



*Keys To
Worship
God*

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TO
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GOD**

By Rodney W. Francis

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This book is dedicated to all who sincerely desire to learn more from the Word of God in order to live a God-glorifying life-style, and to those who will use it to teach others the positives of God's Word in the here and now.

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Contents

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INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER ONE

KEYS TO WORSHIP GOD

CHAPTER TWO

CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF BLESSING

CHAPTER THREE

SAINTS

CHAPTER FOUR

ARE YOU A CONSUMER OR A PRODUCER?

CHAPTER FIVE

LOCKED UP BY YOUR OWN THINKING

CHAPTER SIX

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

CHAPTER SEVEN

BUILD THE CHURCH UP

CHAPTER EIGHT

LOVING GOD IS LOVING PEOPLE

Introduction

Life has keys to it.

There are principles that, when we discover them, they help to unlock things for us which then enable us to move ahead with success and fulfilment.

The Christian life is like that, especially the Spirit-filled life.

One of the great keys to Christianity is to believe the truth! You might respond by saying, “Every Christian believes the truth!” I beg to differ. It is so easy to replace the truth of God’s Word by our accepting the things we think, we feel, we experience, our circumstances, etc. and thereby reduce it (the Word of God) to a mere mental assent, belief or acceptance, based on our thoughts. So many Christians today have such a low estimation of themselves that it prevents them from rising and accepting the truth of what God has already done for us.

His life-changing truth and power enables us to walk each day “hand in hand” with Jesus the Living, Eternal, Mighty Son of the All-Powerful God. Through these truths you can discover more keys to worship God. Hallelujah!

- Rodney W. Francis

Be ye therefore followers (“imitators”) *of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour* (“odour”).

. . . even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it;

That He might sanctify (“to set apart from uncleanness”) *and cleanse* (“purify, properly an outward cleanliness of body, and then inward purity; pure from every defilement of mind” - Bullinger’s) *it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious* (“recognised, honoured, distinguished”) *Church, not having spot* (“stain, blot”), *or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy* (Greek: “hagios” meaning “physically pure, morally blameless, spiritually consecrated, holy”) *and without blemish* (“blameless”) (Ephesians 5:1-2, 25-27, KJV).

CHAPTER ONE

KEYS TO WORSHIP GOD

It is very important that we understand who we are as Christians. It is important to know there is something that God is looking for – a church and people that worships Him. There are keys to release us into worship. One of those keys is for us to know what the Lord has done for us. It is important that we understand what God has done for us so that we can release Him in us and through us.

God has chosen the preaching of the Word to speak to people. In (Matthew 23:37-39) it tells how the longing heart of Jesus is to gather His people under His wings. He was speaking of His people who rejected Him. Jesus knew what rejection was: ***“He was despised and rejected of men”*** (Isaiah 53:3). Because the people would not gather unto Jesus, they set in motion a direction in their lives that took them into isolation and separation. They retained their religion, they retained their traditions, but they became isolated from the love of Jesus. Jesus said they became desolate; their lives became a waste. And He said to them in the last verse of that chapter, verse 39, that that situation would not change until they

began to recognise and to bless those whom He sent to them in the Name of the Lord. Jesus was referring to those that He sent, the proclaimers of the Word of God, the apostles, the prophets, those sent from God with a word from God. That condition of heart would not change for the people until they began to bless the servants of the Lord.

CHAPTER TWO

CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF BLESSING

Church (or where two or three, or more, gather together) is a place where we come to bless one another and to bless the Lord. It is a place where you and I hold the key to how great our church/fellowship becomes. You hold the key! It is not simply the pastor or the leader's responsibility. Their responsibility is to get the Word of the Lord for their church. Your responsibility is to receive it and respond to it, in order that you can bless the servants of the Lord, and in doing that, we are releasing the blessing of God over us. This is a principle and a very important key.

When we receive the Word of God into our hearts, it is through that Word that Jesus could say, ***“You shall know the truth . . .”*** (John 8:32) and it is **knowing** that truth that sets us free. It is the Word of the Lord that changes us – then we are changed. When we have received the Word of the Lord, then worship becomes a response – it becomes a life-style because the Word of the

Lord has come unto us. That's what church is all about, so the Word of the Lord can come unto us. Through the spoken Word, through the Holy Spirit, as we come with an attitude to bless and to give unto God, as we listen to the Holy Spirit, as the gifts of the Holy Spirit begin to function, as the five-fold ministry gifts begin to function . . . God has made it possible for us to hear the Word of the Lord . . . that's what is called "church". Church is as great as we make it! That is why our attitude towards church, towards other Christians, towards God is so important, because we can come into the midst of revival with a wrong attitude and totally miss it.

