

INHERENT POWER

YOU ARE AN OVERCOMER

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TRANSFORMED
WORKING LIFE

PETER MICHELL



ICCC

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE™



Published by
International Christian Chamber of Commerce
Grusgropvagen 5
702 36 Örebro
Sweden

Tel: +46/19-24 70 00
Email: info@iccc.net

First published in 1997 by Peter Michell
This edition 2016

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Design and typesetting - CR (madebycr.com)

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No one can serve two masters

Hope –the certainty of future blessing

Faith or presumption

Hearing God speak

Renewing the mind

Working from rest

Be strong in the battle

Anointing

Fruitfulness

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is about being equipped to live a normal Christian life - its about inherent power - the equipping by the Lord, for His purposes. It provides the foundation for us to be able to reign in life.

I would like to encourage you to take on board the message of the booklet - especially chapter 11 for I have found this to be the key to unlocking the fullness of equipping.

God bless you mightily.

CHAPTER 1

INHERENT POWER

Every born again believer is full of inherent power. He or she may not feel like it, or experience it, or ever move in power; nevertheless each believer is filled with power.

Potentially, every believer can work miracles, dismiss the enemy, live a life of victory over circumstances and be very fruitful in the kingdom of God. Every believer is, and is called to be, an overcomer.

'For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.'
1 John 5:4-5

If we go back to verse one we will find that he who believes (in a moment of time) that Jesus is the Christ, is (at that moment of time) born of God - and now we know that whosoever is born of God has overcome the world.

You have overcome and are destined to overcome

This is your destiny - be the overcomer that you are.
This booklet is written to help you understand, and thus to help you to stand, in all of the inheritance that the Lord has planned for you.

CHAPTER 2

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE BORN AGAIN

You will have heard the term 'born again Christian' but do you know what it really means. Being 'born again' is the absolute starting place - a Christian is one who is born again by the Spirit of God.

(The term 'born again Christian' is really redundant - there is no such thing as a Christian who is not born again. Yet many people would call themselves 'I am a Christian but not a born again Christian' - regretfully they deceive themselves.)

Jesus said, '*You must be born again*'

John 3:7

Jesus said, '*That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*' The context was part of what Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3. He was explaining the need to be born again.

In this short statement is the essence of salvation. We must be born again or we can't even appreciate that there is a kingdom of God, let alone enter into it.

Jesus said it like this: '*Unless one is born again* (alternative translation - from above), *he cannot see the kingdom of God.*'

John 3:3

The need

In order to fully understand the need to be born again - we need to appreciate the true position we were in before we put our trust in Jesus and became born again.

The spirit of man was dead

Adam was warned not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge. This was the warning; '*in the day that you eat of it, dying you will die.*' (Gen 2:17). He did eat of the fruit and lived to be 930. So what happened.

The spirit of Adam died immediately (literally in the very day he ate of the fruit). His fellowship with God ceased. Together with Eve they were only able to have children after the flesh. This is why Jesus said to Nicodemus, '*that which is born of flesh is flesh.*' Death was now at work in Adam's being and he eventually died - but death was now inherent in humanity.
Everyone* dies.

* Enoch and Elijah did not suffer physical death – neither will those born again believers alive at the rapture of the church.

The scripture puts it like this: *'For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.'* 1 Corinthians 15:22

No one is exempt - we all come into this world alive in the flesh but dead in the spirit – with the need to be born again.

Alive in Christ

Let us understand the good news - through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are saved, born again - and this by believing that, as the Son of God, He took the penalty of our personal sin and by inviting Him to be Lord of our lives.

Through this process the Holy Spirit, God Himself, comes to take up residence within us. He does not live in our body or in our minds but lives within the human spirit and from there can affect our souls and even our bodies.

Two things have been accomplished - our human spirit which dwelt in death has been made alive again, and secondly, God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, has taken up residence within.

Let us take this seriously - Jesus said, *'unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'* John 3:5

Born of water is a reference to natural birth from the womb, so birth from the Spirit is just as literal and just as important. You cannot enter the kingdom of God without both natural and spiritual birth.

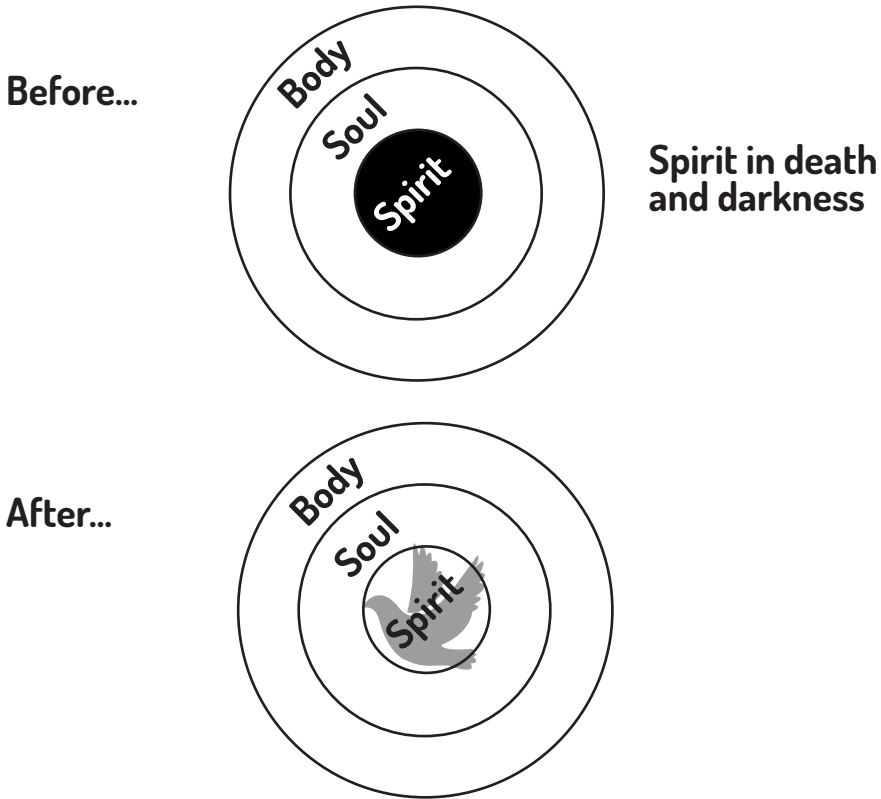
Lets look again at the human frame

I have found the following diagrams helpful in understanding the significance of what it means to be born again. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians (1st letter, chapter 5, verse 23) he was urging that their whole spirits, souls and bodies be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul clearly thought of man as a tripartite being. We probably have difficulty in distinguishing between soul and spirit; the word of God, on the other hand, is living and powerful making a division between the two.

