and He exercised it!**

We, too, in the Holy Spirit anointing, have power and authority - but we don't always know it! Nor do we act upon it like we should. The promises and power of the Word of God are not mere theories. They are the authority in Heaven and on Earth! And herein lies the challenge we Christians have. **This is what the anointing is for!** The Church of this 21st century will not survive without the "dunamis" power of God alive and working through the believers of the Word of God. There is no substitute. **We do God's Word and the people a disservice when we fail to proclaim the Gospel according to Luke Four.**

- **How can we claim to be filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit anointing if we do not believe and do what He comes to us for?**
- **How can we say we are anointed of God the Holy Spirit if there is little or no evidence of His power?**
- **The Old Testament prophets saw miraculous healings and evidence of God's power.**
- **Jesus came healing the sick with signs, wonders and miracles.**
- **The Early Church believers healed the sick and set the captives free! Why? They released the anointing of the Holy Spirit out of their lives to bring healing, health, and deliverance to those who needed it. They obeyed the commands of Jesus to go forth into the world with His anointing and power.**

So, what's our problem? Are we still battling it out with the devil in the wilderness? Has he got us bluffed? Blinded? Are his temptations still tempting? Until we settle that issue of who we are, and what we have through the Holy Spirit anointing, we will not rise to use the authority of that anointing in the seven areas He has been sent to us for.

This is the day for the believers to arise ... to declare the Gospel ... the only Gospel that works ... and demonstrate to an unbelieving, humanistic generation that the God of the Bible is alive and well today and forever! The anointing is not for us to keep to ourselves - it is to be released out of our "*innermost being*" to a sick and sinful generation, to make them whole to the glory of Jesus Christ. Christianity is not about theories; it is about knowing and releasing the anointing of God out of our lives to benefit others.

The choice is ours! Through the Word of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit we can exercise a power and authority that no other can demonstrate nor compete with. God has called us and anointed us for that purpose. What will it be?

Chapter Four

RECOGNIZING THE ANOINTING

Much is being said and written today on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is cause for rejoicing as we hear of many examples of people being transformed into new creations in Christ Jesus. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is sent into the life of the Christian believer so that he/she might be an anointed witness of the truth, **"as it is in Jesus"** (Ephesians 4:21). Without the anointing of God's Holy Spirit in us ~ and upon us ~ our Christianity will be limited to a "mechanical operation" devoid of God's life and power. We must be reminded that it is one thing to start off in this new life in the Holy Spirit ~ it is entirely another thing to continue on in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This article has come into being as a direct result of a growing concern within the writer's heart of the great need today for **Holy Spirit-filled Christians to recognize the anointing.** To accept everything that is preached and done as being "anointed of God" would be folly indeed. We must face up to the realities of the times in which we are living and know the spirit that is motivating the words and the deeds in our midst.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit will not justify anything in our lives that is not of God ~ either personal or traditional ~ and therefore we should carry an earnest desire to walk in the anointing at all times. The anointing is the quickening (the "making alive") of God's Holy Spirit within us **to make REAL the words and deeds of Jesus to others.** For this to happen through us, we must first learn to recognize when God is revealing His Word and Works to us. He does this by His Spirit, the anointing. The Bible says:

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

This verse tells us what Jesus was anointed with ~ the Holy Spirit and power. It tells us what He was anointed for ~ to go about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed by the devil. The authority behind the things He did was ~ **"for God was with Him."**

Holy Spirit-filled Christians are people who have received the same Holy Spirit that Acts 10:38 tells us of (there is no other Holy Spirit). Jesus returned to His Father in order that the Holy Spirit of God could be sent unto us (John 16:7-15), and to empower our lives for His service. **Once the Holy Spirit of God comes into us, our first priority in life should be to allow Him to take control ~ of us! For when He is in control we will naturally go about doing good, bringing healing and deliverance to the oppressed, and setting the captives free from the subtleties of Satan. Our authority is in the knowledge (by the Holy Spirit and confirmed by the Word) that GOD IS WITH US! Let that authority get you into action for the Glory of God!**

- **Recognize the anointing!**

Let us now look briefly at two areas where it is vitally important that we recognize the anointing . . .

1. THE MINISTER AND MINISTRY

Any Christian who is involved in any kind of ministry ~ full-time or otherwise ~ should be very much aware of the need for God's Holy Spirit anointing, both in his life and in those things which he/she seeks to do. Our example to follow must always be Jesus Christ Himself. He made it plain to His disciples how important the Holy Spirit's anointing is in one's life. He said:

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

What is Jesus saying? Simply this, that if **we do not minister in the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we profit absolutely nothing!** Outside of the realm of the Holy Spirit is the realm of the flesh. And, Christian minister, if we are not ministering in the realm of God's Holy Spirit anointing we are attaining absolutely nothing of eternal value! Our efforts are fruitless and profitless. The Apostle Paul spoke it plainly:

". . . for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life" (2 Corinthians 3:6).

To seek to minister to people outside of the anointing of God will defeat our purpose, as well as kill both our spirit and the spirit of those who hear us (and that is very sad). There is no place in our pulpits for anything but anointed messengers and messages. But alas, such a lot of what we hear today is nothing more than intellectual sermonizing and entertainment ~ a playing with words.

God's Holy Spirit should be witnessed first and foremost through the minister and his/her ministry.

Why is this? Because he/she is in a place of setting an example to those he/she ministers to. If he/she has nothing to give (from the Holy Spirit of God working in and through him/her) what can the people receive? Ministers cannot produce life by ministering the letter which kills. Ministers must learn to walk in the anointing daily. We cannot expect that because we knew an anointing in God a few months or years back that we are automatically walking in the anointing now. It is true that the anointing abides, **but we also must abide in the anointing!** A "has-been" will not accomplish anything for God unless he/she first gets back into the flow of the anointing. We can all examine our own hearts in this area ~ and need to continually so that nothing creeps in unawares and robs us of the fulfillment of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Remember Samson (Judges Chapters 13 to 16)? He knew the power of God's Spirit in a mighty way, but he drifted away to the point that he did not even know when the Spirit of God had departed from him! He did not recognize or discern the change taking place; he just "took it for granted" that God was still with him, but He wasn't. We must guard against the same apathy in our own hearts.

2. THE CONGREGATION or HEARERS

Just as it is important that the minister of God be an anointed person, it is also important that the people he/she preaches to know the anointing. When we hear an anointed message, full of the life of the Holy Spirit, we should take heed and learn all we can from it. The benefits are tremendous. It is equally so that if we hear a message that is not anointed, then we are under no obligation to heed it ~ unless you want to die spiritually. This is in no way an excuse for Christians to accept or reject what they want to, for they who are really walking in the anointing also have a deep hunger for the Word of God, and want all that God has for them. If in this area we can recognize the anointing ~ when it is there and when it is not ~ then a lot of spiritual progress is going to be made by the Church. For too long we have accepted all that has been preached to us, and much of it is because we have not recognized and discerned when the Holy Spirit of God was missing. **When we sit in church and hear the Word of God preached it is imperative that we have that kind of preaching that ministers LIFE to our spirits, builds us up for the battles we face, and gives us the revelation knowledge that we are Christ-containers in a needy world.**

I share this burden with you in order that together we might move forwards in God's plans and purposes in this very hour. We do not have time to be "playing church," or to be "tickling one another's ears," for we have been endued with power from on high to do the will of God and to extend His Kingdom. This is a little of the purpose of the Holy Spirit anointing ~ let us recognize that anointing and flow with it always. Amen.

