

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

How To Become A Warrior For Christ
and Bring Revival To The World



A Practical Guide To Healing The Sick
and Operating In Kingdom Power

BECKY MAULDIN

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

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and Bring Revival To The World**

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By Becky Mauldin

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is more than just an ordinary book. It is meant to equip you, activate you, and inspire you to experience more of God than you have ever known before. It is a book of impartation and I believe your life will be changed and your body will be healed.

In addition to the content in each chapter, this book contains worksheets and resources to help you apply what you learn. It also contains links to videos of each chapter that includes additional stories and application from my life.

Each hyperlink at the beginning of each chapter connects to a video that you can watch on your smart phone, tablet, or device.

INTRODUCTION

We are in a new era; it's a new season of the church where God is equipping His remnant to be warriors that will go forth and take back territory from the enemy.

The church will no longer sit back and defend what we have, but God is raising up people who are militant about seeing God's kingdom demonstrated on earth. They are militant about defeating the enemy and taking back everything that he has stolen. Gone are the days of letting pastors and evangelists do all the work. In this season, God is empowering everyday believers with power from on high for the last days battle.

This is what this book is about. This is who you are created to be: warriors who are willing to lay down their lives to see the devil defeated and God's kingdom on earth. I know it's possible because it's happened in my own life and I believe it is your destiny too.

Welcome to the battle, mighty warrior.

This book will show you how to heal the sick, cast out demons, free the captives, and set the world around you ablaze with His glory.

It's time for this world to see God as He really is, and for Him to use you to defeat the darkness.

Are you ready? Let's do this!

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Chapter 1

FROM HELL TO HEAVEN

After another night of tossing and turning, a wave of fear came over me at 5 am - how am I going to be able to get everything done today on just 3 hours of sleep? It felt impossible.

Here I was wide awake while my baby was sleeping peacefully in the next room. I could feel the tears welling up, so I quietly snuck out of the bedroom, trying not to disturb my husband. As I walked across the floor, my joints ached, my head was pounding, I was exhausted yet I couldn't sleep. As I sat on the sofa downstairs, I started sobbing, "What was wrong with me? How did life get so bad?" I wondered. Trying to figure out what had gone so wrong with my health, I thought about how things were just a few years earlier.

I had a successful career as an artist, painting murals and furniture. In 1999, my husband and I had decided to move to Douglasville, Georgia to build our own hand-crafted log house on my in law's property. After my husband and I finished building our log house, we got goats and chickens and planted an organic garden. It was everything we had always wanted. I was living my dream.

Now that our home was finished, we were ready to start our family and in 2003 I got pregnant. Little did I know that the birth of my daughter and our move to Douglasville would lead me down into the darkest, toughest time of my life.

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After she was born- a healthy beautiful baby girl- my health completely crashed. From that point on, I suffered from debilitating insomnia, thyroid problems, and extreme fatigue. My baby was sleeping through the night, but I was going weeks without any sleep at all.

I went from doctor to doctor, but no one could figure out what was wrong. I had tried eating all organic, taking supplements, going gluten free, but it was not enough. Why wasn't it working?

I hit rock bottom. Instead of me taking care of my family, they were taking care of me. I cried as I looked into my baby's eyes because here she was needing me to take care of her, so helpless and sweet, and I felt like the helpless one - unable to do more than sit on the sofa in despair most days. I was reacting to more and more things and my list of symptoms was growing longer each month. The smallest exposure to a chemical or perfume would send me reeling for days afterwards. I had to avoid everything that contained chemicals- I was basically allergic to them. I couldn't go out in public or to church because of all the perfume and chemicals I was exposed to.

The insomnia was relentless. I struggled to put a smile on my face and say "good morning" to my husband, but after nights of tossing and turning, all I could do was cry. It hurt so much to see the fear and frustration in his eyes as he wanted to fix it, but couldn't.

Not months, but years went by, and living in survival mode became our new normal. I had become used to sleeping on a camping mat on the floor without a pillow because I would feel worse from the chemicals on a mattress. New clothes had to be washed a minimum of five times before I could wear them or I would react to the chemicals used in the manufacturing process. I could not apply anything to my skin unless it was so natural that I could eat it.

I even felt terrible when I used a cell phone or electronics because of the electromagnetic radiation they emit. My life became a living hell, where I was trapped in a body with symptoms I could not escape.

As my list of symptoms grew longer, I started reacting to everything, and I had to be isolated in a room with an air purifier just to survive. I had to wear a mask just to be able to breathe without reacting when I left any room or the house. I was about to go on oxygen and in desperation, called my alternative M.D. and asked for help. He ended up giving me an IV of certain nutrients that helped my body to process toxins. It helped me get out of the room, but I needed much more than that to get me well. By this point, I even had muscle wasting and could not stand up straight.

You may have heard about people like this who are allergic to the world around them. It used to be rare, but now it's becoming more common as the world grows more toxic. The name for this condition is Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. The problem is that most doctors don't even consider it a real medical condition. They say it's all in your head which only makes you feel like you really are going crazy!

I had prayed so many times, but because nothing seemed to be working, I was losing hope that I would ever recover. My anxiety and fear were peaking off the charts at a level of 20 on a scale of 1 to 10. My mental health was beginning to suffer at this point.

"Why can't I get well? Why is this so difficult?" Sinking into deeper despair, I began to realize the problem: I knew deep down in the core of my being that I was meant for more than this, but I had been stuck in a place of fear, trying to figure it out all on my own. I was praying from a place of fear and desperation, not faith. Because I felt like I was going to die, I was stuck in survival mode.

One afternoon, I was so frustrated that I went upstairs and flopped down on the bed. Tears welled up in my eyes because I realized that I had tried everything I knew to try and it was not enough. I came to the end of myself and I remember praying, “God, I’ve done everything I know to do. If YOU want me to live, YOU’RE going to have to save me. Whether I live or die, my life is in Your hands now.” I meant it with every cell in my body and I let go of the fear and control.

After saying those words, it felt like a huge weight lifted off my chest and it finally got quiet in my head. It was so quiet that I could finally hear Him. God told me: “There is someone in Atlanta that can get you well.” Was that really God saying that to me? I believed it was Him because the peace I felt inside was unmistakable. The peace that came because of complete surrender: that’s when a new chapter of my life began. Nothing changed in my circumstances, I changed on the inside.

From that point on, I let go of fear and control, and simply trusted that God would provide the answer even if I couldn’t see it yet. Whenever fear would try to come back, I would remember what He said and focus on who this person might be that He said could heal me. I rested in Him even though I still felt terrible.

Just three days later, I got a phone call from a friend who had been walking around her neighborhood and met a practitioner who did detox programs at a clinic in Atlanta. My friend thought she might be able to help me, and so she gave me her number. By this point, I was so tired of wasting money on doctors who did not know how to help me. When I called this practitioner, I was brutally upfront with her about my situation, hoping to scare her off if she did not know what she was doing. She graciously told me story after story of all the other people with challenging health conditions she had been able to help. Hope was stirred in my spirit as I listened to her talk.

It turned out that this practitioner was the answer to my prayer. My answer found me, all I did was trust Him.

At my first visit with the practitioner, she discovered what everyone else had been missing— it was toxic chemicals I had been exposed to that were keeping me sick. Once I heard that, I felt such relief— there finally was an answer and a way to get well. I was willing to do whatever she recommended, but it was a \$8,000 detox program. I felt bad about spending that kind of money, when we didn't even have the money to spend. However my husband said that if this was able to get me better, whatever we had to spend would be worth it just to have me back.

We chose to go into debt to make it happen while continuing to trust God. I'm so glad we did because half way through the program, we were given an unexpected sum of money that more than paid for the program! God is so faithful when we let go and simply trust Him!

It was a rigorous 26 day sauna detox program at her clinic that turned my health around. Sometimes I wish God had just healed me supernaturally in a moment, but that was not His plan for me. I believe the reason was because of something that happened two weeks into the detox program. I remember sitting in the sauna, watching my practitioner make my vegetable juice. As I was looking at her through the glass door of the sauna, all of a sudden, I got a divine download as I saw myself as her one day, helping others regain their health. It was like a spark went off inside of me and I just KNEW that being a holistic health practitioner was my calling and purpose in life. I thought, "What?? That's crazy! I'm a hot mess right now! How can I do that?" But I had to let go of fear and trust that He was going to work out those details. I simply had to trust Him.

After the detox program, I was 50 percent better, and after six months of continued use of the sauna, I was so much better.

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When obstacles come up in your life, you have a choice: you can stay in fear and let the circumstance overwhelm you and keep you stuck, or you can see it as an opportunity to trust Him like never before. Every mountain or challenge that comes our way in life is just an opportunity for God to work through us to show others that they can be overcome.

I knew I was on the right path and my health continued to improve. Then I apprenticed with this practitioner and got my holistic health certification so I could become a practitioner.

Just a year later, I took a huge step of faith and started my own holistic practice, called Pure Vitality, out of my log house. People came to my home office, not expecting to see goats and chickens grazing nearby in our pasture. While I was seeing clients in my office, my daughter Emily loved showing clients' children the animals and teaching how to recognize all the wild edible plants in our pasture. More than once when one of these moms came out of their appointment, they walked outside to find their child eating weeds from our lawn!

As the buzz continued to grow about Pure Vitality in our community because people were getting great results, I got so busy that I could no longer do it alone. So I prayed and trusted God to provide the help I needed. I watched as I put Him first in my business, He was faithful to provide just like He did when I was sick. We had to move out of my log house and into a 3,200 square-foot wellness center where we now have a team of practitioners working together changing even more lives.

SICKNESS STRIKES AGAIN

I had just recovered my health when a few years later sickness came knocking at my door again when we discovered black mold growing all over the interior logs of our house.

The mold was aspergillus, a toxic type of mold that gives off harmful mycotoxins and can cause chemical sensitivity. I tried to clean it up myself, but unknowingly made it worse by spreading it, turning our mild mold problem into a severe mold problem. We had to move out for two months while the entire house was remediated. Fortunately, I learned about natural ways to recover from the mold exposure and was able to detoxify my body from the mold exposure and regain my health...yet again.

A few years later, I got bitten by a tick and shortly afterwards, started showing the symptoms of Lyme disease (headaches, stiff neck, joint pain, fatigue, brain fog). My daughter Emily was also bitten and her health deteriorated rapidly as she showed signs of extreme fatigue, muscle weakness, and dark circles under her eyes. It's one thing to be sick yourself, but to watch your child suffer has to be one of the hardest things a parent can face. We took her to the doctor for antibiotics right away, but when they did not help, weeks turned into months and Emily missed twenty six days of school that year. Not having any direct experience with anyone with Lyme disease, I ended up trying every natural protocol I could find and eventually she got better six months later.

In 2015, I had a minor car accident, and because I had head injuries, I had an unpleasant trip to the emergency room in an ambulance because they wanted to check for internal bleeding. I came home from the hospital only to discover I had picked up a staph infection while I was there. Only a few days after coming home and recovering from my injuries, I had thirty staph boils on one leg, and forty boils on the other leg. After trying a lot of different natural remedies, I finally discovered that massive amounts of raw garlic would kill it. It took two months of drinking raw garlic juice and taking raw garlic baths for those persistent boils to finally go away.

By this point, I felt as if sickness and disease were trying to destroy my life, no matter what I did to avoid it. As a holistic health practitioner, I'm confident that there is always a natural way to overcome whatever comes my way. It's the only thing that keeps me going.

However, as much as I trusted in my natural remedies, I was about to encounter something that my arsenal of herbs would not be able to save me from. In October 2016, I started consulting with a client who had been struggling with a chronic infection for nearly a decade. Doctors had been unable to diagnose exactly what the infection was and she was barely keeping it in check with her supplements she was dependent on.

After four months of working with her, I determined that mycoplasma might be causing her sickness. Since mycoplasma is spread easily by coughing, I did not realize that my own health was at risk working with her. Yes, you guessed it- just a few months later, I caught the nasty infection that she had. Thinking it was no big deal, the insomnia, muscle pain, anxiety, and extreme fatigue caused by this particular strain of mycoplasma made me realize this was not an ordinary infection. I found natural ways to combat it, but just when I would get over it, I would catch it again. This pattern kept happening over and over. Because of everything I had been through, my immune system was not working optimally and my body could not fight off the infection on it's own.

I was so tired of being sick. What had been an enjoyable business helping other people get healthy was now making me sick all the time. After struggling to be free from this infection for over a year, I got to the end of my rope and realized I needed help beyond the natural remedies that I had counted on for the past ten years. It was just not enough. I needed God. I needed supernatural intervention. Trying to overcome this on my own was exhausting and I was DONE.

I made a vow to God that I was going after Him with everything in me from this moment on. I started pursuing Heaven like my life depended on it because at this point, it felt like it actually did. Spending a few hours at church was not enough to equip me for this battle I was facing. Depending on a pastor or another person to help me was not enough. I needed the God of the Bible to show up. I needed a miracle.

I remember praying: “God, I need you. I am done living life on my own terms and fitting you into my life where it’s convenient. I am done being an ordinary ‘playing-it-safe-Christian’. I am done with powerless Christianity. I just want You. Whatever that means, I am ready to do whatever it takes. If it means spending 3 hours in worship and prayer, seeking your face everyday, then I am all in. If it means sacrificing everything I have in this world to live in Your presence, so be it. Even if it means I will die trying, then I’m all in. I am fed up with hell stealing my health. If I’m going to die from this, then I want to know You better before I leave this earth, and I want to see how many demons I can defeat on my way to heaven. I want to take revenge on the enemy for what he has done to me. Either what the Bible says about You is real, or it isn’t. I have no plan B. You are the only thing I really have. This life is too short to NOT know how to operate in Your kingdom. My life is Yours.”

From that day on, I got far more serious about God than I ever had been. I spent time with Him everyday, seeking His face—not coming to Him on my terms, but humbly coming to Him on His terms. That meant spending hours each day in silence before Him, listening for whatever He had to say. I stopped asking God to do something for me. It was time for me to get to know Him and learn how His kingdom worked. If He showed me things I needed to repent of, I repented without questioning.

Surrender is what I spent most of my time doing when I was with God: letting go of the pain, the trauma, the hurt, the fear, the wounds, the disappointments, and my agenda. I needed to know His agenda.

This meant that I stopped listening to or watching secular media. I only listened to sermons or the Bible, rather than watching television. We played worship music in our home everyday. I was going after more of God than I'd ever known before, and as I did, He showed up in a BIG way.

GOD'S KINGDOM INVADES MY WORLD

Over the next few months, I learned how God's kingdom worked. He taught me many things. One of them was that healing is available to me as a child of God. He already paid the price for it. He was waiting for me to believe it so I could receive it. Doubt and fear had been blocking it, so I began the process of letting go of fear.

I decided to believe that what God said was true so I prayed whenever I got sick. As I took this leap of faith, I felt the healing power of God turn my symptoms around. No, I did not get healed every single time, but when it didn't happen, it only made me press in harder and pray again until it manifested. I was persistent. I was determined. I was not going to take NO for an answer. His healing was mine and I was determined to experience it, bless God!

I applied what I was learning to myself and my family if they got sick. I'm hesitant to admit it now, but I think I was just as surprised as they were when they got better too! This gave me the courage to pray for strangers, so I began praying for people who came up to the altar at church after the Sunday morning service.

I watched God's power flow through me to heal people of asthma, back pain, knee pain, macular degeneration, infections, vaccine reactions, vertigo, and hearing loss.

The bottom line? I found God's healing power was still available today! I was amazed at how much God has made available to me, but I had failed to receive into my life because of fear, unbelief, and powerless Christianity that I had experienced through various churches over the years. It was like a whole new world opened up to me, where I could access Heaven on earth. And it only made me pursue God even more! God's supernatural world started invading my world in a tangible way.

As I look back over the past fourteen years, I realize how every single thing I thought would take me down, only made my faith in God stronger than ever. More importantly, I realized that my pain served a purpose. My test became my testimony.

Most people think that the bad things that happen to us are inherently bad and should be avoided. I'm not so sure that is the way God sees them. I think challenges and struggles allow us to see what we are really made of, and they make us realize that we cannot make it on our own. They cause us to dig deep and find faith in the only One in which we can put our hope. They cause us to believe in a higher reality beyond the unpleasant circumstances we may find ourselves in.

Because of the challenges I've been through, I don't look at problems the same way anymore. I used to immediately go into fear and think of all the possible worst case scenarios in my overactive imagination. Now when problems come up, I choose to believe that He who is in me is GREATER than he who is in this world. Why would God create a world in which there were problems, if they were not meant to be overcome?

Whatever you have gone through or are going through right now, know this: that it is bigger than you. In the BIG PICTURE, your pain serves a PURPOSE. Any challenge that you might find yourself in is just an opportunity for Him to overcome it. You can let it keep you stuck or you can let it be the FUEL that ignites your FAITH. And when you trust Him in the midst of the storm, God will reveal His heart to you and show you how to overcome it. The mountain that is in your path is there so that you can show others that it can be moved. And after it's moved, He uses your testimony to change the life of someone else.

Facing our fears head on is the kind of faith that moves mountains and allows us to live a supernatural life— where divine healing is possible.

Why don't we see more Christians living like this? Why don't we see them praying for the sick and the sick getting healed? Why aren't they living a supernatural life? There are a few reasons: We live in a world that is a fear based system, and fear fosters unbelief, which is the opposite of faith. You cannot access healing without faith.

Secondly, there is a lot of incorrect teaching that is not Biblical on divine healing. Doctrines of man have crept in the church and have influenced the way people believe about healing. Many Christians think divine healing only applied to the disciples back in the New Testament days, and that it does NOT apply to us today. Divine healing is not even accepted in many churches.

Third, many churches preach a watered down Gospel in order to be more attractive to the average person. There is more entertainment in the church than truth. It is rare to hear preaching on the conviction of sin, an emphasis on holiness, or empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Most churches are not teaching healing nor equipping Christians to do what Jesus did, and we wonder why the church is not changing our world. This is why.

Our culture has influenced the church and many Christians are living in darkness like the world: Christians are perhaps more influenced by the culture than they are by the teachings of scripture or the church. If someone can go to church on Sunday and not be challenged to the point where they turn from living like the world Monday through Saturday, then that's a problem.

Current statistics: 61% of Christians say that they would have sex before marriage. 56% said that it's ok to move in with someone while you are dating before marriage. 34% said it's good to marry someone of the same faith, but it's not required. What has happened to the church?

Leonard Ravenhill, a British pastor said:

“Christianity today is so subnormal that if any Christian began to act like a normal New Testament Christian, he would be considered abnormal.”

This is not meant to come across as judgmental, but if we are going to call ourselves Christians, the life that we say we live should be attainable, not abnormal. With the God of the universe as our Father, why are we settling for anything less than the Bible says is possible? If we do, it is heartbreaking.

When I hear Christians talk, sometimes I wonder if they even have a relationship with God at all. They complain about challenges going on in their life, and always seem to be struggling with sin or sickness. Or they are simply consumed with the cares of this world and worry about everything all the time. Bottom line? They lack joy and peace that are rightfully theirs because of Christ.

I see a type of Christianity today that does not line up with the Bible. Christianity today is more self-seeking than it has been in prior generations — more consumeristic: “What's in it for me.”

John G. Lake said it well when he said:

“Christianity is not a dreary outlook.... I have always wondered how a Christian could be anything less than an optimist. It is a sad thing when you hear Christians with a groan in them. When I meet the groaner, I say in my heart, “God, move the man on into the place where he comprehends what Christianity is.”

Our culture is all about what’s in it for me and it has infiltrated the church. People are saying they have accepted Christ, but they have not allowed Him to really change them.

Many modern day Christians have a faith that is ineffective and powerless because they think being saved from sin means getting a free ticket to heaven. God does not really have a big role in their daily life. They think being a Christian is just life insurance for when they die. But I don’t think it works that way. That’s not Biblical Christianity.

It makes me wonder what Jesus’s disciples would think of our church today. What would they say? I think they would be shocked, and wondering why we are playing church when we could be outside the walls of the church changing the world!

What we have are a lot of people who know ABOUT Jesus, but do not actually KNOW Him. They don’t have a personal relationship with Him, and this is a dangerous place to be. Let’s look at what the Bible say about this:

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (John 2:3-6)

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. (Titus 1:16)

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. (Matt 10:32)

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord" shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (Matthew 7:21)

These were people who were doing things for God, not just sitting in a church service! Christianity is about a relationship with Jesus where He changes us. Religion is about you trying to make yourself better and connect with God on your terms. Christianity is about God connecting with you on His terms. It's about a living relationship.

Reading the Bible does not give you a relationship. If you want to have a better marriage you can read books about it, but it's far more important to spend time with your spouse. Reading books is not a substitute for time spent with him or her. Many people think reading the Bible is the same thing as having a relationship with God. They do their daily devotionals and check it off their to do list, yet God is not a part of their daily life.

The time we have on this earth is so short. You are not even promised tomorrow. At the end of your time here on earth,

when you stand before God face to face- it's just you and Him. Nothing you have on this earth will matter. Nothing you have on this earth will be yours anymore— your house, your clothes, your stuff...all those things you worked so hard for and accumulated here on earth, they will all be gone. All of those things you did while on earth, those things that kept you so busy.....will it matter to Him now? What will He say to you? Do you actually know Him? Or do you just know ABOUT Him?

Nothing is more important, nothing can satisfy that longing deep in your soul more than this. Most people are trying to fill that void in their heart with all sorts of things: sex, drugs, shopping, money, alcohol, etc. But that void you feel is the place that the Holy Spirit is meant to inhabit. When His precious Spirit comes to live inside of you, you are given a gift that no one can take away. He changes you from the inside out. His love permeates your soul and you are free of torment, guilt, shame, fear, darkness, addictions— all of that stuff that has plagued and tormented you.

It doesn't matter what your past looks like because He holds none of that against you. In fact, He paid the price for all of the things you have done in the past just so you could be free and reborn. A clean slate. No one can separate you from the love of God when He makes His home inside of you. If you've known about Jesus but you do not actually know Him— just because you recited a prayer once doesn't mean you are saved. If God hasn't taken hold of your soul and changed you from the inside out, then you may not really know Him. If the Holy Spirit is convicting you right now, and you want to really KNOW Him and live a life that is transformed, I want you to know Him like I know Him because my life has been completely different now that I surrendered my life to Him.

If you are ready to surrender your life to Him like I did, please pray this prayer right now:

“Dear Jesus, I have realized that I don’t actually know you, I just know about you. I’ve realized that all my good works mean nothing to you, and that I cannot save myself. So please forgive me, and come to live in my heart. Make your home inside of me. I confess with my mouth what I believe in my heart: that Jesus is my Savior, that Jesus is my Lord, and that Jesus is the son of God. As of this day, I belong to Jesus and Jesus belongs to me. I believe it, I receive it, and I confess it, in the name of Jesus. My only desire is to live for You. Amen.”

This is where true peace is, despite the circumstances going on around us. This is where true health is, no matter what we are exposed to in this toxic world. This is where real power is to impact the world- because the Spirit of God inside of us is overflowing into the world around us. We are so full of the tangible presence of God that it oozes out of us. When we walk into a room, He is there too. Everyone we talk to feels His touch, they are impacted by Him, and His will is being done through us on this earth. Wherever we go, we leave the evidence of the kingdom of heaven behind us in our path. That’s the kind of Christian I want to be.

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)

Signs will follow believers. When we are abiding in the vine, we can’t help but bear fruit. The time to bear fruit is now because He is coming for His bride. We cannot just wait passively for His return. He has given us a mission to do, and it’s called the Great Commission: to carry His Presence into a hurting world,

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destroying the works of darkness, setting the captives free, and releasing His kingdom wherever we go. There is no higher call. There is nothing more fulfilling.

Are you ready?

Chapter 2

THE SPIRIT REALM

It was just an ordinary day as I was sitting in my office, but instead of seeing my office, the physical world around me suddenly faded away and I was in the spirit realm.

I found myself standing outside in a big field with patches of briars, thorns, and trampled grass. It reminded me of an old battlefield, and looking around I saw mountains and a city in the distance. I turned around and noticed a gang of rough looking creatures getting closer to me. Although I didn't recognize them, I knew they were demons and each one of them represented different things. One was sickness, another poverty, one was depression, another death, and another deception- you get the idea.

As they saw that I was aware of them, they started coming towards me, and they began to yell at me. Yet, I had no idea what I did to make them so angry at me. In the spirit realm, I appeared to be in a battle I was unaware of. I looked down, I was clearly unprepared because I was standing there with nothing but a robe on. I didn't have any armor, weapons, nor people helping me fight. No one had told me how to fight, and since I had no arsenal with me and this motley crew was getting closer, I took off running. After running for a while, I found myself becoming short of breath but they were not slowing their pursuit of me and had far more stamina than I did. They said things to me like "you're never going to make it... I am going to kill you." I ran as fast as I could but I started to believe that they might kill me after all. I felt hopelessness set in because I believed that they were right: I was not going to make it.

If only I would have looked up, I would have seen an army that far outnumbered my tormentors, ready to go to battle on my behalf. One of the leaders of the army held a suit of armor in his hands that would have fit me perfectly. They were silently watching and waiting for the command to come to my rescue, but the command never came. Because of the protocol that they operated under, they could not intrude into my situation without my command.

All it would have taken was a single word from me and the army in the heavens would have been let loose to fight on my behalf and I would have been free of my tormentors. The army of angels were silently anticipating a command from me because they hated to see me suffer when they knew I didn't have to. Yet, eyes to the ground and fear gripping my heart, I kept running.

Finally, hope appears on the horizon as I saw a big house in the distance up on a hill surrounded by trees and a garden. I pushed myself harder to run towards the house so I could make it to safety. As I was looking for a place to hide, I found myself closer to the garden where I noticed a man that looked like a gardener, standing by the front gate. When he saw me running toward him, he said, "Come in here and you will be safe." He unlocked the wooden gate with one hand while he pointed me to run in the direction of the house with the other.

Afraid for my life, I ran for the house, not caring what I encountered inside because it certainly could not have been worse than what was hunting me down outside. I opened the door, swung around behind it, and slammed it behind me as I leaned up against the door to catch my breath. My heart was pounding out of my chest.

Since I didn't hear them following me anymore, I decided to let my guard down and began exploring my new surroundings. The first thing I saw was a big table and chairs that had already

been set with enough food for a feast. An older man was seated at the table and he said to me, "I have been waiting for you to come. Please sit and eat". As I sat down, I found myself both exhausted and overwhelmed with what just took place. Where am I? What is happening, I wonder.

He began to talk as I ate and told me that He was my heavenly Father. He told me all about His world and what He had done for me. He told me that He created angels as a part of His creation and that one of them, Lucifer, rebelled and took a portion of the angels with Him and they were the demonic beings that had been chasing after me.

He told me about creating mankind, how they used to walk with Him in the garden of Eden and that a demon deceived them, and they chose to listen to his lies which caused sin to enter into the world.

In order to restore mankind to fellowship with Him, He sent His Son Jesus, who was born as a man on this earth, to become the ultimate sacrifice for sin and to take away all legal rights that the demons had to afflict on mankind.

I discovered that my Father owned this region and while it seemed like these bad guys had control and a right to be here, they were not allowed to affect His children. He told me why: because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He defeated all demonic power once and for all, so that as His child, the demonic beings no longer had power over me.

As His child, I have access to all my Father owns: health, property, finances, peace, joy, contentment, and love, but because I didn't know it, I was letting demonic tormentors affect me in every area of my life. I was living in poverty, suffering with sickness, disease, depression, and I was stressed out all the time and ready to just throw in the towel because life was too hard.

I mistakenly thought that my Father would just take care of these bad guys for me, but He told me that He already did. I wasn't sure what He meant by that so He explained to me that He passed the law that said they are not allowed to affect me and they have no more right to be tormenting me. However, He said they still try to break the law because they are lawbreakers, which is why they were chasing after me.