I hope the diagrams help you to see the difference. When we realise that it is from our innermost being (i.e. our human spirit) that the rivers of living water are to flow, it helps us to appreciate how important it is to understand the difference between spirit and soul.

The following diagrams show the make up of the human being before and after being born again. Whilst this may seem very basic it is essential to grasp what has happened. If we don't grasp the fact that the Holy Spirit dwells within us we will never understand power. In fact we will always be reaching for power and never receiving it, instead of flowing with the Spirit who is the Spirit of love and power.



I have found the following definitions helpful in understanding what the bible means when it talks about various aspects of our make up:

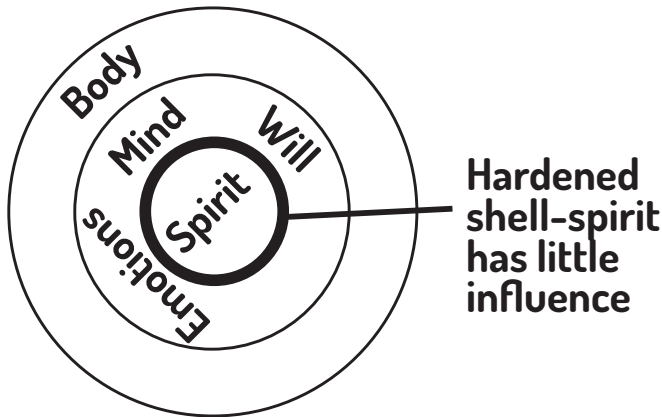
Definitions:

- Body** - physical body
- Soul** - mind, will and emotions
- spirit** - human spirit
- Spirit** - Holy Spirit
- flesh** - usually body and soul together, particularly the natural as opposed to spiritual, and the influence of the carnal nature.
- heart** - the human spirit or soul and frequently the two together.

Because it is the human spirit that is reborn and because it is in the human spirit that the Holy Spirit dwells, it is possible to be born again and not realise the source of power within.

If we live according to the understanding of only our minds or if we live in response only to the strong desires of our bodies we completely miss the spiritual dimension. We would then qualify for the description ‘carnal Christian.’ In this case it is rather like a hard shell forming around the human spirit. Whilst the person is born again, the Spirit is having limited effect in their lives because the flesh is being allowed to dominate.

Paul makes it perfectly clear in Romans 8 that it is quite possible to live according to the flesh rather than according to the spirit.



Carnality is living out of the mind, the will and the emotions and under the pressure of the demands of the physical body. Spirituality is living out of the leading of the Spirit, which frequently comes through the human spirit.

Absolutely secure

Salvation was never our idea. God chose us, we did not choose Him
- John 15:16.

Salvation never relied upon our effort. *'For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.'*
Romans 3:23-4

We have been sealed for the destiny of receiving an inheritance - *'In whom you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance.'*
Ephesians 1:13-14

We are foreknown by God. Romans 8:29-39 makes it clear that in His foreknowledge God chose us, knowing our weaknesses and our (future as well as past) failings. God knew we would let Him down many times - yet He chose us. He chose us to transform us into the likeness of Jesus.

The same chapter goes on to say that nothing can then separate us from the love of God - nothing includes us - we cannot separate ourselves from the love of God. Born again is born again and destined to become like Jesus, for it was His idea and He will complete it.

'looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God.'
Hebrews 12:2

Jesus started it - Jesus will finish it.

Once you have been born again there has been a fundamental change within you - your spirit has come back to life and the Holy Spirit has come in to live - never to leave you.

He, Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' Hebrews 13:5

Threefold salvation

It is worth noting that salvation has three specific aspects to it:

Historical

I have been saved - a once and for all eternity event that happened when God chose me and I gave my life to Jesus. The Holy Spirit entered never to leave. Your human spirit was born again, you were transferred from death to life, from darkness to light. Look again at Ephesians 1 :13-14 quoted earlier.

Future

We look forward to being clothed with our glorified bodies. We will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. As certainly as He is the firstfruits so also we will see Him and be like Him.

(The principle of firstfruits is simply this - if you take a sample of the first ripe fruit of the harvest then you can be sure that the whole harvest will be like it. As Jesus is the firstfruit so the rest of the harvest will be conformed to His image.)

'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.'
Philippians 3:20-21

Present

In this life, here on earth, we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. We work at living out holiness - not that we can achieve that, but as we cooperate with the changing power of the Spirit we are changed more and more into His likeness.

It is like this - you have been made holy, sanctified (set apart) for God - now live in that same manner every day.

'Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.'
Philippians 2:12-13

Don't live like unbelievers - be changed.

There are many scriptures which talk about the process of being changed. Many give warnings - do not live after the flesh. Many say that those who live this way will not enter the kingdom. The passages talk about unbelievers, and urge us not to live like they do.

Look at the way Paul deals with this question in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

'Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.'

It is fundamental - you have been saved. Therefore do not live again like the unbelievers.

If we look back to 1 Corinthians 5:5 Paul hands a born again believer, who is deliberately sinning in the most horrendous manner, over to Satan. Why? For the destruction of his flesh that his spirit may be saved. No loss of eternal destiny here. Rather a tragic outcome, in this life, for someone who should have been fruitful here on earth. However because the gifts and calling of God are without repentance (no change of mind on God's part) his eternal destiny is still to be made like Jesus. (Romans 11:29)

Destined to overcome

So there we have it - we are destined to overcome. We are saved, empowered, we have all the resources necessary to live holy lives and without blame before Him by grace.

We are not striving to become an overcomer. We are overcomers by position and will be overcomers in action as we allow His Spirit to rule in our lives. Live by the Spirit and not by the flesh. Truly we will have to overcome our own flesh - just as Paul reported that he beat his body to keep it in check. Truly we will overcome the works of the enemy as we stand in the full armour of God. Yet this is summed up in the phrase, *'Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.'* Zechariah 4:6

Will our faith be evidenced by works - it certainly should be.
Will our works qualify us for eternal life - certainly not.

'For by grace you have been saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.'
Ephesians 2:8-9.

If you are a born again believer and have been filled with the Spirit, have you realised:

That you are an overcomer already.

That God has empowered you already.

That within you is the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

That you don't have to strive in your own effort to please God - rather we flow in the Spirit, following the master.