Chapter Five

REVELATION KNOWLEDGE

In the Christian realm there are two kinds of knowledge which we can have. One (which we have all been caught up with at some time or other) is the knowledge we gain from learning ~ learning about God, learning about the Bible, learning the "do's" and "don'ts" of Christianity. This is a knowledge which "puffs up": **"Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies"** (1 Corinthians 8:1-2, NKJV). It is interesting to note that men of the Bible who trusted in this knowledge were "hindrances" to the work of God.

Moses tried to carry out the plan of God with his natural learning, but failed, committing murder in the process. Only when God revealed Himself by a miracle in the burning bush did Moses get the **God Knowledge** (which comes by revelation) that was needed to fulfil the Word of God through his life (Acts 7:22-34).

Nicodemus was a rabbi (a teacher), yet he could not understand the ways and words of Jesus. It was the miracles of Jesus that gave him the **knowledge** that Jesus was of God. He said to Jesus: **"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him"** (John 3:1-2). Jesus told him he had to be born-again! He (Nicodemus) was in the wrong realm of knowledge ~ but the miracles of Jesus had set him seeking and had given him **Revelation Knowledge** that God was with Christ. Nicodemus was a master in Israel . . . so he had plenty of the knowledge which comes from, and by learning. But he did not know too much about the knowledge realm that Jesus was ministering in. Jesus asked him: **"Are you a teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness"** (John 3:10-11). Natural knowledge has **"a form of godliness, but no power"** (2 Timothy 3:1-5), whereas **Revelation Knowledge** comes from above and confirms itself by signs, wonders and miracles.

The Apostle Paul was taught according to the perfect manner of the law, yet he persecuted unto death the saints of Jesus!! The Lord Jesus worked a miracle of grace in him. He was blind for three days (yet during that time he saw a vision). He was healed and filled with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 9). He was called to preach the Gospel and was endued with **God Knowledge** for the purpose of making Christ known (Acts 22) ~ **for no one can know Jesus Christ except by a revelation of the Holy Spirit!** Paul declared this: **"But I make known to you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood . . . "** (Galatians 1:11-16). Paul very clearly told us he got His Gospel by **revelation ~ the revelation of Jesus Christ!** And that, my friend, is the same knowledge we must have if we want to accomplish anything in the Kingdom of God and of eternal value.

There are four different ways we receive **Revelation Knowledge** or **God Knowledge** that I want to place before you in this message.

1. REVELATION KNOWLEDGE COMES BY REVELATION OF THE FATHER

In Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus asked His disciples: **"But who do you say that I am?"** Peter replied: **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** Jesus told Peter he was blessed, for flesh and blood (natural sources) had not revealed it to him, but **he had a revelation from the Father in Heaven.**

- **It takes Revelation Knowledge from the Father to make us to know Who Jesus is!!**

In John 6:44-45 Jesus told us that those who come to Him are **"taught by God": "No one can come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me."**

- **Have you learned from the Father yet?**
- **If you have you will come to Jesus!**

Just a little thought to add to these two Scriptures: that Jesus told Peter it was upon this rock (**the revelation from the Father Who Jesus is**) that He would build His Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Revelation Knowledge** causes us to know, and makes us stand against all the wiles of the enemy ~ as long as we abide in that realm of knowledge. Peter soon learned (when he moved out of that realm) that you get into trouble (see Matthew 16:21-23).

2. REVELATION KNOWLEDGE COMES BY REVELATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When the Holy Spirit comes into our life He brings with Him Revelation Knowledge of the Father and the Son (Jesus Christ): "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you" (John 14:20). The context of this statement is Jesus teaching on the coming of the Holy Spirit Comforter Who would be sent to us after He went back to Heaven. Jesus went and the Holy Spirit came!

- **The Holy Spirit causes us to know Jesus' position in the Father, our position in Christ, and His in us. That is Revelation Knowledge!**

No man can make you or me to know that. Consider this portion of Scripture: ***But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ"*** (1 Corinthians 2:9-16).

As we can see, there is a very different level of knowledge between that of the Holy Spirit and that which is from man. Natural man is unable to grasp or understand **Revelation Knowledge**. It is a "God thing"; that which comes only from God the Holy Spirit. **"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts"** (Zechariah 4:6). This is a Biblical principle. **"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him"** (1 John 2:27). The anointing is always in the Holy Spirit Who lives in us! As we abide ("remain") in Him, He will teach us the things of God.

2. REVELATION KNOWLEDGE COMES THROUGH THE ANOINTED PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

"Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the Word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God Who commanded light to shine out of darkness, Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God

in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:1-7).

Notice that **"the god of this age"** (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that the light (revelation) of the Gospel does not shine in their hearts and give them the **Revelation Knowledge of the glory of God that is found in Jesus Christ!** The devil is fighting to keep people away from the anointed preaching of the Gospel, because once **Revelation Knowledge** gets into a person **they are changed! They are empowered with GOD KNOWLEDGE!** The battle today is over knowledge ~ man's wisdom verses **Revelation Knowledge!**

In John 4 we have a good illustration of **Revelation Knowledge** coming to the Samaritans through the words of Jesus. Firstly, Jesus told a woman she had had five husbands, and living de-facto with a sixth, after she had told Him she had no husband. The effect this **Revelation Knowledge** had on the woman caused her to go and tell her people, **"Come see a Man, Who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"** (v.28-30). Many believed on Jesus as a result of her testimony. In verses 41-42 the people who did not believe on Jesus because of the woman's testimony ~ but were stirred enough to go and listen to Jesus for themselves ~ they believed the Word which Jesus spoke to them. They then returned to the woman and said: **"Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."** They received the revelation of Who Jesus was (and is), through the preaching of the Gospel (Good News of Jesus). Yet it was the woman's testimony/preaching that activated them to go and hear Jesus for themselves!

4. REVELATION KNOWLEDGE COMES THROUGH THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

In Matthew 9:1-6 we see Jesus healing a paralyzed man. He knew the prevailing thoughts of those present ~ **"He knew what was in man"** (John 2:25), and so acted accordingly. **But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" ~ then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, Who had given such power to men.**

The working of miracles brings **Revelation Knowledge of the power of God.** Jesus said in John 10:37-38, **"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."** It was the working of miracles that set Nicodemus seeking the Lord. When God called Moses, He told him that He was going to deliver His people from the land of bondage in a way that the people would **know** that He was the Lord their God (Exodus 6:1-7). The Egyptians would **know** too (Exodus 7:1-6). In the days of Joshua, God worked with him in a way that the people **knew** that God was with Joshua, as He was with Moses. When it came to the time for them to cross over Jordan, Joshua spoke to the children of Israel and said: **"By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the . . . ites"** (Joshua 3:9-10). They witnessed signs, wonders and miracles!