By the same token we can come into a service that may be "on a real down or low," where it seems just nothing is happening, but because our attitude is right, God can still speak to us. God wants us to be filled with His glory in the place that is called "church."

If we look at Ephesians Chapter 1 we see our position in Jesus Christ. Every one of us has been placed, by God, in a position where we can bless; where we can give unto others; where we can pour out of our hearts; out of our spirits. I believe this is a key for church, if we know who we are, and know what God's purpose is for the Church in these days.

From Ephesians 1, let us read verses 1 - 9:

“Paul, an apostle (here we have an apostle speaking to us) of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us accepted in the beloved: In whom (that is in Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (not to our needs); Wherein He has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence (or understanding); Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself” (KJV).

Friends, one of the great truths that a Christian has to get into his heart and into his spirit is this:
YOU (AND I) DID NOT BECOME A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE OF ANYTHING WE DID: IT WAS SOLELY BECAUSE WE REPENTED! IT IS

TOTALLY OF THE WILL OF JESUS CHRIST. Totally! Not one of us can earn any 'favours' from God by what we do. Everything that we do as Christians should be a result of an outworking of the gifting of God that He has placed within us. The Apostle Paul, who had a tremendous revelation of what Christianity is all about; a person whose background was 'churched to the eyeballs,' week in and week out, and yet he persecuted the true believers. He knew the law. He knew the positions in the church. He was taught under Gamaliel. Paul had been properly trained so that he could carry out the law . . . he was blameless, **BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW JESUS!** (See Philipians 3:4-14; Acts 22:1-5).

There is a lot of religiosity that is bound into our lives. Even in Pentecostal Churches today we are very much a people who believe strongly that somehow we've got to work it out – that somehow, we've got to do this and that, in order to get God's favour. This is not God's way for us.

CHAPTER THREE

SAINTS

Here (in the book of Ephesians) Paul talks to us and calls us saints. We are saints! Do you know what a saint is? It's a person whom God has made holy. We see throughout Ephesians that this word "saint" is used nine times. It comes from the Greek word "hagios" and is translated from exactly the same word that "holy" is in this book – and that is mentioned six times. If we are honest with ourselves, so many of us are living day by day with this attitude of mind – "if only I was holy," or "if only I could become more holy", etc. Friends, that is not Christianity. **THE TRUTH IS, GOD HAS MADE US HOLY THROUGH THE FINISHED WORK OF CALVARY.** We have been made holy, so we **STAND** in a position of being made holy. Now! We belong to Jesus.

I heard a wonderful illustration recently from the Old Testament where the lamb was prepared for the sacrifice. God didn't come down and examine the priest; He examined the sacrifice! And today,

when God looks at us, **HE DOES NOT EXAMINE US, HE EXAMINES THE SACRIFICE, AND THE SACRIFICE WAS JESUS!** You and I have only one standing before God and that is through Jesus Christ. There is no other way – ***“no other name given under heaven whereby we can be saved”*** and be made pure, holy, forgiven . . . there’s no other way (See Acts 4:12). But so many times we are striving to be, or are seeking to be what God has **ALREADY** made us. We are striving to become better people when the Word of God teaches us God has already made us to be that way. **HE HAS DONE IT!**

Here in Ephesians chapter 1, we see Paul is speaking to the saints, that is, the true Christians in Jesus Christ. That is what He has made us. Saints! ***“Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”*** (verses 2-3). Do you believe that you have received **ALL** spiritual blessings . . . That God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places?

What is He saying? . . . Friends, you’ve **got** it! There is **NO MORE** to get! How we **“get more,”** if I may use that terminology, is in fact by coming to grasp or understand it more; it is then we enjoy the benefits of it more. If we are born-

again, but we go around saying, “Well, God doesn’t bless me,” we are living in contradiction to the Word of God. If we are saying, “God blesses that woman or that man but He doesn’t bless me,” friends, that is not telling the truth. The Scripture says, ***“We have ALL been blessed with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, not according to anything we have done, but according to that He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world . . .”*** (Verses 3-4).

“. . . God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34-35).