Dwell on these things - you are an overcomer, you are indwelt by the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. Dwell on these truths and not on your shortcomings. Within you is all the power you need for life and godliness.

CHAPTER 3

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT

Jesus promised the disciples:

'And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another helper, that He may abide with you for ever; 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 shall be in you.'
John 14:16-17.

Then later the risen Jesus imparted the Holy Spirit to the disciples:

'And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."'
John 20:22

This is the full nature of salvation - the Holy Spirit resides within you. Veritably like a well of water springing up within, unto eternal life.

'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.'
John 4:14

Paul makes it clear in his letter to the Romans:

'And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that dwells in you.'
Romans 8:10-11.

It is clear

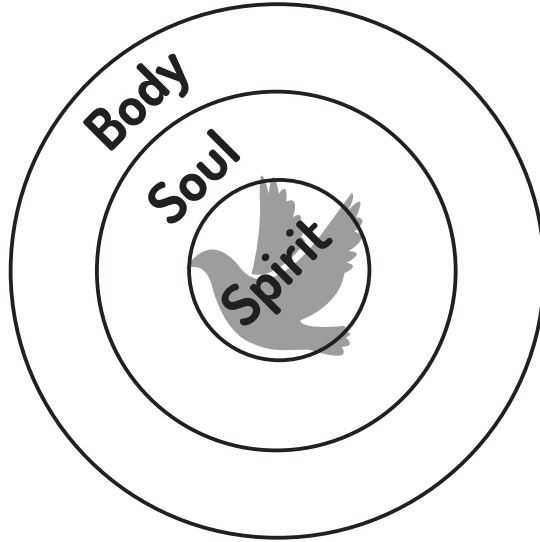
If you belong to Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells in you. You have become one with God. God is Spirit. Your human spirit and the Holy Spirit have become as one.

(In fact the prayer of Jesus in John 17:11 has been fulfilled. He prayed, *'Holy Father, keep through Your own name those whom you have given Me, that they may be one, as we are.'* Many would see a promise of church unity in this verse. Actually it is a promise that we are united to God as Christ is united to Him - we are one with God as Jesus is one with God.)

'But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God'
1 Corinthians 6:11

'If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.'
2 Timothy 2:13.

**Let us go back to
our diagram**



The Holy Spirit has now taken up residence - that is He lives there - in my and in your human spirit. Now the Holy Spirit and the human spirit have united as one - this is the full meaning of unity. The Holy Spirit cannot leave - however He can be quenched and grieved.

Quenching the Spirit

'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.'
1 Thessalonians 5:16-21

In this short passage we have some of the things the Spirit will work within us - if we let Him.

We will be able to always rejoice - no matter what the circumstances and problems around us may be. It is very easy when there are problems to quench the Spirit by not rejoicing. God is good, He has not been changed by your circumstances. He will bring good out of the situation for you. Rejoice.

We quench the Spirit when we look at things through natural eyes - that is when we consider things with only our minds - we need to look beyond our own thoughts and abilities and resources - see what the Spirit is saying.

Do not grieve the Spirit

It is bad enough when we don't listen to the Lord speaking through the Holy Spirit - it is yet worse when we actively continue to live in sin.

Ephesians 4 sums it up like this:

Do not lie, instead speak truth..

Do not let the sun go down on your anger

Do not give place to the devil

Do not steal, work instead and give generously Do not let corrupt speech come from your mouth, rather edification that blesses the hearers.

'And do not grieve the Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.'

You have been sealed for the day of redemption - that is made fast by, made secure by the Spirit of God - i.e. He has come to live in you and will never leave you nor forsake you. But He can be grieved.

If we live a life of sin the Spirit will grieve. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit - that is why the scripture tells us,

'Be holy for I am holy.'

1 Peter 1:16

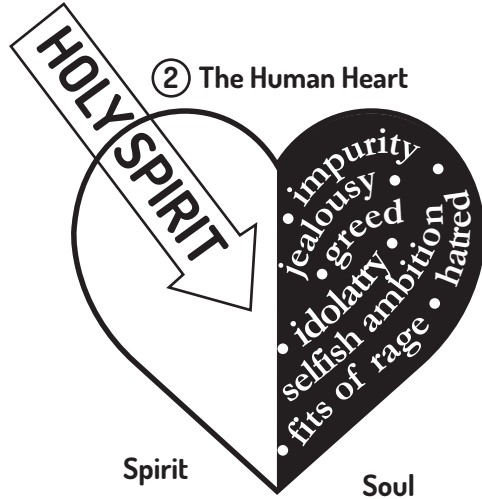
We quench and grieve the Spirit when we build up a hardness around our own spirit. We do this by ignoring Him and by living in sin. This is carnality.

Spirituality is letting the Spirit flow through into our soul and body, affecting our thinking and our behaviour.

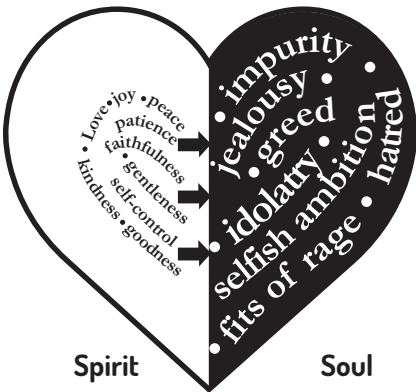
① The Human Heart



② The Human Heart



③ The Human Heart



④ The Human Heart



The four diagrams show the development of Christian life:

1. An unbeliever - spirit in death
soul full of unrighteousness
2. Born again - spirit returned to life
3. Influenced by Spirit, the soul is changed from one degree to another - unrighteousness reduces
4. More and more influence of the Spirit. One never gets completely free of the temptation of unrighteousness - but has to choose to put on the new and put off the old. We are overcomers - we can defeat sin in our own lives as we live more and more in the Spirit.

The power of God is within you – the Holy Spirit, Himself. This is inherent power.

CHAPTER 4

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

In addition to the fact that the Holy Spirit indwells our human spirits there is more.

As we are prepared to receive, God will baptise us with the Holy Spirit - fill us with power to witness. The disciples were told to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit in power. This is not a reference to the indwelling Holy Spirit but to the empowering of the Holy Spirit. They had already received the indwelling Holy Spirit back in John 20:22.

Not every Christian will live his life flowing in the power and purposes of God, his Father. Not every Christian will be like Jesus was in this world. But every born again believer is a child of God. Every born again believer is washed, and sanctified and justified. The promises of God are not made void by our inability, or by our faithlessness.

Added power

'Behold I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the City of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.'