He told me that both armies are technically beneath me in rank, and the problem was that I didn't know who I was. Since I was His child, He told me that I am an ambassador of His Kingdom wherever I go. I operate according to the laws of His Kingdom and have been given His authority. I can speak using His authority and it's just like Jesus is speaking. I also have the power to keep these demons from harassing me as well as others. My Father told me that he wants me to use His authority to kick out these intruders everywhere I go, so His Kingdom can be more prevalent on the earth, and so others can be free too.

After all the distress that I have been through, I was in shock to realize that I had the power all along to defeat these tormentors. I can just say the word and these bad guys have to go, and my life can be different? Wow! This is life changing to say the least!!

My ultimate problem was that I lacked the understanding about how things worked in the spirit realm. I was only familiar with the natural realm: what my five senses were telling me about the world around me. So I assumed God's kingdom worked the same way. I figured it was time to get a better understanding of how the spirit realm really worked and learn God's protocols.

While I spent time with my Father, I got to know Him and He began to teach me how His kingdom works and what the spiritual protocols were. I was curious to know how the angel

army was released to fight on my behalf. As I continued to learn from Him, I realized I had been praying wrong. He showed me a better way to pray that mobilized heaven and defeated darkness. He taught me about the full armor of God and other essential things I needed to know about to be effective in battle.

After a period of training, very similar to spiritual boot camp, I began putting my new arsenal of tools into practice and found that the bad guys really DO have to leave me alone. Wow, no longer did I feel like a helpless victim of the circumstances of life anymore.

When I came back into the natural dimension, I looked around and found myself back in my office. I remembered what I learned in the spirit realm and I calmly went back to my tasks for the day.

As the weeks went by, I notice I was not as stressed as I usually was and things were going smoother at work. When challenges came up, they didn't bother me because I remembered what my Father taught me in the spirit realm. I began putting into practice what I learned there and it was affecting the natural realm. Even though I couldn't see them with my eyes, I could visualize the army of angels working on my behalf. Knowing His Holy Spirit was inside me and that I also had my own personal angel always at my side wherever I went meant I am never truly alone in this world. His kingdom goes wherever I go.

Sickness no longer had a hold on me since I now know it doesn't have a right to affect me. I see it for what it is- darkness trying to camp out in my body illegally. I command it to go using His authority and it goes away.

Stress is a thing of the past because I know how much heaven has my back and who my Father is. I've found that when I keep my focus on what's going on in the spirit realm and make it a

priority to do His work as I go about my daily life, He takes care of all of my needs in the natural realm. I no longer get upset when challenges come up. I know the authority that has been given to me by Him - to tell my problems about God rather than tell God about my problems! I deal with problems in the spirit realm because that's where they originate. I am now able to see everything in my life from His perspective rather than my own limited natural viewpoint. Life has gotten so much better on this side of reality as I have learned how to operate in the spirit realm as a child of God.

This was a story to illustrate the unseen spirit realm and what happens in the unseen realm all around us everyday. Most Christians are like I was in the story: they go through life completely clueless they are in a spiritual battle, let alone having been trained and equipped to defeat the enemy. How easy it could be for them to win if they just got engaged and learned how to operate in the spirit realm? Most people only understand the natural realm we live in and tend to pray to God from that perspective. We need to understand spiritual protocols: how God does things in His realm.

Most people are not sure if the spirit realm is real or not and ask questions such as: Are there really angels and demons? If so, how do they affect us? How do we align ourselves with God's kingdom and carry out His works on earth? How do we operate in the spirit realm as children of God? It's no wonder we are not prepared for this battle we are in.

What do we know from scripture? In Genesis 1 we find that His kingdom created our world. The spirit realm created the natural world. If that's true, then the spirit realm is more real than the natural realm we live in. And if that's true His realm controls this realm. How do we know that? Because everything was spoken into existence by Him and continues to exist because of Him.

His words have the power to change matter and circumstances. All it takes is a word spoken by the Spirit to cause matter in this physical world to change. How do we know this is true? Because we see it in action all the time in the Bible. The spoken word can cause blind eyes to suddenly see, deaf ears to open, limbs to grow back, paralysis to leave, and tumors to disappear. These are supernatural events taking place that defy our natural laws of how this world works! God's Kingdom supersedes the laws of this natural world. Here are some examples from the Bible:

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. (Exodus 16:21)

Just before the entire army of Pharaoh was about to encroach on the Israelites, God delivered them by allowing Moses to part the waters so they could safely pass through the dry ground of the Red Sea. As soon as they made it through, the Lord commanded Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea again so the waters could flow back into their proper place, thus killing the entire army chasing them. (See Exodus 14:13-28)

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'" And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to You on the water". So He said,

“Come”, and when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt? (Matthew 14: 25-31)

The supernatural world overrides the natural in these situations. And that is how God's realm works. We call them miracles in our world, but God calls them NORMAL in His world. This means they should be normal in our world if we are operating according to His kingdom. That's why we need to know how His realm works if we want to see healings and miracles happen when we pray.

Our natural world is observed by our physical senses and by what science can measure. If we cannot measure the supernatural spirit realm, we are missing the most vital measurement of what God is doing. You are only getting part of the picture if you only take what your five senses give you as data. That means the doctors report is only giving you part of the information. The spirit realm controls the natural world so how can you even believe what the doctors report says if you don't have God's viewpoint of the situation?

Bottom line? The spirit realm controls this natural realm. Angels and demons are a part of the spirit realm. Angels are just messengers and they assist us in the spirit realm. They are mentioned over 270 times in the Bible. and even Jesus needed them to minister to Him in the wilderness. They protect us, assist us in our commission by God, and deliver messages.

Demons, who are angels who rebelled and left God's kingdom, are also real. (Eph. 6:12)

Demons can affect us and torment us if we ignorantly give them the right to by not recognizing our true authority in Christ as the story I shared above illustrated. There are demons of fear, lust, depression, unforgiveness, some cause sickness and disease, addictions, etc. This explains why people who are influenced by one of these demons can't just break free easily. It is a spiritual stronghold in their life. A Christian who has the Holy Spirit living inside of them, cannot be possessed by a demon, but they can be influenced or affected by one if they don't understand their authority. This is what keeps us in bondage and powerless over the enemy as well as makes us feel stuck in our spiritual walk thereby rendering us ineffective.

Whatever you are seeing in the natural realm around you is just a reflection of what is going on in the spirit realm. You can't battle the things in the spirit realm with natural strategies. You have to learn how to operate in the spirit realm.

You are just as much a spirit as you are a physical body, and you live in both worlds simultaneously. You are affected by the spirit realm just as much as the natural realm, even if you are unaware of it. You don't have to believe it's real. It's affecting you whether you believe it or not.

You may not want to believe in gravity, but if you step off the edge of a five story building, you will suddenly find that what you believe does not matter! Gravity is very real whether you believe in it or not! The spirit realm is just as real. It's an unseen realm all around us.

You are a spirit, you have a soul, and you live in a body. Your spirit is the real you that will live forever.

Let's look at how the natural realm and the spirit realm or God's kingdom are different from each other because as you will see from this chart on the next page, they do not work the same way.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

NATURAL REALM	GOD’S KINGDOM
Temporary world	Eternal world
Believe what we can see and measure	Believes the unseen
Operates within time and space	Outside of time and space
Matter obeys natural laws of physics	Matter can change
Control	Surrender
Fear-based	Faith-based
Self-seeking	Selfless
Focus on getting treasure on earth	Focus on giving: treasure is in heaven
Hate enemies	Love enemies
Miracles are impossible	Miracles are normal
Influenced by circumstances	Influences circumstances

As you can see from this chart, they are direct opposites. It's so vital for you to understand this because this is the foundation of everything in the Christian life. These two kingdoms are in complete opposition to each other. If you are living according to the characteristics of the natural realm more than the characteristics of the spirit realm, this mindset will keep you stuck and unable to grow spiritually! As 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, *"the natural man does not receive the things of God because they are foolishness to him, nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned."*

You will not see healing and miracles happen when you pray if you are going by what your five senses are telling you rather than having faith in the unseen realm. If you are easily affected by the circumstances, then you have lost the ability God has given you to be the one influencing your circumstances. If you are trying to control everything so you can feel safe in this out-of-control world rather than trusting that God is at work in the unseen realm, you will not be able to believe in a miracle or a healing.

Many Christians are influenced by the world around them, but in God's kingdom, we should be influencing the world around us. They are living according to this natural world, rather than God's kingdom. There is a bridge between these two realms and it brings the things God has for us from His kingdom into our natural world. Faith is the bridge between the natural and the spirit realm. You access God's kingdom by faith. Faith is what brings the supernatural into the natural realm.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11: 1-3)

When you read the gospels, Jesus was always talking about what the kingdom of heaven was like. So many parables were about the kingdom. The kingdom of heaven is like....

In Matthew 10:7 Jesus says *“As you go, preach, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* Why did He say that? Why did He say so much about the kingdom? This is a topic that is not really discussed very often. But I think it’s really important to understand, right?

What is the kingdom of heaven? This is not talking about heaven—the place we go when we die. First we must ask: What is a kingdom? A kingdom is a realm in which a king can exert his influence. It is the territory ruled by the king.

As an example, when Americans were under British rule, it did not matter that there was a huge ocean between America and England. Americans were a part of their territory and therefore, subject to their rules and laws. But once Americans gained their independence, they were no longer under their rule and England had no influence over what they did anymore. Americans were free from their laws.

In the spirit realm, there are two kingdoms at work: the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of darkness. The kingdom of darkness has power over people when they have not accepted Christ and therefore the demonic realm has the legal right to rule their life. They are subject to the laws, dictates, and commands of that kingdom. They are in bondage to the kingdom of darkness.

God’s kingdom defeated the kingdom of darkness when Jesus died on the cross. When we are born again we go from being ruled by the kingdom of darkness to being set free as we come under the rule of God’s kingdom. That means we are no longer subject to the kingdom of darkness.

We become filled with His Holy Spirit, which means our body becomes His temple. His kingdom has come to live inside of

me! We literally become walking territories of the kingdom of heaven wherever we go. The demonic has no legal right to torment a child of God.

Wherever His kingdom has come, His will is being done. That's why we pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Where His kingdom is, His will is being done. Where His will is being done, that's where His kingdom is. His kingdom is meant to be manifested here on earth now, just as it is in heaven all the time. In heaven, there is no sickness. In heaven, there is no sadness or worry. When His kingdom comes on this earth, sickness and disease can be healed. Anxiety and fear cannot exist. That's why when we pray for someone and they are healed by the Holy Spirit, what is happening is that His kingdom is overriding the natural laws of this world. Physical matter is changing in an instant.

In Luke 10:9, when Jesus sent out the seventy into the city, He says:

And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near you'. He wants us to do the same thing when we pray: "the kingdom of God has come near you." Why? Because when someone was healed, the kingdom of heaven just took over the natural realm. It invaded their world and changed their body! When I pray for them, I bring the kingdom of heaven near them because it's inside of ME! And because the kingdom of God has defeated the kingdom of darkness, when I speak with His authority, the kingdom of darkness has to leave!

Jesus did two things everywhere He went: He taught about the kingdom and he demonstrated it. He went around healing people and casting out demons that were tormenting them. He set them free from physical and emotional torment and then taught

them about the kingdom so they could stay free. His kingdom impacted the natural world in a tangible way that people could see, sense, and feel.

When the kingdom of heaven comes, it affects the natural world. You can feel it, you can sense it. People are healed and supernatural things happen. If the natural world is not being affected, then it's not the kingdom. It's probably religion, which keeps people in bondage.

Many Christians are born again but they are not living according to the kingdom of God, and that's a problem. They are still living in bondage. What do I mean by that? They struggle with sickness, anxiety, depression, anger, sinful behavior, or addictions. Why is this?

In order to answer this question, I want to share an illustration. At the end of the Civil War, when independence was granted to the slaves, there were areas of the country that did not hear the news until two years later! The slaves had already been liberated but they did not know it. They were free because the law said they were, but they did not know it. They were still in bondage- not because the law said they were—but because they had not heard the news yet!

In the same way, we live in a world where many Christians are still in bondage - not because they are legally in bondage - they have already been set free by the blood of Jesus - but they are walking around still in chains because they haven't heard that they have been set free. No one ever told them they could confront the darkness affecting their life right now and be free! Maybe they were only told that getting saved meant they got to go to heaven and that was it.

The GOOD NEWS of the gospel is that Christ died to set us FREE! Free means actual freedom, not in theory but in reality!

Freedom from sickness, freedom from torment, freedom from emotional pain, etc. When we realize we have been liberated from the kingdom of darkness, we can live according to the kingdom of heaven-NOW! We don't have to wait until we get to heaven. THIS is the good news of the gospel!

If the kingdom of darkness tries to rule any part of our lives by bringing sickness or oppression, we can turn around and say to that demon spirit: "Your rule is over! Your claim over my body is illegal. I revoke it and you must leave right now." And it has to go! Because the Kingdom of heaven lives inside of us, whatever we touch begins to change. When we walk into a room, the Kingdom of heaven walks into the room. The Holy Spirit goes where you go. You are no longer influenced by circumstances, but rather you influence the world around you. This natural world is affected by the supernatural realm when you speak. Angels are mobilized when you pray. Circumstances change because you live by faith in the unseen realm, not by what you see with your natural eye balls.

Sickness and disease have a tendency to keep us stuck because of the physical discomfort we feel—it makes us feel like the natural realm is superior to the spiritual realm. Pain in the body hurts and because of that, it demands our attention. We can get bound by what our five senses are telling us. You have to rise above the pain and discomfort to access healing in the supernatural realm. You have to believe the higher reality than the one you are currently experiencing. You have to realize what is available to you as a child of God in the spirit realm. He already defeated sickness and disease. It is in your body illegally and you don't have to put up with it anymore.

As Christians we were created to live according to a supernatural reality. That's who we really are: children of the King and part of His kingdom. When we really understand what God

has provided for us, and when we take a hold of it, our lives can be completely different. John 16:33 Jesus says: *“In this world, you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”*. How could He say that? Because He really has overcome the world since His kingdom triumphs over this one.

We have to know who we are in Jesus Christ. He is the One who died so that we could be free from darkness. His blood that was shed for us as the sacrifice for sin, and his defeat of Satan when He rose again is what gives us authority.

Satan’s goal is to cause us to forget who we are in Christ and become distracted by this world and the cares of life. He wants us to stay in fear and overcome by our circumstances so we are ineffective as Christians. The devil knows how much authority we really have and he is scared we will find out and use it to defeat him. It’s time we begin to walk in our authority and give him something to fear!

This natural world is temporary and you are just passing through on your way to your real home. But many people are living like this world is their final destination. They are living according to what they see, how they feel, what the doctor’s report says, and what the natural world is telling them.

Nothing in this natural realm can compare to what His kingdom has for you. He is everything we need. We were created to live in that realm NOW, not later. Healing is available NOW. Peace and joy are available NOW. Freedom from emotional pain is available NOW.

God is always moving in the spirit realm all around us, and He is waiting for us to get into alignment with His Kingdom. Miracles start breaking out in your life when you live according to the kingdom of heaven. Peter walking on water was possible

when he looked at Jesus and completely trusted Him. He actually walked on water! But when he started looking around at the wind and the waves, he stopped operating in the supernatural realm. Fear choked out his faith and it caused him to sink. He was afraid when he stopped looking at and trusting Jesus. He fell right back into operating from the natural realm because He did not keep his eyes on Jesus. As soon as he looked at his circumstances, fear took over and he sank.

If you are living according to the natural realm, you will have a hard time being able to flow in the spirit realm. That's why you need to understand this concept before we go any deeper.

The spirit realm is more real than the chair you are sitting on right now. Angels are all around you right now. There is one with you everywhere you go. Think about that for a minute.

I pray that God would open your eyes to see the reality of His kingdom and the unseen realm all around you. His kingdom is more real than this world. You never have to wonder if God has your back. He is backing you far more than you realize. Warrior angels are waiting to be mobilized by your prayers of faith to bring the victory.

It's time to realize who you really are and step into your position as a child of God, so you can defeat the powers of darkness and disease and release His kingdom on earth.

If you want to explore this topic deeper, there is a book that changed my life that I want to share with you. It is written by a man who was born with the ability to see in the spirit realm with his physical eyes. He grew up seeing angels and demons and is now an assistant pastor at a church. He shares his experiences and it gives you a glimpse of what really goes on in the unseen realm all around us. If you want to read it, the book is called ***The Veil*** by Blake Healy.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

Chapter 3

IDENTITY

A few months ago, I was in the middle of a conversation with someone when I noticed my stomach becoming knotted up. We were having a disagreement and my body was giving me signals that I needed to end the conversation before saying something I would later regret. It felt as if a black cloud was beginning to form over my head and I could feel depression setting in, so I went outside to get some fresh air and clear my thoughts once the conversation was over.

I walked down the driveway about one hundred yards to the mailbox and as I turned back towards the house, I suddenly saw a vision in my minds eye of myself wearing the full armor of God with an intricately carved metal sword hanging at my side. The sound of metal scraping asphalt from the tip of my sword dragging on the ground jolted me out of my momentary depression as I remembered who I really was and the authority I carried as a child of God.

Here I was complaining about the situation when all along I had the power to change the outcome. I had the sword of the Spirit and I was not even using it. At that moment, I realized if I were to remain in a depressed state of mind, I was believing that I was powerless and that I was a victim. Normally this situation would have made me want to call someone so I could get sympathy and validation to soothe my unpleasant feelings in order to feel better. I was looking for something externally to fix the problem, right? But the ironic thing was that I already was equipped to handle the problem. I just was not aware of it.

This story from my life illustrates the power of knowing our identity. When we understand our identity in Christ—who we are in Him—it changes the way we think, and we see heaven impact our life here on earth because we are living from His kingdom.

Our behavior starts from our beliefs, which determines our thoughts, which determines our words, and therefore, our actions. However, if we do not have a full revelation of our identity in Christ, we will think according to our old man and the beliefs we formed when we were growing up as children.

Our parents and others in authority in our lives play a central role in forming our beliefs and our outlook on life as adults. If your parents said something like, “You’ll never be able to do anything right. You’re no good”, then chances are you’ve struggled all of your adult life with taking risks because this belief you adopted about yourself has kept you feeling like you would always fail, so you were afraid to even try. Or maybe you were set on proving them wrong, so now you are a perfectionist in everything you do.

We all need love, safety, and belonging to feel ok and worthy. We are meant to get those things from our parents, but if that did not happen, we get our sense of worth and identity from what we do, how well we do it, and the approval of others. We look for external reasons to feel good about ourselves. If this is the case, we may have a hard time recognizing the distinction between our real identity in Christ and the way we behave, because the two things are one and the same in our minds.

If you don’t fully understand the love God has for you, you only have your abilities, the opinion of others, and the circumstances around you to get your sense of worth and they will control how you feel about yourself. Each of us has faced failure at

some point in our life that has caused feelings of condemnation that led us to believe we were unworthy of love.

This mindset can lead to depression, despair, shame, and hopelessness. Yet, when we are born again, we are born into God's kingdom and become His child. He gives us a new identity, a new nature, and forgives us of all our sin. As a child of the King, we are now royalty.

The enemy, the devil, deceives Christians into believing that the basis of their worth is their performance and the ability to please others. By doing this, most Christians remain stuck living according to the old man rather than experiencing love, peace, joy, and freedom from living according to God's kingdom.

The enemy's trap says: Self worth = Performance + Other's Opinions. This is what it looks like when we are caught in the trap of the enemy: Our attempts to meet our need for love, safety, and belonging fall into two broad categories: compulsiveness and withdrawal. On the compulsive side of the spectrum, you'll find those who work really hard to be a success and to please others around them. They are perfectionists who have to be in control of every situation. If a project is not done just right, if they aren't dressed just right, if they are not 'the best' at what they do, then they will work harder until they achieve it.

At the other end of the spectrum is the person who has withdrawn. They usually try to avoid failure and disapproval from others by avoiding risks. They appear easygoing, but inside they have been rejected or shamed by people in the past and are running from situations or relationships so they don't set themselves up for failure or rejection again. They feel shame, hopelessness, and inferiority around others.

You may relate to one more than the other, or you may fall somewhere in between, but all of us tend to only take risks where

we know we will succeed while avoiding people and situations that may bring rejection and failure. We tend to get our sense of identity from what we do and circumstances going on in our lives.

Here's the truth that you may not be aware of: Your identity and what you do—your behavior- are two separate things. It is easy to confuse the two because most people have a tendency to get their identity from what they do rather than from who they are.

Imagine you got in a car accident that caused head injuries which led to amnesia and hospitalization. You can't remember anything, yet someone comes to visit you and says he is your brother. You can't remember him but you have to assume he is telling you the truth. He tells you that when you were in the car accident not only did they find drugs in your car but you were also a drug dealer and criminal.

As a result, you become paranoid thinking about all the things that might happen to you when you get out of the hospital. You panic when you see a police officer walk down the hall. You stress over the money that you will owe the hospital and you are terrified that they will put you in jail.

Later that evening, another person comes to visit you and they also say they are your brother. This person hears you freaking out and says, "No, wait a minute. You are not a drug dealer and criminal, your dad is the mayor of this city and he told me to tell you he's got this. All your bills are paid for and as soon as you are better you can stay at his house for as long as you need."

You can see how your response is based on who you think you are. The belief that you are a criminal will cause you to act and think a certain way, while the belief that you are the son of the most powerful person in the city will also cause you to act and think another way.

This is the power of identity.

How do you know if you have an issue with your identity?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I operate out of insecurity?
- Am I jealous of others' successes?
- Do I serve God to earn His love?
- Do I self-medicate with food, alcohol, or drugs when I feel depressed, hurt, discouraged, sad, or frustrated?
- Do I struggle with self-worth?
- Do I fill the void by working constantly or staying busy all the time?
- Am I driven by the need to succeed?
- Do I use people to accomplish my goals?
- Do I struggle with anger or fits of rage?
- Am I always in competition with others?
- Do I receive my identity from material possessions, physical appearance, or activities?
- Do I feel like people cannot be trusted?

If you've answered yes to several of these questions, it's safe to say that maybe there is a heart issue that is deeply in need of healing and an identity issue in need of repairing.

If you do not understand your identity in Christ, it will influence your relationship with Him and even affect your Christian walk. You may tend to be focused on the external signs of what God is doing or not doing, rather than the relationship you have with Him. You may spend a lot of time and energy seeking God, reading the Word, and praying, as well as place high standards on other people and allow your pride to make you feel more "spiritual" than others, but blind to your own self-deception.

Let's look at the differences between behavior and identity.

WHERE IS YOUR IDENTITY COMING FROM?

External Source of Identity	Internal Source of Identity
Focused on doing	Focused on being
Feel like a servant or slave	Feel like a son or daughter
Earn God's love through works	Receive His love through grace, not works
Get value from what I do, so I fear failure	I am valuable for who I am, so failure does not threaten my worth and value
I must get external validation from others to feel good about myself	I am loved and accepted because of Jesus. My worth comes from the inside, not the outside
Performance / People-pleasing	What others think of me does not control me
If I fail, I am unworthy of love and deserve punishment	If I fail, it does not change my worth or value. Failure helps me learn.
I need to stay in control to get a specific outcome	I trust God and surrender control to Him
Fear of man	Desire to please God more than man
Results are the focus	God is the focus: the results are up to Him

When you were born again, you were born into the family of God and He calls us sons and daughters. You are a son or daughter by birth, not because you earned it. Someone who is a son does not do something to get that position, nor can he do anything that will cause him to lose that title. That's not possible! Nothing can change the fact that you are a son. There is nothing you can DO to earn it because you already HAVE it.

Think of it like this: If you are a parent, is there anything your baby can do to make you not love them anymore? You love them because they are your child, not because of what they do or don't do!

When you realize your true identity in Christ, you realize that your circumstances cannot influence who you are. What this means is that what happens in any circumstance should not affect how you feel about yourself nor how you feel about God. You are separate from your circumstances and you are created to influence them. That is who God created you to be.

Looking to anything outside of yourself for your identity is putting your trust in things outside of God, which is where the enemy holds you in bondage. It means that things have to be just right on the outside for you to feel good about yourself on the inside.

You were meant to get your love, safety, and belonging from your parents when you were a child. That's how God designed it. Love should come from parents who love us unconditionally because we are their child. Love comes from a person. It's the foundation our lives are built on.

If a parent rejected, shamed, abused, or neglected you early in life, you had to compensate and get love from other things, such as your work, your appearance, your performance, your status or approval from others. Your foundation shifted

from a PERSON to things because love and trust were broken at an early age, and you needed to get love from somewhere just to survive. When you worked hard at these things, you would feel the love that you had been missing, but if you failed, you felt like a failure and unworthy of love.

Obtaining your identity from your performance or external things you do leads to problems. One problem is that you cannot receive love from things or your performance. Love can only come from a PERSON. Getting love from what you do and how well you do it feels shallow and that's because it is. It's a poor substitute for the real thing.

You don't have to wait until you get to heaven to experience love, joy, peace, acceptance, and fulfillment as God's child. The kingdom of God is within you. If you don't know who you are, you will still think you NEED something that you already HAVE.

People have a tendency to want to break things down into a formula. For example, if I prayed this way and it worked, I will pray that way the next time to make sure God shows up. Wrong! That focus is on actions rather than identity. That focus is on performance and not relationship. Your answer is a person.

Put yourself in God's shoes for a minute. How would you feel if your relationship with Him was reduced down to a formula so you can get whatever you want from Him? Are you using Him to get your own desires met? Oh, how this hurts the heart of God! He is grieved by that. He just wants us to climb up in His lap and spend time with Him, not do something to manipulate Him to love us more or meet our needs.

It all comes back down to TRUST. When you know Him and His character, you trust Him. For example, when you were a kid following your mom as she was crossing the street and she suddenly grabs your hand and says, "Come here" because she sees what's coming so she can protect you.

In that moment, you have a choice. You can trust her and obey, or you can delay because you want to determine why she said to move now. One is operating out of trust and the other is trying to work it out on your own so you have a good reason to trust her based on what you can see. God wants us to trust Him without seeing and act like sons and daughters, which results in trust and faith in Him no matter what.

The enemy's favorite thing to do is make you forget who you are and render you powerless to defeat him. The enemy likes to use fear to cause you to doubt God and His love for you. God is far more trustworthy than you can even comprehend. When you know who you really are as God's child and how much He is able to take care of you, you would laugh at such a ridiculous idea that there is anything to be afraid of.

The Holy Spirit, who is a part of the triune Godhead, lives inside of you. Any demon trying to harass you doesn't stand a chance at winning this battle when you know your identity. It's like a battle between an ant and an elephant. One command spoken with the assurance and the authority that comes from this realization, "leave in Jesus name", and the enemy is toast!

Understanding the love of God as our Father is what is needed to realize our true identity as a child of God and to be able to live according to His kingdom.

As an artist, God showed me that you are His masterpiece. Just like a painting on a canvas, you are a one-of-a-kind original. There is not another person that He made who is the

same as you. He decided when you would be born, what color eyes you would have, what the color of your skin would be, and if you would have freckles or not. He created your body, your personality, and He loves your weird quirks, your strange pinky toe that looks funny, your laugh, and your smile.

He loves you because He made you that way. You are perfect in His eyes. He designed every part of your body just the way He wanted it and He thinks you are perfect because He only makes perfect things.

As you have grown up, people may have abused, mistreated, shamed, or rejected you. Those things are like mud that gets caked on the painting, making it look dirty, damaged, or defective. Abusive words, sexual abuse, neglect, and even sickness can slowly build up until it covers the masterpiece to the point it becomes unrecognizable.

To identify yourself with the mud covering the painting is to think that the mud is the determining factor in who you are. You are still God's masterpiece underneath it all. All you have to do is to remove the dirt and mud that has been caked on over the years so you can be who God created you to be.

The mud is just on the surface, it's not the substance. It's just the enemy's lies, not the Truth. Anything that comes from the outside to try to make the masterpiece dirty does not change what it is inside. It's still a masterpiece: a work of art that nothing from the outside can change.

Nothing can change who you are. Yes, things happen in life that may be outside of your control. But what happens TO you does not change WHO YOU ARE. Nothing changes that. You are His child. The Creator of the universe is your Dad.