The prophet Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to call down fire from Heaven. They tried without success all day. When Elijah's turn came he prayed: **"Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your Word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."** Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, **"The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"** (1 Kings 18:36-39). Through the signs and miracles the people received **Revelation Knowledge** of the Lord Himself!

- **Revelation Knowledge comes through the working of miracles.**
- **Nicodemus knew Jesus was of God because of the miracles.**
- **Right throughout the Scriptures you will find that Revelation Knowledge and the working of miracles go hand in hand.**

"The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits" (Daniel 11:32). If you and I are not seeing the hand of God in our lives and ministries, then it is because we are "operating" in the wrong realm of knowledge. We must **know God** ~ not just know about Him. **"And this is life eternal, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent"** (John 17:3). Jesus Christ **knows** His sheep and His sheep **know Him** (John 10:14-15, 27). It is God's New Covenant Promise that we **KNOW the Lord!** It comes by **Revelation Knowledge** (Jeremiah 31:33-34). We are exhorted to seek this knowledge: **"My son, if you receive My Words, and treasure My commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding"** (Proverbs 2:1-6).

We should seek this knowledge, because believe me, this **Revelation Knowledge** which comes from the Father, the Holy Spirit, through the preaching of the Gospel, and by the working of miracles, is the most valuable and precious treasure we can possess this side of eternity ~ **Revelation Knowledge** lasts throughout time and into all eternity!

"To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1:1-12).

What an amazing portion of Scripture! Look again at it and meditate upon what is ours through receiving the **Revelation Knowledge** of God.

- **It gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness!**
- **It makes us partakers of the Divine Nature of God!**

Revelation Knowledge comes through the exceeding great and precious promises ~ the Miracle Book, the Word of God, inspired by miracle-working Holy Spirit power! Praise the Lord! It does not come by staring at the TV set, but by walking with the Living God. The Apostle Paul desired that we be filled with this knowledge of God's will for us: **". . . that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy . . ."** (Colossians 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-23).

What knowledge! ~ but oh, my friend, God wants you and me to be filled with it. Much more could be written on this subject, but there is sufficient here for each of us to meditate upon, and to seek, more of the **Revelation Knowledge** of God for our lives. May God bless and grant you more and more of His **Revelation Knowledge**.

Chapter Six

THE WONDERFUL WORKINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Right now, around the world, many are experiencing reality in the Christian faith through the mighty infilling of the Holy Spirit, and the evidence of speaking in other tongues. To say the least, this is a wonderful experience that God is giving His people; and we praise Him for His love and goodness to us. We are hearing of people who are experiencing God in a sovereign way and being baptized in the Holy Spirit right outside of church meetings, etc. For me it happened in the midst of a herd of cows at 5:30 a.m. in the morning when I was 18 years old and quite a new Christian believer. What God did for me, and spoke to me about that morning amongst those cows has enabled me to rise up and fulfil a ministry that now touches thousands of people around the world. However, let us realize that this experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is but a "door-way" into deeper realms and deeper experiences that Jesus Christ has for us. He desires to so possess these bodies of ours (which are His temples of the Holy Spirit) that we will know what it is to move, live and function in the realms of the supernatural.

THE BOOK OF ACTS ~ PHILIP

The Book of Acts gives us some wonderful workings of the Holy Spirit ~ the ways by which He (God) brought hungry hearts together to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives, etc. How thrilling it is to read of the Spirit's working in the life of Philip as he went to Samaria and simply preached CHRIST unto them. The people were "stopped in their tracks" when they heard and saw the miracles which he did:

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded ("to pay attention to") the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed ("to have" evil spirits); and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:5-8).

Philip was no apostle or prophet. He was one of the seven deacons who were chosen to serve at widows' tables. But he was ***"filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom"*** (that makes all the difference) (Acts 6). When the Holy Spirit is allowed to work in a person's life there will always be a demonstration of the Word of God ~ it will be confirmed, even with signs, wonders, healings and miracles. Jesus Himself declared that ***"signs will follow those who believe"*** (Mark 16:15-20). The Early Church and Philip simply believed that **Jesus meant what He said** and went forth preaching everywhere. They expected and knew that He went with them: ***"And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs, Amen"*** (Mark 16:15-20). Notice that **the Lord went with them ~ they (the disciples) initiated the fulfilling of the Great Commission to go preach the Gospel ~ as soon as they believed what Jesus told them!**

Philip believed what Jesus said and taught! He believed in the power of Jesus to confirm His Word, and the Lord never failed him! **Samaria had a visitation of God because one Holy Spirit-filled disciple dared to believe the promises of Jesus Christ!** Further on in Acts Chapter Eight we read of Philip receiving instructions from an angel of the Lord to go out into a desert ("a deserted place"). Philip obeyed and went. Out there he met an Ethiopian sitting in a chariot reading. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, ***"Go near and overtake this chariot"*** (Acts 8:26-40) ~ which Philip did. The man was hungry for spiritual truth, but had no understanding of what he was reading. He was reading from Isaiah 53, but it was somewhat meaningless to him. From the very same Scripture Philip preached JESUS to him. The Spirit of God opened the man's understanding to believe on and receive Jesus as his personal Saviour! He was so born-again and revolutionized that he instantly desired to be water baptized! And he was! God saw the hunger in the Ethiopian's heart and directed Philip to him, that he might have an encounter with the Living God. But it did not stop there. I have been told that as a result of this one act of obedience by Philip that the Ethiopian took the Gospel of Jesus Christ back to Ethiopia and a visitation of God started there that was so impacting that Ethiopia was a Christian nation for many generations to come! **Philip's one act of obedience to the Holy Spirit gave him a greater harvest than the visitation in Samaria!**

Now, stop and consider something. If you were in Philip's shoes and had the wonderful privilege of ushering in a city-wide revival in an area, and then in the midst of that God called you to go out into a desert place where there was no known human population, would you leave the revival and obey what the Holy Spirit said? I think we would find a number of reasons and excuses as to why we could not do that ~ especially as the Samaritan revival was built around Philip's ministry. People would say that Philip **needed** to remain in Samaria! But Philip demonstrated that his heart was more committed to Jesus than to the dictates of the people, and so he walked away from the revival and did what the Lord asked him. In reality he exchanged a city revival for a national revival by being "the link in the chain" that the Lord wanted him to be! **Millions of lives were impacted for Jesus over the succeeding generations!**