Luke 24:49

'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 mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.'

Acts 2:1-4

There seems to be definite sequence of events going on here:

Firstly, the Spirit is not given to any man until Jesus is glorified. (See John 7:39)

Then the risen Jesus breathes on them **'Receive (NOW) the Holy Spirit.'**

John 20:22

Then the Holy Spirit comes upon them in Acts 2.

We can see from this the following sequence:

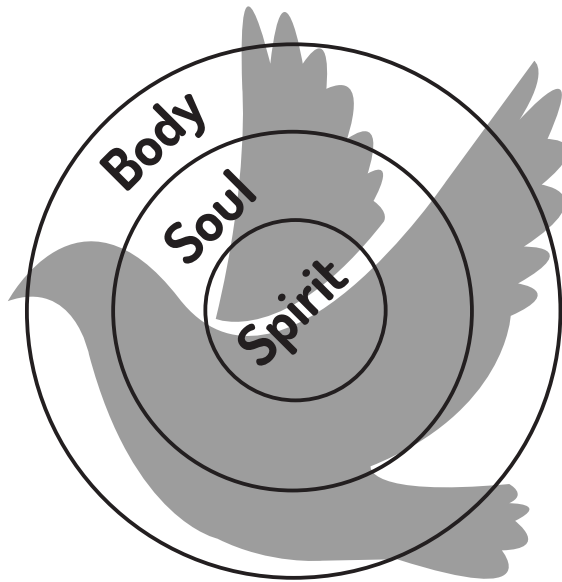
Firstly, we are in need - we don't have the Spirit at all

Secondly, we become born again and we receive the indwelling Spirit

Thirdly, (like when the day of Pentecost is fully come) we can receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and be endowed with power from on high - just like the early disciples.

Fully associated with the Holy Spirit

Being filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit could be likened to marinating a joint of meat in wine. In order to enhance the flavour of the meat it is soaked for a long time in wine. Receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit is rather the same. As our whole being is soaked in the presence of God so we take on that enhancement.



It is so much easier for our souls and our bodies to flow with the leadings and promptings of the Holy Spirit when they are also filled with His presence.

However through the pressures of living in this world the presence of the Holy Spirit can easily be diminished in effect. We do well to practice the presence of God by spending quality time alone with Him.

The result is the ability to flow in the power God. As we are enabled to be like Jesus, and as we use Him as our role model, we will find we are able to do the things He did.

As you are filled with the Spirit you have power to witness - even to the ends of the earth and to the end of the age.

ARE YOU SPENDING QUALITY TIME SOAKING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT?

CHAPTER 5

READY FOR RELATIONSHIP

We have already seen that God is now our Father in a very literal spiritual sense - we have entered into a new relationship - one that will last throughout our lives and on into eternity.

Maybe your entrance into that relationship was very dramatic, maybe you placed your trust in Jesus and gave your life to Him and were immediately saved and baptised with or filled with the Spirit in some sort of amazing experience.

On the other hand it might have been a very quiet transition over many months or years lacking in 'spiritual fireworks' yet bringing deep peace and joy.

Maybe you have not yet received salvation or not yet received the fullness of the Spirit - there are two prayers here which you might like to say.

To receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

Lord Jesus I recognise you as God and as the Son of the Father in heaven. I have fallen short of your glory and your ways and I accept that the true penalty of my shortcomings is death. I believe that You have taken the penalty of my sin and will give me the gift of eternal life. I ask you to come into me as Lord of my life. Amen

For the fullness of the Spirit.

Lord Jesus I thank you that I am saved by the sacrifice of your precious life on the cross. I thank you that I am already your child. Lord I realise that my own strength and my own ability will not accomplish anything of value so I ask you to send to me the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Fill me Lord with Your presence and with the power to do all the things You want me to do. Amen.

Nurturing the relationship

Relationships need to be worked at or they slide away and lose their value. This is not to say that your status can change, born again is born again, but the experiences and benefits of relationship are multiplied on a day to day basis as we stay in close fellowship with the Lord.

Now that we are in a relationship with the Lord we can either nurture that relationship or we can ignore it. Experience usually fluctuates between the two.

However there is no doubt that our Lord wants the very best for us - and only He knows what the best will be in every case.

'I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.'
Jeremiah 29:11

This is the Lord speaking through the prophet Jeremiah to the wayward Israelites but we can see in it God's heart. His thoughts and His plans for us are good.

We will find Him

'And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.'
Jeremiah 29:13

We will find the Lord and be found by Him when He is the most important person in our lives. When we put the knowledge of Him above all else - we shall surely find Him.

This is not a once and for all event but a constant going from one degree of glory to another. The more we nurture the relationship, by giving Him our time and attention, the more glorious, the more wonderful, the more deeply satisfying the relationship becomes.

This is where I have found the following prayer so very helpful:

'Holy Spirit please fill me with more and more love for Jesus.' It is my daily request - and it is answered.

It is a love relationship

Let us focus upon this for a moment - this relationship is a relationship of love first and foremost.

When Jesus was asked what is the most important commandment He answered:

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
Matthew 22:37

His reply does not leave anything out - all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.

That is why my favourite prayer is so useful. Surely we will not be able to fulfil those words of Jesus in our own strength and ability - we need the Holy Spirit to give us more and more love for Jesus.

The wonder of God's provision

This relationship brings with it wonderful benefits:

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.'
Ephesians 1:3

The transaction is complete from God's perspective - He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing - how much of that blessing becomes our experience depends on the outworking of the relationship from our side.

'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.'
2 Peter 1:2-4

There we have it - through the precious promises of God we become partakers of the divine nature - more and more we should take on the likeness of Jesus.

This relationship is a most wonderful thing.

Aspects of relationship

Now we are going to go on and look at some of the aspects of this wonderful relationship - rather like a diamond it has different facets. As we grow in appreciation of all the facets of the relationship so our lives will become richer and richer in the knowledge of Him.

CHAPTER 6

SERVANT - FRIEND - STEWARD

'You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.' 1 Corinthians 7 v 23

God, Himself paid the price for each one of us. A price none of us can repay. Therefore He has the right to expect us to listen and obey Him. He has the right to expect us to do the things He wants us to do and not for us to become 'sold out' to our jobs, our businesses, our ambitions thus going our own ways.

In fact He has prepared works for us to walk in, according to Ephesians 2 v 10:

'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.'

He has every right to expect us to walk in those very works He has prepared for us to walk in.

He has given us talents and He has every right to expect us to make best use of those talents as described in the parables.