I encourage you to pray this prayer if you have struggled with your identity in Christ:

“Father God, I submit myself to you: spirit, soul, and body. My desire is to live from Your kingdom and not to live according to the flesh or carnal nature. I want to walk in my true identity in Christ and live in freedom that You already bought for me to walk in.

“I repent for believing the words that people have spoken over my life about my value and worth that are lies from the enemy. I repent for believing the lies that were spoken over me as the truth. I choose this day to come out of agreement with those lies that were spoken over me and instead, to believe Your Truth about me, God. I am your child. I am loved, accepted, and forgiven, in Jesus name.”

My prayer for you: In the name of Jesus, I break every word curse spoken over you that has affected your value, worth, and identity. I break it's power over you and I declare them null and void in the name of Jesus Christ! They no longer have any influence over you, in Jesus name.

Thank you Jesus for your blood that is healing every wound created by these word curses right now. I apply the blood of Jesus to those wounds. Thank you for healing them right now.

You are blessed. You are blameless. You are righteous. You are holy. You are accepted. You belong in God's arms. You are protected. You are safe. You are loved unconditionally. Holy Spirit, let the love of the Father be made known to the person reading this book right now. Clean out their love receptors so they can receive your love, so they can know their true value and worth. Fill every empty space with Your love right now. Amen.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

What lies do you believe about yourself that do not line up with God's truth? See the chart on page 58 for some ideas.

When did you first start believing those lies? What was happening in your life at that time?

What words were spoken over you as a child that caused you to believe those lies? Example: "You're never going to amount to anything!" "You're so stupid!" "You can't do anything right!"

PRAYER FOR COMING OUT OF AGREEMENT WITH LIES

It's important to come out of agreement with each lie you have believed. You can pray something like this:

“I repent for believing the lie that [insert lie]. I choose to come out of agreement with the lie that [insert lie here].”

“In the name of Jesus, I declare that these lies no longer have any power over me. Instead, I choose to believe Your truth. Thank you for renewing my mind to Your truth of my identity in Christ as your child.”

Take the time to go through each lie one by one and by doing so, you are taking away the power they have had over your life. They are no longer holding you in bondage. You are free!

Next, write down a statement based on God's truth that is the opposite of each lie you've believed. This is how you will renew your mind to God's truth. Example: If you feel unlovable, write down: “I am valuable to God and worthy of love”.

Place them where you will see them everyday, such as on your bathroom mirror, on your refrigerator, on the screen on your phone, etc.

- Say each statement aloud each day to change the way you think and renew your mind to God's truth of your identity. It may feel like a lie at first, but over time, it will become the truth to you as you say it. Eventually you will believe it.

For further study of this topic, read:

- *Search for Significance* by Robert McGee
- *From Slavery to Sonship* by Jack Frost
- *The Supernatural Ways of Royalty* by Kris Vallotton

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

Lies From Enemy	Comes From	God's Truth	Verses	After Lie Is Renounced
<p>If I fail, I am unworthy of love.</p> <p>I am a failure.</p>	<p>Fear of Failure.</p> <p>Perfection-ism.</p> <p>Performance.</p> <p>Driven to succeed.</p>	<p>While I was a sinner, Christ died for me. I did nothing to earn His love. It is by grace, not by works.</p>	<p>Romans 5:1</p> <p>2 Cor. 5:21</p>	<p>I am deeply loved by God.</p> <p>I no longer fear failure and can let go of control and trust God.</p>
<p>I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.</p> <p>I'm a perfectionist.</p>	<p>Fear of failure.</p> <p>Perfection-ism.</p> <p>Works vs grace.</p> <p>Performance Driven.</p>	<p>While I was a sinner, Christ died for me. I did nothing to earn His love. It is by grace, not by works I can do.</p>	<p>Romans 5:1</p> <p>2 Cor. 5:21</p>	<p>I am deeply loved & accepted by God.</p> <p>I feel good about myself even when things are not perfect.</p>
<p>I am what I am.</p> <p>I cannot change.</p> <p>I am hopeless.</p>	<p>Feelings of shame.</p> <p>Inferiority.</p> <p>Isolation.</p> <p>Withdrawal from others.</p> <p>Depression.</p>	<p>Because I am born again, I am a new creation in Christ.</p>	<p>Eph 2:4-5</p> <p>2 Cor. 5:17</p>	<p>I am complete in Christ. The Holy Spirit empowers me to change.</p>
<p>I must be approved by others to feel good about myself.</p>	<p>Fear of rejection.</p> <p>Overly sensitive to criticism.</p> <p>People pleasing.</p>	<p>I am totally accepted by God and no longer have any fear of man.</p>	<p>Col. 1:21-22</p>	<p>Desire to please God no matter what people think of me. Able to be myself around people.</p>
<p>I am unlovable.</p>	<p>Rejected by parent.</p> <p>Abandonment.</p> <p>Love is scarce.</p> <p>Insignificant</p>	<p>God created me perfect in His eyes and He loves me deeply.</p>	<p>Psalm 139:13</p>	<p>I am lovable.</p> <p>I have value and worth because I know how much God loves me.</p>

Chapter 4

THE SECRET PLACE

If you try and operate in the spirit realm without knowing how it works, you might have an experience similar to this one in Acts 19:13:

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

This is an example in the Bible that demonstrates how your personal relationship to Jesus is paramount to operating in the supernatural. You can't rely on someone else's relationship. You can't rely on your pastor's relationship with Jesus. You can't rely on your husband's relationship. The Jewish exorcists in Acts were trying to battle the demons by the Jesus who Paul knew. Because they did not have their own relationship with Jesus, they had no authority to speak in His name. The demons knew that, so they retaliated and beat them up.

Demons understand spiritual protocol even if you don't, and if they sense that you are just reciting words that you've heard someone else say and you don't KNOW Jesus intimately,

they know they don't have to obey you. If you don't know who you are in Christ and the authority you have because of your relationship with Jesus, you will fall short of victory when you pray. Reciting Bible verses based on head knowledge without the power of the Spirit of God behind it is not effective. You have to KNOW Him. And when you KNOW Him, YOU become KNOWN in the spirit realm. You are known in the spirit realm because of your relationship with Jesus. The demonic spirits know Jesus' authority and they know that they have to leave when He says leave.

I've seen a lot of people get hung up on the specific words to use when they pray, but I've found it is not as important as what you say, than WHO says it. When you are His child, and His Spirit lives in you, it's His Spirit speaking through you. Therefore, it's not you they are obeying, it's Him.

You will have a reputation in the spirit realm from hanging out with Jesus, and demons know they have to flee when you say the word. But if you don't have a relationship with Him, they don't have to listen to you. If you are not submitted to Him, you won't carry His authority when you speak so they don't have to listen to you. That's why they can keep tormenting you and beating you up! You'll find that in this situation, your prayers do not get results. Reading about Jesus is not the same thing as having a relationship with Him. Of course it is important, but it's not a substitute for a relationship.

In John 5:39, Jesus says to the Pharisees, *"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is they that bear witness about Me. Yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life."*

Jesus is saying that just reading the Bible is not enough to know Him. How do we know Him?

When we think of spending time with God, we think of prayer. When we think of prayer, we think of those times when we are asking God to intervene in our lives. But if someone were to listen in on our prayer time, they might think that it sounds more like a one-way conversation since we are doing all of the talking. Is that really a relationship? A relationship is a two-way conversation, where we listen to what the other person is saying as well as sharing our heart too.

Can you see how it's easy to be busy doing good things for God, such as reading the Bible, praying, going to church, but still not be in a real relationship with Him? This is how we can become stunted in our growth and ineffective in the spirit realm.

When we pray to God about the circumstances in our life that are in crisis, it's easy to pray from a place of fear, anxiety, and desperation. This is what happens when you are living only in the natural realm, rather than from God's kingdom. When you pray from this position nothing changes, and the angel army is not released on your behalf because you are not speaking by faith, which activates the spirit realm. Anything spoken from fear, anxiety, or stress, may help you get it off your chest, but it typically does not move any mountains. Faith is what moves mountains. It moves things from the spirit realm to the natural realm.

Example prayer in fear: "Oh God save me from this crisis. I know it's not your will for this to be happening to me. Please hear me and answer me." We pray as if God is out there somewhere and He can decide to come down and save us from our problem. But this is backwards. If you are a child of God, His Spirit lives inside of you and when you have a relationship with Him, prayer looks completely different. Example: "Oh God, how I love you. You are my everything. Nothing compares to you. Thank you for..... All of my cares I give to you. I just want to spend time in Your presence."

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

We surrender our cares, our circumstances, our worries, our desires and focus on Him. When we spend time with Him, we start to see our circumstances from His perspective. Fear and anxiety fades away in His presence. By surrendering to Him, we are loving Him for who He is, not for what He can do for us.

Everything changes in His presence. After making this a habit, we get into alignment with His desires, and He reveals His viewpoint on our situation, giving us divine insight into the matter. He may show us something that we are believing that is not in alignment with His truth that is holding us back.

When we see His perspective of the situation and pray His words, the Spirit breathes life on them and that's when things change.

Our communication with God should not be reduced to just getting what we want. His world is more real than this one and as His children, we need to align with His world. When we do this, we begin to see things from His perspective. He called us to be His followers. He has a plan and an agenda that is bigger than our agenda. God's kingdom is not about Him working for you. It's about you working for Him. God wants to be the one in charge but we have to turn over the reins of control to Him.

During prayer, you need to learn to recognize when you are operating in the spirit realm versus operating in the natural realm. The goal in prayer is to not pray until God hears you, but until you hear God. It's not about going down a list of prayer requests. It's about being with Him and hearing His voice.

The more you spend time with Him and rest in His presence, the more you are able to discern when you are operating out of your spirit, and the more you do it, the more you start to live from that place all the time.

The most important thing you can do as a Christian is to live from a place of intimacy with Him because everything flows from that place. Even Jesus would spend time with the Father. He woke up well before the sun to fellowship with the Father. And everything He did on this earth happened because of what He heard from the Father in the secret place. That's where He got His agenda for the day.

And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:5-13)

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your

shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation. (Psalms 91:1-16)

Notice that this verse says ‘*he who dwells in the secret place.*’ This is a daily practice not an occasional visit. It is not ‘he who visits.’ It is he who DWELLS. When you spend time in the secret place, things that have held you back, like old patterns of the flesh, start to fall away. His love penetrates your heart. Fear loses its grip on your life. His life flows into your body and you begin to realize that health is freely available in Him. You do not have to suffer at the whim of every germ or disease. He is your protection. This is how the spirit realm works. Stepping out from the cover of His wings makes you vulnerable to the enemy’s tactics.

‘*Because he has set his love upon Me*’ speaks of a relationship out of love. It is not the casual Christianity we see nowadays, where people spend maybe an hour once a week focusing on God.

This speaks of someone who is making God a priority by spending time with Him every day getting to know Him and love Him. When you do this, it doesn't matter what life circumstances look like. You are living *beyond life's circumstances*.

Here is a real life example of this principle in action: John Wesley had a heart which ached to be in tune with God's heart, but throughout the first part of his life and career, Wesley struggled to make that happen. Wesley tried his best to live a holy life, yet despite all that Wesley did outwardly, there was still a void inside him. He went to America as a missionary to the Indians, thinking to fill the void that way.

In 1735 John and Charles Wesley were on their way to America as Anglican Missionaries. Among the other passengers onboard were a group of Moravian Christians, who like Wesley were on their way to evangelize in the New World.

As Wesley's ship crossed the Atlantic, it encountered a powerful storm which tossed the ship around to the point that Wesley feared he would lose his life. During the storm these Moravians faced death with a quiet fearlessness, singing and praying as the weather and the sea raged. Wesley was terrified. Wesley recounts the event in his diary:

Sunday, 25.—At noon our third storm began. At four it was more violent than before. At seven I went to the Germans. I had long before observed the great seriousness of their behavior. Of their humility they had given a continual proof by performing those servile offices for the other passengers, which none of the English would undertake; for which they desired and would receive no pay, saying, 'it was good for their proud hearts,' and 'their loving Saviour had done more for them.' And every day had given them

an occasion of showing a meekness which no injury could move. If they were pushed, struck, or thrown down, they rose again and went away; but no complaint was found in their mouth. There was now an opportunity of trying whether they were delivered from the spirit of fear, as well as from that of pride, anger and revenge.

In the midst of the psalm wherewith their service began, the sea broke over, split the mainsail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks, as if the great deep had already swallowed us up. A terrible screaming began among the English. The Germans calmly sang on. I asked one of them afterward, 'Were you not afraid?' He answered, 'I thank God, no.' I asked, 'But were not your women and children afraid?' He replied, mildly, 'No; our women and children are not afraid to die.'

Wesley was both impressed and humiliated. In the face of death, the Moravians demonstrated a deep, calm assurance that Wesley hadn't found despite all his religious efforts.

The ship landed safely in Savannah, Georgia and while Wesley evangelized to the native Americans, he also probed for the source of the Moravians' inner peace. One day, the Moravian leader asked Wesley: "Do you know Jesus Christ?" Wesley was stunned by the question and replied that he knew that Jesus was the Savior of the world. The Moravian leader countered by asking if Wesley knew that Jesus had saved him.

It wasn't until years later, back in London, that Wesley understood and received Christ as his personal Savior.

The power of God in your life and the inner peace you have is a good indicator of how much time you have spent with Him in the secret place. The closer you get to Him and the longer you stay

there, the more saturated you become with His Spirit and you begin to live more in the supernatural realm than in the natural realm. You learn what pleases Him, and what grieves Him. You learn what He is doing and your destiny becomes clear.

The longer you stay in the presence of God, the more of his Spirit will remain with you in your daily life and it's easier to walk in the supernatural. He oozes out of you and begins to affect everything around you. You begin to feel Him with you when you are out in public or with friends.

However, the more you stay in the atmosphere of this world, and neglect the secret place, the longer it will take you to "warm up" to God. You will have a harder time walking in the supernatural, or having faith. The secret place is easy to neglect because you won't get recognition for it. No one sees it but God. If you neglect the secret place, you will be like the ten virgins in Matthew 25:

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door

was shut. Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The oil keeps the lamps burning bright so the lamps do not go out. The five foolish did not have enough oil to keep their lamps lit until the Bridegroom's return.

The oil represents intimacy with Him in the secret place. You can't borrow it from someone else. You can't borrow from your spouse's relationship with Jesus. He is preparing His bride for His return and we have to have an abundance of oil in this season.

You need that one-on-one time spent with Him to keep the fire burning bright. To lay down your life for Him is about going deeper in Him. To go higher in the things of God, you must go lower. To seek His face for no other reason than to know Him.

He who finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake, will find it. (Matthew 10:39)

The secret place is about surrender: letting go of control and trusting Him. This is what unlocks heaven on your behalf.

Make time each day to spend in the secret place. Some people find that the early morning hours are the only time there is quiet in their house. Find a place that you can lock the door so you can relax and focus on Him without anticipating someone interrupting you.

To tune out the world around you and to drown out noise, turn on quiet instrumental music or put in earplugs. Be sure to put your phone on airplane mode so it's not a distraction.

Most of us are so used to the constant busyness and noise of daily life that disconnecting from everything will feel hard at first. That is completely normal, but it will get easier the more you do it.

Your mind will have a tendency to wander as you think about things that you forgot to do so have paper and a pen near you. As things come up, just write them down so you can remember them later. This will enable you to let go of those things and put your focus back on Him.

Don't beat yourself up if your mind wanders, this is natural. Just let it come back to Him. God gives us grace so it's important to give ourselves grace.

If you don't know what to do, start by thanking Him for everything you are grateful for. When you focus on the good things He has done, you will notice that your mindset will shift from fear and worry to peace and contentment.

Surrender or yield to Him. Let go of those cares and worries, and put them on the altar. That is what surrender is. Whatever you place on the altar, you are letting go. Put yourself on the altar, your job, your family, your ministry, what you think your life should look like, and let Him have it all. This means you have released the outcome to Him and you are willing to hear anything He speaks. You have let Him have control. The more you let go of control, the more He can take over your life in a supernatural way and use it for His glory. Less of me, more of Him.

Once your mind gets quiet from all the chatter, just sit and meditate on Him. You are tuning into heaven's realm: God's kingdom. If you fall asleep it's ok. If you can't calm your mind it's ok. Just ask Him for help. Tell your mind to submit to your spirit, in Jesus name. Spending time in His presence and getting to know Him will make you become more like Him. He shows you areas in

your life that do not line up with Him and as you wash them in His blood He changes you without you having to work at being different. The most challenging thing about spending time in the secret place is getting past your flesh. It can be difficult because we have our own thoughts, worries, plans, and agenda. We have to lay that aside so we can just focus on Him.

This takes practice and becomes easier the more you do it. He is always waiting on us, ready to reveal so much to us if we would just take the time to be with Him. You may say, “Well, I’ve done that and I didn’t feel anything or hear anything”. Do it until you do. Press in beyond your comfort zone. Like all relationships, it takes time. How much time? I find it takes a while to get past myself and become still where I can hear Him.

Sometimes my mind can be like a persistent demanding toddler that does not want to obey. Your flesh or carnal nature can be very dominant and it may take you thirty minutes just to get past the chatter in your head so you can actually focus on Him. That’s ok. Once you get to that place where all your cares and concerns just melt away and you are overcome with His presence, whatever time it took you to get there is worth it. Keep yielding to Him until you find that place of rest.

How do you know when you’ve gotten there? When His kingdom becomes more real to you than this world, that’s how you know you have entered into the secret place. When you have forgotten about your problems, and you are so captivated by His presence, that you have forgotten you even had problems, then you are in the secret place. You are in the secret place when you see things from His perspective. His voice becomes more clear and His plan for your life begins to come into focus.

You are changed just from being in His presence. This is what Jesus said when He said to abide in Me in John 15. Even though He may not speak a single word to you, just remember that spending time with Him is not about what you walk away with.

You may not even know what happened from being in the secret place, but you feel different afterwards. Peace is found in this place. Love is found in this place because His presence fills you up.

Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

SETTING UP A SECRET PLACE:

- Find a place where you will not be disturbed for a period of time. It can be a guest room, a closet, a basement room, or even a secluded spot outside.
- Lock the door so there will be no interruptions.
- Put your phone away or put it on airplane mode so no one can call or text you.
- Have a blank pad of paper or a journal and a pen nearby to write down what God tells you.
- Have a Bible in the secret place.
- Earplugs or soft music playing in the background to drown out distractions can help if noise is an issue.

SET ASIDE A SPECIFIC TIME:

- Have a set time each day where you can give Him your undivided attention.
- Start out with gratitude and then surrender yourself to Him until He becomes more real than the world around you.
- Spend time meditating on Him and listening to what He wants to say.
- Then ask, “Holy Spirit, help me pray.” Pray from His perspective - whatever He puts on your heart. Don’t worry about your own needs or your prayer requests. He will take care of them when you seek Him and do whatever He is telling you to do.

Chapter 5

WOUNDED WARRIORS DON'T WIN

You may know of someone who never seems to get the victory over anything in their life. They may go from one prayer line to another, one personal prophecy to another, one conference to another, fervently seeking an encounter from God to lift their spirits. They feel better temporarily, but fall back into oppression brought on by the enemy. They keep having the same problems over and over again. This is something you'll see in a surprising number of Christians because the church does a great job at getting people saved, but they are not as good at helping people heal their soul from past hurts so they can live in freedom.

People tend to blame their problems on the devil, but many times they have unknowingly let him have access to their lives because they are not following the protocols of the kingdom of God. They have given the enemy legal right to torment them.

Remember that Jesus died so you could be free, but if you do not claim your freedom, you can still be tormented. A child of God cannot be possessed by demons, but they can be influenced or oppressed. Christians who have wounds in their soul, or have not forgiven those who have wronged them, have unknowingly given a place to the enemy to harass them.

Freedom is available because of the price that was paid when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus paid for all of our sins so that we can be free of physical suffering, emotional torment, and death! Forgiveness is the very crux of the Christian faith. It is why Jesus came to earth and died on the cross, so that we could be forgiven for all our sins.

The God of heaven and earth, who spoke galaxies into existence, loved you so much that he willingly gave up all of His rights and power to be born as an ordinary man on this earth. He became one of us. He left all that He had in heaven and came to serve mankind. What kind of love does that?

He was willing to be tortured, spit on, laughed at, mocked, betrayed, hated, and whipped until his flesh was torn from his body and then His last words were: “Father, forgive them.” Even His own disciples denied Him that day— the ones he spent three intimate years with! What enabled Him to do that? What enabled Him to forgive them? He saw past the natural realm into the supernatural realm. He saw these people were hurting Him because of their own hurts. He saw them from God’s perspective and did not take it personally. He knew that what He was about to do would unleash the unconditional love of God into the earth and that His sacrifice would make a way for them to be set free.

He forgave us because He loved us, not because we deserved it. We did nothing to deserve it. His precious blood that was spilled on our behalf opened our prison door that day at Calvary! Often times, we think living a good life and being a good person is all God cares about. Yet, He desires so much more for us.

In the garden of Eden, there were two trees: one was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the other was the tree of life. Sin came into the world because Adam and Eve willingly chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That means that sin is not just about doing evil. We think of sin as terrible things that people do. But if we are doing good on our own, it can still be coming from a wrong motive, which is displeasing to God. It can be motivated by pride, self-righteousness, or legalism. It can come from that tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Good or evil can be done apart from the LIFE of God. The

tree of life is where His life flows. You can do all sorts of good things by your own effort, even in the church, but if it's not coming from the tree of LIFE, then what good is it?

The tree of life is where we operate by His spirit. That is where you know Him and live from a place where you abide in Him. Good works and life are not the same thing. You can do good works by the flesh and it will amount to nothing if He did not tell you to do it. Life, on the other hand flows out of the secret place. It is when His Spirit breathes life on what you do and His power flows through you to impact the world around you. This is where you are doing what He called you to do and flowing with Him by the Spirit.

It's easy to take the blood of Jesus and the forgiveness of God for granted, especially if you don't have a sordid past. We forget that pride, arrogance, selfishness, living in fear, doing good deeds outside of God are also unpleasant to God. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) We cannot do enough good to save ourselves. We cannot earn salvation.

Jesus died on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the entire world. Everyone was forgiven from that point on: people who had done evil, good, and everything in between. He forgave the sins of all people, even those who had not chosen to receive His gift. All are forgiven, even though all are not saved. Receiving the gift of salvation is a choice for everyone to accept or deny.

Forgiveness is the whole foundation that our salvation is built on and everything centers around this. It is the whole point of the gospel and because of this, God makes it very clear about unforgiveness in the Bible. So let's take a moment and look at what the Bible says about forgiveness and how it relates to the spiritual protocols we've been talking about so you can see how His kingdom works.

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:9-15)

This is the model prayer that Jesus gives us, and in it He talks about forgiveness. I'd say that He is making it a pretty important subject if it's included in the Lord's prayer.

When most of us think of forgiveness, we think of people who have hurt us. We think if we were to forgive them, it lets them off the hook for what they have done. Because what they did was wrong, we can't do that. I'm not denying the hurt that has been done and the wounds it has caused. But the blood of Jesus covers every sin, even the ones committed against you.

Unforgiveness doesn't just hide in the background, it festers because it is a wound that affects our soul and spirit. These wounds fester over time and turn into bitterness, resentment, and hatred. We think we are getting back at the person who hurt us by withholding forgiveness, but it's really just our way of maintaining control over the situation that hurt us and getting justice for the wrongs that were done to us. We think unforgiveness does the most damage to the person we are not forgiving, but it actually affects us and our relationship with God far more.

In the Lord's prayer, it states clearly that God expects us to forgive. In fact, God expects forgiven people to forgive

others so much so, that He connects His forgiveness of us with our forgiveness of others. He has given us the stipulation that if we do not forgive others, He will not forgive us! That's very significant.

How many times do I need to forgive someone? That's what the disciples asked Jesus one day. I think that's a reasonable question.

Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Whenever Jesus is saying, “*the kingdom of heaven is like...*” it is showing us how His kingdom works and we need to pay attention. In this story, Peter thinks he is doing good by saying, don’t we only need to forgive seven times? It was twice as many times as the Pharisees said that you need to forgive. But when Jesus said seventy times seven which is four hundred and ninety, he is saying that there is no limit to how many times you should forgive.

To make His point, Jesus used a parable about a wealthy man. The wealthy ruler went to a man who owed him 10,000 talents, which in that day a talent equaled fifteen years worth of wages. So 10,000 talents represented 150,000 years worth of wages. There was no possible way for him to pay the debt so when the man pleaded for a chance to pay it back, the ruler had compassion on him and forgave him his debt. One would think he would have been grateful and gracious to others, but he was not. The forgiven man then went to someone who owed him some money, which was only about a hundred days wages. When the debtor could not come up with the money, he begged him for a chance to repay the loan but the man refused and threw him into prison. The one who had been forgiven an insurmountable debt refused to forgive someone of a small debt.

When the wealthy ruler found out what he had done after cancelling his debt, he was upset! He called him a wicked slave and turned him over to be tortured until the debt was repaid.

Then Jesus made this shocking statement: “*So shall my heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.*” He is talking to Peter and his disciples. Jesus is saying that when we refuse to forgive, we put ourselves in the position where the enemy can torment us.

We think that we are on moral high ground by demanding justice for the wrongs committed against us but what we can't see is that in the spirit realm for every time we do not forgive, we get a wound. Before you know it, we are walking around with wounds caused by unforgiveness all over our soul.

Every situation that has not been forgiven causes a separate wound. Our self righteousness can blind us to the pain those wounds are causing us and the pain from those open wounds cause us to hurt others.

We then find ourselves talking about the person who has hurt us in an attempt to cause them to suffer for the awful things they did to us. Yet in reality, it just keeps the wound open and festering. In doing this, you have no idea that this is just enlarging your wound and causing your own spiritual life to be handicapped as you walk around wounded yourself—far more than you realize.

Unforgiveness hurts you the most because wounds keep you from being set free to experience the love of Christ. You will never get dominion over darkness with wounds and unforgiveness in your soul that are keeping you bound and tormented. Wounded warriors don't win. I think that is why God is so adamant about this issue! Everything in the Bible centers around the cross and forgiveness so if you don't understand the value of that spiritual transaction, then nothing else will matter.

If you are unforgiving, His love cannot flow through you. God IS LOVE! This means that the very essence of the gospel is not able to be made manifest in your life.

An even bigger problem that arises with unforgiveness is saying that the person who wronged you owes you for their sin against you. As you hold this against them, you are in essence exalting yourself above God by saying “No God, what Jesus did on the cross for their sin is not good enough for me. They must pay me back for what they did. Jesus’s blood was not enough.”

You not only devalue the cross but you also stand in the judgement seat by making that person accountable to you rather than to God. You are saying that they need to answer to you instead of to God for what they did. You are taking the place of God in their life. Are you capable of casting judgement on someone? That is a very dangerous place to be. I can only imagine what God might say: “Oh yeah? How would you like to get what you deserve? I have saved you from so much that you could never repay! And now you will not forgive their smaller debt? Because I have already said that what they did to you was forgiven too. If you go against My word, then you are in danger yourself.”

Forgiveness does not say that what happened to you is ok. It just says that Jesus took their sins upon Himself and He paid for it just like He did yours.

God expects forgiveness because we have been given so much that when we choose not to forgive others, it shows that we have not fully grasped how much WE have been forgiven. We don’t deserve forgiveness any more than our offender. Remember, Jesus died for ALL sins, even the ones committed against you. This is why God expects us to forgive.

Unforgiveness is a sin. It keeps us bound and handicapped in our Christian life. It opens the door to the enemy and is an abomination to God and everything He stands for.

Wounds are like emotional landmines. How do you know if you have wounds and unforgiveness in your life? They are

hiding out just underneath the surface and they are always festering. You may not realize they are there, but it's pretty easy to spot them when something happens to trigger you. When someone happens to step on your landmine suddenly, they fire off!