You and I are the recipients of something that was God’s idea. You and I didn’t grow up with the need that somehow we needed to please God, and to appease for our sins. The plan of salvation was set from the beginning of time, and God said, *“I want to show mankind how much I love them and care for them. I want to show mankind My goodness. I want them to be the recipients of My love and of My life.”*

It starts when we come to Christ and allow Him to deal with the sin in our life, through the cleansing of His precious blood. Hallelujah! ***“He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”***

We see in these few verses, several things that God **has** done for you and me:

- He **has** blessed us with all spiritual blessings (verse 3);
- He **has** chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world. The result of that is, we are holy and without blame before Him in love (verse 4);
- He **has** predestined, in other words, He fore-ordained that you and I should come to this life and live a victorious life-style because of the finished work of Jesus Christ (verse 5);
- He **has** adopted us to be His sons and daughters according to His good pleasure. He has **done that!** (verse 5);
- He **has** made us accepted in the beloved. If you grasp this truth, rejection will be a thing of the past forever; you will never suffer from rejection again (verse 6).

God has made us accepted in the beloved. You need to know, that as a Christian in Jesus Christ, you have **total acceptance by God**. In Jesus Christ, He has made you and I to be accepted in the beloved. We have position in the body of Christ. We **belong** to the family of God. We don't have to struggle. We don't have to strive. It is not

even how long we pray, or how often we read the Word of God. **The greatest power in your life is the ability to believe the truth.** Many people pray for hours, they read the Word of God year in and year out, yet their lives are still defeated. Their lives are still a misery. There's no joy in what they are doing because it has become a religious bondage.

When we know who we are in Jesus Christ, it's wonderful! You and I are the sons and daughters of the Living God.

“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us”
(Psalm 103:12).

Now! If they are gone, what is the hindrance? What is the hold-up?

Why do we go around with a long face?

So often we are like that, but the truth is, **GOD HAS MADE US; GOD HAS DRAWN US INTO HIS FAMILY.**

He has gathered us as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings.

We belong!

Yes, we belong!

We have security!

We have comfort!

We have life!

It is God's kind of life, and it is ours NOW!

CHAPTER FOUR

ARE YOU A CONSUMER OR A PRODUCER?

If we know these truths when we come together into fellowship, into church life, then it is a time when we begin to release that truth. We begin to release that life amongst the brothers and sisters, with the result that the church is built up. The Church is made up of two types of people – there are “consumers” and there are “producers.”

What is a consumer?

This is a person who always comes with an attitude of “what can I get out of it?” If they don’t get what they are looking for, then “the service was no good, the church is no good, the leadership needs a good shake-up!” They are consumers, always sucking like bloodsuckers, drawing emotionally, always looking for “the hand-

outs,” always wanting sympathy. Consumers! They drain the strength and life out of people. The challenge of church is to change the consumers into producers!

What is a producer?

A producer is a person who knows who he is, what he wants, and where he is going. He has got goals and a purpose in life. He is motivated, always reaching out, looking out, seeing what he can produce in the Kingdom of God – seeking to **“bring forth fruit that shall remain”** (John 15:16). A producer is a person who is always reaching out, blessing God, believing God is with him and getting on with the job. A producer produces because he knows who he is. He has confidence in his ability to do things. When you know who you are in Jesus Christ; when you know what God has done for you; when you know where you stand with God; you have a confidence that you will never get any other way, or from any other source – a confidence to stand and do the will of God.

CHAPTER FIVE

LOCKED UP BY YOUR OWN THINKING

After many years of being a Holy Spirit-filled preacher, I have been challenged in recent times to change my thinking – especially about **WHO GOD IS IN ME** and **WHO I AM IN HIM!** For too long I had put myself down, or have put into the future things God wants me to have **NOW!**

It is a great key to discover that **God has done it all for us**; that we no longer need to strive to get God's approval, blessings, power, etc.

- In Jesus Christ's work at Calvary we have redemption – bought by God with the price of the precious blood of Jesus His Son.
- ◆ In Jesus Christ's burial, we too, entered into His death. Through the act of water baptism we

made a public declaration to the world that we died to self and now live unto God! (We didn't get "buried" in baptism to die; we did it because the truth is we were already dead! – Romans 6. It was a funeral for the "old man." No one goes to a funeral to pay their respects to someone who is still alive! They are already dead!)

In Christ's resurrection we have been raised from the dead to walk in newness of life.