God should be able to look upon us as good servants, willing and productive.

The nature of a servant is that he does the masters bidding. Not that he 'does his own thing.' A servant will hear his master's instructions and fulfil them.

In 1 Corinthians 3:7 we are told that it is God who gives the increase - God is the One who gives growth and fruitfulness. He allows, indeed calls, us to be fellow workers with Him:

'For we are God's fellow workers' 1 Corinthians 3 v 9.

We are told we are fellow workers with God just after v 7 which specifies that it is God who causes the growth - whatever we do will avail nothing unless God is giving the growth.

We need to be careful in our understanding not to fall into the trap of 'good works.' By that I mean things which we see as 'good' or 'for the Kingdom.' It is not a question of what we think the Kingdom of God needs - its a question of being a good servant - fulfilling the Masters instructions.

This can lead to tension and frustration. Because we are designed with the need to work it's easy to go forward into works "for God" before, or, without His call. He is more interested in us as people than for the works we can do. In fact He does not need us for works. On the occasion of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a colt, Jesus said, if the people didn't shout out in praise - the stones would!

God graciously uses us for works because of our need rather than His. So He designed it so that our need to 'work' would be used to fulfil His purposes.

We are invited to take on His yoke - *'For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.'*
Matthew 11 v 30.

A yoke is placed over two animals linking them together. Indeed the animals are unable to extract themselves from the yoke. Jesus, in talking about our role, invites us to take on His yoke, to be yoked together with Him in life and therefore in everything we do.

If we will take His yoke upon us it means that He is right there alongside us in everything. He is there, right there alongside, to help us through the day to day matters and problems of life. You are not on your own - why do we so often turn to Jesus as the last resort, instead of turning to Him first.

Becoming stewards

In John 15:15 Jesus changes the nature of this part of our calling:

'No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what His master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from the Father I have made known to you.'

Now, what was our servanthood becomes a friendship and that friendship develops into stewardship. God trusts us with the things He wants us to do as good stewards of that which actually belongs to Him. A friend is, in the original, a 'loved one.'

The nature of stewardship

By nature a steward is not the owner of the thing that is entrusted to his care. The position of steward is that of one trusted to look after the assets or belongings of another.

God places things under our care - He trusts us to look after what really belongs to Him.

If we live in the truth that all we are, all we have or will have, belongs to God it will prevent us from falling into the materialism that so troubles the world.

If you are looking after the car you drive and the Lord says give it away, it will be easier to obey as you recognise He is the owner - it is really God's property, to do with as He likes.

The good steward

The good steward fully recognises that everything belongs to his master and sees himself as the agent of the master - that means everything he does is not only for the master's

benefit but also in total obedience to His master's instructions.

A good steward does not take his masters assets and do his own thing with them. It is no good saying to the Lord I am going to do so and so please bless me. Rather we seek the leading of the Lord to be led into the works He has prepared for us to do.

Serving one another

The final aspect of this part of the relationship that we want to cover in this booklet concerns our relationship with one another.

The Lord wants us to recognise that we are part of one body and that we need each other. In that relationship with each other He wants us to have servant hearts. That is to serve one another - not to seek to rule over one another but to serve each other.

'But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the gentiles Lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you, but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant and whoever desires to become first among you, let him be your slave.'

Matthew 20:25-27

Part of the stewardship that God gives us over our lives is to serve each other - that the whole body may grow.

Love conquers all

This is why Jesus put so much emphasis on love. He said if we love the Father and our neighbours as ourselves we will fulfil the whole law. It is an easy matter to serve those whom you love.

'Lord fill me with more love for the brethren.'

YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU THE POWER TO SERVE AND THE POWER TO STEWARD

CHAPTER 7

OUR SERVICE: PRIEST

'He has made us a Kingdom, priests to His God and Father.' Revelation 1 v 6

The picture in heaven

The first picture of heaven, John received, in Revelation 4, is a picture of worship. *'There was the throne, the One who sat thereon and the 24 elders, the seven lamps representing the churches and the four living creatures who do not cease to worship God saying, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty.' As the four creatures give glory and honour and thanks to God so the elders fall down and worship.'* (from verses 1 - 11)

This is an aspect of our relationship with God the Father - that we are those who bring sacrifices - our own lives - and burn incense - a picture of prayer, in worship before a Holy and awesome God. Because:

'Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God , to receive glory and honour and power, for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created.'

Revelation 4:11

Priests worship

So here we are called to those who worship - called to fall on our faces sometimes and worship, called to sing and shout His praises. We are called in everything to worship Him.

At work

It is very easy to forget to be a priest while we are at work - it is much easier just to get on with the job.

However God is still God and still worthy of our worship even if the job we are doing has its mundane moments. Why not learn to give a few moments, now and again in the day, to worship. (Dan 6:10)

It can be easy - it does not mean you have to sing and shout - that may not be appropriate - but you can stop for a few moments and remember Him. You can speak to Him in your mind and worship from your mind. In fact you will find it refreshing and beneficial - because God inhabits the praises of His people, you will even find the work goes better and more fruitfully.

Witness

If you take a few moments now and again to worship you don't need to make any fuss - probably only you will know that you are doing it - but it will have an effect.

It is likely to affect others around you - because you are enjoying the presence of God your peace will emanate around you. Others will notice that you are different. The fragrance of Jesus will be around you.

If you look again at the scripture we read above - the scene of worship in heaven - don't you think there will be an awesome awareness of the presence of God? By worshipping at work you can bring a little of that awesome nature of God into your workplace.

Pray

Another aspect of the priesthood is the bringing of prayer and request for the people. Revelation 5:8 tells us that prayers are like incense before the throne of God - He welcomes our prayer and responds to it.

When did you last take up your role as a priest at work by praying for the business and the people in it? Have you thought that you work at your job for the glory of God, have you thought that He might have plans to do things through you at work? Have you thought that God might like to reach to some unsaved ones through you at work?

We have to be careful not to bring the kingdom into disrepute by continually talking to people about the Lord in business time - unless it is our own business - nevertheless He might want to open opportunities for you which arise out of your workplace.

It starts with worship on a personal level. Take it seriously - part of your relationship with the Lord is that of priest

So here is a picture of our priesthood:

Give glory to God.

Give honour to God

Give thanks to God saying with the throng in heaven:

'Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honour and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created.'

Revelation 4:11

So in our relationship with God the Father we give Him all the glory and honour.

We are a kingdom of priests.