THE BOOK OF ACTS ~ CORNELIUS and PETER

In Acts Chapter Ten we again read of the wonderful workings of the Holy Spirit, this time in the lives of Cornelius and Peter. Cornelius was a devout ("one who is reverent"), prayerful, and giving man who feared God. He was a Gentile believer, so obviously had had a supernatural experience with God that was not according to the protocol of the day. God responded to Cornelius' hunger for more and sent an angel to speak to him. Cornelius was told to send men to Joppa to find a man called Simon Peter. The angel told Cornelius where Peter could be found, and that he (Peter) would tell him what he must do. He obeyed and sent men to look for Peter at Joppa. While the men were on their way to find Peter, the Holy Spirit began to speak to Peter as he waited for lunch. He actually got quite hungry and **"fell into a trance."** Peter **"saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth . . ."** (Acts 10:10-16). Peter interpreted the meaning of the vision wrongly and began to resist the voice that accompanied the vision. His own mind-set and Jewish beliefs would not allow him to see that God had a new and better way through the New Covenant. While Peter was arguing with God, the Holy Spirit said to him, **"Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, do down with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them"** (Acts 10:19-20). This time, in obedience to the Lord, Peter went with the men to Cornelius' house, not knowing what God was sending him to say and do. I find it interesting that the Gentile (Cornelius) was the one who was acting in faith and the Apostle (Peter) was full of doubts!

The resulting meeting of Peter and Cornelius was that Peter was able to preach Christ to the assembled Gentiles. He did not go with a "prepared sermon," for he asked Cornelius, **"For what reason have you sent for me?"** (Acts 10:29). Like Philip, Peter went at the leading of the Holy Spirit . . . and Jesus was uplifted and allowed to do His work. As Peter opened his mouth to speak, the Holy Spirit gave him the true revelation of what the sheet let down from heaven was about. He declared: **"In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ ~ He is Lord of all ~ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did . . ."** (Acts 10:34-38).

THE PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED!

The anointing of the Holy Spirit was so upon Peter as he preached Christ, that the people believed, received, and experienced a visitation of God in their midst. Even while **"Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word"** (Acts 10:44). How did those Gentiles know that it was the Holy Spirit they were receiving? They began speaking with tongues (the Holy Spirit language) and magnifying God. Those listening were **"astonished"** (Acts 10:45)! That word "astonished" has a very interesting meaning. It comes from the Greek word "existemi" and means: "to put (stand out) of wits, i.e. astound, or become astounded, insane:- amaze, be (make) astonished, be beside self (selves), bewitch, wonder" (Strong's Concordance); "to stand aside from, go away from, yield; to be out of one's wits" (Bullinger's Lexicon to the Greek New Testament); "to fill with amazement; surprise greatly" (Collins Dictionary). The receiving of the Holy Spirit and the resulting evidence of speaking in tongues had a radical impact on those people receiving, as well as on those watching and hearing! And it should be the same for us today. The world may think we have lost our wits and gone insane, but **we know** that we have received something powerful right from the heart of God!

THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DOING OF GOD'S WILL!

The wonderful workings of the Holy Spirit take us right out of the natural, logical thinking realm, and into the place where God can do His supernatural work! Even the apostles at Jerusalem questioned the "sanity" of Peter going to the Gentiles ~ until they heard his testimony of how the Lord had poured out His Spirit on the people (Acts 11:1-18). This is still the same today. Men try and tie ministries down to a local or national church control ~ and get upset if someone dares to move outside of their "covering," etc. It is time for Christians to realize that God is powerfully at work outside the circles of what we call "church" also, and is raising up an army of men and women who will do "new things" in order to fulfil His will. From experience I have learned that there is nothing more important than the doing of God's will. For me, personally, the will of God has caused us to function outside what is often known as the "accepted circles." But, in all honesty, we are impacting thousands more people from the position we find ourselves in today. **You have to know the will of God for you, and I have to know the will of God for me.**

- **As a result of Peter's obedience to go with those Gentile men, millions of lives have been impacted for Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit over the succeeding generations since! And it has not finished yet! God is pouring out His Spirit today in a wonderful way!**

Today throughout the nations there are "Ethiopian eunuchs" and "Cornelius" whose hearts are open and hungry for "the real thing," whose hearts are crying out for Spiritual revelation and understanding of the purposes of God ~ longing to be right with God, and to serve Him with a whole heart. You and I who are Holy Spirit-filled believers need to be walking close to God, listening to His voice, exercising the Spiritual Gifts, so that He can direct us to these people and use us to bring them into His fold. The Lord is using people in this way today, and causing wonderful things to happen whereby Jesus Christ is glorified. Hallelujah! **God is also using men and women in this way to bring salvation and deliverance to captives, as well as healing and miracles to the sick, afflicted and needy.**

- **He wants the people to know what a good God He is!**

Reader, YOU can have an experience like I have been writing about. **Let God see the desires that you have in your heart.** He will work in such a way that someone will cross your path and be able to minister Jesus to you. If you already are a Christian believer, then keep your eyes firmly focused on Jesus and He will lead, guide and direct your steps to someone who needs what you have to give from the heart of God. **YOU can be a Philip, a Cornelius, a Peter today.** The same Holy Spirit is available to you right now. Open your heart and reach out to Jesus. **"There is always someone waiting on the other side of your obedience"** (Kevin Dyson, Australia).

- **What will be your response?**

God Bless You!

Chapter Seven

RELEASING THE POWER WITHIN!

There is a power, an authority that is given to the Holy Spirit-filled believer for using in his/her day-to-day walk with Jesus. The Scripture says (Jesus speaking), **"But you shall receive power** ("dunamis") **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"** (Acts 1:8, NKJV). "Dunamis" is a Greek word and means: "act of power" (Young's); "miraculous power, ability" (Strong's); "natural capability, inherent power; capability of anything; then, absolutely, not merely power capable of action, but, power in action" (Bullinger's). "Dunamis" is used 121 times in the New Testament and is translated into the following English words: ability (1), abundance (1), meaning (1), might (4), mighty deed (1), mighty work (11), miracle (8), power (77), strength (7), violence (1), virtue (3), wonderful work (1), worker of miracles (1), and mighty (4). **Jesus was declaring that through the Holy Spirit living within us there would be a resident power that has the ability for us to overcome every obstacle that would come against us** (to stop us from being His true witnesses) **and can enable us to go to the furthest parts of the earth.** In these days we need to know the reality of that statement ~ not in word only, but as a practical, outworking experience. The only limitations will be those that we place on ourselves! That power accompanies the Holy Spirit Who is **the power of God NOW living inside of us!** So when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives He brings with Him the power of God to enable us to serve God in **"the power** ("strength") **of His might"** (Ephesians 6:10). The Holy Spirit is the anointing of God: **"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power** ("dunamis"), **Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him"** (see Acts 10:34-48)! **The same Holy Spirit now resides within us** and we should also be going about doing good and healing all who are oppressed of the devil. This power is to make us true witnesses unto the Lord Jesus Christ; not only in our speaking, but in our whole manner of living.