How do you know when a landmine goes off? Have you ever had someone say something to you and you overreacted before you knew it? Something someone did or said triggered a strong emotional response in you and you got angry, defensive, or upset. This is what it feels like to uncover a wound that has not been healed. Raw emotions bubble up to the surface even though you've tried to deal with them or suppress them. These negative emotions cause you to either explode or implode.

You can tell you've been triggered by how you feel. You may suddenly feel tense but you are not sure why or your stomach starts knotting up. Some wounds are on a subconscious level and we will feel the effects in our physical body, and then only later to consciously realize what had caused them.

SIGNS THAT YOU ARE DEALING WITH WOUNDS

- Hurt or bitterness that does not go away— a sign is that you want to talk to others about how you've been wronged
- Irritability or being easily frustrated at others
- Oversensitive - it's easy for you to overreact to minor things
- Lashing out; anger towards God or others; retaliation
- Self-hate
- Feelings of hopelessness; cannot receive God's love
- Perfectionism, performance driven, fear of rejection
- Obsessive thoughts— something happened and you just keep replaying it in your mind; it's on loop
- Fear, worry, anxiety that runs your thought life

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

Wounds become the filter that we see everything through and clouds our vision so that we are not able to see things the way God sees them.

When these landmines are not dealt with, there will be collateral damage from them as you continue to get triggered over and over again throughout your life. If your negative emotions get the best of you, they will run your life. It will make it hard to do what God's called you to do and walk according to the spirit.

Wounds in your soul can block God's ability to work in your life because the enemy has a legal right to harass you. They can block blessing, healing, and your ability to flow in the supernatural.

If you feel like God is distant or that something has gotten between you and Him... If you are getting beat up by the enemy and problems of life...If you identify with any of the signs of wounds that I just listed earlier, then unforgiveness could be the reason.

You can be set free from emotional landmines and the torment they cause. The demonic has to go when we forgive. Forgiveness sets US free. You will not have power over the enemy if you harbor unforgiveness.

When you find yourself being triggered, pay attention. What emotion did it stir up in you? Then go to a quiet place and when you are alone in prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to show you the wound that was touched on. It may be something that reminded you of what your mom or dad used to say to you, or it uncovered a fear you didn't realize you had, or maybe it reminded you of a past trauma. It is time to deal with the wound right away.

When you are spending time in the secret place in prayer and you feel tension in your body, pay attention to that. Tension in your body can be a sign of an emotional wound that needs to be addressed.

The good news is that you will gain more emotional stability as your wounds are healed. Those landmines are dug up and permanently disposed of to the point that wounds and trigger points begin to lessen and peace is restored.

As you regularly spend time in the secret place, the Holy Spirit will reveal wounds in your soul that are holding you back. He brings up these things so you can be free and be able to operate in the spirit realm effectively. You no longer have to live stressed, anxious, fearful, worried or wounded all the time. It breaks my heart to see Christians living like this because the price for their freedom has already been paid.

You may be thinking, 'But I've already forgiven ___'. Forgiving someone is not the same as forgiving the specific wounds that were caused. You don't forgive people, you forgive the wounds they caused.

This is a vital concept that is often times misunderstood which causes Christians to have the wrong mindset towards forgiveness. You need to be specific with the details, not general. You can't say, "*I forgive my Dad*". What are you forgiving him for? For existing? You have to be specific about what he did. Wounds are injuries done to us, so you have to forgive the wounds rather than the person. You need to say, "*I forgive my Dad for these specific things _____ , _____ , _____*". List the specific things he did or said that caused the wounds.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The first step to healing wounds is recognizing how much YOU have been forgiven. Jesus wants you to know to the depths of your soul what His death on the cross did for you.

Next, ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind the things others have done to hurt you. Ask Him to bring to your memory every situation that needs to be forgiven— every wound to be healed.

Don't get caught up in reliving the painful memory unless He is leading you to go there. When He shows you what the wound is, walk through this process of forgiving that person for the specific things that they did. Transfer their debt to the cross and visualize the wound. Then apply His blood to it and let His light heal it and by faith it is healed.

If you continue to be triggered by it, then either you didn't really forgive the wound or you need to ask God to reveal other wounds related to it. There can be many wounds connected to a specific incident that need to be healed.

When you are triggered by something and you are not sure why, simply ask God to show you what it is. Once you have asked Him what the wound is, sit quietly and listen. He is faithful and will show you.

Sometimes deep wounds may not be easy for you to deal with on your own, so you may want to work with someone who can help you uncover them so you can be healed. If you are not making progress, you should connect with someone who has experience in the area of inner healing who can help you.

The way that you know that you've really forgiven someone is that now you can pray a blessing over them from your heart and mean it. You will no longer be triggered when you think of

them because you are not holding on to unforgiveness towards them. You have transferred that debt to the cross and your wound from that incident is now healed.

FORGIVENESS PRAYER

Here are the steps to forgiving someone. This should be said aloud.

- First acknowledge that God has forgiven you by thanking God for forgiving your debt that you could not repay.
- Now repent of the sin of unforgiveness. Example: ***“Lord, I repent for the sin of unforgiveness... .”***
- Forgive the person’s specific offenses by saying: ***“Lord, I choose to forgive _____ from my heart for _____ [list all the hurtful things in detail]”*** Don’t rush this part.
- When you stop coming up with things, say ***“Holy Spirit, show me right now if there is anything else I need to forgive _____ for.”*** Listen for anything else to be revealed.
- Once you are finished, visualize all of those things you listed at the foot of the cross and Jesus’s blood dripping down and covering every single one of them.
- Now say this: ***“I declare that _____ is no longer in my debt. I transfer their debt to the cross and their debt is forgiven. They owe me nothing. The blood of Jesus has paid the price.”***
- Pray a blessing over the person you forgave. This demonstrates that forgiveness is complete if you can do it without any problems. It should be a specific and detailed blessing, not just a one sentence prayer.

For further study on this topic, see the book ***Forgiving Forward*** by Bruce Hebel.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

Chapter 6

RENEWING THE MIND

Your spirit is the part of you that is made new when you are born again, but your mind is not instantly changed. It needs to be renewed to think according to the kingdom of God. You have old thought patterns and beliefs that do not line up with the Word of God. Your mind has been programmed by the environment you grew up in, your parents, experiences, the media, culture, or teachers, and this programming is a result of living in the natural realm and according to the world's system. Your mind will continue to function the way it was programmed as a child until you reprogram it. It's our job to renew our minds to line up with what His truth is.

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. (Romans 12:2)

Scientists are discovering the role of the mind in many areas of our lives, especially the health of our body. Eric Kandel, a Nobel Prize winning neuropsychiatrist, has found that our thoughts can affect our DNA and can turn certain genes off and on and change the structure of the neurons in the brain. Research now shows that 75 to 90 percent of mental, physical, and behavioral illness comes from one's thought life. What this means is that only 10-25 percent of mental and physical illness comes from the environment and genes.

God has given us a prefrontal cortex which no other mammal has and it allows us the incredible ability to observe our own thinking. This allows us to CHOOSE how we are going to respond through our thoughts and actions. People tend to react according to the default habits of thinking they grew up with. They may not realize they can change the way they think!

Every thought we think changes and shapes our DNA. We have countless variations of genes that can switch on or off depending on our thoughts and lifestyle. Toxic thoughts switch off DNA codes that lead to healing and turn on genes you have that may be predisposed to a disease or illness. Positive thoughts switch on genes that heal and override any 'bad genes' you may have.

Our genetic make-up is fluctuating by the minute based on what we are thinking and choosing to dwell on. Toxic thoughts act as a signal that will interrupt normal gene expression which keeps your body from health.

Epigenetics is a new scientific discovery proving that we can change our genetic expression. Our thoughts and our lifestyle control how our genes express themselves. Even if you have a 'bad' gene or predisposition for something, your choices determine if that gene gets expressed or not!

Spiritually we know this is true from this verse in Proverbs: *As a man thinks, so is he. Proverbs 23:7*. Science has discovered that the brain can change and this is called neuroplasticity. The Bible calls it renewing the mind.

Dr. Caroline Leaf has written a few books on this subject called *Who Switched off My Brain* and *Switch on your Brain*. She says that each thought we think becomes a physical structure in our brain. The more we think about something, the more that structure grows. Researchers estimate that the average person has over 30,000 thoughts per day, and that the high majority are negative in most people.

Many people are not practiced at noticing their own thoughts and feel as if they have no control over them which causes them to run all day long like they are on autopilot.

We have the power to choose what we think about and therefore what neural pathways will be in our brain, which shape the way we see reality. We cannot control the events and circumstances of life, but we can control our reaction to those circumstances. That reaction changes our brain, controls our genes, and determines our health.

If your mind is not renewed it can block you from hearing what God is speaking to your spirit. This keeps you stuck operating in the natural realm. Therefore, this is very important to both our physical health and spiritual health.

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. (Ephesians 4:17-27)

This verse says we can give place to the devil in our lives. This happens when we believe the enemy's lies and fail to believe the truth. Just because you are born again doesn't mean you will walk according to the spirit all the time. Our mind and emotions continue to work on autopilot if you do not address them.

Here are some examples of what happens if you don't renew your mind: You pray about something in your life and surrender it to God to handle, but then you get on the phone with your friend and start complaining about it again. The problem is that you are speaking against what you just left in God's hands, and therefore stop the progress you were making in the spirit realm. God was working it out for you, but because you spoke against His truth, you've taken it back out of His hands.

Another example is if someone prayed for your health at church and then you go out to eat with a friend and continue to complain about what's wrong with your body. The complaining is going to affect any healing that God has started because you are speaking against it.

Another mental trap is self pity. Self pity glorifies sickness and celebrates what the kingdom of darkness is doing. If you want to talk about your health problems, you are not only failing to lay claim to what Jesus did for you, but you are helping to advance the kingdom of darkness. You have invited the kingdom of darkness into your house to stay. You have said to them, "Come on in, enemy! Would you like to stay a while? Can I get you some coffee or tea? Let's talk about how hard life is with this disease."

Healing cannot happen with a victim mindset or with self pity. You have to let go of the past and shake off the chains that Jesus has already unlocked for you. You have to willingly reject

your attachment to sickness and disease in your mind— even the good things you are getting from it, such as sympathy and attention.

A renewed mind is in agreement with God's kingdom. There is a change in how you think, talk, and act. Your thoughts, actions, and behaviors line up with the Word of God.

You renew your mind by changing the way you think about things, until every thought agrees with what the Bible says about it.

Why is this important? Because if you don't, you are choosing to believe a lie of the enemy rather than the truth and this keeps you in bondage to darkness. When you believe the truth of God's word, the darkness is easily defeated. Renewing the mind is the key to everything!

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

We have to fill our minds with God's truth and reject anything that is not God's truth. That means reading God's word regularly, being aware of your thoughts, and what you speak.

When you spend time with Him in the secret place and read His word, your mind becomes renewed as a natural result of being saturated with Him. One analogy I love is that when we spend time in the secret place, we become saturated with His presence, just like when a cucumber once it is placed in brine. If you put a cucumber into brine for an hour, not much happens. If

you take it out, it's still a cucumber. But if you keep a cucumber in brine everyday for a month, it saturates and penetrates the cucumber until it's no longer a cucumber; it's now a pickle. It's been changed all the way to the inside and has been transformed into something different. It can never go back to being a cucumber anymore. That's what renewing our mind is like.

A common problem is that most people neglect feeding their spirit and renewing their minds. Instead, they are saturated by the things of this world by watching hours of television that programs their minds with everything that is anti-Christ. Television and movies give you a steady dose of fear, violence, and anti-biblical perspectives that will influence your thinking which makes it more difficult to have faith, trust God, and operate in the things of the spirit.

We are called to be in this world but not of the world. We are not called to fit in because this is not our home. We are called to influence the world around us. If you struggle with anxiety, look at the areas in your life where you are being more saturated by this world's programming and disengage from those things. You are also influenced by the people you hang around, and if those people are always complaining, talking contrary to the Word of God, and pulling you down, find people who are where you want to be and hang around them.

Here's an example: When my business was starting out, I was not making much money. My husband had a part time job that had been affected by the economy. One afternoon, I remember him telling me that we didn't have money to pay our mortgage payment. This was something that had never happened before. I could have easily gone into fear about this situation but that would have been in opposition to the truth that God is my provider and He controls everything in my life. I had just watched Him intervene in my health journey when I surrendered my life to

Him, so why wouldn't I trust Him to make a way in this situation too? I chose to believe that He would provide for us even though there was nothing happening in the natural to provide the money we needed. I simply told God that I trusted in Him to provide for our needs and I did not allow fear or anxiety overtake me. I prayed something like this: 'Thank you God for your faithfulness in this area of my life before, and today I know that you are my Provider and I trust that you will make a way for me when there seems to be no way. You are my provision and I trust that you will take care of this need that we have to meet our mortgage payment this month.'

I let it go and did not continue to worry about it. I saw my need as a ball that I just passed to God, and said, 'Ok, God, it's your turn. I am giving this over to you to handle.' I trusted Him like I would trust my best friend to take care of something for me. That's what faith looks like. I really believed that He was more than able to meet our needs. A couple of days later, we were notified by our church secretary that someone had anonymously given a check to us in the amount of \$1000 and that we needed to come pick it up. We had not told anyone of our need, but God did! Wow! God is so good when we simply let go of control and trust Him.

Everything we believe originates in the mind. Most people are waiting for their circumstances to improve, and then they will believe God, but it's the exact opposite! You have to change the way you think, and THEN your circumstances will change. The word "repent" means to change the way you think. Most people think of repentance as changing their sinful behavior. When you think differently, your behavior changes automatically. You don't have to use willpower to muscle your way through behavior change.

You are either thinking and speaking according to the reality of the natural realm or God's kingdom. One will keep you stuck but the other will set you free. Talking about negative things is a classic sign of an unrenewed mind. Examples: "I am broke". "I am never going to get out of this mess". "This pain in my hip just won't go away". "Why can't I get over this?" "I can't believe I'm dealing with this again!"

When life has been difficult, it's only natural to want someone to validate our feelings by saying, "Hey, I hear you. I understand that must be difficult." We live in a culture where most people never feel validated. What is validation? It is being heard and understood. It's saying to someone, "I hear you. That must be very difficult for you."

Most people don't validate others because they are uncomfortable with the pain of others and they want to fix their problems rather than validate them. They want their problem to go away so they don't have to feel their pain. But that person does not feel heard or understood so they keep rehashing their problems, hoping to eventually find some validation.

I did this when I had my own health struggle. It was hard to comprehend the level of suffering that I was going through. I felt like I was losing my mind because of all the things going on. Life was upside down and it was very destabilizing. When my practitioner said, "What you are going through is completely normal given the level of physical suffering going on," it calmed me down, because I finally felt heard and understood.

When people are in survival mode, the fight/flight response is keeping them in a constant state of fear. This fear gets stronger when we don't feel heard or understood. This causes us to crave validation from people. That's why we get on the phone with someone and say things like: "Can you believe what's happening to me now?" We can't believe life can get this bad, and we are looking for someone to understand and comfort us.

However, if you seek validation rather than seeking God, don't expect your circumstances to change. If you choose to stay in a victim mentality about your health problems, it won't matter who prays for you to get healed, it will not happen because God has called you to be a VICTOR, not a VICTIM.

Remember that God has already provided the answer: He defeated the enemy by dying on the cross and being raised from the dead. Because of that, He has commanded us to speak to the mountain in our lives, not tell Him about our mountain. He has already made freedom possible.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. (Proverbs 18:21)

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. (James 1:26)

You have to discipline your mind to believe His truth above what you see in this natural world around you. It takes intention and the more you spend time with Him, the easier it is. It's just like going to the gym. The first few weeks are HARD! Your body is not used to having so many demands being placed on it and it has to adjust. Your muscles get sore, but the more you go, the easier it is and the more rewards you reap. You would not expect one visit to the gym to get you that six pack, right? It's the same way with your mind.

You are a spirit and your spirit needs to be fed just like your body needs healthy food to be healthy. You feed your spirit man every time you read the Bible, spend time in worship, pray, or seek Him. You cannot expect your spirit man to be strong and vibrant if you only do those things occasionally. The more you do it, the stronger you become in Him and it becomes easier over time.

Consciously controlling your thoughts means not letting thoughts run wild through your mind. Engage interactively with every single thought that you have, and analyze it before you decide either to accept or reject it. How do you go about doing that? By being the observer of your thoughts.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Be aware of your thoughts and notice when they are not lining up with the truth of what God says. Listen to what comes out of your mouth more closely and start to recognize when you are speaking out of your unrenewed mind or according to God's truth.

As you go throughout your day, think about the thoughts you have:

- How many times have you replayed in your head a conversation or situation that pained you?
- How many worst case scenarios have you lived in your mind of things that have not even happened yet?
- How many thoughts do you have that are negative self talk versus positive self talk?
- Do you ever make comments like "nothing ever goes right for me"; "everything I touch fails"; "I always mess up"?

Assess areas of your life where you are letting in toxic influences, whether it's from television, internet, movies, music, people, books, and begin to incorporate things that are supportive of a renewed mind. To renew your mind:

- Read or listen to the Bible everyday.
- Reject every thought that doesn't line up with the truth.
- Continue to declare the affirmations you created.

Chapter 7

THE SECRET OF POWER

Healing and miracles are a tangible manifestation of the kingdom of heaven affecting matter on earth. Matter changes when people are healed because pain leaves, cells are regenerated, and tumors disappear. This is a supernatural event orchestrated by a supernatural God.

What is this power that can cause matter to change in an instant? To answer this question we need to look at what makes up the Trinity and how God interacts with us today to manifest His kingdom on earth.

The Trinity is composed of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is ONE but is also three at the same time. If you use the sun as an example, God the Father is like the sun in the sky. If you look at its brightness you see one sun. However, there are three distinct elements: the sun, light, and heat. And so it is with the Trinity. The Father is like the whole sun, Jesus is like the light, and the Holy Spirit is like the heat you feel.

When we think of healing and miracles, we typically think of Jesus. Jesus's death on the cross was a spiritual transaction. His blood was shed to atone for our sins because He was without sin. He bore stripes and wounds to pay for our sickness and disease. He became separated from God so we never have to be. He defeated sin, sickness, and death once and for all. Because of that we can be saved, healed, and delivered. He became the King of Kings. That is not just a title. It means that He really has the authority over everything: sickness, cancer, depression,

death, etc. He is King over everything! If you are in His Kingdom, then He is your King and He reigns over all.

The spiritual transaction that took place over 2000 years ago is what enables us to access healing today. This is the basis for everything and gives us authority to speak for Him by commanding sickness to go. It has to obey because of the spiritual transaction that took place on our behalf. But Jesus is not here with us doing the healing and miracles today. So how are they accomplished?

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to His disciples:

Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover. So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:14-20)

Jesus is now in heaven sitting at the right hand of God. He left his disciples with the command to heal the sick. If He was no longer on earth, what was causing miracles to occur when the disciples laid hands on people?

Jesus told the disciples before He left:

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Then in verse 25: “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 14:15-29)

From this we see that God is in Heaven, Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God, and He sent the Holy Spirit who is the one who is here with us now.

Many people think that healing and miracles only happened because Jesus was the son of God. He did not do miracles to prove that He was God. He did miracles to prove that WE could— the same way He did: by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Up until the age of thirty, Jesus had done no preaching and had performed no miracles. Except for the fact that He was morally perfect, he had lived a rather normal life. When the time had come for Him to transition into His public ministry, the Holy Spirit came into the life of Jesus.

Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22)

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

From this point on Jesus is spoken of as being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:1 picks up the story, "*And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness.*" Luke 4:14 says, "*And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.*" And in Luke 4:18 Jesus Himself says, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden.*" From this point on we see that the whole life of Jesus is lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. That's when miracles started happening and the sick were healed.

Before He went to heaven, Jesus promised that mankind would have the Holy Spirit too. Jesus told disciples to wait in the upper room for the Holy Spirit. There were one hundred and twenty people in that room...waiting for ten days in prayer. Then they received the infilling of the spirit and the power to do what Jesus did.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

The Holy Spirit sounded like a mighty rushing wind. That is a good description because the Holy Spirit is not Someone you can see, but you can feel Him like when a wind blows through the trees and you see the branches move.

The Holy Spirit is the tangible Presence of God. He is the third member of the Trinity and He can be felt and the effect of His power can be seen. Healing happens, signs and wonders happen, and the atmosphere in a room can change.

The secret to power is the third person of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit. Any spiritual thing that you do- proclaiming the gospel, praying for healing, casting out demons, ministering to someone- is done by the Holy Spirit. You have to have the Holy Spirit to be able to do what God has called you to do. If Jesus needed the same Holy Spirit to do everything He did, why should we believe we don't need Him too?

The Holy Spirit does the work. He is the real power behind all healing and miracles. Disease and demons are subject to the kingdom of God because of the price Jesus paid on the cross. God's kingdom rules over them and His reality is manifested through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the power of the Trinity. And the amazing thing is that He can live inside of us!!

One of my favorite generals of the faith, John G Lake, says:

“You must be the recipient of the power and glory of the Spirit of God before you can manifest in your own life or minister it to others. The ministry of the Christian is really the ministry of the Spirit of God. You not only minister words to another, but you minister the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit that inhabits the words, that speaks to the spirit of another and reveals Christ in and through him. If you do not have the Spirit of God in you, you have nothing to minister. People may have intellectuality, but words without the Spirit cannot change someone's life. The Christian is supposed to be the possessor of the Spirit of the living God- something that no other religion can

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

possess. A minister of Jesus Christ is as far removed above the realm of psychological influences as heaven is above the earth. He ministers God Himself into the very spirits, souls, and bodies of people. This is the secret of Christianity.”

The truth is that you are a three part being: spirit, soul, and body. Most people by default live with their body and soul dominant to the spirit and this keeps them from living a supernatural life. They focus on the symptoms they feel in their body, which they consider as the truth. Their mind is focused on what they see around them and because their mind is not renewed to God’s truth, they typically live from a place of fear and worry.

They allow external things to control their actions and their behavior, not the Spirit of God. Their spirit is weak and is just going along with what the body and soul are saying is true. They have allowed the kingdom of darkness free reign in their life. They pray and they notice that not much happens. Healing, miracles, and operating in power is nearly impossible in this situation.

To walk in power, your spirit needs to be dominant and the body and soul should be submitted to the spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to dominate your spirit and bring you into alignment with God’s kingdom. As you yield to Him and spend time in the secret place, your spirit grows and develops until it dominates your soul and body.

If you fill your mind with worldly things and cares of this life, then your mind will dominate and break your connection with the Lord, which leaves your spirit weak. As a result, you will have very little faith and bear little fruit in your life. You must feed your spirit just like you feed your physical body with the word of God, and spend time in fellowship with Him.

As you do, the Holy Spirit will fill you up with more of Him, until your spirit becomes strong and influences your soul and body.

Healing happens when the Spirit of God is transmitted through the spirit of man. The Spirit of God was imparted by Jesus through laying His hands upon the sick. Again and again in the Word we read, *“He laid His hands on them and healed them.”* Indeed, the Spirit of God so radiated through and from His body that His clothing became impregnated by it. (Matthew 9:20)

The Spirit of God is what does the healing and we partner with Him when we pray for healing. It’s a joint effort. We do our part and He does His part. That’s why your relationship with Him is so important. We bring these things to the table: faith, surrender, and knowing who we are in Christ, and He brings the power to make matter change and the power to back up what we say. If we say, “pain leave now in Jesus name,” He is the One who makes it happen. We don’t have any power to make that happen in our own strength, so we are dependent on Him in this partnership.

His Spirit is in our spirit so we must pray from our spirit versus our mind. When we pray from our mind, we are speaking from the natural realm and there is no power of the Spirit in it. We must live and speak according to the Spirit. Healing is a spiritual even that is taking place. It’s the Holy Spirit inside of you releasing His kingdom and evicting the darkness or disease that has invaded the physical body.

You are just a clay vessel that is able to be full of the Holy Spirit so that when you do what He asks you to do, He makes things happen. You speak, and He is the One who is giving those words the power to convict sinners, to bring healing, or to cast out demons.

You can pray for the sick to be healed because of Jesus's transaction on the cross which gives you authority over sickness and disease. It's His authority. This is the first step: recognizing what gives you the legal right to heal the sick. It's Jesus.

The next step is to combine it with faith; the kind of faith that expects miracles to happen. Not wishful thinking or hoping it will happen, but KNOWING it will happen right now. It's not thinking God CAN heal them, it's KNOWING the Holy Spirit inside of you is being released to heal them RIGHT NOW, this very moment. That's faith. When you live from this place of faith, that's what causes healing and miracles to show up in the natural realm.

You are working with the Holy Spirit by inviting Him to work thereby giving Him the glory, listening for what He wants to do, speaking from the spirit of God inside of you and interacting with Him, rather than interacting with the person you are praying for. He leads you and shows you what to say when you pray. You pay attention to what He is doing and partner with Him in the process.

When you pray for someone, pray from your spirit, not your mind. Your mind or your soul should be submitted to your spirit, so it takes precedence. The Holy Spirit inside you is activated and when you pray with faith from your spirit, and it's like an explosion takes place in the spirit realm and healing happens.

John G Lake said that:

“Faith has the quality and power, with the Spirit of God, to do what a match does to powder. It is the touch of God. It is the touch of faith through us that ignites the Spirit and produces the divine action that takes place in the soul when sin is rebuked and cast out, when sickness is destroyed and dissolved from life.”

If you don't have faith, you are not bringing a lit match to the powder, so nothing happens. There is no faith to ignite the Spirit of God. Faith is the critical element needed to access God's kingdom and bring His reality into the natural world around us. When faith is present the Holy Spirit is released to accomplish the supernatural, and the supernatural overrides the natural. Matter is changed, tumors disappear, bacteria die, and demons flee.

When I pray for people, after praying for a few minutes, I check in with them to see what God is doing. I'll ask them what they are feeling- "Are you feeling heat, or tingling, is your pain level changing, what is Holy Spirit doing right now?" I'm finding out what my Partner, the Holy Spirit, is doing for them! This tells me what God is doing, so I know how to partner with Him in a more effective way. If they are getting better, but are not completely healed, I keep allowing the Holy Spirit to work through me by continuing to pray for them.

All you have to do is maintain a strong relationship with the Holy Spirit, listen to what He is saying, and do what He is telling you to do or say. You just follow His lead.

Many Christians do not talk much about the Holy Spirit, but He is an equal part of the Trinity and every bit as important as God and Jesus.

Holy Spirit's role is:

- Convict people of sin when the gospel message is presented
- Draw people closer in relationship to Jesus: glorify and magnify Jesus
- Teacher, Counselor, Guide: Make the Bible come alive
- Bring the power: Heal the body, perform miracles, etc.
- Activate the spiritual gifts to be used in ministry

The Holy Spirit is always at work and He works through us when we yield and surrender to Him. He will not intrude into your life without being invited, so you have to yield to Him in order to encounter Him. The Holy Spirit is more real than the chair you are sitting on right now.

When you are paying attention and looking for Him, you will learn to recognize when He is moving. The atmosphere around you can take on a different quality or you may feel physical sensations in your body. This is the Holy Spirit working and He can affect the body in unique ways. Here are some things you may notice in your body when the Holy Spirit is working:

- The atmosphere changes: a heaviness or a lightness in the air around you.
- You may feel warmth, heat like a fire, tingling like when your arms is falling asleep, or electricity: Mark 5:29-30, Matthew 9:22, Luke 8:44, Luke 6:19, Colossians 1:29, Judges 14:6,
- Shaking, vibrating, or trembling: Exodus 19:16, 1 Chronicles 16:30, Ezra 9:4, Psalm 2:11, Psalm 96:9, Psalm 114:7, Isaiah 66:5, Jeremiah 5:22, Jeremiah 23:9, Daniel 10:10-11, Matthew 28:4, Acts 7:32, Hebrews 12:21
- Overwhelming sense of peace: Romans 14:17, Romans 15:13, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Philippians 4:5-7
- Speaking in Tongues: Acts 2:6, Acts 19:6, Mark 16:17, 1 Corinthians. 14:2, Romans 8:26-27, Acts 10:44-46, Jude 1:20,
- Weeping for no apparent reason: Genesis 17:17, Nehemiah 8:6,9, Psalm 126:2
- Joy that may be expressed by overwhelming feeling of laughter
- Sometimes there is such a strong presence of the Holy Spirit that it can overpower the body where you can't stand up: Genesis 17:3, 1 Kings 8:11, Ezekiel 1:28, Ezekiel 3:23, Daniel 8:17-18, John 18:6, Acts 9:4, Acts 26:14, Revelation 1:17

When these things happen, it's important to recognize it as the Holy Spirit. If you don't know what's happening, you might feel like it's a health problem! You may feel heat and wonder if you are having a hot flash. That's just the Holy Spirit manifesting as fire. You may feel tingling on your fingers in hands and think they are going asleep. That's just the Holy Spirit manifesting like electricity.