YOU HAVE THE POWER WITHIN YOU TO PRAISE, TO WORSHIP AND TO PRAY

CHAPTER 8

OUR POSITION: KING

'And have made us to be kings and priests to our God and we shall reign upon the earth.'
Revelation 5 v 10

Another aspect of our relationship with God is that He has made us to be kings - so that Jesus will be the King of kings.

A King rules. We are called to rule over the powers of darkness. Can we confirm this from other scripture?

A mystery unfolded.

In Ephesians chapter three a mystery is now unfolded to show that, *'the manifold wisdom of God may now be made known, through the church, to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*
Ephesians 3:10-11

The existing heavenly rulers - the principalities and powers, the spiritual hosts of wickedness are going to be shown, by you and by me, that they are not the real rulers - but Jesus is the King of kings and He has given to us power over all the works of satan. Jesus has appointed us kings - let us start to rule.

If we study Paul's two prayers for us in Ephesians they are all about us receiving the revelation of the power at work within us. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead and placed Him above every name that can be named.

The first prayer is found in chapter one verses 15 to 23. It is well worth dwelling on what Paul is saying:

Paul asks that we might receive wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that our understanding may be enlightened to see the mighty power at work in us and in raising Jesus from the dead. In chapter 2 verse 6 Paul sees us seated with Christ in the heavenly places - in those places far above every name that can be named.

Paul wants us to know that we are infinitely above every principality and every power because we are in Jesus Christ, seated with Him in heavenly places. (Ephesians 2:6)

In the second prayer, found in chapter three, Paul is wanting us to fully appreciate the all encompassing love of the Lord and to be strengthened with MIGHT in the inner man.

Paul wants us to fully understand the mystery he is unveiling with all its power and benefit.

The mystery is this:

The Holy Spirit has taken up residence within us. This had never happened before (John 14:17). In the Old Testament the Spirit came upon people for ministry and for role but He, the Holy Spirit did not take up residence within people until after the resurrection of Jesus.

But now, since the risen Jesus breathed on the disciples in John 20:22 - *'And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

Now, He resides within.

'Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.'

Romans 8:9-11

Inherent power

It is from this understanding that we get the title of this booklet. Actually we have alive within us all the power that is needed for the whole of life and for godliness, for God, Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, lives inside.

It is this power that will enable us to demonstrate to the principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God.

It is this power that makes us kings unto God.

Old Testament

It is worth noting here that this indwelling of the Holy Spirit is completely different from the Old Testament - this is the unique inheritance of the body and bride of Jesus.

It also explains why Job was never told to resist Satan, although he suffered the most terrible ordeal at Satan's hand. Job had no indwelling power to be able to give Satan his marching orders.

But for us who are born again, the scripture says we are raised with Christ and seated in heavenly places. This is why we can exercise rulership over the powers of darkness.

Jesus Kingship

In the Old Testament Kings were 'confirmed in place' by a prophet – usually being anointed with oil as a sign of the Holy Spirit. At Jesus baptism He was 'confirmed in place' by being baptised by John and having the full anointing represented by the dove

descending on Him. Of course it was right for Jesus to be baptised - He is the King of Kings.

Taking our cue from Jesus

But, bear in mind that we are kings and there is a King of kings. We do not have licence to 'run riot' over powers of darkness in our strength - indeed if we try we will fail.

Our kingship, our rulership is in Christ and to be exercised in Christ - i.e. in the same way that He exercised it.

Jesus, the One who is truly King of kings and Lord of lords, exercised His authority in complete submission to His Father:

Jesus said: *'I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgement is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.'*
John 5:30

'Most assuredly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.'
John 5:19

'So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'
John 20:21

Jesus is our role model

He was sent by the Father, not to do His own works but rather to walk in the works that were prepared beforehand for Him by the Father. Jesus did what He saw and heard His Father doing.

Are we going to be greater than Jesus by doing things in our own strength - certainly not!

We are sent by Jesus in the same way - that is to do what we see and what we hear the Lord doing.

So we exercise our kingship in the same way - through the Spirit. In our lives we are to reign - we are not to be pushed around by circumstances - rather we are to be in tune with the Spirit.

'Those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.'
Romans 5 v 17

'Therefore take up the full armour of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.'
Ephesians 6 v 13.

YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU POWER OVER ALL THE WORKS OF THE ENEMY.
(Luke 10:19)

CHAPTER 9

OUR RELATIONSHIP: SON

Its wonderful that God would use us as servants, more wonderful that He would allow us to be priests and set us in heavenly places with Christ as kings...

Yet now we come to consider something more wonderful still.

God is not someone far off. Not a great King who is remote from me. Not unapproachably Holy such that I am excluded from His presence. He is my Father.

He is my Father in a literal sense.

Not so far as my body and soul are concerned but.. When I was born again, it was the Holy Spirit who came to my human spirit. He found my spirit dead and He brought new life, new or rebirth. My spirit was born again and the Fathering was ordered by God Himself and executed by the Holy Spirit.

That is the message of Jesus meeting with Nicodemus in John 3.
You must be born again, Spirit to spirit.

So I can come to Him as Father, not as some distant god.

'And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying "Abba Father."'

Galatians 4 v 6

God is genuinely my Father and He wants me coming to Him as a son, as a child. Children come to their human parents full of expectation, believing that their parents can meet their needs.

Growing up

In fact if you think along the lines of a human infant -he or she starts life with total dependency upon his or her parents, growing bit by bit. He or she learns to talk and walk and then to do all sorts of things. Gradually he or she knows more and more, learns skills and becomes able to earn his or her own living and start his or her own household.

There are some parallels we could look at:

In the sense of being spiritual sons, at first we know nothing and we need to feed on the milk of the word to grow.

As we feed so our diet should include solid food or meat - we should grow in the things of God.

We should come to the position where our heavenly Father can trust us to work in the family business - the business of demonstrating the kingdom of God to an unbelieving world and to the principalities and powers of darkness.

This brings us to the principle of the adoption as sons.

The adoption

'He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will'
Ephesians 1 v 5

So from scripture we see ourselves as both spiritually 'natural' sons - i.e. by Fatherhood and also sons by adoption.

So what does it mean - by adoption.

The easiest way to understand the significance of the adoption is to see Jesus. He exercised the power and authority of the Father.

'If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.'

It was the custom of the day, that at a point in time, the son 'came of age' so as to be able to speak for his father. i.e. in the marketplace the son's word would be binding on the father.

This is the adoption - our word is binding on the Father. This is true - what we say is binding on the Father. But we must look to our role model Jesus Christ to know the limits of this authority and how it works. It should be obvious that it is not an unlimited power or we would replace God. He would be removed from the throne and we would be seated there.