- **Do you know the Holy Spirit is right now living inside of you?**

Ephesians 1:13 tells us we have been **"sealed** ("impressed, stamped") **with the Holy Spirit of promise."** The Apostle Paul tells us that **"the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"** (Romans 14:17). We have been sealed by God ~ sealed and filled with the Holy Spirit, making us to know we are part of the Kingdom of God. And we have come to the kingdom for such a time as this (Esther 4:14)! The power of the Holy Spirit in our lives should be so operating within us that our witness of Jesus is reaching out beyond our homes, churches, wherever we fellowship, to the regions beyond, even to the uttermost parts of the world.

WE MUST SPEAK THE TRUTH OF WHO WE REALLY ARE!

Far too often we are not able to convince others because we are not convinced ourselves about what God has already given to us by His Spirit. If we say we are filled/baptized in the Holy Spirit, then the anointing and power of God is in the Holy Spirit Who is now residing within us. The minor prophet, Micah, lived in days when false prophets and ungodly chaos polluted the land; yet he dared to positively confess: **"But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin"** (Micah 3:8). That was his testimony: he was filled with power by the Spirit of the Lord! This is a power that is more than physical strength; it is a spiritual power, as Zechariah (another minor prophet) declared: it is **"not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts"** (Zechariah 4:6).

GOD HAS INVESTED HIMSELF IN US!

When we begin to realize and understand that God has already given you and me this power (resident in the Holy Spirit Who is now resident within us), we will accept that truth and rejoice and glory in His Holy Name that we are indeed **"endued with power from on high"** (Luke 24:49). We have become true "Jesus people" because of the Holy Spirit anointing and power now living, moving and working in and through us. Our bodies have now become **"the temple of the Holy Spirit"** (1 Corinthians 3:16 &

6:19). God has chosen your life and mine to place His Holy Spirit in so that He might live inside us forever (John 14:16-18). **Right now He lives inside of us!** Jesus sent Him to us so that He might indwell us for the rest of time and throughout all eternity! **This is the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead** (Romans 8:11)! God's Word says so, and what God says is right! He cannot lie!

So many times in life ~ because we do not know who we are right now as Holy Spirit-filled believers ~ we spend so much time asking God to do things that He has already **"endued us with power from on high"** to do in His Name! Now, irrespective of our feelings, if we want to know more of the Holy Spirit power working in our lives, we need not cry out, "God, do it! Do something . . . save, heal, deliver this person or that, etc." we would be rather praying, *"Lord, teach me more on how I can release Your power that is resident within me!"*

HE TAUGHT US TO DO HIS WORKS!

Jesus came and taught these principles to His disciples (Matthew 10:1; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 6:7-13; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 9:1-6; Luke 10:1-20; John 20:19-23). His will was to empower them to do His works and, after the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit power came, they went forth and did the works of Jesus. This pattern has not changed.

The very first miracle (after the disciples of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit) happened through Peter and John on their way to a prayer meeting (not on the way home)! They knew the power of God was within them. They knew they did not get "more power" by being in a prayer meeting as the power was already resident within them. They did not tell the crippled man to wait until after the prayer meeting so they could ask God if it were His will or not to pray for him. They knew they had received a mandate from on high to exercise power and authority over all that was an enemy to the cross of Christ. Peter and John stopped walking and stared at the cripple, saying, **"Look at us"** (Acts 3:4). The man responded and gave them his attention. Then Peter spoke and said, **"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."** Notice they did not petition God to do the healing ~ they exercised the power and authority of the Holy Spirit that was within them. They commanded the man to rise up and walk! And he did (read Acts 3).

- **"What I do have I give you."** Can we say that too?

The Apostle Paul had a revelation of the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. In Acts 19:11-12 we read: **"Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them."** Paul's heart and understanding were opened by the Holy Spirit to show him that the power of God was resident within him and that he could impart healing and wholeness from his body into a handkerchief or apron (or some other garment) that would bring healing and deliverance to others. Paul knew what it meant to release the power of God that was already inside of him! We need to know this too! We need to know that within each one of us there dwells the power of God ~ **"But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He gave the power** (Greek word is "exousia" meaning "privilege, authority" – Young's) **to become the sons of God"** (John 1:12). God has given to you and me the power to overcome every obstacle, everything that will come across your path. He has given you and me power to overcome, and to become a son of God. What an awesome privilege. But do we know it? The power of God was working in Paul, and from his body this power ("dunamis") of God was released. Yet his personal stance was: **"And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony** ("mystery") **of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power** ("dunamis"), **that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power** ("dunamis") **of God"** (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). Paul did not present himself as an arrogant "know-it-all, look-at-me and what I can do" sort of person. His natural presentation almost defied his spiritual power and authority that he walked in.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MASTERS OUR TONGUE!

Think of the tremendous victories that God has brought about when His believers (disciples) used their tongue, by declaring and speaking out the word of the Lord. And today we have been given a mandate

to speak forth **"all the words of this life"** (Acts 5:19-20), to release the "dunamis" power of God to the people. That is why Jesus taught His disciples to **"tarry until they were endued with power from on high"** (Luke 24:49). The key to the early Church's power and authority was the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the enduement of power from heaven! We are powerless without it! How did they know that they had been endued with power from on high? Because the Holy Spirit so got a hold of their tongues and gave them a spiritual language to build themselves up on their most holy faith to enable them to pray in the Holy Spirit (see Jude 20). Praying in the Spirit language built their faith to the point of action! The most unruly member of the human body was harnessed at Pentecost. The Bible says, **"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"** (see Acts 2:1-4). (Notice they only began at Pentecost to speak in tongues, not finish ~ the Holy Spirit language is still available for you today)!

TESTED IN WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES

All who will walk in the power of the Holy Spirit God will use for His own praise, honour and glory. The power of the Holy Spirit is available for you and me today, even in every "wilderness experience" that we go through. Luke Chapter 4 teaches us this. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness! Nobody likes the wilderness ~ it is a desert, a dry place, a place where we are tested and tried (we all need these times). Jesus came forth out of the wilderness. He did not stay there and get overcome there! **"Then Jesus returned in the power ("dunamis") of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region"** and then He declared: **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He (God) 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 ("downtrodden"); to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord"** (see Luke 4). Jesus was not defeated or lost in the wilderness, like so many are today. He came out in the power of the Holy Spirit!

- **It is time for us to come out of our wilderness in the power of the Holy Spirit and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord!**
- **That includes releasing the anointing of the Holy Spirit out of us to preach the Gospel, heal the sick and brokenhearted, to set the captives free, etc.**

WE ARE WITNESSES OF JESUS!

The apostles gave witness of Jesus and His resurrection power because the Holy Spirit was ministering in and through their lives. They carried the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead!

- **And so do we!**

They declared, **"Knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. For our Gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power ("dunamis"), and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit"** (1 Thessalonians 1:4-6). Let me remind you **"to stir up the gift of God which is in you . . . for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power ("dunamis") and of love and of a sound mind"** (2 Timothy 1:6-7).