Don't fear the manifestations. It's just the Holy Spirit making Himself real to you. Thank Him for it, and focus on Him and allow Him to do what He wants to do. Yield and surrender to Him. Be open to receiving more of Him and He will fill you with more of Him.

People can hinder what the Holy Spirit wants to do because of pride, wanting to be in control, or being worried about what others think. These will all hinder a person from fully surrendering to the Holy Spirit and they become hindrances that block Him from working in their lives. You must honor the Holy Spirit. You don't want to resist the work He is doing because it grieves Him when you do that. You can grieve Him by not following His leading, and by doing your own thing. You can grieve Him if you attribute His manifestations to the work of the devil. If you call the manifestations of the Holy Spirit (shaking, trembling, falling down, etc.) as from the devil or if you make fun of the manifestations, you grieve Him and quench the Spirit!

When Jesus was talking to the scribes in Mark 3:22, they were accusing Him of being possessed by a demon. Jesus replied by saying that speaking against the Holy Spirit is an eternal sin that is not forgiven. He is telling them how serious that is!

The ministry of the Christian is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. All you do is let the Holy Spirit in you affect others! You are a carrier of the Holy Spirit and imparting Him wherever you go. You are just a Holy-Spirit-to-go box!

He is with you wherever you are and wants to be let out of the box to bless people. Your purpose in life is to be a better carrier of His presence, hear what He is telling you to do, and then step out and do what He says to do. Let Him out of the box so others can be blessed by Him! Let Him fill you with His power. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is what supercharges our Christian life with His power.

You will never walk in power if you never step out. Why would power be given to you if you never put a demand on it and take a step of faith and pray for someone? Power comes as we step out in faith. It's like that invisible bridge in the Indiana Jones movie: it appears when you step out and not a moment before. The more we step out, the more He fills us up to do His work on this earth. It's really that simple. We make it far more complicated than it actually is.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a one time event. He wants to fill us up so we can pour out what He has given us and be filled back up continually. Even the disciples were filled more than once. (Acts 4:31)

You may have gotten touched by the Holy Spirit in a powerful encounter but if you don't maintain that relationship with Him, the fire will fade and your powerful experience with God will stay a visitation. The Holy Spirit wants a habitation; God living in us. That is the secret to the Christian life. When you spend time with Him in the secret place and are filled regularly, you become His habitation. When you live from this place anything is possible. The supernatural becomes natural, miracles are normal, and fear does not rule your life anymore.

The more we stay filled with His Holy Spirit, the more saturated we become and can begin to influence the world around us.

In Him is everything we need. That's why He says to "*seek first the kingdom of God and all these other things will be added unto you.*" (**Matthew 6:33**) We don't seek the signs or His gifts. We seek Him. It all goes back to the relationship. As we spend time in His presence and are changed, our lives will manifest heaven on earth.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

I encourage you to stretch out your hands and hold them up before the Lord as if you were receiving a gift. Then read these words below, receive them into your heart, and believe that you are receiving the Holy Spirit in a greater measure. Read the prayer slowly several times and wait in expectant faith for the Holy Spirit's fire to come upon you.

Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask that You would meet the faith and hunger of the person holding this book right now. I bless this person in the name of Jesus, and I ask for Your Holy Spirit fire to come upon them now. Fire of God, come upon this person now in a powerful way.

Holy Spirit, fill them up now, in Jesus name. Fill this person with your Holy Spirit fire. Fire of God, fill them up! Let Your power come upon them. Increase Your power. Increase Your fire now. Fire of God, baptize this person in Your Holy Spirit. Activate the gifts inside of them for ministry.

In Jesus name I pray, amen.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

After being baptized in the Holy Spirit, you may experience any of the following as the gifts are activated in you (See 1 Corinthians 12):

- When you share the gospel, He can anoint your words to bring strong conviction, confessing of sin, and hunger for God.
- When you pray for the sick, He brings the power to heal.
- When you pray, He prays in a heavenly language through you. This is called speaking in tongues. It is the Holy Spirit praying the perfect will of God through you.
- You may get visions and/or dreams that are from God. Be sure to document them and ask the Holy Spirit what they mean.
- You may know things that you would not have any way of knowing in the natural. This is called words of knowledge.
- You may sense a particular demonic stronghold or spiritual issue is affecting a particular person. This is called discerning of spirits.
- You may get words from God that bring encouragement, edification, or comfort to another person. This is called prophecy.
- You may see or sense what is going on in the spirit realm. This is called seeing in the spirit and is common for people who are prophetic. Prophets are also called Seers.
- You feel unknown words coming up that God wants to speak through you. This is called the gift of tongues, which is for a message from God for the body of Christ meant to be shared aloud and interpreted so everyone can benefit from it. It's for public ministry and someone will have the interpretation into English once it is spoken.
- You may hear someone speaking in tongues publicly, and even though you don't understand what is being said with your brain, you understand it with your spirit and you can interpret it into English. This is called interpretation of tongues.
- You may have extraordinary faith in God. This is the gift of faith.

Chapter 8

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Our culture has contaminated Christianity. The way we do church, our view of God, and the way we pray can be influenced by culture rather than by God Himself, but God is outside of culture.

The American church has allowed our culture to make us complacent, casual, and unconcerned with what breaks God's heart.

Self-centeredness keeps us complacent and casual about the things of God. The casualness and complacency affecting the church at large is a symptoms of fearing man rather than fearing God.

Our culture has made us selfish to our own needs while at the same time desensitized to God's kingdom. We live better than 80 percent of the world who is hungry, thirsty, poor, or suffering. We are living in luxury compared to them and yet most Christians spend most of their time praying to God about their needs, while neglecting His agenda.

What are we doing? What is it going to take for us to take this as seriously as God does? Most of us don't want to do something that might be embarrassing, therefore we are afraid of what God might require of us.

Pride, along with being afraid of what people think, acting too radical, wanting to please people, and wanting to be in control all hinder what God wants to do and the move of the Holy Spirit. The antidote to these things is the fear of the Lord.

Luke 12:2-9 says:

I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows....

And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

This passage says the fear of the Lord is the antidote to fear and anxiety.

The fear of the Lord keeps us courageous and obedient:

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. (2 Corinthians 5:6-11)

The fear of the Lord roots out selfishness:

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. (Acts 5:1-11)

God is serious! These verses don't focus on the law in the Old Testament; this is the from the New Testament.

How backwards is it for us to pray to God to meet our needs when we are going about our lives not even doing what He told us to do? We expect God to answer our self centered prayers and then we get upset with Him if things don't go our way. He called us to be followers of Him. He has a plan and an agenda that needs to be accomplished on earth. God's kingdom is NOT about Him working for you. It's about YOU working for Him. He is the one in charge.

We want to see God's presence to manifest. We want to see more miracles and healing. We want revival. But we have it backwards. We keep asking God to show up and bless what we are doing, but the reality is that we have to cooperate with His agenda, rather than doing our own thing and hoping that He cooperates with us.

This mindset is keeping the modern church stuck. I believe that it is one of the reasons for a lack of power. We are not submitted to the Holy Spirit's agenda. We are going by our own agenda and hoping God blesses it.

The question to ask is who is really in charge? Who is in control of the church service? You cannot get heaven to cooperate with your plan or your idea. That's not how it works. You have to cooperate with heaven. You must be aligned to God's agenda. To do that, we must yield all control and leadership of the meeting or service to the Holy Spirit. He tells us what to say, preach, sing, etc. We are truly God's mouthpiece. He is in control.

If you are discouraged, dismayed, doubtful, or disappointed about what God is not doing, that's a sign that your own agenda is in the way. Your own opinions, agenda or preferences are taking priority over what His agenda is. When you became born again, you made Him your Lord. That means you must bow your knee to Him and obey everything He tells you. It's not up for discussion. It's not dependent on whether you feel like it or not.

It's not dependent on you having a good day or a bad day. It's not even dependent on your ability or lack of ability. If you are feeling inadequate, that's exactly where you are supposed to be! You can't do what Jesus commanded you to do in your own strength. Healing the sick and casting out demons are demonstrations of the power of God and you can't do it in the flesh. He gives us things that we can't do in our own strength so that we are completely dependent on Him so He gets all the glory.

To give you an example, I want to share a story about Maria Woodworth Etter. She was an ordinary housewife who was a painfully timid woman, uneducated, isolated much of the time, sickly and poor. In your wildest imaginations you couldn't see her as an instrument of God who would be used to change the lives of hundreds of thousands through her ministry.

Being raised with seven siblings, an alcoholic father and a sickly mother, her youth was very hard. When she was only eight years old she felt a strong desire to know of God, and at age thirteen Maria was converted. At this time she'd heard the voice of Jesus calling her to go out in the highways and hedges and gather in the lost sheep yet Maria never heard of any women preaching. Considering that women were silenced by culture and the church, not being allowed to teach publicly, not allowed in the pulpit, and not allowed to vote, the mountain of circumstances against her presented reason enough for silence; but the struggle continued. She was paralyzed with fear of talking in front of people.

In her book, *Marvels and Miracles* she says:

God said to me, 'I brought you here; go to work.' Now the struggle commenced. I was very timid, and bound as with chains in a man-fearing spirit. When I arose to testify I

trembled like a leaf, and began to make excuses— ‘O God, send someone else!’ Then the Lord in a vision caused me to see the bottomless pit open in all its horror and woe. There was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. It was surrounded by a great multitude of people who seemed unconscious of their danger, and without a moment’s warning they would tumble into this awful place. I was above the people on a narrow plank-walk, which wound up toward heaven; and I was exhorting and pleading with the people to come upon the plank and escape that awful place. Several started. There was a beautiful bright light above me, and I was encouraging them to follow that light and they would go straight to heaven.

This vision left quite an impression on my mind. When the Spirit of God was striving with me to talk or pray in meeting, I would resist as long as I could. Then this awful vision would rise before me, and I would see souls sinking into eternal woe. The voice of Jesus would whisper, “I am with you; be not afraid.” Then I would be on my feet or knees in a moment. I would forget everything but the love of God and dying souls.

The fear of God and the reality of eternal consequences were so real to Maria that she was able to override her fear of man and what people thought of her.

We need the fear of God back in the church. We must lay down what we think it should look like and go with whatever He is doing. No matter what it looks like.

God’s world is pretty wild if you haven’t noticed. For example, around His throne there are four living creatures with six

wings full of eyes all around, crying “*Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!*” (**Revelation 4:8**)

Signs and wonders are normal in His world, so you can expect them to show up when His world invades ours. That’s what revival is— it is God showing up in a tangible way that the world can see and feel.

The fear of the Lord should serve as our plumb line. It keeps us centered on Him. It’s the fear of the Lord that keeps us grounded no matter what is going on around us. For example, when people get healed by God when you pray, it might be tempting to take some of the glory because they might look at you like you are so special or make comments about how anointed YOU are. People will want to put you on a pedestal. That’s what our society does because we have a celebrity-based culture and the lure of attention from people is a trap the enemy uses to ensnare us.

I’ve had people say to me, “Oh, you are so anointed!” I’m like, “What? How can you even look at ME! It has absolutely nothing to do with me. That’s just the Holy Spirit showing up, not me!” I have to redirect them to give God the glory, and not put the attention on me.

If you let people give you the glory, you are taking glory that belongs to God and that is a very dangerous place to be. He will not share His glory with anyone. It is awesome when the power of God flows through you and someone is touched, and it’s easy to think it’s because of you or something you did. No, God will not share His glory with any man and if He finds you doing that, He will find someone else to use who can remain humble and fear Him. Everything He does through you is all about Him getting the glory. We cannot let pride come in and derail what God is doing through us. We must remain humble and submitted to Him.

The scripture reference for this is 1 Corinthians 1:26-30:

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I 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, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The fear of the Lord comes against everything that is religious, complacent, and celebrity Christianity. It is what we need because it keeps our focus where it should be, keeps us humble, and wakes us up to the reality of the Kingdom of God!

Here’s what the Bible says about the fear of the Lord:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (Proverbs 8:13)

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! (Psalm 111:10)

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! (Psalm 33:8)

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. (Proverbs 14:27)

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 10:12)

The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. (Proverbs 19:23)

Here is another example of the fear of the Lord from Maria Woodworth Etter's ministry:

The church was cold and formal, and many of the best citizens had drifted into skepticism. I knew that it would take a wonderful display of God's power to convince the people, so I prayed for God to display his power, that the

sinner might know that God still lives, and that there is a reality in religion, and might convict him of a terrible judgment. Five of the leading members of the church said they would unite with me in prayer for the Lord to pour out the power from on high, till the city would be shaken, and the country, for miles around.

We prayed that Christians and sinners might fall as dead men; that the slain of the Lord might be many. The Lord answered our prayers in a remarkable manner.

The class-leader's little boy fell under the power of God first. He rose up, stepped on the pulpit, and began to talk with the wisdom and power of God. His father began to shout and praise the Lord. As the little fellow exhorted and asked the people to come to Christ they began to weep all over the house. Some shouted; others fell prostrated.

Diverse operations of the spirit were seen. The displays of the power of God continued to increase till we closed the meetings, which lasted about five weeks. The power of the Lord, like the wind, swept all over the city, up one street and down another, sweeping through the places of business, the workshops, saloons and dives, arresting sinners of all classes. Men, women and children were struck down in their homes, in their places of business, on the highways, and lay as dead. They had wonderful visions, and rose converted, giving glory to God. When they told what they had seen their faces shone like angels'.

The fear of God fell upon the city. The police said they never saw such a change; that they had nothing to do.

They said they made no arrest; and that the power of God seemed to preserve the city. A spirit of love rested all over the city. There was no fighting, no swearing on the streets; that the people moved softly, and that there seemed to be a spirit of love and kindness among all classes, as if they felt they were in the presence of God.

A merchant fell into a trance in his home and lay several hours. Hundreds went in to look at him. He had a vision, and a message for the church. The Lord showed him the condition of many of the members. He told part of his vision, but refused to deliver the message to the church.

He was struck dumb. He could not speak a word because he refused to tell what the Lord wanted him to. The Lord showed him he would never speak till he delivered the message. He rose to his feet, weeping, to tell the vision. God loosed his tongue. Those present knew he had been dumb, and when he began to talk and tell his experience it had a wonderful effect on the church and sinners.

One night there was a party seventeen miles from the city. Some of the young ladies thought they would have some fun; they began to mimic and act out the trance. The Lord struck some of them down. They lay there as if they had been shot. Their fun-making was soon turned to a prayer-meeting, and cries of mercy were heard. The people came to the meetings in sleigh loads many miles. One night while a sleigh load of men and women were going to the meeting they were jesting about the trances. They made the remark to each other that they were going in a trance that night.

Before the meeting closed all who had been making fun were struck down by the power of God and lay like dead people, and had to be taken home in the sled in that condition. Those who came with them were very much frightened when they saw them lying there, and they told how they had been making fun of the power of God on the way to the meeting. Scoffers and mockers were stricken down in all parts of the house.

One man was mocking a woman that God had taken control of her body. She was preaching with gestures. When in that mocking attitude God struck him dumb. He became rigid and remained with his hands up, and his mouth drawn in that mocking way for five hours, a gazing-stock for all in the house. The fear of God fell on all. They saw it was a fearful thing to mock God or make fun of his work.

The fear of God is coming back to the church. What does the fear of the Lord look like?

- It is a deep awareness of the majesty of God and the acute awareness that souls are at stake of eternal punishment.
- It is putting heaven's agenda first by paying attention to what He is doing, carefully listening, and then doing whatever He says—without hesitation or fear of man.
- It is giving up recognition as you serve him so that He gets all the glory. Even if no one else sees what you did, you know that God's approval is all you need. You do not seek man's approval.
- It is doing everything with eternity in mind—we will be held accountable for our words and actions.

- It is honoring Him and always wanting to please Him, not grieve Him.
- It is taking His work seriously, not casually— not making fun of what happens when God touches someone. It is not being indifferent to the things of God.
- It is not pre-judging signs and wonders or something you don't understand as not of God.
- It is treating ministry time at the altar with reverence and guarding it against anything that would distract or disrupt what God is doing in the people receiving ministry. You are helping to create an atmosphere where God can touch people.

One of the worst things that we can do as Christians that breaks God's heart is to NOT recognize Him when He is in our midst and not partner with Him to accomplish His plan in the earth. Or worse yet, thinking what He is doing is of the devil!

Revival happens when we let the Holy Spirit have complete control and we are more concerned about pleasing Him than pleasing man. In other words, we fear Him more than we fear man. We are more concerned about grieving Him than doing our own thing. Why? Because if we do not fear Him enough to get our own agenda out of the way and partner with Him by doing what He is asking us to do, His plan cannot be accomplished in the earth. That's how revival is birthed and sustained. That's how we take dominion over the kingdom of darkness. We must partner with Him and our obedience is the key to get there.

It's not about what we think we should do for God, it's about only doing what He says to do. When you step out and do only what He's told you to do, that's when His kingdom is manifest and when His power flows through you. His kingdom manifests because His will is being done.

If He says go and we don't go, or if He says pray for a person, and we don't pray, His plan still needs to be accomplished in the earth, and He will find someone else who will step out of the boat and take a risk for Him. Obedience is the key.

Our world is in turmoil. You are a firebrand of the kingdom of God who takes the manifest presence wherever you go. The world is falling down around you, but YOU are the one carrying His presence and are called to bring revival fire to this world.

If you get sick, your first thought is to immediately go to the doctor. I am here to tell you that there are things out there that the medical system cannot save you from. You cannot continue to solely rely on them. The time is now to learn to heal the sick. You cannot wait to figure this out in the middle of an emergency. You have to walk in lockstep with Jesus right now with everything you do being done with Him in mind. He is your boss.

You are not of this world, so do not fall prey to the fear being broadcast. Believe in God's kingdom. God's kingdom is our home, and that's where we must live from. If you pray from a place of fear— that means you are living from the enemy's camp. You must get into alignment with God's kingdom and pray from a place of peace, where you can hear His voice clearly amongst the turmoil and craziness.

This is where the rubber meets the road. This is where God will use you if you will follow after Him. You are not powerless. You have nothing to fear. God created you for this time. This is time to cast off anything that is holding you back and go all in for Him. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Follow Him and you will be safe. He will tell you what to do. Abide in the secret place, under the shadow of the Almighty. He will hold you up and sustain you. Your job is to cultivate your relationship with Him and release His kingdom.

Chapter 9

THE DEMONIC REALM

Have you been driving down the road, minding your own business, when out of the blue you have the thought that you should crash your car into something and kill yourself, followed by such an intense urge to do it that you have to hold onto the steering wheel with both hands just so you don't do something stupid? Sometimes our thoughts are not our own and they could be coming from demonic influence. This was most likely a demonic attack—demons can affect your thoughts even if you don't realize it. If you are born again, this is contrary to your new nature in Christ.

In Ephesians 6:12, Paul reminds us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of this present darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places.

In our culture, we tend to think that demons are not real or that they don't affect people here in America. People think they are only in other countries like Africa or South America, but they can affect anyone, anywhere. We have to be careful that we don't think demons are not real, just like we should not think everything is caused by a demon. Both mindsets are equally misguided.

We are in a spiritual battle, whether we want to be or not. If you'll remember in the story I shared in chapter two, when I found myself in the spirit realm, I was only wearing a robe.

That's not a good outfit if you are in a battle. The angel army had a suit of armor that fit me perfectly and it would have helped me out tremendously if I had known to put it on.

Our spirit is where the Holy Spirit resides, but demons can still oppress us in our soul or mind. They can also affect our physical body with sickness and disease. A Christian cannot be possessed by a demon, but they can be oppressed or under the influence of one. It's similar to someone who drinks alcohol. They can be affected by alcohol the more they drink it. It's the same with demonic influence. The more bondage you are in, the more you will come under that demons' influence or power.

The Bible makes it clear that there are different kinds of demons that cause different problems in the person they are affecting. Some cause blindness, insanity, fear, depression, deafness, anger, addiction, etc. Demons can invade the soul and body of a Christian if given an open door, but their spirit cannot be affected because it belongs to God. Demons have no power in our lives if we are Christians, unless we give it to them. We have power over them through the authority of Jesus.

Here are some signs that you could be oppressed by demons:

- Recurring illness: you are always getting sick
- Abnormal fear and anxiety– it's hard for you to control it
- Disturbing dreams or nightmares that happen regularly
- Depression, suicidal thoughts or excessive crying
- Isolation
- Doing things to intentionally hurt oneself: cutting, etc.
- No desire to worship, pray or read the Bible
- Mental illness
- Heaviness or abnormal fatigue
- Insomnia

- Agitation and irritability
- Anger, rage, violence
- No empathy for others

There are things that a person can do to open up the door to the demonic in their lives making themselves vulnerable to the kingdom of darkness. Any open door needs to be shut in order to stop giving the demonic access, and then the demons who were given access can be told to leave. Just because the enemy has no legal right to be there doesn't mean he will leave automatically on his own when you get born again. Demons are law breakers and will need to be kicked out. They are trespassers and we need to serve them an eviction notice and remove them from the premises.

Deliverance from demonic oppression and sickness were paid for by Jesus (Isaiah 53:5 and Matthew 8:16-17). Yet many Christians are still walking around sick or tormented by fear, depression, anger, etc. If the price was already paid, but we don't receive it by faith and stand on it, then we can miss out on what Jesus provided for us.

If you wanted to get healthier and you were eating a lot of McDonalds, sodas, and candy, I would tell you to remove those things from your diet so you could have a body that is healthier. Junk foods are not conducive to health. We all know that, right? Likewise, this principle applies to your spirit. You have to remove the spiritual junk if you want to be spiritually healthy.

You may have been involved in things from the kingdom of darkness without realizing that you have opened a door in the spirit realm to the kingdom of darkness. You may think it's harmless, but it could be affecting you even if it was years ago.

OPEN DOORS TO THE DEMONIC REALM

Here are some things that open the door to the demonic:

- Witchcraft, Satanic worship, Occult practices, such as fortune telling, seances, psychics, palm reading, channeling, Astral projection, Ouija boards, Tarot cards, metaphysical stuff of all types, etc.
- Making contact with demonic spirits or dead people
- Some games, such as Dungeons and Dragons, movies, video games, etc.
- Certain types of meditation, such as Transcendental meditation
- Being unwilling to let go of unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, rage, resentment, jealousy, etc.
- Freemasonry and other false religions
- Horoscopes and astrology
- Energy healing such as Reiki and other New Age practices using energy that is not of God
- Yoga
- Hypnosis
- Addictive habits such as alcoholism, drug abuse, etc.
- Trauma, molestation, sex outside of marriage, and sexual abuse
- Pornography
- Things in your home that are pagan, religious objects, or idols, such as Buddha statues, satanic books, etc.

These are just a few of the things you could have been involved in either in the present or past that could have opened a door to allow the demonic in.

Now that you are aware of these things, ask God to show you areas in your life that could have an open door, so it can be closed.

And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (Acts 19:18-20)

Repenting for anything you were involved in and destroying anything in your possession related to it is the first step in closing doors to the demonic.

AUTHORITY

If the demonic has a foothold in your life, then you will have a much harder time walking in authority. Because of Jesus's resurrection, He defeated sin, darkness, sickness, and death, and we are authorized to use His name to command sickness to go, just like a policeman has a badge that gives him the authority to put a criminal in jail.

Delegated authority means that a policeman does not need to go to the precinct and get permission from his boss every time he sees a criminal on whether or not he should arrest him. Nor does he need to get his boss to come and do it for him. They have already established that they want the criminals to go to jail and have given the policeman the authority to do that.

In God's kingdom, sickness and disease are illegal. If they are affecting you as a believer, they are trespassing and do not belong. That's why we can heal using Jesus' authority. He has given us the authorization to act in His place through delegated influence. We are wearing His badge in the spirit realm and demons see it, and when you pray understanding His authority, it's just like Jesus is saying it and they have to obey. But if you don't know you have His authority or if you are in fear, demons will just laugh at you when you try to fight them in your own strength.

Remember this story?

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"

Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. (Acts 19: 13-16)

What happened? They did not understand authority. The demons overpowered them and what they were trying to do backfired.

In order to operate with the authority of Jesus, you have to be submitted to His authority in your own life. You have to know Him and abide with Him. Head knowledge is not enough. If you are submitted to the enemy instead of God, you will not have authority in the kingdom. That means the enemy has a hook in you and can overpower you!

Let's see where Jesus got His authority:

The Jews marveled, saying, "How does this man know letters, having never studied?" So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood." (John 7:16-18)

Jesus had authority because He only spoke what His Father was speaking. He was not speaking on His own behalf. You have authority when you are submitted to God and only speak what He is speaking to you. It's not about doing our own thing. We must submit to him and do only what He says.

And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the

word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me." (John 12:44-50)

Jesus says that He only does what His father is doing or says what His father is saying. Authority is when you only do what you have been authorized to do. If you are speaking on your own behalf and it is not what God has said to you then it won't carry His authority.

Your will must be submitted to His will. Using the military as an example, soldiers are trained to follow orders and submit to authority so they can ultimately carry authority.

Imagine a new soldier who has been given all the training and equipment he needs to fulfil the assignment he has been given. He arrives at the front line and gets himself into position for action. He sees the enemy and gets ready to engage them, but instead of doing so, he radios back to the commanding officer at headquarters, "Sir, I have the enemy in my sights, so, I know you're busy but if you wouldn't mind coming down here to take care of things I'd be so grateful. I understand if you've got better things to do." That Private is going to get in trouble! Why? Because he has been given the power, the resources and the authority to do the job himself. It's his assignment and he needs to take responsibility for it.

Just as the authority of Jesus was based on obedience to His Father – we only move in authority to the extent that we submit to Him too.

Are you wondering why you don't have power to route demons in your life or have victory over sickness? How much are

you submitted to Him? It's not what you think you should do for God, but what HE is telling you to do. When you step out and do only that, He will give you power and back you up because you are following orders and operating in His authority.

Operating in God's authority is demonstrated by obedience. You are a doer and not just a hearer only. Why? Authority means you are submitted to God and do not rebel or seek your own glory by doing your own thing. You are just like a soldier under authority in the military. You are quick to obey Him because you know He is your boss and He is backing you. You know He is going to show up when He says go pray for that person.

Using the policeman analogy again, if you go to arrest a criminal, and the criminal stops running, turns around and says, "Wait a minute. You've been breaking the law just like me! How can you arrest me?" If you agree with the criminal, you just chose to partner with the enemy, allowing fear to come in and forfeiting your authority. The enemy may do this to you by pointing out your weaknesses and causing you to become focused on yourself rather than the job you were authorized to do by headquarters.

It's not about you: neither your failures nor your strengths. It's only about Jesus and what He has done that gives you authority. Period. If you listen to the criminal or what the demonic is saying, it will cause you to doubt and question yourself.

We listen to the criminal when we are not free ourselves and the enemy still has a hook in us. Are you are doing things against God's will? It is going to affect your ability to be good at the job God wants you to do. The more you have experienced freedom in your own personal life, the easier it is to walk in authority and set others free.

Why do we put up with things that the enemy throws our way if we have been given all authority? Is it because we have

tolerated things in our own life that are demonic that are socially acceptable, such as fear, anxiety, sickness and disease? Are you entertaining “pet” demons that you don’t want to get rid of because they have become so familiar to you? You won’t have authority over demons if you coddle them in your own life.