Jesus did only the things He saw and heard His Father doing. *'The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son does in like manner.'*
John 5:19

This is the limit of our authority - whatever we see or hear the Father do, we can do that in like manner and His power will flow into that situation and bring about the result.

So, for example, if we receive a word of knowledge, and bring that word, we speak for the Father. He is then bound by that word and it will come to pass. In our adoption we speak for Him.

This is what the Father wants - it makes us fellow workers with Him to bring about His desires on the earth. (2 Corinthians 6:1)

The meaning of Adoption – quote from Vines Expository Dictionary;

'God does not adopt believers as children; they are begotten as such by His Holy Spirit through faith (at rebirth). Adoption is a term involving the dignity of the relationship of believers as sons; it is not a putting into the family by spiritual birth but a putting into position as sons.'

Jesus - the example

You can see God the Father affirming Jesus in this way when He said at Jesus baptism - *'This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.'*
 adding at His transfiguration, *'hear Him.'*

Sonship is a wonderful thing.

I think we can see from this that our sonship is a wonderful gift from God.

I can call Him 'daddy,' and relate to Him as to a father whose intention is always good; at the same time I can receive the adoption and be trusted to speak for Him as He leads.

So I can fulfil the first commandment - to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind - why - because He is my Father and He is good.

You are indeed a son of the Father - you are raised up and seated in heavenly places with Christ- Ephesians 2 v 6.

YOU HAVE THE POWER WITHIN YOU TO BE AN EXCELLENT SON

CHAPTER 10

THE CLIMAX - THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

And so we come to our highest and most important calling. Highest and most important because it will last for eternity. The other aspects of calling will pale when compared to this - we are the bride of the Son of God - to rule and reign with Him for ever.

His bride

John the Baptist said of Jesus, *'He who has the bride is the bridegroom,'* and Paul said: *'I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.'*

2 Corinthians 11 v2

Our calling is to be the bride of the King of kings.

Love the Lord

Surely this must be the first calling of the bride - love your husband and surely this is the desire of every husband - that his wife, his bride loves him.

For a certainty where there is strong and true love between husband and wife - there will be peace and joy and every good thing.

What is true love

True love is more than an emotional response - indeed emotions can be fickle, misleading and can be driven by lust. True love is a much deeper thing involving choice and commitment.

True biblical love is 'agape' love. Love by choice - 'agape' love says I choose to love. We are supposed to have this type of love for our neighbours, for one another, but firstly for the Lord. I love Jesus with all my heart, yet at the same time I realise my shortcomings - I could love Him more.

'Agape' love is vividly demonstrated in Jesus and in the Father. Jesus demonstrated His 'agape' love for us by coming in the form of a man and dying in our place. He came to us who were steeped in sin and unlovely - He came by choice.

'Agape' love is demonstrated in the Father by allowing and sending Jesus to us.

These demonstrations of true love leave us lagging a long way behind. In fact we cannot love the Lord the way we ought to, from our own strength - it is not possible.

So I have adopted the following favourite prayer:
'Holy Spirit fill me with more love for Jesus.'

Where does this love start

According to Matthew 22 v 37 it comes like this:

'Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.'

Its like a camera shot zooming in - first the full view – all your heart, then, a close up – all your soul, then, a really close up shot – all your mind.

We are urged to love the Lord with absolutely all of our being. The camera zooms in to where it really starts - it starts in our thinking - in our minds. Love the Lord with all your mind – that is where the choice is made.

Yes it is right to love the Lord - to choose to love the Lord - it starts in the mind. You can say 'I love you Lord,' in your mind anytime, anywhere.

This is the highest part of our calling - that we might love Jesus, that we might reach the point of relationship with Him where everything else has gone dim by comparison - that we may say with the Spirit, 'Come Lord Jesus,' because that is our desire - to be with our husband.

It's a good measure of where we are:

Are you really able to say and mean, 'Come Lord Jesus,' or do you think, don't come yet, there is too much work to be done. I must complete my ministry first! No, it is the relationship with Him that must come first. Let the other things flow from the relationship, but keep the relationship hot.

Jesus warns us about being lukewarm in Revelation 3 v 16. He does not want a lukewarm bride but rather a bride who is totally in love with Him such is our calling and such is the foundation of every aspect of our lives.

CHAPTER 11

EQUIPPED TO LIVE TODAY - INHERENT POWER

The Lord has made abundant provision for us to live a fully successful Christian life now, today, here on earth.

Jesus description of the nature of that full Christian life could be looked upon like this:

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

Or again, like this:

'By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.'
John 15:8

Many other scriptures could come to mind covering specific aspects of things included in these two scriptures.

The Lord is glorified when we are cheerful givers
The Lord is glorified when we have forgiving hearts
The Lord is glorified when we take authority over the works of satan.

...and so on.

How it will be accomplished

The very same way that Jesus was empowered to be fruitful. He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said He would send the Spirit to live in us. The very same Spirit that anointed Him for His works and indeed raised Him from the dead.

The Lord has commanded that we love Him.
Every Christian is familiar with the command to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your souls and all your mind - found in Matthew 22:37

This calls us to love the Father - yes because He is good, He sends every good and perfect gift from above and there is no shadow of turning with Him. (Look at James 1:17)

The best, and most costly gift was, of course, His only begotten Son - Jesus.

This calls us to love Jesus, the Son of God - because He has given His life as a ransom for many - including you and me.

This calls us to enter into a love relationship with the Holy Spirit - because Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to us as another like Him.

The Holy Spirit is another, just like Jesus. He is another counsellor, a friend, a helper another just like Jesus.

Is the Holy Spirit welcome living in you? Have you thought of welcoming Him each day - thank you Holy Spirit for dwelling in me.

Have you expressed your love to Him. Thank you Holy Spirit, I love you, I am glad you have come to dwell in me, I love you.

As we express our welcome and as we express our love to the Holy Spirit it will enhance our relationship. The Spirit will be able to reveal more and more to us, He will be able to glorify the Lord as He is empowered by our wholehearted agreement with His presence and His work in us. How will He glorify the Lord in us - by making us more and more like Him, little by little, from one degree of glory to another.

It is indeed awesome that God, Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit would come and live in us. Yet this is exactly what the scripture says. Let us be found to be those who wholeheartedly welcome Him and fulfil the foremost commandment by loving God in all His triune expression.

This is where the equipping will come from - as the Holy Spirit has more and more influence in our lives we will find ourselves more and more equipped to be like Jesus.