There are sufficient Scriptures and statements by Jesus to show us that what He taught His disciples about releasing the power within, and what we are generally taught today, make us realize that we do need to re-examine our Christian stance on this matter. Do we believe Jesus, or our own feelings? Do we believe Jesus and do what He taught us, or do we keep our Christianity in the realm of theological belief without the accompanying releasing of the Holy Spirit power? Paul very plainly declared: **"For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power ("dunamis")"** (1 Corinthians 4:20). In the verse before that he said he was not looking to know the Corinthians Christians words but their power!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN OPERATION HELP US TO RELEASE THE POWER WITHIN!

Spiritual Gifts functioning out of our lives are a major means of releasing the power within. Those nine beautiful Gifts of the Holy Spirit are resident within us by and with the Holy Spirit. They are there to be used in obedience to the voice of the Lord, to enable us to release the supernatural of God into

peoples' lives and situations that make them aware that "God is on their case"; that Jesus really does love them, knows all about them and has answers to set them free and bring them into a closer relationship with Himself. Spiritual Gifts in operation establish and build Christian believers and enable them to come to the maturity of the faith of Christ. They also cause unbelievers to know that God is real and can do great things for them if they will respond to those gifts that are released to help them and to give them answers to life.

We are living in a day when the natural world is more and more dominated by a "religious spirit." The only way a religious spirit is going to be truly combated is by Holy Spirit-filled Christians demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit, plus Spiritual Gifts, thus giving witness to Jesus being alive from the dead! Unless we can demonstrate the power of God then the world will not be convinced that Christianity is the only way to God, heaven and eternal life.

- **It is time to release the power within!**

Jesus said: ". . . ***out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things***" (Matthew 12:34-35).

Jesus said: "***He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water. But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterward to receive. For the [Holy] Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (raised to honor)***" (John 7:37-39, AMP.).

- **Jesus has now been glorified, and the Holy Spirit has now been given!**
- **Release the power of the Holy Spirit from your innermost being today!**

Chapter Eight

The Benefits Of Exercising Spiritual Gifts

When we make an open and honest appraisal of what the Bible teaches on Spiritual Gifts, we see that there are wonderful benefits to be had. They are given so that we might be edified (built up), exhorted (inspired) and comforted (solaced) (1 Corinthians 14:3). They are given **"that all may learn and all may be encouraged"** (1 Corinthians 14:31). Every person needs to be the recipient of the gifts and their benefits. There is a spiritual dimension that we cannot receive any other way. When we are not functioning and exercising Spiritual Gifts we are actually "robbing" others of these needy benefits. No wonder the Bible tells us to desire them earnestly (1 Corinthians 12:31; 1 Corinthians 14:1, 39), to stir them up (2 Timothy 1:6), to so love people that we want to do the utmost good to them, that the gifts will operate in and through us to encourage others. Spiritual Gifts functioning encourage us to press in to God and enable us to know His "now" word for us. It is not surprising, therefore, that we are told that **"all may prophesy"** (1 Corinthians 14:31); that we are **"not to despise prophecies"** (1 Thessalonians 5:19), but rather to **"take heed to the prophetic words spoken over our lives"** (1 Timothy 1:18-20). Through prophetic words spoken over our lives we are able to fight a much better warfare against the tactics of the enemy against us; we are able to hold on to faith more definitely, because we know more clearly the word and will of God for us personally; and we also are able to have a clean, pure conscience that enables us to obey the voice of the Lord when it comes to us. Without a clear conscience, whenever God speaks, the enemy comes and pricks our conscience and accuses us of things we have done wrongly, etc., and that has the effect of stopping us from being obedient (because we have a guilty conscience).

Spiritual Gifts in operation are God's idea. They are not something that man has dreamed up. They are a vital part of New Testament Christianity. **We neglect them to our loss.**

My experience is that operating in the Spiritual Gifts has opened the world to me to minister. I have seen more lives converted to Jesus Christ, backsliders restored, spiritual, emotional and physical healings take place, the call of God revealed, people finding their rightful place in God's purpose, etc., through the operation of the Spiritual Gifts than any other way of ministry. Why so many churches and church leaders neglect and ignore them puzzles me. We can never accomplish in our own efforts what the Holy Spirit can when we listen to Him, obey Him and release His gifts to the people. It is a totally different realm to the "norm" of "accepted Christian beliefs" and through ignorance and neglect we then have to settle for lesser results and fruit. May God open our eyes more to see more of the ways of the Holy Spirit and His wonderful gifts.

According to 1 Timothy 4:14-16, the exercising of the gifts of God in our life bring benefit to all ~ to those who hear us, and to us as well. **God always blesses obedience.** I well remember the time when the Holy Spirit spoke to me and told me to keep exercising His Spiritual Gifts, for every time I did that, I was untying His hands to set my future up! How blessed and encouraged I have been to know that. And to see the impact of it! Yes, every time you and I exercise Spiritual Gifts we are enabling God to set our future up for us!

The place of prophecy and prophesying is presented all the way through the Bible. It has always been a part of God's way of speaking and ministering to His people. Prophecy received and acted upon enables us to prosper:

"So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel . . ." (Ezra 6:14). The people were inspired and motivated to do what God had called them to do. And He used prophecy to do that! He still uses prophetic words and other Spiritual Gifts to reveal, inspire, confirm and motivate people today. Theology will never accomplish what a man or woman inspired of the Holy Spirit can! The word "prospered" in the above

verse means "to accomplish successfully; to reach the goal" (Wilson's). It is time for us to stop being ignorant of the prophetic realm so we can all accomplish successfully the purposes of God and reach the goals He has given us! We are naïve if we think we can fulfil the purposes of God in our lives without the input of the prophetic word.

Christians are commanded to be baptized in the Holy Spirit so they can know power, a spiritual language (speaking in other tongues) to communicate spirit to Spirit to God, and to prophesy (Acts 1 & 2). The nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit are in the Holy Spirit and, when the Holy Spirit comes into us, we have them inside of us. Our responsibility is to strongly desire to release them to bless and build up others. To do that we have to see that it is very Scriptural to desire to release them, and then to give ourselves to God in an earnest and sincere way until we get the release and breakthrough in exercising them to bless others. That desire has to be stronger than any and every reason or excuse we may have as to why we are not functioning in them. **You will never regret breaking through and seeing God using you in wonderful ways by His Holy Spirit.** I know ~ from the word of God and my own experience ~ that the Christian life is much more effective and fruitful when we are flowing in the Spiritual Gifts. They are all a part of exercising faith ~ and faith exercised pleases the heart of God (Hebrews 11:6)!

THE PROPHETIC EQUIPS AND STRENGTHENS US

In 1 Timothy 1:18-20 the Apostle Paul exhorts Timothy to remember and take heed to the prophetic words that had been spoken over his life. He said those prophetic words (prophecies) would enable him to **"wage the good warfare, having faith, and a good conscience."** Paul gives Timothy three distinct benefits of being a recipient of prophetic words. When we take heed to and believe what is spoken to us prophetically, we are better equipped to fight the spiritual battles the enemy brings against us to make us doubt, and take us out of the will of God . . . to settle for less, and therefore be less effective in the Kingdom of God. Satan likes to challenge our believing the promises of God and seeks to undermine the principles of our faith. He tries to foul our conscience in such a way we will not be able to obey the voice of the Lord.