- Through the acceptance of Jesus into our lives personally, and through the confessing of our sins to Him, He has freely and totally cleansed and forgiven us from **ALL** sin (Psalm 103:12). We now live in the light with Him. This is demonstrated by our actions in walking in right relationship with other people (1 John 1:7). **Genuinely loving people is a real key to worshipping God!**
- Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit we receive power to be witnesses unto Jesus (Acts 1:8). The power is in the Holy Spirit **WHO IS IN US!** If there is no power then it is because **it** – the power – is not there (we haven't received the Holy Spirit baptism or we haven't believed the truth of God's Word!) Either God's Word is true . . . Or, it cannot be depended on. Jesus said we would receive power after the Holy Spirit is come to us!
- In that same Holy Spirit Who raised Jesus from the dead and **WHO NOW LIVES IN US**

(Romans 8:11), is the anointing. God's Word tells us the anointing is the Holy Spirit and power (Acts 10:38). 1 John 2:27 tells us the anointing from God abides ("dwells, lives") in us!

- If the Word of God is true (and I believe it is) then why do we so often show our disbelief of it by praying and talking so much about the need for:

- **More blessing?**
- **More holiness?**
- **More power?**
- **More anointing? etc.**

Why don't we accept that God has already poured out all these blessings and begin to release them among those who need them so much? God can't give us "more" unless we are prepared to pour out what He has already given! He has already given us power over all the power of the enemy. What are we doing with it?

Listen to God's wonderful truth:

"Behold, I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and (physical and mental strength and ability) over all the power that the enemy [possesses], and

nothing shall in any way harm you” (Luke 10:19, AMP).

Even the devil cowers before the man or woman who knows who they are **IN GOD**.

The keys to worship God are:

- To believe the truths of His Word;
- To act upon what He has already said He has done for us.

Jesus has already said:

“If you abide in My Word – hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them – you are truly My disciples . . . And you will know the truth, and the truth (the knowing of it) will set you free . . .

So if the Son liberates you – makes you free men – then you are really and unquestionably free” (John 8:31, 32, 36, AMP).

CHAPTER SIX

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

Who are you? Who am I? Friends, we are sons and daughters of the Living God, because He sent His Word to us. And the Word was inspired by the Holy Spirit. As **we opened** our hearts and **we believed** that Jesus was our Saviour, the power of the Holy Spirit moved into our life and changed us from wretched, useless, unclean sinners into **transformed, redeemed saints of the Living God!**

Until we are convinced of that, we will never be a convincing witness. Why is it that evangelism always seems to be the weak arm of the Church? Why do we have a “hang-up” telling people about Jesus? The reason is because we don’t know who we are in Jesus. We are afraid to share our faith.

We don’t have a problem with knowing who Jesus is; we accept Him as the Son of God. But **we really struggle with who we are.**

What does the Word of God say we **are**?

The Word of God says we **have** been predestined to be **sons and daughters of the Living God** (Ephesians 1:5);

The Word of God says we **are the accepted in the beloved . . .** (Ephesians 1:6);

What does the Word of God say we have?

The Word of God says **we have redemption through His blood** (Ephesians 1:7);

The Word of God says we **have forgiveness of sins** (Ephesians 1:7);

The Word of God tells us that God **has done all of this for us** according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7);

The Word of God tells us God is for us and ***“if God be for us, who can be against us?”*** (Romans 8:31).

Why, then, do we go through life functioning as though we are on our own, **when God is with us; God is for us; God is in us?** Do we not fully comprehend that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has chosen our physical body to be the temple of God? (John 14:23; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

We are the house of God. God lives in us. Wherever we go, we take God with us. We

need to take the locks off and let Him loose! ***“We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”*** (Ephesians 1:3).

I have always been a person who strongly advocates spending time seeking God, spending time in the Word, and that is right and good and proper. But God is not obligated to us because of our works of righteousness. Every one of us who knows Jesus Christ has the same wonderful privilege of abiding in Christ day by day. Wherever we are, wherever we go, we abide in Jesus. We should release Him and let Him out, let Him go to bless others.

It is over to us as to whether we release Him or not. The more we understand what Jesus Christ has done for us, the more we come to grasp this wonderful truth of the grace of God in our lives – that we do not have to struggle and strive to become more holy, to be more pure, but simply we believe the truth of the Word of God that **HE HAS ALREADY DONE IT**. If we could do it, we wouldn't need Jesus! We need to break mind-sets that tell us “If I do this, or if I do that, I am going to be more holy.”

Every one of us should be living that life-style because God, through Jesus, put us into that place. He calls us saints; He has made us saints. He has made us holy. Jesus is

holy. Jesus lives inside of us! Therefore, we are holy through faith in Jesus Christ.