Another hindrance to using your authority is fear of the demonic. Fear of the demonic realm means you don’t fully understand your authority. You should not fear something that is beneath you in rank and that you have authority over. You have nothing to fear. If you do, then you don’t understand who you really are in Christ. If you pray with fear, doubt, or unbelief, demons and disease know they are safe to stay because you are unsure of your authority. If you have fear and unbelief, you are unsure of your authority.

Fear is not only the opposite of faith and stops the power of God, but it also means you are letting demons and disease have power over you. Whatever you fear has power over you. The truth is that you outrank demons and disease because of Jesus – that’s why you can command them to go and they have to obey.

The question is: why would you continue to put up with something that you have power over? Think about that for a moment. Why would you let sickness keep your body in prison if you actually held the key? Once you realize that you have power over it, then you have to act on it.

When demons and disease know you are serious, and that you understand your authority, they have to do what you say. So the question is: Do demons know your authority more than you do? They know your capability to do them in, which is why they work so hard at keeping you in fear. Once you realize the power you have over them, they know they have to leave you alone.

Because we operate according to the authority of Jesus, we don’t need to ask God to do anything. That’s why He said

HEAL the sick, not PRAY for the sick. God has already established that disease has no right to affect you anymore and you can simply command it to go. When you command the sickness to leave, it's actually the Holy Spirit of God inside of you that is activated to drive out the demonic strongholds or disease and heal the body as I shared in the previous chapter.

Kris Vallotton shares a story in his book, *Spirit Wars*, that illustrates the power we have when we recognize what is affecting us from the spirit realm.

Early in his marriage, he began experiencing panic attacks and intense fear. He writes:

Just when I thought it could not get any worse, I began to experience demonic visitations. Demons literally would come into our room at night and torment me. Lights went on and off, and pictures spontaneously fell off the wall! The phone rang every few minutes with people saying crazy things on the other end of the line...By the third year of this terrible storm, Kathy had had our second beautiful daughter, Shannon, but my life was becoming unbearable. The stress had caused by equilibrium to go crazy, making me nauseous all the time. Food ran right through me; I had diarrhea continually.

I loved my family so much, but my inner torment was so intense that I did not want to live anymore. I was not going to kill myself; I just thought my family would be much better off if God took me home and Kathy found a "normal" husband. I cried out to God repeatedly, but He seemed distant...even uncaring. It seemed that the love I had known the first couple years in my walk with God had vanished, replaced by intense fear.

Then early one cold winter morning, something startling happened. The four of us were still living in Lewiston, and as usual, I could not sleep. I got up about 3:00 a.m., wrapped a blanket around myself and went into the living room. I turned the stereo on low and lay down next to the speaker so I would not wake my family. Our radio reception was not good up in the mountains, but I thought I would try to find a late night talk show to help get my mind off my condition.

Finally, I tuned into some preacher. The static was so bad that I could only make out every third or fourth word of his message. Yet in the midst of the noise, I heard him say something that would forever change my life. He quoted Paul's exhortation to Timothy: "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Then he went on to explain, "Fear is a spirit! Some of you are thinking you're going insane, but you're just listening to the spirit of insanity! Not all your thoughts are your own. Evil spirits talk to you by giving you their thoughts."

I was stunned! I had been taught that Christians could be mentally ill but could not be demonized. What I did not realize until that night was that I had been educated right out of my solution. I turned off the radio and asked Jesus what I should do. Immediately I heard a Voice inside my spirit say, "***You have been listening to the spirit of insanity and the spirit of fear. Tell them to leave you right now!***" Lying on my back on the living room floor, I said in a quiet but confident voice, "You spirit of fear and you spirit of insanity, get off me right now in Jesus' name!"

I could not see anything, but suddenly I felt something get up off my body. It physically felt like a lead blanket, the kind dentists use during X-rays, and it was being lifted off me. My shaking completely stopped, peace filled my soul, and my mind was clear again. Joy overwhelmed my heart, and I laughed out loud for the first time in more than three years. A miracle had happened in my life...

If you are afraid of demons, you don't yet understand how big God is compared to them and how much authority and power He has given you. Dealing with the demonic should not be a big deal. When you are spending time in His presence and are being filled regularly with the Holy Spirit, when a situation arises, you just deal with it and move on. Do not dwell on what the demonic world is doing nor become fearful of it. We have to be aware of our enemy and his tactics, so we are not ignorant, but we do not need to always be thinking about it or fascinated by it. Our focus should be on God.

I love this Bill Johnson quote: "If I live in reaction to the powers of darkness, then the enemy has influenced how I set my agenda." We are in a spiritual battle, and we need to know how to fight. We can't just put up our fists and fight, because this is not a physical battle. This is a spiritual battle, and we must have our spiritual armor on if we plan to win. Just like we wear clothes in the natural world we also have to get dressed in the spirit.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:11-20)

Here is what each piece of our armor symbolizes:

- The helmet of salvation (v. 17) refers to our salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8) through Jesus Christ.
- The breastplate of righteousness (v. 14) represents our righteousness through Jesus and our obedience to God's Word.
- The belt of truth (v. 14) represents a clear understanding of God's Word.
- Having our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace (v. 15) symbolizes our faithful proclamation of God's Word and that we walk in peace wherever we go. We are to love those who hate us, pray for those who persecute us, and by this the powers of darkness are defeated.
- The shield of faith (v. 16) represents our defense against the fiery darts of the enemy. Faith is what we use to defend ourselves when the enemy whispers in our ear. By using the shield of faith, we refuse to believe his lies and it will extinguish the fiery darts he is shooting at us.
- The sword of the Spirit (v. 17) is the Word of God, and this is the only thing we have that is used offensively. The other parts of our armor are defensive weapons.

We are prepared to withstand every attack of the enemy when we are dressed in the armor of God. Here is an interesting fact: the Greek word for Word of God in this verse is not talking about the Bible, which is the word LOGOS in Greek. The word used here is RHEMA, which means God-breathed, or the word spoken to us directly by the Holy Spirit. This means that when we are in close relationship with the Holy Spirit, He reveals what to pray in these situations and what Bible verses to say and we defeat the enemy.

One morning at around 5:30 am, I woke up because my palms and feet were hot and itching! It was weird because it's not a health problem that I've ever had. My stomach started getting nauseous, so I decided to get up and take some vitamin C and peppermint oil to calm my stomach, thinking something I ate was causing this. Then my abdomen started cramping like I was on my menstrual cycle, but I knew it was not that time of the month. The supplements didn't help at all, which was unusual. I was still half awake and the pain was getting worse, as I lay there, I started moaning.

Jason woke up, wondering what was going on. I told him my symptoms and that nothing was helping. I asked him to pray since I was in too much agony to do anything myself. He prayed and I just kept moaning. After praying, he started reading from the book of Psalms. After he read several chapters in the book of Psalms, I noticed my pain level was decreasing, so I asked him to keep reading.

After he read for about 15-20 minutes, my pain had subsided to the point where I could fall back asleep. When I woke up a couple of hours later, all my symptoms were gone!

I felt fine. He used the Word of God as a weapon to defeat the enemy's attack of sickness.

God has given you one offensive weapon and that is the sword of the Spirit. Jesus used the word in the wilderness to defeat Satan. He said, "*It is written.....*" and would quote the Bible passages that the Spirit was leading Him to say. This is why we need to renew our mind and memorize the word. Knowing certain passages by heart is important so you hide His word in your heart.

Words you speak are going out and accomplishing something. If you speak in faith, it is spoken by the spirit and is going out into the atmosphere and changing things in the spirit realm, whether you see it or not.

ANOINTING YOUR HOME

Demonic spirits can affect places and environments such as homes or other locations. As the spiritual authority in your home, you can pray a cleansing prayer over your home to cleanse the space of all unclean spirits and invite the Holy Spirit.

If you feel uneasy about your home atmosphere, anoint the doors and windows with anointing oil and pray something like this: "I command any demonic influence and all darkness to leave, in Jesus name! Holy Spirit, You are the only spirit allowed in this place."

You can also play worship music to shift the atmosphere. Playing worship music, sermons, and the audio Bible regularly and reducing or eliminating secular media will shift the spiritual environment over time and will create a habitation for God.

Spending time in the secret place and cultivating a relationship with Him will change the atmosphere in your home. Light is so much more powerful than darkness and when you do this consistently, the spiritual atmosphere of an environment will change over time.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

You are a warrior in God's kingdom. You are here to defeat the kingdom of darkness. It's time to learn how to put this into practice.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Put on the armor every morning before you leave your house. You put on the armor by faith. Visualize yourself putting on each piece of armor before you start your day. (Ephesians 6: 11-20)

CLEANSING PRAYER

This is a prayer you can pray over yourself or others if you feel any demonic influence or attack affecting you:

Thank you Jesus for cleansing me of any sadness, negativity, fear, anxiety, or despair that I may have picked up. If any evil spirits have attached themselves to me or are oppressing me in any way, I command all spirits that are not of God to leave now in Jesus name. I command all darkness to leave in Jesus name. Holy Spirit, fill me with your power, love and joy.

Strengthen me where I have felt weak and clothe me with Your light. Fill me with Your life. Jesus, send Your holy angels to minister to me and my family, and to guard and protect us from all sickness and harm. I praise you now and forever for all you have done. In Jesus name, amen.

DEMONIC INFLUENCES CHECKLIST

Have you ever been involved in any of the following activities, seriously or for fun?

- Ouiji boards
- Fortune telling
- Tarot Cards
- Seances
- Horoscopes
- Palm reading
- Tea leaves
- Numerology
- Witchcraft
- Wicca
- Astral projection
- ESP
- Channeling
- Hypnotism
- Necromancy
- Voodoo

Have you ever visited or attended:

- A medium
- A fortune teller
- A heathen temple (Buddhist, etc.)
- Yoga classes
- A spiritist
- A palm reader
- A psychic

Do you have any physical objects in your possession that are tied to the demonic realm?

It is best to destroy them.

See Acts 19:18-20

- Occult books
- Idols such as Buddha statues, etc.
- Tarot cards
- Ouiji boards or demonic games
- Native American artifacts such as dreamcatchers, etc.
- Jewelry, such as Masonic ring, charms, etc.
- Other: _____

Have you ever been a member of:

- A secret society
- Freemasonry
- Eastern Star
- Satanic cult
- A coven

Identify areas in your life that you've never repented of, things you were involved in, secret societies you joined, Freemasonry in your family, etc. This is what God requires for us to be free.

And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (Acts 19:18-20)

In this passage, there was confession of sin (being involved in things that have demonic influence) as well as destroying by fire those things that were connected to it. They burned their books on magic and other witchcraft items. Don't just throw them away; it's ideal to burn them so they are destroyed.

Getting freedom from demonic strongholds is not something that is easy to do on your own. It's important to have someone pray with you through this process because demons are intruders, similar to someone who is breaking into your house to steal something or wanting to harm you.

If someone is breaking into your house, you call the police who have the authority to provide protection that you need in a time of crisis. Likewise, people who have been trained in prayer ministry and know how to use their authority in Christ are needed to evict those demonic intruders in your life. Don't try to handle this on your own. Contact us if you are looking for help with deliverance from demonic influence.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

When you repent and renounce for your past or current involvement in things that have caused open doors, and break the agreement you have made with the enemy, then there is no more reason for the enemy to continue to harass you. Now you can be free of those things that have continued to torment you.

Chapter 10

HINDRANCES TO HEALING

Some people believe that miracles and healing no longer happen. Different denominational churches teach doctrines that do not actually line up with what the Bible says. Doctrines of men are teachings or traditions that people have come up with that are not Biblical. How is it that religion, in some cases, is the very thing that keeps us from receiving the healing that was already paid for on the cross.

Mark 7:13 in talking to the Pharisees, Jesus says, *“You hypocrites! You reject the commandment of God that you may keep your tradition.”* And later he says, *“making the Word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.”* Making the word of God no effect is serious!

Traditions that have been instituted over the years in churches have caused many doctrines to be taught about healing that are not Biblical.

The first one is: Is it God’s will for me to be healed? Because He is God, we know He heals, but is it His will for ME to be healed? Many people believe that God has the power to heal and there is no question about that, but because they don’t see healing as a normal occurrence, they believe that healing is dependent on the will of God. You may believe this because you’ve prayed for someone and they didn’t get healed.

Many churches teach that there are requirements you have to meet for God to heal you, such as having a certain level of faith or that He only decides that certain people get healed. It’s as if we believe He is up in heaven looking down and grants healing to the people that He decides to heal.

What is God's will?

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

God's will is that everyone might have life and have it more abundantly.

He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

This passage says that God's will is that the works of the devil be destroyed.

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

God's will is about doing good and healing all that are oppressed by the devil. This brings us to the question: Is healing always God's will?

And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (Matthew 8:2-3)

This particular verse causes many people to mistakenly believe that it might not be God's will for them to be healed

because the man with leprosy asked if it was His will. He may have seen Jesus healing others but he was not aware of His teachings. In this verse, Jesus addresses the issue and clears up the confusion by saying that He does will, and then He heals him. In fact, no where in the Bible does He say it is not His will for someone to be healed. He didn't tell anyone that they had to get more faith or repent of their sin first before He would heal them. When Jesus healed, it is recorded that He healed them all, even in the midst of large multitudes of people.

He healed them all because it is the nature of God to heal, not because the mind of God was changed towards someone because of some special prayer they prayed or the amount of faith they had.

What about the woman with the issue of blood who touched the hem of Jesus's garment when He was walking through a crowd of people? He definitely didn't decide that she would be healed or not. She set the condition for her healing, not Him. He did not have to say it was okay for her to get healed. Healing power emanated from His body and she knew that she could be healed if she only touched Him.

It is amazing that people today are still debating over God's will to heal any and all, when Jesus healed any and all and He was the full expression of God's will. He never said that someone had to stay sick so they could develop more character or learn a lesson. If I did that to my kids, they would come take them away from me. He did not bless any storm. He calmed the storms and He healed everyone who came to Him for healing.

When we talk about the will of God to save a soul, that is undisputed that it IS God's will for ALL to be saved. But not all are actually saved, even though it is His will. People can reject His free gift of salvation and eternal life. Likewise, it is also His will for us to be healed. But not all receive it or believe it.

We have created theology about healing around our lack of experience and it is not Biblical. When Jesus died on the cross: He shed His blood to pay for our sin which most people realize. Yet we do not discern the body of Jesus like we discern the blood of Jesus. We believe in His blood to pay for our sin, but not His body to pay for our sickness and disease. We have more faith in His blood than His body. This is because there has been more teaching about the blood than His body. In 1 Corinthians 11:30, when Paul is talking about communion, he says that because we have not discerned the body of Christ, many are weak and sick among you. The truth is that He paid for sickness and salvation when He died on the cross.

He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Healing is actually a part of the atonement. The word **saved** in the Bible comes from the Greek word SOZO which means both salvation and healing, along with deliverance and prosperity. Many healings in the Bible use the Greek word SOZO for “He made them whole.” He paid for your sins and your sickness.

And forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, and heals all your diseases. (Psalm 103:1-3)

It’s covering both and as far as God is concerned, it is already done! You WERE healed is past tense. God does not decide who gets healed and who doesn’t. He has already decreed that He has paid the price so healing is available. We have either not received it or have not ministered it. It’s our job to establish His kingdom on earth by removing the enemy’s work from the body.

It's up to us to enforce the defeat that God has already won over His enemy. God does not have to do anything else to make it happen. He has already decreed it.

As John G Lake said: "Jesus purchased your freedom from sickness as He purchased your freedom from sin. You have a right to health just as you have a right to deliverance from sin. If you do not have it, it is because you are being cheated out of your inheritance. It belongs to you."

Another doctrine of man is that God is teaching me through sickness. Some people believe that they are supposed to coddle or put up with sickness because God is somehow using it for their benefit in order to teach them something, or to make them better.

The truth is that sickness and trials do not make you better, they just reveal what's in your heart. Healing is in the atonement just as much as forgiveness of sins. God is not the one who puts sickness on you by trying to teach you something. If He died for the forgiveness of sins and for sickness, if they are all part of the atonement, then He would no more put sickness on you than He would lead you to sin so He could teach you something. If you have the attitude of "I won't submit to sickness, just like I won't submit to sin" you would see healing manifest in your body. Suffering for the sake of the Gospel is not the same as sickness and disease. Persecution and suffering are the things that you choose to go through for the sake of the Gospel.

Another doctrine of man is that God won't heal you until you get the sin out of your life. As we already said, healing is covered in the atonement. You don't have to do anything to deserve it. You don't deserve it, just like you don't deserve salvation. Jesus healed sinners all the time in the New Testament.

The next doctrine of man that hinders healing is this: “I am not healed because I don’t have enough faith.”

Faith does play a role, but it does not have to be your faith. It can be the faith of the person praying for you. For example: Did Lazarus have faith to be raised from the dead? It was not Lazarus! It was Jesus who had faith. It’s not always the sick person’s responsibility to have faith. We are to have faith when we pray for someone, but they don’t have to have it. We are commanded to heal the sick, but it does not say in the Bible, heal the sick if they have enough faith. Why is this? Because healing the sick is releasing the kingdom of God where someone was bound by darkness. It’s an act of war— we are defeating the kingdom of darkness.

And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (Matthew 13:57-58)

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and of Judas, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching. (Mark 6:3-6)

Some people use this scripture to say that unbelief stopped people from being healed. If you read it in context, he did heal people. Even in the midst of unbelief, people got healed, but it was certainly a hindrance to more miracles that they could have received.

It's not the question, "Is it God's will to heal?", but rather we should be asking "Are we willing to embrace His healing?" If so, it is ours to receive. Just because one fails to receive it does not nullify the promise or provision of God! All it means is that particular person did not receive it.

Of course, we know that God cannot fail. If healing does not come, we cannot look to God, as if the fault for this failure lay with Him. Those who do not receive healing cannot say to God, "You have failed to do what your Word says you will do!" Since God cannot lie and He cannot fail His Word, then the responsibility for failure to receive healing must lie with us, and not with God. When a person is not healed, something is blocking the power of God from flowing into the body. When these hindrances are dealt with and removed, then healing will come.

The truth is, our personal experiences, doctrines of man, and traditions we have created have defined truth. However, the Word of God is the only truth. We cannot lower the Word of God to the level of our experience. Let your experience rise to the level of the Word.

The only prerequisite for healing has been and always will be faith. This is where some lose heart because they have been told that they must have faith. As I said, all that is required is that someone have faith. If the sick person does not have faith then it becomes the duty of the believer to have faith for them so they can bring the supernatural reality of God's kingdom into the natural.

The hardest people to receive healing are usually Christians because they feel unworthy for God to heal them or they feel as though they must do something to make up for their wrongs and therefore become good enough to be healed.

Another obstacle that can hinder healing is getting your identity from your illness. When people have been sick for a long time, their mindset is affected too. They plan their life around

their health problems, because sickness has become such a part of their life, that it can become their identity. You know it's your identity when you can't picture yourself well anymore or your first topic of conversation when you are around others centers around your health problems. If you call yourself by your disease, such as "my arthritis", or call yourself a "Lymie" if you have Lyme Disease, then your identity is wrapped up in the disease. When your identity becomes your disease, you will consciously or subconsciously resist healing.

You may also be subconsciously benefiting from your sickness in some way, whether that means you are getting love, attention, a sense of belonging, or sympathy. When we gain something from our sickness or disease it keeps us from seeing the power healing can bring. Living with chronic disease is challenging enough, but when you add the psychological motivations to stay sick on top of it, it makes it nearly impossible to break free from.

Another hindrance to healing is tolerating sickness. If you see sickness as a natural or normal part of life, you are accepting it on some level and are not fighting against it. If you believe God wants you sick, then you won't fight against it. If you are not sure if it's His will to heal you, you won't get healing. You might pray for healing, but you are subconsciously going to resist it. You need to see sickness and disease the same way you see sin: it is not welcome in your body.

If you really knew the power of the Holy Spirit on the inside of you, you would realize you don't have to tolerate sickness. Most people have not gotten fed up with sickness! You might not like being sick, but you still might be tolerating it on some level. You may see sickness as a natural result of getting germs in your body, and as much as you wish you could avoid it, you feel it's inevitable that you will catch something.

The Bible says in the great commission that these signs will follow those who believe: *if they drink anything deadly, it will not harm them*. This means that you do not have to fear germs, toxins, or disease. Jesus is clearly stating that believers operating by the Spirit are divinely protected from sickness. Not only that but they will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17-18)

Sickness and disease come from the enemy, not from God. When you get mad at the enemy, you'll speak with Jesus' authority, and command sickness to go. It's as simple as that. However, most people don't get mad at the enemy. This might be because the doctor is far too convenient— we have access to modern medicine and they can just give us a pill for every ill. Why would you want to fight something that's relatively easy to deal with by swallowing a pill? That's the mindset that most people are coming from. Most people are just not pressing into God to access divine health that is rightfully theirs and getting fed up with sickness!

Therefore, the first thing you need to have to overcome sickness is the attitude that you are fed up with it! When you see sickness for what it really is— an intruder of darkness into your body and not just a natural process, you will see healing happen when you pray. Getting fed up is also helpful because it keeps you from being double minded. It enables you to have a single focus in your mind. When you are mad, you cannot think of two things at the same time. Double mindedness is what James talks about in this passage below and it prevents us from receiving from the Lord.

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:6)

Being double minded looks like this: while you are praying and if you find yourself wondering, “is this working?” or “I wonder if I am being too loud,” then you do not have a single focus and your prayers will not be effective.

I’ve certainly found this to be true for myself. When I first started praying for healing I would find a place to pray where I would not be a disruption if I get a little loud. I’ve gone outside to sit in my car many times so I could pray without anyone hearing me shout. Having a single focus where all your energy is on the target and allowing yourself to get fed up helps because it’s easier to focus on one thing and put your faith behind it.

John G Lake says: “There is only one prayer that is answered. It is not prayer that is answered but the prayer of faith. It is the prayer of faith that shall save the sick...Believing prayer is a committing, an intelligent committing of yourself to God; and your mind is stayed in God and your heart is stayed in God and you are walking in God. You are ready to die rather than go to anyone but God. That is the real believing prayer. That is the continuous prayer. That is prevailing prayer.”

DISMANTLING LIES AND TRADITIONS

Making sure your thoughts and beliefs line up with God’s kingdom is crucial to operating in the supernatural. Traditions of man or lies from the enemy can block our ability to receive or minister healing.

Here’s the problem with them: you are not believing God’s truth. They will keep you stuck and cause a hole in your armor where the enemy can affect you. This means that when you get

prayer for healing or when you pray for someone else and you see evidence that supports lies you believe, you will not gain the victory over sickness. For most of us, it's easy to fall for because it's familiar! For example, if you receive prayer and get healed, but then a few hours later, you feel bad again, you may think: "I knew those symptoms were not really going to go away." You may still subconsciously be looking for evidence to prove the lie that you believe: 'Healing happens for everyone else, but not for me.' This is a lie from the enemy.

Lies and traditions are like structures that take root in our minds and keep us from seeing God's truth clearly. The infrastructure needs to be torn down to ground level and replaced with new infrastructure that supports health.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Which doctrines of man have you been taught about healing that you need to unlearn?

What hindrances to healing have you noticed in your own life?

Have you been tolerating disease on any level? Has your identity been wrapped up in your illness to any degree? If so, how?

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

It's time to renounce lies and traditions you have believed so you can walk in God's truth and live according to His kingdom reality.

CHECK WHICH LIES YOU ARE BELIEVING:

- It's not God's will for me to be healed.
- God does not heal people anymore.
- I'm not good enough. I deserve this disease because of what I've done.
- I have to suffer because _____ (fill in the blank).
- It's God's will for me to suffer to teach me something. God is teaching me a lesson.
- God is working on my character.
- Healing happens for everyone else but it will never happen for me.
- It's not God's timing.
- This disease runs in my family so it's just something I have to live with.
- I am in pain every day of my life and I can't see beyond it.
- I am never going to make it.
- If I trust God for healing, how do I know it's going to work?
- I have had this for so long that it can't possibly go away quickly and easily with just a prayer!
- I will never get well. It's too good to be true.
- Bad things always happen to me. This is just the way it is.
- Every time I start to feel better, something bad always seems to happen.
- If I am sick, I get attention and feel seen and heard.

To become free from these lies or traditions, you must repent for them, and choose to come out of agreement with them. Do not entertain them anymore and instead believe what God says as your truth.

PRAYER FOR COMING OUT OF AGREEMENT
WITH LIES

Pray this prayer for each lie or tradition you have believed:

*“Father God, I repent for the lie that [insert lie here]. I choose to come out of agreement with the lie that [insert lie here]. [Repeat this part of the prayer for each lie].
“In the name of Jesus, I declare that it no longer has any power over me. Instead, I choose to believe Your truth. Thank you for renewing my mind to Your truth that you created me to be whole and healed.”*

LIE OR TRADITION	GOD’S TRUTH TO REPLACE IT
It’s not God’s will for me to be healed. God does not heal people anymore.	Jesus healed ALL who came to Him for healing, so did the disciples. Acts 5:16 Sickness is not the will of God. God’s will is your redemption from the curse in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:13). Through ignorance, unbelief or rebellion and disobedience, we open the door to evil in our lives. Jesus delivered people from sickness everywhere He went, and He rebuked it! He was never a friend of sickness and disease. He always did the will of God and you never saw Jesus instructing anyone to stay sick.
I’m not good enough. I don’t deserve healing.	God treats the forgiveness of our sins and the healing of our bodies as both parts of the atonement. Jesus died on the cross for BOTH! It’s not about being worthy. None of us deserve either. Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24
I have to suffer because _____.	Sickness does not give glory to God. Healing does. As Jesus healed the multitudes, Matthew 15:31 says, “When they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see...they glorified the God of Israel.”
God is teaching me a lesson or working on my character.	God no more put sickness on you to teach you a lesson than He would lead you to sin.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

LIE OR TRADITION	GOD'S TRUTH TO REPLACE IT
Healing happens for everyone else but not for me.	God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change and He is not a respecter of persons. What He did in the Bible, He does today. Malachi 3:6, Acts 10:34
It's not God's timing for me to be healed.	Healing is a gift that God has already given, just like salvation. It is up to the individual to reach out and take it as their own. 2 Peter 2:24
This disease runs in my family, so it's something I'll just have to live with.	You are now a child of God, and free from the curse of sin and death, which means past sins as well as generational diseases. The supernatural overrides the natural, so your DNA can change. Epigenetics proves your DNA can change.
I am in pain everyday and I cannot see beyond it.	You have a choice to either focus on the pain you are feeling or the healing that God has made available. Get fed up with tolerating sickness and rise above it to access your healing. Colossians 3:2, Phillipians 4:8
I am never going to make it.	Hopelessness does not come from God. Resist the enemy and believe that God loves you and wants the best for you. Understand the love of the Father and your identity in Christ. You are a victor not a victim. Hebrews 11
If I trust God for healing, how do I know it's going to work?	Resist the doubt and unbelief the enemy is trying to use to steal your healing. Feed your faith to believe His kingdom is more real than your symptoms. You believe it before you see it. Hebrews 11
I've had this for so long that it can't possibly go away quickly and easily with a prayer!	Your illness has become your identity. Visualize yourself as healthy. Speak life over your body. Choose to no longer partner with the enemy by focusing on your symptoms. Believe the impossible! Yes, it can be that easy! The truth is that God's kingdom is more real than your symptoms.
I will never get well. It's too good to be true.	God does not just want you to be well in heaven. He paid the price for your freedom NOW! Understand the love of the Father and your identity in Christ. Resist the enemy and believe that God wants you well.
Bad things always happen to me. Or every time I start to feel better, I feel bad again.	You are a new creation in Christ. The old man no longer has power over you. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Operate according to God's kingdom, not this world. Renew your mind to the reality of God's kingdom. Rebuke the spirit of fear!
If I am sick, I get attention. I feel seen and heard.	Because you are benefiting from being sick, you have to decide what you want. Do you want to be healed? God has freely provided it. It's up to you.