One reason why there is so much deception around today is because many Christians have not been exposed to the benefits of the true prophetic ministry, and therefore do not recognize or understand the "subtleties of Satan". As a result their faith is not anchored in the confirmation of what the prophetic and Spiritual Gifts bring for us. Notice in 1 Timothy 1:18-20 that Paul named two men who were ridiculing the prophetic ministry, and Paul delivered them over to Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme. Think about this for a moment. Paul so valued the place of the prophetic that those who spoke negatively and generally turning people away from believing it, were called blasphemers. That is serious! We do need to be careful on how we respond and/or re-act to prophetic ministry. This is especially so today, as there is so much ignorance about the prophetic realm, including Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1).

I find it amazing how many Christians will try and talk us out of the will of God! I know for me that if it was not for numbers of prophetic words confirming the way of God's call for me, I most likely would not be doing what I'm doing today ~ and thousands would be robbed of this teaching of the prophetic and Spiritual Gifts. I am so grateful that I was saved in a church that believed in and allowed the prophetic to function. The prophetic has taught me what to say "Yes" to, and what to say "No" to. When you know and believe what God is saying to you, it certainly helps one in the making of major decisions. And making decisions according to the revealed will of God for our life always brings forth "more fruit." God bless you.

Chapter Nine

TRUE BELIEVING DEMANDS ACTION

For the Christian it is important that we know the meaning of the words that Jesus spoke. In numbers of cases the words we use today in this modern world have a different meaning to the same word as used in the Scriptures. If we are not careful it can cause us to have a very wrong understanding of what is required of us. The word "believe" is one of those words. Today it can simply mean mental assent to something; something we believe in our minds; but in the Bible it is a word that demands a response, an action on our part to demonstrate to God that we really do believe what He has spoken to us in His Word and/or by His Holy Spirit. Over the years I have learned that every time God speaks to me ~ and there are many ways that God speaks to us (in the Bible He has spoken by at least 40 different ways to people) ~ when He speaks I have to make a positive and definite response. I have to show to Him by my **actions** that I really do believe what He has said. Because He is God and is the Supreme Authority of Truth, then I can commit to Him in confidence that things will always turn out right when I obey Him (even though there might not be any natural evidence of it being so). In my earlier days of being a Christian I would put off what He was asking of me until a later time, i.e. tonight or tomorrow. The result of that was often I did not get around to doing what He was asking of me; and it became a "lost opportunity" to prove the reality and truth of God's word to me.

In this Ministry God will ask us to print a book in another country. Usually when He asks us to do that we do not have the funds to do it. But we still have to commit to Him ~ and demonstrate to Him by that commitment ~ that we are ready to do that as soon as the funds are available; so we prepare for it and get everything ready for the time when we can give a printer the go-ahead. We have learned that when God speaks He will also provide the finances to do it (we will not go into debt in this Ministry). Our believing put into action becomes faith and it is faith that pleases God: **"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently** ("earnestly, eagerly") **seek Him"** (Hebrews 11:6).

Every time we believe (with action) God's word to us we have seen God provide and enable us to do what He has asked of us. It is so wonderful to see how God works and provides for us to do what He has asked of us ~ **after we are prepared to demonstrate to Him that we believe what He has asked of us.** The result of our operating this way has meant we have been able to accomplish far more than we naturally thought we could. And hundreds of thousands of people have been ministered to over the years. Praise the Lord!

WHAT IS BIBLE BELIEVING?

So, make sure you know what Bible believing is. The Bible meaning of the word "believe" is: from the Greek "pisteuo" meaning "to believe (233 times in the New Testament); to have faith, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ); "pistis" meaning "persuasion, i.e. credence; reliance upon Christ . . . assurance, belief, believe, faith (239 times in the New Testament), fidelity" (Strong's); "pisteuo" meaning "to adhere to, trust, rely on" (Young's); "be persuaded, to rely upon, to trust. The New Testament conception of faith is (i) fully convinced acknowledgment (ii) a self-surrendering fellowship (iii) a fully assured and unswerving confidence – to give oneself up to – to obey, hence obedient, faithful, to trust" (Bullinger's). There are scores of Scriptures that speak of **believing** and **faith** in the New Testament alone.

- **The basic Gospel challenge is for us to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; to believe what He says and has said.**
- **It is a total commitment to what He says.**
- **And that commitment demands a positive response, an action, a demonstration to Jesus Christ that we are prepared to respond to His word because we love Him and He comes first in our lives.**

- **Everything else submits itself to believing what Jesus says!**

Right from the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry He emphasized the need to believe: **"The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel"** (Mark 1:15).

The evidence of repentance is that we now **believe**; whereas before we doubted or did not believe the truth of Jesus Christ.

- **Now we are to believe in the Gospel!**
- **What Jesus says goes to the repentant, born-again believer in Jesus Christ!**
- **He is the first and final authority!**

THE AWESOME POWER OF BELIEVING

When we seriously consider the words and teachings of Jesus we see that **there is limitless power in our believing what He says**. The disciples had been unsuccessful in trying to cast an evil spirit out of a boy with a dumb spirit. In answer to the boy's desperate father crying out for help for his son, **Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes"** (Mark 9:23; see verses 17-29). Notice Jesus did not say, "Some things are possible to him that believes" but **ALL THINGS!**

- **Do we believe this? What about the following challenge?**

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT US TO DO!

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father Who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:10-15). (Read again slowly).

If we really believe what Jesus says, then we should be doing the works that He did, and even greater works! Imagine that! The sad thing is that most of us do not know even one person who is doing what Jesus told us to do with regards His works. Yet in His teachings He tells us these things will happen in the lives of those who **believe Him!** Jesus even declared that **if we love Him we will do what He commands us**. He has given us the great commission to **"Go into all the world to preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they 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"** (Mark 16:15-18).

In all these sayings and teachings of Jesus it is all according to **our believing**. It is not about what someone else believes (or does not believe), but what **we believe about what Jesus said and says!** Jesus was not talking to great Christian leaders that only they could do these things, **but to ordinary believers ~ you and me! And it is our choice whether we believe Him or not! Believing Jesus will demand an active response on our part!**

- **What do we believe?**
- **What do we have to show for our believing?**

This should challenge every one of us, as it is obvious that very very few Christians are living and acting as Bible believers, i.e. doing what Jesus told us to do! There are scores of Scriptures that one could use on this subject, but I have purposely kept it to a few to help us to focus on what Jesus has taught us. As you search the Scriptures you will discover many more challenging words from the mouth of Jesus.

"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the Gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it" (Hebrews 4:1-2).

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22-25).