Now, if I choose to say, *“Well, this all sounds very nice, this is wonderful, but! . . .*

No! I don’t accept that I have been blessed with all spiritual blessings;

No! I’m not experiencing them . . . so I need to press in harder;

No! But maybe five years down the track I’ll be enjoying the blessings!” . . .

With this attitude, I am building a mind-set within my head that is going to cause me to function accordingly, and I will miss the blessing that God has got for me because I am choosing to believe something contrary to the Word. Don’t put off until tomorrow what God has already given us for today!

CHAPTER SEVEN

BUILD THE CHURCH UP

In these last days there will be people with ***“a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”*** (2 Timothy 3:5). There is a lack of power in the Church because these truths are not radiating and living within us. ***“Since you are eager for spiritual gifts, seek to excel in the upbuilding of the Church”*** (1 Corinthians 14:12, Gideon Bible). The word “seek” is from the Greek “zeteo” meaning “to seek or endeavour or desire in a way that worships God.” To “excel” is “to superabound – in quantity or quality – make abound, have, have more abundant, exceed, increase” (Strong’s). It means “to be superior to (another or others); surpass. To be outstandingly good or proficient” (Collins). We should come to church with the desire to cause God’s blessings to super-abound amongst us because we are seeking to worship Him through the building up of our brothers and sisters. If we are a consumer, we don’t come to church with that frame of mind.

We come, thinking, – “Well, what am I going to get out of it today? . . . hope the Word is right . . . hope I am going to get blessed . . . please help me God,” and so on. With that attitude, friends, we have “lost it” before we even get to church.

Attitude is so important. Our attitude should be that we come to church with a great desire in our heart to build up our brothers and sisters, and, from this, will come forth the worship of God. **“Seek that you may excel to the edifying (“the building”) of the Church”** (KJV). The Scriptural term of that word “building” is referring to what we do with the foundation that God has already laid in the Church – apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20-22).

The only way we can build on that is when we come to church with the attitude of verse 12 – with the desire to build up our brothers and sisters, because in doing that, we are releasing the blessing of God. That is worship, doing good.

We are told that those who believe should do good, especially to those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10). That is the motivation we need to minister to one another. **Church is not what we can get out of it, but what we can put into it.**

Be earnest in your desire to build the church on the foundation already laid by God (see 1 Corinthians 3:9-18).

Ask yourself, “Does church life need to come up into another realm?”

How can it come up into another realm? . . . By you and I lifting it up together into another realm because we understand the truth of what God and church is all about. ***“We seek to excel to the edifying*** (“building”) ***of the church”*** (1 Corinthians 14:12).

Be a Holy Ghost builder!

CHAPTER EIGHT

LOVING GOD IS LOVING PEOPLE

The Church is all about God and people. For too long we have tried to separate God from people. We say, “I love You, Lord, but I am having a problem with my brothers!” But the Word of God teaches us that we only love God as much **as we** love one another (1 John 4:20-21). That is how God sees it. He turns it the other way round. The more we understand who we are in Jesus Christ, the more we are able to be released to build up people, to the glory of Jesus Christ. We come together to build up. God’s hand is upon His **people**. We do not come to church to fulfil some religious obligation! We come because we want to come. God has brought us together and He has given us keys so we can build one another up. That is the truth and we need to rejoice in it.

Church is where it all happens.

Church is where the call of God comes.

Church is where ministries are birthed and developed – where we get the training necessary

for us to accomplish great things in the Kingdom of God. It happens because we're in church!

I look back over my life and I know all the wonderful things that God has done and worked in and through my life, nearly every time it has happened in church. Why did it happen? Because ***“Where the brethren dwell together in unity, God commands a blessing, even life forevermore”*** (Psalm 133:3).

That is God's purpose for church. People who are blessed with all spiritual blessings; people who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, who know their sins are forgiven; who know they are accepted in the beloved; who know they are called of God; called to be saints, holy, unblameable before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4).

My prayer is that you shall know an increasing effectiveness in releasing the blessings of Jesus Christ the Lord in the church He has placed you. There is such great need for the saints of God to be built up in the truth of the Word of God, and you can be one who inspires and lifts others to be all that Jesus Christ came to make them. May God bless you richly.

“. . . our sufficiency is of God; Who also has made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter

kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6, KJV).

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power (Greek: “dunamis” = “ability”) that works in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21 KJV).

If you do not have a regular church “home” to be committed to, I encourage you to sincerely seek out a church that proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord, and endeavours to allow the Holy Spirit of God to work in the midst. Don’t be a “lone ranger” Christian: (even the “Lone Ranger” needed “Tonto”!)

Do it today!



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