Chapter 11

FAITH VERSUS FEAR

Faith activates the spirit realm. As John G Lake says, it's not any prayer that is answered. It is the prayer of faith. So what is faith?

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith is what brings the unseen things from the supernatural realm into the natural realm. It is the substance of things hoped for. The Greek word for faith is PISTIS and it means to be fully persuaded or to have confidence. Many people want to receive healing in order to believe they've got it, but it doesn't work that way. You have to have faith first, and then you will receive it. You must see it in the spirit realm before you see it in the natural realm.

Unbelief means that you are going by your feelings or by what you see. Faith depends on the promises of God— you trust Him, you have confidence in Him, and you are FULLY PERSUADED! Because of that, you live according to the unseen and not the circumstances around you.

An example of faith is this: Do you 'feel' saved? Do you 'feel' forgiven? How do you know you are? You have received it by faith and you believe it! Why do we have a hard time with healing? Healing is the same way. You use faith to receive healing just like you use faith to receive salvation. You take hold of things in the spirit realm by faith and believe you have them. Then they show up in the natural realm.

John Wesley once said that the devil has given the church a substitute for faith, one that looks and sounds so much like faith that few people can tell the difference. This substitute he called “mental assent.” Many people read God’s Word and agree that it is true, but they are agreeing only with their minds, and that is not what gets the job done. It is faith that enables someone to receive from God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. (Mark 11:23)

How can we tell whether we have faith or if we are just mentally agreeing? Mental assent says, “I know God’s Word is true. I know God has promised healing, but for some reason I can’t get it; I can’t understand it. Why am I not healed?” However, real faith in God’s Word says, “If God’s Word says it’s so, then it’s so. It is mine. I have it now. I have it even though I can’t see it.”

If you’ve prayed in the past and nothing happened, disappointment may be keeping you from faith. Just because nothing happened in the past does not mean nothing is going to happen now. How are you going to learn if you don’t try again? If you have a child who was just learning how to walk, and they tripped and fell, would you say, “Ok, that’s it. No more walking for you!” They will never learn if they don’t try, so that would be crazy logic. You have to be willing to fail, learn what didn’t work, and do it again. If you pray for healing and nothing happens, don’t give up. It is worth falling down dozens of times to see one

miracle. It's just incredible! No one bats a thousand except Jesus, so there will be times where healing does not manifest, but that should not stop us.

If you have prayed and have not seen healing, either God's word is not true or there is a problem with us. We know God's word is not the problem. If we have doubt or unbelief in our minds when we speak to the mountain, it will not move.

Fear and unbelief are the main things that can block healing because they are the opposite of faith. You cannot operate in fear and faith at the same time. You may not recognize that you have fear because we live in a fear based society where fear is normal. It is so normal that you may not realize it's even there! You might think your faith in God is not working, but it's really fear that you don't realize you have.

If you don't have 100 percent confidence, you are not operating in faith. There is no second guessing the outcome when you have faith. You see the outcome from God's perspective. Keep trusting God after you've prayed, even when the outward circumstances have not completely changed yet. That's faith. You are either trusting God or you're not. There is no gray area when it comes to faith. Faith knows something just shifted in the supernatural realm and is expecting for the change to show up in the natural realm.

I visualize faith going out from me when I pray, sending a signal to God, and He is dispatching the delivery truck with my answer. I expect that the answer is on it's way. I do not keep talking about the problem anymore since I have cast my care onto Him and trust that the answer is on it's way.

Fear creeps in when we look at the circumstances that have not changed, and then we begin to doubt that anything has happened. We question ourselves or God. That is NOT faith.

God may be revealing to you that there is a spirit of fear that needs to be broken off your life. You may need to get prayer for deliverance from the spirit of fear. Spending time with Him will shift fear into faith.

If you find yourself praying and thanking God for your healing, but then an hour later, getting concerned you might need to go see a doctor or take something, you might be speaking God's truth, but not really believing that it's actually going to happen for you, that's an indication that fear is still present.

Stop looking at what your eyes are telling you. It's hard to do at first, but it will set you free! You are a supernatural being who is an ambassador of God! You are a child of God who has His Holy Spirit inside of you! You carry the supernatural power of heaven with you wherever you go.

A great example of fully persuaded faith is the time when Smith Wigglesworth went to visit a church member whose family member had recently passed away. Smith and his wife went to pay their respects. When they arrived, there were two glass French doors separating the entry from the parlor. Behind the glass doors was the dead man lying in the coffin.

Smith walked in, didn't say hello to anyone—he just opened the glass doors, walked up to the coffin, yanked the lid open, and pulled the man out of the box. He stood him in the corner, pointed his finger at him, and said, “In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!” The man slid down the wall.

He went over, caught him by the suit, picked him back up and said, “I said, walk!” He slid down on the floor again. Finally, Mr. Wigglesworth went over, picked him up, threw him in the corner and said, “I said, walk!” And the two of them came walking out of the parlor, shouting, praising and glorifying God. He did not let the first two times stop him from believing!

What do you do when you are having issues with unbelief, fear, or doubt?

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:14-21)

Fasting helps dispel the unbelief. It will cause your spirit to grow stronger while the flesh grows weaker. Fasting and prayer will remove unbelief because it denies the flesh so the carnal man is not controlling you. When fasting is combined with prayer and seeking Him, you will start to see the world from His perspective.

WHY FEAR KEEPS YOU PARALYZED

Fear is not just some inconsequential feeling that causes us to feel far from God. It has far more insidious ramifications. Fear is an insult to God and a denial of what He has done, His power, and how much He cares for you. It is a sign that your beliefs do not match what you say you believe.

Look at the words you speak and your behavior when you are in a crisis or under significant stress. They reveal what is in your heart and are what you really believe. You may find that your core beliefs are not lining up with God's word like you thought. If you have fear and anxiety, you have lost the awareness of how much He is in control and is able to take care of you. Fear causes you to falsely magnify your ability to control life and manage your circumstances. The truth is that any sense of control you feel is really just an illusion. Our lives are far more in God's control than we realize and since control makes us feel safe, we choose to stay in control because of FEAR. But we must surrender control.

If you worry about symptoms you are experiencing, or go on WebMD every time you feel something, you are rejecting the healing He has already provided on the cross. You're pushing healing away and inviting sickness to stay with each worry or fearful thought you let occupy your mind. Why? Because you are coming into agreement with the enemy. It puts you in a place that hinders you from receiving from God. You are doubting Him and the finished work that was done on the cross.

If you let fear rule your life, you ultimately do not trust Him. If you truly know Him and how good He is, you will trust Him. When you trust Him, you can let go of all of the worry and fear because you know He's got you in every area! He created the entire universe, and you think He can't take care of your situation? How far have we gotten where we doubt the ability of our Creator to take care of us? We think germs are somehow more powerful than God, or that cancer is more powerful than God!

I want you to picture the size of the universe right now. It's not even something that's easy to comprehend and yet, He holds the universe in His hand. In light of that, we are like a speck in all of His creation, just like in *Horton Hears A Who*. We are

worried about a microscopic germ that is like a speck on our speck? It's an insult to God! We should be at peace knowing that He is in control and that nothing surprises Him. When we realize how much He is able to handle things, we can trust Him.

Fear also keeps us from seeing into the unseen supernatural realm where God is ALWAYS at work on our behalf. Fear taints the lens through which we view the world around us and we are not able to see clearly. It's like there is a black film that's smeared on our glasses. Fear makes us a prisoner to its own viewpoint and holds us hostage in our mind.

Fear is dangerous because it feels normal and is easy to slip into on a daily basis, but it's deadly to our pursuit of the things of God. It will stunt your growth, destroy your faith, keep you from freedom in Christ, and keep you from divine health.

Faith is simply believing God. It's fully trusting Him, no matter what the circumstances may look like around you. Faith is seeing life from the unseen world, not from the viewpoint of our five senses or the natural world around us.

Faith is a product of our relationship with God. Fear is a product of our relationship with the enemy.

So how do we move from fear to faith? The first step is to saturate your mind with things that feed faith rather than fear. If you stop feeding yourself a daily dose of fear, it will be easier to break the hold it has on you. What you watch, listen to, read, and expose yourself to is what you will become. Become open to the possibility of a new paradigm, which will allow you to see the world around you differently. If you have health problems you are used to dealing with, think about experiencing a life without health problems. Start talking about and focusing on the good things that are going on in your body rather than the bad things all the time. Can you see yourself as healthy? When you close your eyes, can you see yourself without those symptoms? How do

you feel instead? What would you do with your time without this health issue? How would life be different? Start to live from that place and then things will change.

This is the first step to faith— you have to believe on the inside that it's possible BEFORE you see it show up on the outside. Faith is the SUBSTANCE of things HOPED FOR, and the EVIDENCE of things NOT SEEN. (Hebrews 11:1)

Ignoring your symptoms is not the same thing as faith and believing. That is passive and it's not accessing faith to bring healing from the unseen world into your body. Faith is active and when you believe you are healed, you access the healing from the unseen realm through the stripes that Jesus bore on the cross so you don't have to be sick. He already provided it. You are just believing it's yours and you receive it.

How do you know you received it by faith? You feel different on the inside, even though the outside has not changed yet. You feel different about your symptoms, even though they may still be present. There is no fear anymore and you no longer have the desire to talk about your health problems. You don't wonder, "Did it work? Did I access my healing? What if I'm not healed?" Those thoughts are rooted in unbelief and fear.

You have to learn how to get the power out of your spirit and into your body to have healing. God has already provided it, and it does not manifest into the physical realm until we learn how to release what has been placed on the inside of us. That happens through reading the Word of God, spending time with Him, renewing the mind, and acting on it. Once you act on it, it will manifest. If you don't, it will stay dormant on the inside of you. You won't experience healing, peace, and joy, even though it's available. All you do is release it, you don't need to pray for God to give it to you! He has already given it to you.

Renewing your mind is the key to everything! Your mind will continue to function the way it was programmed until you reprogram it. You have to change the way you think. You have to let go of hurts and forgive people. You have to be able to operate in faith and believe what God said is true is ACTUALLY true!

Refuse to live with doubt and unbelief. Kick fear to the curb! Faith is confidence in God, being fully persuaded, trusting in Him without doubting, 100 percent convinced, not 95 percent. This is the mindset that has to be in place for miracles to happen.

Notice your thoughts during the day: how many are fear-based and how many are faith-based? Be a curious observer, not judgmental. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you are believing a lie or what is keeping you stuck in fear.

When God says, “Do not fear,” it’s not to expose what we are doing wrong, it’s because He is telling you that there is a reason WHY you don’t have to be afraid. He is saying, “I’ve made provision for you to have authority and dominion over the thing you fear if you would simply believe Me.” He is letting you know that there is an answer available. He is telling you that He has made a way for you to deal with the circumstances coming against you, so you do not have to fear!

Having the feeling of fear or the emotion of fear is not a sin, but partnering with it is. Embracing fearful thoughts as if they are the truth is when they become a problem.

If you are struggling with fear, you need a revelation of God’s love.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek it's own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

But as for prophecies, they will fail; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (I Corinthians 13:1-4, 6-13)

If you are struggling with fear or unbelief, love is the ultimate antidote. Why? God is love. Love is the only thing that lasts. Love is the only thing that will remain for eternity. Healing will not be needed in eternity. Tongues will not be needed in eternity. Prophecy will not be needed in eternity. We will see Him face to face. Only love remains. God is love.

Even if I have faith to move mountains and operate in spiritual gifts, but don't have love, it profits me nothing. Even if I have so much knowledge that I understand all the mysteries of the universe..... even if I give all my possessions away and even sacrifice my body for His sake, but if love is not the motivation, it is nothing.

When you have a revelation of God's love for you, it causes you to bear all things, endure all things, believe all things. Love draws us into Him where we trust Him and worry and fear have no place in our life. We cannot fear anything on this earth.

If you are struggling to believe, if you are struggling with fear, you need His LOVE. It gives you the ability to bear all things, believe all things, and endure all things. Love is the greatest since love is God's nature. It's who He is. You don't understand God if you don't love. Love trusts God.

Think of someone that you know who loves you. In my case, I know my husband loves me. If my husband says that He will be back at a certain time, I trust Him to show up when he said he would. If I start to worry or wonder about him following through on what he said, I am demonstrating that I don't trust him. Why don't I trust him? Is it because I am afraid that he will not come back? Am I aware of how much he loves me and would never abandon me? If I know his heart that is for me, and that he loves me, then I would know there is no reason in the world to worry! I know that he has my back no matter what the circumstances look like because I KNOW HIM and I know his character. I don't trust him because of what he does, but because of WHO HE IS. Why do we fail to trust God? Why do we worry about our lives? Why do we let fear take over? We need a revelation of WHO HE IS and how much He LOVES us. Love is the answer to everything.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is

love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (1 John 4:7-21)

Love and fear cannot coexist. When you fully grasp the revelation of how much God loves you and how He has made provision for you to walk in health, to have peace, and to be provided for, you will experience it. When you realize you can trust Him because of who He is, fear dissolves. When you become so in love with Him, you are willing to sell everything you have to obtain the pearl of great price. You are willing to lay down your life so that you may find it in Him. You are willing to step out of your comfort zone so He can touch someone. You are willing to take a risk so that He might be glorified. This is what you were created for: LOVE.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

In what ways are you partnering with the spirit of fear? What beliefs or thoughts do you have regularly that are fear-based?

What practical things can you do to build your faith?

If God has shown you that you are partnering with fear, and you are ready to be free, then I want you to say this prayer aloud:

“I repent for coming into agreement with the spirit of fear. I repent for believing the lies of the enemy as truth. I choose to no longer partner with fearful thoughts that come into my mind.

“I come out of agreement with the lie that there is something to fear. I come out of agreement with the lie that God cannot be trusted. I come out of agreement with the lie that [insert each lie you have believed that has caused you to stay in fear].

“I am serving divorce papers to the spirit of fear right now. I break your assignment over me and the power you have had over my life! I command the spirit of fear to leave me right now, in Jesus name!

“I invite the Prince of Peace into my life. Jesus, I receive Your love right now. I choose to trust You, even when I don’t know what is going to happen because I know that You are trustworthy.”

Now I want you to imagine every place that fear has resided in your mind being filled with the love of God right now. Allow your whole body to be filled with His love right now as you sit in His presence.

Whenever fear based thoughts try to come back into your mind, choose to reject them and focus on God’s truth.

Chapter 12

PRAYING FOR HEALING

Healing is a supernatural event where matter changes. It's called a miracle because it does not normally happen naturally. The definition of miracle is: *a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.*

You might see tumors disappearing, metal dissolving, ears opening up, or pain instantly disappearing. These things are not normal and modern science says this is actually impossible. Yet most people believe this is impossible too, which is why when people pray for healing, they have to work at having enough faith because they have believed it is impossible. Their natural mind goes tilt when they think about the miraculous happening before their eyes. This is the wrong way to look at healing.

Miracles and healings are a natural part of God's kingdom, and we need to stop thinking about them being such an unbelievable and rare event that is taking place. Miracles and healing should be normal. So normal, in fact, that they happen everyday. They don't require stress, effort, or super-spiritual levels of faith. A paradigm shift is needed. We don't need to work so hard to believe in the impossible when we are praying because the impossible should be completely natural to us. Divine healing is not a special thing that happens only when some anointed man of God prays. You should expect the supernatural to show up regularly in your life when you are living according to the kingdom of God!

When you see a miracle happen, it is the kingdom of God in action. Those things happen all the time in His world. It is a demonstration that His reality is more real than this reality.

If you are in a situation where you are surprised, shocked, or cannot believe when a miracle takes place, like when someone who is blind receives their sight, you will have a hard time healing the sick because this shows that you are actually in unbelief. It's ok to be amazed at what God does, but you shouldn't be surprised.

I've struggled when praying for serious disease because it seemed more difficult for God to heal. Why would I think it is harder for someone to be healed from a major disease like cancer, than healed of a minor issue such as a cold? The truth is that both are miraculous! God's kingdom superseded the natural realm and the impossible happened! Big things are just as easy to God as the small things. We should have no problem expecting the impossible when we pray. Are you expecting God to do the impossible?

YOUR POSITIONING IS IMPORTANT

When you pray, it's easy to pray from your mind rather than from your spirit. If you are praying for your own healing, your symptoms may be screaming at you and seemingly make it harder to get past the pain to access healing. However, you have to position yourself in a place that is above those symptoms to go after God. It may take you thirty minutes of praise and worship until you are in the right mindset to pray in faith. Sometimes we get so caught up in our feelings that it is hard to make a shift to operating in the spirit. But we have to.

Here is the key: When the kingdom of God becomes more real to you than your symptoms or sickness, that is when healing will manifest.

Healing is easy when we are living from His kingdom. But when we are living more from this world, then the fear and unbelief make healing seem impossible and out of reach. That's because it is!

How does healing become easy? Spend time with Him in the secret place. Live in faith, not fear. Stay filled with Holy Spirit. Believe the impossible is possible. Speak His truth and not what you see or feel. These are the foundational pieces that form the platform by which you can pray for healing and it will happen more often than it doesn't.

You must believe that the supernatural realm is as real as this natural realm. When you pray, you must stay focused on God's kingdom and not what you see. I cannot emphasize this enough! Things are actually happening in the spirit realm when you pray. Angels are mobilized, the Holy Spirit is at work, and the body is responding. Sometimes you cannot see it right away, but it can still be happening.

When you pray, you are speaking to something that is actually there even though you can't see it. By the authority that Jesus has granted you, as an ambassador for Him on this earth, you are commanding this realm to line up with His realm. When you pray from that perspective, you are confident in His kingdom, who He is, and you will begin to believe that anything is possible. You don't just believe that it CAN happen. We all believe that it CAN happen. You believe and EXPECT it WILL happen RIGHT NOW!

You may have to pray a few times but it does not shake your faith and determination to see His kingdom come. Pray until it shows up and keep believing after you pray expecting it to show up. Hold steady in faith. If there is any improvement that means God is working. Keep praying even if things are only a little bit better. Keep pressing in for more!

If you pray and you don't see anything happen, it's natural to want to quit and give up. DO NOT QUIT! When nothing happens the first time I pray, I know that things are happening in the spirit realm even if I cannot see them yet, so I ask the person if I can pray again immediately. When I pray again, I am even more determined to see God's healing manifest, so I press in deeper into God's kingdom by focusing on the Holy Spirit, allowing Him time to move. My faith rises even higher because I refuse to let fear and unbelief control my thoughts, allowing the enemy to win.

Another perspective that may help you understand this is when I pray, I imagine that I am praying from heaven to earth rather than from earth to heaven. I pray from the kingdom of heaven's perspective and positioning rather than from our natural realm's perspective: what my five senses are telling me. I pray from the point of view that healing is always available in the spirit realm and for it to be brought into the natural realm rather than being positioned from the natural realm and trying to make it happen in my own strength or effort.

I believe healing is always available because it really is. It is a spiritual law because of the price Jesus paid and it is as real to me as the law of gravity. I never question it. I believe it.

I am not saying that healing happens every time. I know that I can let fear or unbelief creep in sometimes. Only Jesus was able to bat a thousand. However, I do whatever it takes to stay in faith and believe, and I see people get healed far more often than they don't get healed.

One of the things that makes the biggest difference is to be in the spirit when you pray. You should be used to spending time in His presence so you know what it feels like to be in the spirit. If I am busy, and someone wants me to pray for them, I find a quiet spot and take a few minutes to get my eyes off of the natural realm around me and surrender completely to Him. I become

God centered, not self centered. Even if I don't feel anything, I focus on Him by faith before I pray. I go into the secret place in my mind, wherever I am in that moment. I choose to release all fear, anxiety, self-consciousness, and unbelief, choosing to partner with faith and with the Holy Spirit. It's a decision, not a feeling.

When you pray for people, you are taking the secret place with you— you carry His presence and release it, and that's all healing is. You become a conduit for the Healer. That's why your focus only needs to be on Him for it to happen. Forget about yourself, how you feel, what you look like, what you sound like, what people think of you, and just let your mind relax as you focus all of your attention on Him.

Your prayer for healing is not the most important thing. It's your positioning when you pray that is most important. You must submit your will to Jesus and speak with His authority. When you do that, you are like the fuse in the breaker box. A fuse in the breaker box connects the electrical power coming into your house from the street to the circuits in your house that bring the electricity into your walls. You are like the fuse. It's not your prayer that does anything. You are just there to connect the power source to the need. I'll repeat that again because it's important. You just connect the power source, the Holy Spirit, to the need.

Another way to look at it is like this: If I put my hand on the person who is sick, and with the other hand, I reach up and touch God, then I am just the go-between. That's all. I am just the connector. It is the Holy Spirit inside of me that heals. When you pray, you just keep your mind focused on imparting the Holy Spirit. My mind is not focused on the outcome, nor on the person in front of me. My mind is focused on the Holy Spirit. That's it.

Healing is possible because of the Holy Spirit inside of me and the authority of Jesus so when I pray I will state that, both to remind myself that it has nothing to do with me, and to remind the enemy that he has no right to be there. It helps to get me fired up!

How did Jesus pray? Many people today pray to God for healing with prayers of petition as if it's His job to grant a miracle and perform it. When you read the gospels' stories about healings, notice that Jesus and His disciples never prayed petitionary prayers for healing. Instead, they commanded in prayer every time. Their prayer commands were not directed toward God, but toward people's conditions. An example of petitionary prayer would be, "Father, in Jesus' name I ask You to heal the inflammation in Joe's knee and take out the swelling and pain."

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. (Luke 4:38)

Because of Jesus' resurrection, He defeated sickness and disease, and we are authorized to use His name to command sickness to go, just like a policeman has a badge that gives him authority to put a criminal in jail. He does not need to go to the precinct and get permission every time he sees a criminal on whether or not he should arrest him. They have already established that they want the criminals to go to jail and have given the policeman the right to do that. He has been trusted to use the authority given to him to get rid of the criminals. Because we operate according to the authority of Jesus, we don't need to ask God every time we see or feel sickness. God has already established that darkness has no right anymore and we can simply command it to go. When

we command sickness to leave, it's actually the Holy Spirit of God inside of us that is activated to heal and drive out darkness.

Most people are talking to God about their problem but they should be talking to the problem about God! This comes from Mark 11:23. This shows that you know who you are and the authority you have. If you have pain, talk to the pain and command it to leave in Jesus name!

Commanding prayers are what you should use when you pray for healing. Example: "In the name of Jesus, I command the inflammation in this knee to be healed. I command all swelling and pain to leave right now, in Jesus name!" "I command this high blood pressure to come down to normal pressure! I command this tumor to shrink in Jesus name! Disappear! I curse it!"

No one in the Bible ever prayed for healing with the words, "If it be Your will." Neither do we see modeled anywhere in the New Testament someone praying for healing using petitionary prayers. We need to use commanding prayers. If this feels different to you, just remember that you are not commanding God to do what you say. You are commanding the body to respond to God's kingdom and you are commanding the enemy to go because you are an ambassador of God's Kingdom with authority to cast out evil spirits because of the Holy Spirit inside of you.

HOW TO PRAY FOR HEALING

Here is a model for praying for healing over someone. First, I find out what the problem is and have them tell me in one sentence. I do not want their full health history. I keep it very brief for a reason: the more they talk to me about their problem, the more my faith can be affected. This is typical because they have fear and unbelief, and the more they talk, the more they can talk me right out of faith.

If they have pain, find out how bad it is on a scale of 1 to 10. If they cannot move their arm, have them show you how hard it is to move it before you pray so you will be able to tell what God is doing once you start praying.

Next, I start the prayer by inviting the Holy Spirit into the situation. “Come, Holy Spirit.” Or “Thank you, Holy Spirit for Your presence here right now.”

I thank God for the blood of Jesus, the stripes He bore on the cross, and His resurrection. I also like to acknowledge that He is the King of Kings and He defeated death and disease. It sounds something like this: “Thank you Jesus for Your blood that You shed on the cross and the stripes You bore for our sickness. Because of your resurrection, we can access healing.” This is the positioning I was talking about.

The healing does not come from me. It's only because of Jesus that this is possible. I like to state this because it gets me out of the way so I can be a clear conduit for the Holy Spirit. If your faith is low, this helps a lot because saying this helps YOU remember that He does the healing. This also helps drive away fear.

Now speak to the condition and command it to go and then speak healing to the body. Command disease to go as if it was a demon. For example: “I command all pain to leave right NOW in Jesus' name. All of it must go, right now! I speak healing to this body. I command full restoration of this body. I speak LIFE to every bone, ligament, muscle, nerve, organ, tendon, and cell, in Jesus name.” Listen to whatever the Holy Spirit is leading you to say. The focus is on Him, not the person you are praying for, nor on yourself. Saying ‘right now’ is important because we want it to leave now, not in a few hours or days. It needs to leave NOW! Be firm and militant, but you don't need to be loud. Simply say it like you mean it!

Pray until you feel like a shift has happened. The Holy Spirit is your guide. I usually only pray for a few minutes and then stop and check in with them to see what's happening. If you have neglected the secret place, it takes longer for healing to manifest because you have let the fire die down. That's why it's important to stoke the fire of the Holy Spirit by spending time with Him in the secret place regularly to maintain your connection to Him. Praying in tongues for 20-30 minutes before praying for someone also stokes the fire. It's your job to keep the fire burning bright!

As you pray for someone, you may start to feel manifestations in the natural realm of the Holy Spirit working. If you feel heat or tingling on your hands, that's just the Holy Spirit working. Don't focus on it. If you do, it can distract you. Keep your focus on Him and being a conduit of the Holy Spirit. The person you are praying for may feel heat, tingling, electricity, coldness, trembling or have other physical manifestations. This is a sign that God is working. It's a good sign and you may need to reassure the person you are praying for that it means that God is working.

If they get worse, that can be a sign of an afflicting spirit causing their symptom or condition. You may want to command the spirit of infirmity or affliction to leave. "In Jesus name, I break the power of this afflicting spirit and command it to leave now!"

Next, ask them to do what they couldn't do if it is applicable to their situation. If they can't test it out, you can ask them what they are feeling and if they are feeling heat, tingling, or other manifestations, let them know those signs simply mean the Holy Spirit is working and you should bless what God is doing and keep praying. If they can test out the problem to see if it's getting better, say something like this: "Try to do what you couldn't do before. Test it out and let me know how it is." If they have pain, ask them how their pain level is now on a scale of 1 to 10.

If they are showing improvement, keep praying. Continue as long as God is working. If they are a little better, but not completely healed, you can pray something like this: “Holy Spirit, I bless what you are doing. Thank you for the healing that has already happened. I command this pain to leave right now in Jesus name. All of it must go, right now! I thank you for complete healing right now in Jesus name.” Then have them do what they could not do and find out what they are feeling. Keep pressing in for complete healing.

What if nothing happens? That thought alone keeps people from even taking the first step. Fear paralyzes them from taking action. Nothing will happen if you never step out of your comfort zone. You have to be bold. When the Holy Spirit is given free reign in your life, you become bold because it’s Him doing the work.

Honestly, it does not matter if nothing happens. If nothing happens the first time I pray, I just pray again. Even Jesus prayed more than one time for someone. Each time you pray, it adds to what you already imparted into them. You are not starting over each time you pray. You are adding more of the Holy Spirit’s healing power to their body, so expect MORE to happen each time you pray successively, not for LESS to happen. I’ve even prayed five or more times before healing started to manifest, so don’t give up too soon or you might miss a miracle!

As you learn how to flow with the Holy Spirit, you will make mistakes. You may pray and nothing happens. Looking back, you may realize that you had fear or unbelief that negated your faith. Or you were worried about being too loud, which took your focus off God. These are good things to notice so that you can learn how to flow with the Holy Spirit better next time.

Sometimes you do everything right, and the person still does not get healed. It could be something on their end, so don’t

blame yourself if they do not get healed. We cannot take the results personally. The Holy Spirit is the one we are partnering with and He does the healing, not us. If you take the blame when someone is not healed then that means you are probably taking some of the credit when they are healed. Ouch! Only God should get the glory!

If they are not getting better after praying several times in a row, don't get discouraged or self-conscious. Stay God focused and ask Him to show you what to do or what to say next. He might show you they have unforgiveness towards someone and it could be the thing that unlocks their ability to receive healing from God if that is dealt with first.