Something has to change if we really desire to impact this generation for Jesus Christ ~ a generation that desperately needs the truth of Jesus Christ in their hearts and lives today! That "something" is **the way we believe what Jesus has already said to us in His word**. May God help us all to seriously reconsider what we are doing with what He has taught us in His word. It is a matter of life or death for multitudes. Let us encourage one another to be **serious believers in Jesus Christ!** Amen.

Chapter Ten

WHAT ARE YOU PRODUCING?

Christians are called by God to produce! To produce a life, testimony and evidence that Jesus Christ is alive today to meet peoples' needs ~ and that He is alive in our heart. We have been chosen by God to be His witnesses ("someone who has first-hand evidence") here in an unbelieving and anti-Christ world. We have a very important function and it is needful that we ask ourselves, "*How effective and fruitful am I in fulfilling what God has called me to do?*" The answer to that question depends on how available we are for God to use us. **Are we listening to His voice with an attitude that we will do whatever He asks of us** ~ or are we, like too many, waiting passively for God to do something and then we will think about it? We have to demonstrate our desire to God for Him to use us by putting ourselves into a position where He can use us. God can only use those who are usable. Far too many Christians are living with excuses as to why they are not more effective and fruitful in the Kingdom of God. The truth is that we cannot blame anyone else for where we are at right now. **We are what our believing is.** If our believing does not line-up with the willingness of God to use us, then we need to change our believing and get closer to Jesus by offering ourselves more fully for Him to use ~ today!

THE HARVEST IS HUGE!

Jesus Himself told us that "***the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest***" (Matthew 9:37-38). Those who prayed for the labourers to go out got sent out themselves! Right now there is a huge harvest to be gathered in. You can be a part of that. It is God's will for us to be one of those labourers who help to gather in that harvest ~ to produce good fruit to the glory of God. Be encouraged to rise up and be a part of God's purposes for this hour. Time is short and eternity with Jesus Christ is not sure for so many.

YOU CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE!

Be encouraged today to know that YOU can make a positive difference in this world. You have given your heart to Jesus ~ have you given Him your whole life to be used for His purposes? I have never known a time when the opportunities for the Gospel have been so great. Yet so many Christians sit around thinking, "*What can I do?*" They feel inadequate or unable to do anything for the Lord. Let me remind you that the purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to give us power to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ where ever we go ~ even to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8)! When we consider what Jesus has done for us, we have so much to give to others because of His love and dealings within our lives. Let us be sure to share what Jesus has done with others!

- **Don't let fear and the opinions of negative people rob you of being a wonderful producer for Jesus in the Kingdom of God.**

He has chosen us for this task. He has called us by name and asked us to follow Him and He would make us fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). That means He will lead and guide us into how we can win people to Jesus Christ. As we listen to the Holy Spirit, He leads and guides us. Don't be surprised when He asks you to do something you have never done before. That is how He increases our faith and helps us to see and know the "supernatural assistance" we have when we listen to Him and obey what He asks of us. Hallelujah! He never asks us to do what we cannot do. **We can always do what the Lord asks of us.** I have discovered that there is always a positive testimony on the other side of my obedience.

THE HOLY SPIRITS KNOWS THE BEST WAY FOR YOU

The Holy Spirit of Truth knows the best way for us to catch people! The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are also God's ways of our ministering/witnessing to others (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). They are a vital part of our testifying. I call Spiritual Gifts the Christians "tools of the trade." They are so effective in seeing people impacted by God through us. I have seen numbers saved, healed, set free as a result of listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit and letting His Gifts operate through me. And you can too. God is calling every Christian today to be more effective in producing good fruit for His Kingdom. Praise the Lord!

THIS IS OUR DAY! OUR TIME!

I believe that every born-again, Holy Spirit-filled Christian has been called of God into His Kingdom **"for such a time as this"** (Esther 4:14). We are well-able to accomplish all that He has chosen us for. **Jesus has made us His ambassadors** (representatives, spokesmen with power and authority to speak and act on His behalf) so we can have the joy of being used of God to extend His Kingdom here on earth in this needy hour. Jesus chose us because He saw the potential in us to be able to fulfil His purposes here on the earth!

- **What confidence He has in us when we are totally submitted to His will!**
- **What a privilege to be chosen to be His ambassador!**
- **Let us know who we really are in Him and rise to fulfil our destiny ~ and to produce a mighty harvest for Him! Hallelujah!**

DISCOVER YOUR SPECIFIC CALLING IN GOD

The specific calling of God in your life has to be discovered by you. As you listen to the Holy Spirit He will lead and guide you into all truth (see John chapters 14 to 16). Feel free to ask other spiritual men and women of how they see the potential in you. Prophetic Ministry can also be very helpful in confirming, revealing, guiding us into the more specific ways of the Lord for our lives. I am so glad that I have been the recipient of the Prophetic Ministry over the years of my Christian life. I am living today in the fulfilment of what God promised me ~ and seeing thousands of lives impacted by God through my giving myself fully to His calling. It is hard to describe but there is something very wonderful about knowing you are in the will of God, actively doing His will and seeing the amazing fruit that is produced as a result. It never ceases to surprise and amaze me at how God can work when we make ourselves available to Him.

Let Romans 12:1-2 be fulfilled in your life:

"I beseech ("urge") you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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" (NKJV).

God bless and use you more and more as you give yourself more to His purposes for you. There is nothing more fulfilling, satisfying or motivating than to be in the will of God for your life ~ and fulfilling it! Amen!

- **See your divine potential, believe it, and rise up to fulfil it**

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Rodney W. Francis

Rodney W. Francis was converted in 1959 at 17 years of age in an Independent Pentecostal Church at Palmerston North, New Zealand. He is the Founder/Director of "The Gospel Faith Messenger," a literature/prophetic teaching Ministry that commenced in 1964 and has been developed to bring individuals to personal faith in Jesus Christ, instruct them in the foundations of the Christian faith and to equip them to repeat the process. Scores of people in over 210 nations have and are being ministered to through "The GFM" by means of E-Mail and Web Page Ministry, books, booklets and manuals, 3 Bible Correspondence Courses (several thousand students currently), Preaching Ministry, mentoring, fathering, releasing people in the Spiritual Gifts ~ all built around the importance of hearing the voice of God in our lives. Operating in the Spiritual Gifts has opened the world for him to minister internationally. He has proven the benefits of the Spiritual Gifts and desires that all Christians experience the reality and joy of functioning in them too.

Rodney is married to Jean, who has faithfully stood by him and supported him over all the years of his more than 55 years of ministry. They have one son, Mark, who is married to Tania, with two lovely children, Annahlise and Brayden. (Mark and Tania are developing their own Christian ministry in the field of prophetic healing and deliverance.) www.christianconnection.co

Rodney has a number of Timothy's in full-time ministry, both in New Zealand and overseas. His heart is to see others equipped with the love of God, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and a passion to release the reality of Jesus into the lives of others. He has had the joy of seeing many people released into Spiritual Gifts over the years.