This world cries out for the sons of God to be revealed - take up the challenge - fall in love again - with the Holy Spirit, not instead of with Jesus and Father, but in addition.

CHAPTER 12

WHAT AN INHERITANCE

Probably we will be unable to grasp the full significance of our inheritance in Jesus until we enter in and enjoy it. For the moment let's dwell upon this thought - there is an inheritance for us:

'In Him also we have obtained an inheritance .. that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.'
Ephesians 1:11-12

What does this phrase mean - 'to be to the praise of His glory.'

We, in our very beings are to become a praise offering worthy of His glory. As His bride we are going to be completely worthy of His glory. We are going to be worthy of Him, when He is revealed in all His glory and majesty - we are truly going to be a worthy bride, a worthy Queen for the King of kings.

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us.....to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.'
1 Peter 1:3-4

Guaranteed

'You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the purchased possession.'
Ephesians 1:13-14

We are purchased possessions - there is no possibility of us removing ourselves from the Kingdom once we are born again - we have become a purchased possession. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Your future is guaranteed - even if your current life on earth falls short - and it will.

Qualified to inherit?

It is an amazingly wonderful fact that we do not have to qualify for this inheritance out of any effort or goodness or achievement of our own - it is all provided by the Father.

'Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.'
Colossians 1:12-13

When you believed in Jesus and placed your trust in Him, then you moved house - you moved out of the house of darkness and wickedness and into the house of light and love.

What about our actions?

Well, with this wonderful inheritance ahead of us we should live in every way as worthy of it - we should live perfect and holy lives - because our inheritance is perfect and holy - that is what we are going to become in eternity.

Therefore there is no excuse for continuing sinful behaviour. Yet, without doubt, everyone of us will fail in one degree or another.

Therefore keep short accounts with the Lord - when you sin, confess your sin:

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

But I can't do it

Our human frame is unable to be holy. But it can and should be changed little by little into the likeness of Christ - from one degree of glory to another.

This process is very greatly helped and quickened by being thoroughly, totally in love with Jesus.

'Holy Spirit fill me with more love for Jesus.'

All you do

'And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of your inheritance ; for you serve the Lord Christ.'
Colossians 3:23-24

YOUR INHERITANCE IS GUARANTEED

CHAPTER 13

OVERCOMERS AND THEIR REWARD

If you read the early chapters of Revelation there are many statements about overcomers, for example:

'To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.' Revelation 3:21
(See also Revelation: 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12)

This is a wonderful promise, so it would be good to understand what is involved in 'being an overcomer.'

In the Greek in which the New Testament was written 'overcomer' is 'nikao.' It means, to be victorious, to get the victory, to prevail, to conquer.

Definition of overcomer

The scripture defines what an overcomer is for us - so we need have no doubt about the matter. In fact it is the very same author who wrote Revelation - John - he defines overcomer for us in his first letter:

'For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.'
1 John 5:3-5

So there it is in all clarity, an overcomer is one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God, and as result of that faith, has been born of God (born again).

If you are born again - you are an overcomer - it is not a question of striving to become an overcomer - you, by nature, your new nature, are an overcomer.

Being an overcomer is firstly what we are.

The Lord God has made us into overcomers - we are overcomers now by nature, that is by what His divine nature has done in us.

Part of our inheritance is to live in the manner of the overcomers we have become in Him.

You do not strive to become an overcomer.
You do not work hard to become an overcomer.

It is not down to your effort to become an overcomer.

YOU ARE AN OVERCOMER - now go be it and do it and live it.

You have already overcome the world and the devil in Jesus Christ - now live like that.

God has done his part - live your life in all the benefit and all the fullness of what Jesus has achieved on the cross.

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.' Ephesians 1:3

'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.'

2 Peter 1:2-4

Peter goes on to say - look because of this wonderful, wonderful thing that the Lord has done, because of this, go on and add: to faith, add virtue, add knowledge, add self control, add perseverance, add godliness, add brotherly kindness, add love.

Its another way of saying - you have been made holy, now increasingly be holy in all your ways.

Or again, you are now an overcomer by nature, be an overcomer in action.

Talents

Consider the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30

Everything that was made, was made for Jesus. Here we find three servants who given stewardship over the masters assets whilst He is away in a far country.

One is given 5, another 2, and the third 1 talent.

5 talents become 10, and 2 talents become 4, in the hands of the two good stewards. However the unprofitable servant digs his one talent in the ground.

You have two talents or more - you have natural life, you have spiritual life through the re-birth and God has gifted you in various ways – use those talents and multiply all that God has put within you. Don't be like unbelievers who cannot even see the Kingdom.

Believers are also given that which they can handle. Both the good servants in the parable were 100% successful - but the chap with five talents had the ability to cope with more than the chap who had two. Both were equally loved by the Lord and their stewardship increased.

Reward

When we read the similar account in Luke 19:11-27 we learn more:

Here ten servants are each given one ‘mina’ and told to trade with it. When the master returns they have to give an account.

One reports a ten fold increase another a five fold. Now we get an indication of reward:

‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over 10 cities.’
 Luke 19:17

From this we can see that there will be different degrees of responsibility when we rule and reign with Christ.

This is reward.

Crowns

Another aspect of reward is the receipt of crowns -

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Corinthians 9:25 | says we compete for an imperishable crown |
| 2 Timothy 4:8 | refers to the crown of righteousness |
| James 1:12 and Rev 2:10 | refers to the crown of life |
| 1 Peter 5:4 | promises us the crown of glory |

We will all receive various crowns as part of our reward - not so that we can show them off in heaven but so that we can cast them at the feet of Jesus our Lord. (Like the elders in Revelation 4:10)

The rewards for the overcomer is very great - perhaps one of the greatest aspects is that it fills us with the glorious hope for the future.

Because we know Him, because we belong to Him, because we trust His promises, because He is our inheritance we are:

‘looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.’
 Titus 2:13

Here is the very good news -

‘Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.’

1 Peter 1:2-4

Think about it - you have become a partaker of the divine nature.

Responsibility

As a partaker of the divine nature good works should flow from us - just as they flow from God. James makes it clear that faith without works is dead. The gospel is all about LIFE.

Revelation 14:13 says that the works of the believer follow him when he dies in the Lord.

Revelation 17:14 says that those with the Lamb are called 'chosen and faithful.'

I hope this booklet has strongly confirmed you in your position in Christ and inspired you to greater works as a steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

I pray that when you see Him face to face your reward in heaven will be very great.