When they get healed, celebrate what God did and thank God with them. Many times, people will not realize the miracle that took place since they are not used to seeing God move in this manner and you will need to help them realize that God just manifested His kingdom in their midst. That is why Jesus told His disciples to say, *"The kingdom of God has come near you"* after they would pray for someone. We want them to know that was God showing up on their behalf and it's not something to take lightly!

We partner with the Holy Spirit and just let Him do the work through us. We rebuke the sickness and command it to go and let His life flow.

To summarize, when you pray for healing, the three most important things are: your positioning, your faith, and your level of surrender to the Holy Spirit where you are unattached to the outcome personally. Lack of results should never shake your faith. It should only make you more hungry. If you believe the Bible is true and it says that we can lay hands on the sick and they will recover, don't stop until you see that in operation in your life. Don't be discouraged if it does not happen right away. Let it be the catalyst to cause you to continue to press in for more.

One way I built up my faith was to read books about John G Lake and other healers of the past. As I read about them, I saw that they had a faith that was unshakable and it inspired me to trust God even more. I was persistent and I did not give up. I was not going to let the enemy win. If you have that attitude, you will not stop until you see miracles happen.

Since I was not used to seeing miracles happen before, I watched videos online of people getting healed to build my faith and level of expectation. Watching people getting out of wheelchairs helped me believe the impossible was possible.

If you find yourself praying for someone or some health condition and you would honestly be surprised if they were healed, then you are still in doubt and unbelief. You should be able to picture the outcome of them getting healed in your mind. I remember praying for a lady in a wheelchair and while I was praying I suddenly realized that if she got up and started walking, it would take me by surprise! I should not be shocked if someone gets healed when I pray for them. Watching it happen on video helped me know it's possible and that it's God's reality for us. Gods' reality needs to be our reality.

What if nothing seems to be happening after praying? Am I willing to be unattached to the outcome enough that I can hear the Holy Spirit tell me what to do next? Am I listening to Him or am I focused on my lack of results, causing me to pull back in shame and embarrassment? Do I get discouraged and stop too soon?

Faith believes there is breakthrough on its way. Faith enables us to stay connected to the Holy Spirit so He can lead us in what to pray next or show us what is blocking the healing. There may be unforgiveness that needs to be addressed before healing can come. Faith keeps believing in the unseen realm even when there is not evidence yet in the natural realm. Faith is the

substance of things hoped for and becomes the evidence as we continue to have faith. We will see it manifest if we do not grow weary and start doubting. Faith sees it as already present in the unseen realm. Being able to visualize the healing in the unseen realm causes it to become evident in the natural realm. Faith is a tangible substance in the supernatural realm and as you continue to cultivate faith, that which you are fully in faith for becomes a tangible substance in the natural realm.

Look at the person you are praying for as a victim of an unseen force. You are partnering with the Holy Spirit to defeat the darkness and are setting people free! You are letting the Kingdom of God reign on earth and bring light where there was darkness. We are called to break the power of darkness in this world. Wherever Jesus went, He brought both the Word of God to teach them and the healing to illustrate that message. It was the fullness of the kingdom of God. Healing is just the sign that the kingdom of God is there.

STEWARDSHIP YOUR HEALING

What happens after someone is healed? Sometimes symptoms may try to return, which is why people think they have lost their healing. The enemy may try to put symptoms back on you to see if you will fall for it again. Sometimes he may whisper something in your ear and if you come into agreement with it, fear creeps back in causing symptoms to return. He may whisper things such as, "You don't deserve this," which is true: none of us deserve healing. We receive it by God's grace and we cannot do anything to earn it. It's a free gift because of what He paid for on the cross. When you begin to think God grants us healing based on how good we are then you have just come into agreement with the enemy and given him access to your life.

God does not cause someone to lose their healing or become unhealed. He is the Healer. There is only one being who can affect your healing: that's the devil- if you choose to partner with that realm and listen to his lies. If we allow the spirit of fear to rule our thoughts then it can affect our healing. For example, when I was at healing conference, I got healed and it was so surprising to me that it was hard for me to believe it! When I got home I allowed fear back in by having thoughts of unbelief. I wanted healing, but I chose to partner with fear instead of faith and my symptoms came back. Fearful thoughts opened up the door to the enemy again.

Cultivating an atmosphere of faith is important to maintain your healing. If you've just been healed, the enemy wants to steal what you've just received. Often this happens through other people's comments toward what you have just experienced. You must maintain your healing by faith. I've seen people get healed and then because other people question their healing, sowing seeds of doubt and unbelief, it caused them to doubt what God had done. If you get healed and immediately go to the doctor to get it verified, he may say something to sow seeds of doubt and unbelief because that's what he believes. Allow the seed of healing to go deep in you until you are confident in what God has done. It's important to testify to what God has done, but sometimes it's better to wait a little bit so that your healing settles in your mind. Allow your heart and mind to align with what He has done, and then testify. You may want to wait a few weeks before you go tell everyone!

What if you are only partially healed? It is important to focus on what God HAS done rather than what He has NOT done. It may take a few days for the body to fully manifest the healing. We might not see the instant miracle we hope for, so we discount the small improvement that we have gotten which causes us to think the healing process is done.

Having an attitude of praise and thanksgiving for what He has done will allow the rest of the healing to manifest. When we thank and praise Him for what He is doing, this allows Him to do more.

When I pray for someone and they start to feel better, I'll thank God and bless what He is doing rather than focus on what's not better yet. Put your attention on what HAS happened as opposed to what HASN'T happened. You still may have some symptoms, but that doesn't mean you are not healed. Thank God for every small breakthrough because God is doing the miraculous! Every miracle is amazing! Put your attention on it, no matter how small it is! If you walk away disappointed because you only got a partial healing, saying "That didn't work, I did not get my miracle" then you have allowed yourself to become disconnected from the Source of healing. Give thanks for what you DO receive even if it's small. As you give thanks for every small thing, the kingdom is released and you will see more manifest.

What do you do if symptoms return? If your symptom returns, the enemy is just trying to see if he can put it back on you. He wants to see if you will fall for it again. 'Do not fear' is the #1 command in Scripture. That means God is giving us the heads up that this is the main tactic that the enemy will use to try and detach us from our life source because fear based thoughts empower the enemy. We then have unknowingly authorized the enemy to have power over us when we come into agreement with his lie. If you have been healed and your symptoms come back, recognize that it's from enemy, not your disease coming back. You were healed! You have to resist the enemy and recognize fear for what it is. Tell the spirit of fear and your symptoms to leave! Do not let the enemy steal your faith and your peace! You have been given authority! Speak to the pain that is trying to come back and command it to leave in Jesus name!

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, pray for someone who needs healing using the prayer guidelines given in this chapter. Before you pray, let go of control and surrender to the Holy Spirit. He is the one who does the healing so surrender to Him and get yourself out of the way. Let your mind be so focused on Him that you are not affected by what people think of you. Let your mind relax as you focus on Him.

Step 1: Interview the Person Who Wants Prayer

Find out what they need prayer for, but don't get their full medical history. Have them tell you the problem in just a few sentences. You don't want them to pray along with you- they just need to receive.

- Ask them, ***“What do you need prayer for?”***
- If they have pain, find out how bad it is on a scale of 1-10. This is important because you want to be able to measure what their pain level is after you pray to see what God is doing.
- Get their permission to touch them. ***“Is it ok if I touch you here?”*** Only touch them in appropriate areas: shoulder, arm, back, lower legs, etc. If they are not ok with touch, then you can also point to the area as you pray.

Step 2: Honor Jesus' Authority and Use Commanding Prayers

Invite the Holy Spirit's presence before you pray for healing. Focus on God's kingdom and your authority as His child because of what Jesus did on the cross and His resurrection.

- Say something like this: ***“Thank you Jesus for the blood that you shed, and the stripes that You bore for our diseases.***

Because You rose from the dead, You defeated sickness and disease. Therefore, it is by YOUR authority that I command this pain and inflammation (or insert disease or condition) to LEAVE this body now, in Jesus name. All of it must go, right NOW!”

- Remember, you are not asking God to heal them because scripture says, **“heal the sick.”** You are speaking to the condition and telling the body what to do. You are telling the body that it must line up with God’s kingdom. For example, if they have bone spurs, you could say: **“I command these bone spurs to shrink and dissolve right now in Jesus name. I command all inflammation and pain to leave this body now, in Jesus name.”**
- Next speak life and healing to the body. Example: **“I speak life to every cell, organ, muscle, tendon, nerve, ligament, and bone, in Jesus name. I command full restoration of function to this body right now, in Jesus name. Thank you, Lord, for healing this body now. Let your healing power flow into this body right now in Jesus name.”**

Step 3: Do What You Could Not Do

Just like Jesus said to the lame, “take up your bed and walk”, ask them to do whatever they could NOT do. If it’s something that they cannot test out, skip this part.

- Tell them: **“Ok, now I want you to move and try to do what you could not do”.** If they had pain, ask them to move and tell you what the pain level is now on a scale of 1 to 10.
- If they say that their pain is WORSE or if it moves to another area of their body, that is a sign that it’s a demonic spirit so pray again! If praying against the pain and inflammation does not resolve it, consider casting out a spirit of affliction or infirmity.

- If they are better, find out how much better because if they are not completely healed, repeat the above prayer. This means God is in the process of healing them. Honor God by thanking Him for what He is doing, and then address the condition again until they are completely healed or reach a point where improvement stops.
- Example: ***“Thank you Jesus for healing this person right now! Thank you for making their pain go down from a level 8 to a 3. Right now, I command the rest of this pain to leave NOW, in Jesus name I command ALL of this pain to go NOW! I command it to go down to a zero in Jesus name.”***
- Then stop and have them check it again and tell you what the pain level is now. Keep doing this until it is gone or you reach a point where improvement stops.

Step 4: Watch Their Response As They Are Healed

When Jesus heals them, they should be happy! Sometimes people do not comprehend what is happening and they have a stoic look on their face because they don't believe it or expect it to come back. Your job is to point out that a miracle just happened to them!

- You can say something like this: ***“Do you realize that God just healed you? Let's celebrate right now!”*** Clap or dance with them.
- If they are worried that their symptoms will come back, say something like this: ***“I don't believe that issue will come back because God just HEALED you! If it tries to come back, I want you to do the same thing I just did today: I want YOU to say, ‘I command this [symptom] to GO right now in Jesus name!’ And when you say it, I want you to mean it! Do you understand?”***

- This prepares them to resist further attacks from the enemy and teaches them how to walk in their authority as a child of God. It's powerful to watch them go from feeling like a victim of disease to feeling empowered to defeat it!

Post Prayer Suggestions

Not everyone you pray for will get healed. Sometimes people don't actually want to be healed. Long term chronic illness (cancer, etc.) can have demonic strongholds or open doors that need to be addressed, such as their identity being tied to their illness, unforgiveness, emotional wounds, etc. They may require deliverance before they can receive their healing.

- If they got partially healed, encourage them to thank God for the healing that DID happen, rather than focusing on what is NOT healed yet. This allows God to keep working and healing may actually manifest in time.
- Encourage them to come back for prayer another time. Each time you pray, don't think of it like you are starting over from the beginning. You are just adding more of the power of God to their body, which should eventually result in healing.
- If the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for emotional healing - wounds, unforgiveness, etc., then flow with Him. If they get a breakthrough in that area, then you may want to pray for physical healing again.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

AFTERWORD

God is creating radical, on-fire believers that are willing to do whatever He says, go wherever He says, and say whatever He says. These are Book of Acts type believers.

They forsake everything this world has to offer so they can have more of Him. They are willing to lay down their lives for Him because they want revival more than anything else in life and they are willing to pay the price. There is a price that is paid, but it is not through works. It comes from a deep level of intimacy with the Lord. They are so in love with the Bridegroom and daily anticipate His return that they are keeping their lamps full of oil and constantly lit. (Matthew 25:1-12)

I believe you are one of them. You are responsible to do what is needed to keep your flame lit. You have to have oil and you need a steady supply. You can't depend on someone else's oil. The oil signifies the thing that keeps the fire burning, which is spending time in the secret place with Him.

He is calling us into a greater place of purity, holiness, and consecration to Him in this time. When we put ourselves on the altar and surrender to Him, His refining fire burns up those things that are not pleasing to Him. It may have been okay in the past but it is not anymore. He is calling you higher. He wants all of your heart, not just part of it.

The Bridegroom is coming for His bride and we need to BE READY. What does this practically mean? It means keeping your own fire burning bright, intentionally following Him, and doing

the works of Jesus. He wants us to not only share the good news but also share revival fire with people who are hurting. This looks like going out into your community and praying for those that God highlights to you. It looks like demonstration and proclamation. It's easier to share the gospel with someone once they have felt His presence and power. As a child of God, you carry His power and presence with you everywhere you go. When you pour out what you have been given, God will give you more. That's how God's kingdom works. All you are called to do is pray for others which allows the Holy Spirit to touch them thereby spreading the revival fire.

Revival is living according to His kingdom wherever you go, letting Him change the world around you as you are obedient to whatever He asks of you. This is what brings His revival fire to the world because YOU are revival. Revival is simply His kingdom being manifest. The more you get out of the way and surrender to Him, the more His kingdom shows up. It's that simple.

Everything is done from the perspective of His kingdom. For example, if I put together a teaching, I write it in the secret place. If I am praying for someone at the altar, I am praying from His kingdom, rather from this world's perspective. I am His ambassador and represent Him on this earth. I am praying from His kingdom towards this one.

As believers, we are told to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. This is a part of the great commission because this is one of the ways God demonstrates to the world that His kingdom is real. What a way to reach the lost! It is love in action! It is the heart of God for sinners made manifest to them while they are hurting. What Jesus did is our example and we are called to do the same.

If you pray for someone and they feel the power of God and their pain leaves, they will want to know how it happened!

Then you can introduce them to the Healer. This is a far more effective way to share the gospel. This is how Jesus demonstrated the kingdom of God.

The goal is to live in God's kingdom and bring it back with you into the ordinary world. By doing this, you show people that they can live in God's kingdom too. They don't have to put up with sickness and disease anymore. Fear does not have to rule their life anymore. They can turn around and face those demons head on that have been holding them hostage and command them to go because they finally realize they are a son or daughter of the King!

You should not be waiting for God to move. You are here to co-labor with Him to bring His kingdom to pass right now! The kingdom of God is WITHIN YOU.

Start living from His kingdom and you will get more of Him than you can handle! You need more of Him than you can handle because you are called to bring it to others. You are called to have an OVERFLOW of Him. You are called to let Him take over your life! You can be so full of Him that you bring the fire of revival into dead lifeless places and watch God light it up. You can turn a boring prayer meeting into a Holy Spirit revival meeting!

If you want to see God move in your city, and see His kingdom take over the darkness, it's up to you to BRING IT! You are revival waiting to happen! Take the kingdom of God out into the world and watch Him take over as you partner with Him to release His kingdom on earth.

This is not only the essence of the Christian life, this is the KEY to seeing His kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.

The time is NOW. This is what you were created for. You are now equipped and know what to do.

So I challenge you to BRING IT!

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

APPENDIX

FAQ

Question: I was on fire for God and now something has changed and it's died down. I feel like I have lost it. What do I do?

Things such as fear, pride, self-seeking, rebellion, or disobedience can block or hinder the Holy Spirit. To keep His fire burning strong inside me, I've found that spending a full day fasting from all solid food and seeking His face in the secret place enables me to humble myself, hear His voice more clearly, and repent of anything He shows me. Repentance enables the spiritual fog to be removed as I yield my will to His will. This realigns me with His Spirit. Fasting is an important part of your walk with God because it denies the flesh and builds up the spirit, but it must be accompanied with prayer and reading the Bible to be effective. Whenever I feel the power or the fire waning, I fast and pray for one or more days until His power and presence is restored. Praying in tongues for an hour each day also helps rekindle the fire.

Question: I was flowing with the Holy Spirit and praying for people. They were getting touched by God. But afterwards, I felt a knot in my stomach and something doesn't feel right. What is going on?

When you submit to the Holy Spirit and let Him flow through you, it is an incredible experience. His Spirit is able to flow unhindered and touch the person you are praying for. After you pray for someone who gets touched by God and then you notice that you feel "off" afterwards, this is a sign of demonic retaliation or demonic attack. Do a cleansing prayer until this feeling goes away. Spend more time in the secret place and He will keep you protected.

Question: I feel distant from God and it's hard to hear His voice or feel close to Him. What can I do?

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (James 4:8)

Set aside more time than you usually do and spend time in prayer and fasting, seeking His face. Don't bring your petitions to Him- He already knows what you need. Just sit at the feet of Jesus and surrender your life to Him. Continue to do this every-day until you get a breakthrough. Be diligent in seeking Him and He will reward you! Praying in tongues for an hour or more each day is something that can also help.

Question: When I try to pray for someone else, my flesh or mind gets in the way and it stops the flow of the Holy Spirit. I am worried about what others think! What can I do about this?

As a general way of life, I make sure to keep the fire of God burning so it does not die down and I stay full of the Holy Spirit so I have something to impart into others. To do this, I'll spend an hour or more a day listening to the audio Bible to keep the fire burning. If I have the opportunity, I'll spend 30-60 minutes praying in tongues before I minister to anyone. I live a life of readiness to pray for anyone at any time.

Before I pray for someone, I make a mental decision to humble myself before Him, surrender my will and my agenda, and let the Holy Spirit take the lead as I focus on Him. This enables me to let go of those things that have been keeping me stuck, such as what I might look like, what I might sound like, what others think of me, the fear of man, self-consciousness, etc. I get myself out of the way and focus all of my attention on the Holy Spirit and how

He wants to touch the person I am about to pray for. I do this until God's kingdom becomes more real to me than this natural world. Then I pray for them and it's much easier to flow with the Holy Spirit rather than letting my flesh get in the way.

Commanding the spirit of fear to leave may also be necessary. Use your authority and command it to leave you in Jesus name!

Question: I want to learn how to surrender more to the Holy Spirit. How can I do that?

When I think of surrender, I am reminded of the time when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his firstborn son, Issac, not knowing if God would provide a lamb to use instead or if he would be losing his son forever. Surrender is putting yourself on the altar. You lay everything down and surrender everything to Him: your life, your family, your dreams, your goals, your ministry, what you think your life should look like, and you let God have it all. This means you give up your rights and let Him have control of your life- completely and totally, not knowing what the outcome will be. You surrender the outcome, so it does not even matter anymore. You know you have surrendered when you are willing to do anything He is telling you to do, give up anything He is telling you to give up, and go wherever He is telling you to go, even if it's outside of your comfort zone.

Surrender is about letting Him have control. He is truly leading your life and you are following Him. You are no longer attached to the outcome that you previously wanted before you surrendered to Him. It is death to self. It is yielding to Him. It is the hardest thing you will ever do, but it is the best thing you will ever do! In losing yourself, you will find Him at such a deeper level. And this enables His power to flow freely through you to impact others.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

Question: What do you do when you have prayed for someone, but you reach a point where there is no more improvement? What do you do if you don't know what else to pray?

When I prayed for a woman who had persistent neck pain, I put my hands on her neck and commanded the pain to leave in Jesus name. When I asked her how she was feeling, she said her neck pain got worse! So I prayed again, and this time she was a little better. I kept praying, but there was no longer any improvement.

Not knowing what to do, I asked God to show us what was connected to the pain. I said, "Thank you God for showing us what is connected to or causing this pain. Thank you for showing us and healing any wounds or trauma related to this neck pain. Whatever trauma, wounds, generational curses are connected to this neck pain, I command it to be healed right now."

I felt like something was going on and when I asked her how she was feeling, she was still only a little better. I was not feeling led to continue to pray, so I left it in God's hands. Later I heard that she got a breakthrough on her way home when God showed her the root issue from her childhood, and with that realization, the healing in her neck fully manifested!

When you don't know what else to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what is causing the problem. Sometimes it is trauma. You can command trauma to leave and all emotional wounds to be healed. I've seen physical healing manifest after praying for unforgiveness, trauma, or emotional wounds.

Another thing you can do is to pray in tongues quietly and listen to hear if the Holy Spirit reveals anything to you. Praying in tongues is praying the will of God, so you will never go wrong doing that.

PRAYER MINISTRY TOOLS

SALVATION PRAYER

The person ready to receive Christ needs to say this aloud:

“Dear Jesus, I recognize that I am a sinner. I believe that You died and rose from the dead to save me from my sins. Please forgive me for all the sins I have ever committed. I here and now open my heart to You and ask that You come into my heart as Lord of my life. Please be my personal Savior. Baptize me in your Holy Spirit. Thank you for your grace and mercy. Amen.”

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

The person requesting the baptism of the Holy Spirit must already be saved first. You can pray something like this over them, then you speak in tongues and watch for them to do it too.

“By the authority and power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, I pray that you open your heart and that you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Power of God, come upon her now in a powerful way. Holy Spirit, fill her up now, in Jesus name. Fill her with your fire now. Fire of God, fill her up! I pray that you would open your mouth and speak and the Spirit of God will give you the witness of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, come upon her in a powerful way. Fire of God, baptize her now. Fill her up.”

Pray in tongues so they can hear what to do and continue to pray in English as you feel led. Encourage them even if they don't pray in tongues and let them know that speaking in tongues is not the only evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

PRAYING FOR HEALING

BEFORE PRAYING: Take a few minutes to surrender to the Holy Spirit. Let go of control. He is the One who does the healing, so focus on Him rather than what people think of you, how you feel, or what happens to the person you are praying for. The spirit realm must be more real to you than the natural realm. Remember your authority: disease and disease have to bow to the King of Kings.

Step 1: Interview the Person Who Wants Prayer

Find out what they need prayer for, but do not get their full medical history. Ask them to tell you the problem in just a few sentences. Make sure they know that you are praying for them, so they do not need to pray along with you. They just need to receive.

- Ask them: ***“What do you need prayer for?”***
- If they have pain, find out how bad it is on a scale of 1-10. This is important because you want to be able to measure what their pain level is after you pray to see what God is doing.
- Get their permission to touch them. ***“Is it ok if I touch you where the problem is?”*** Only touch them in appropriate areas: shoulder, back, neck, lower legs, knee, etc. If they are not ok with touch, then you can also point to the area as you pray.

Step 2: Honor Jesus’ Authority and Use Commanding Prayers

Invite the Holy Spirit’s presence before you start praying for healing. Focus on God’s kingdom and your authority as His child because of what Jesus did on the cross and His resurrection.

- Say something like this: *“Thank you Jesus for the blood that you shed, and the stripes that You bore for our diseases. Because You rose from the dead, You defeated sickness and disease. Therefore, it is by YOUR authority that I command this pain and inflammation (or insert disease or condition) to LEAVE this body now, in Jesus name. All of it must go, right NOW, in Jesus name!”*
- Be firm and resolute! Remember, you are not asking God to heal them because scripture says, *“heal the sick.”* You are speaking to the condition and telling the body what to do. You are telling the body that it must line up with God’s kingdom. For example, if they have bone spurs, say: *“I command these bone spurs to shrink and dissolve right now in Jesus name. I command all inflammation and pain to leave this body now, in Jesus name.”*
- Next speak life and healing to the body. Example: *“Holy Spirit, let your healing power flow into this body right now. I speak life to every cell, organ, muscle, tendon, nerve, ligament, and bone, right now in Jesus name. I command full restoration of function right now, in Jesus name. Thank you, Lord, for healing this body right now.”*

Step 3: Do What You Could Not Do

Just like Jesus said to the lame, *“take up your bed and walk”*, ask them to do whatever they could NOT do. If it’s something that they cannot test out, skip this part.

- Tell them: *“Ok, now I want you to move and try to do what you could not do before.”* If they had pain, ask them to move and tell you what the pain level is now on a scale of 1 to 10. If they say that their pain is WORSE or if it moves to another area of their body, that is a sign that it’s a demonic spirit so pray again! Consider casting out a spirit of affliction or infirmity.

- If they are better, find out how much better because if they are not completely healed, repeat the above prayer. This means God is in the process of healing them. Honor God by thanking Him for what He is doing, and then address the condition again until they are completely healed or reach a point where improvement stops.
- Example: ***“Thank you Jesus for healing this person right now! Thank you for making their pain go down from a level 8 to a 3. Right now, I command the rest of this pain to leave NOW, in Jesus name I command ALL of this pain to go NOW! I command it to go down to a zero in Jesus name.”***
- Then stop and have them check it again and tell you what the pain level is now. Keep doing this until it is gone or you reach a point where improvement stops.

Step 4: Watch Their Response As They Are Healed

When Jesus heals them, they should be happy! Sometimes people do not comprehend what is happening and they have a stoic look on their face because they don't believe it or expect it to come back. Your job is to point out that a miracle just happened to them!

- You can say something like this: ***“Do you realize that God just healed you? Let's celebrate right now!”*** Clap or dance with them.
- If they are worried that their symptoms will come back, say something like this: ***“I don't believe that issue will come back because God just HEALED you! If it tries to come back, I want you to do the same thing I just did today: I want YOU to say, ‘I command this [symptom] to GO right now in Jesus name!’ And when you say it, I want you to mean it! Do you understand?”***

FORGIVENESS PRAYER

Here are the steps to forgiving someone. This should be said aloud.

- First acknowledge that God has forgiven you by thanking God for forgiving your debt that you could not repay.
- Now repent of the sin of unforgiveness. Example: ***“Lord, I repent for unforgiveness...”***
- Forgive the person’s specific offenses by saying: ***“Lord, I choose to forgive _____ from my heart for _____ [list all the hurtful things in detail]”*** Don’t rush this process.
- When you stop coming up with things, say ***“Holy Spirit, show me right now if there is anything else I need to forgive _____ for.”*** Think for a minute before you proceed.
- Once you are finished, visualize all of those things you listed at the foot of the cross and Jesus’s blood dripping down and covering every single one of them.
- Now say this: ***“I declare that _____ is no longer in my debt. I transfer their debt to the cross and their debt is forgiven. They owe me nothing. The blood of Jesus has paid the price.”***
- Pray a blessing over the person you forgave. This demonstrates that forgiveness is complete if you can do it without any problems. It should be a specific and detailed blessing, not just a one sentence prayer.

SPIRITUAL BOOTCAMP

HEALING PRAYERS FOR YOU

These are prayers that I made for you to receive healing. Click on the name of the Psalm below to play them. Psalm 103 and Psalm 91 are powerful scriptures that God wanted me to include with these prayers.

Play them on speaker mode and hold your device over your body. If you are listening on a computer, touch the computer as you listen as a point of contact. Listen to them in a quiet place and believe you are healed.

People have been healed of infections from listening to these prayers. Only believe!

[PSALM 103 PRAYER](#)

[PSALM 91 PRAYER](#)

If God used the message in this book to touch you or change your life, I want to hear about it! Share your story by emailing me at getpurevitality@gmail.com so I can give God the glory and celebrate with you!

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A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO BRINGING REVIVAL FIRE TO THE WORLD

**“IF YOU READ HISTORY YOU WILL FIND THAT THE
CHRISTIANS WHO DID MOST FOR THE PRESENT WORLD
WERE PRECISELY THOSE WHO THOUGHT MOST OF THE
NEXT.**

**“IT IS SINCE CHRISTIANS HAVE LARGELY CEASED TO THINK
OF THE OTHER WORLD THAT THEY HAVE BECOME SO
INEFFECTIVE IN THIS.”**

- C. S. LEWIS

**You were created to display God's kingdom to
this world and storm the gates of hell by taking
authority over the darkness and setting the
captives free.**

**God is raising up an army of warriors for this
last day battle that know how to operate in
power and authority.**

**If you are tired of being beat up by the enemy
and are ready to learn how to do what Jesus
did, this book is going to equip you with the
practical application of operating according to
God's kingdom.**

Get equipped to:

- Become a carrier of Holy Spirit revival fire**
- Be free from demonic strongholds**
- Operate in the power of the Holy Spirit**
- Heal the sick and see God touch them**
- Understand how to see God's kingdom
impact the world around you**