

Introducing

Transformed

Working

Life

For young professionals and all
interested parties.

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There is nothing more important than loving the Lord; and understanding the truth of His Kingdom ways; and moving in the grace and power of His anointing in every aspect of life.

The traditions of men and the ways, and philosophy of the world will cheat you.

Colossians 2:8

Transformed Working Life is the teaching program developed by ICCG, taught all over the world, and very well received.

This version is deliberately presented in a distilled manner with reference to study aids for further development. It is meant to catch your attention.

It is designed to start with an essential foundational chapter going on to build and establish hope and faith for us in the course of the working life. Best not to skip anything as it is designed to build brick on brick.

You will have spent a number of years studying for your qualification – making you fit for your occupation in the world. **Much more important** – is that you understand the Christian faith and how to reign in life through all its trials and tribulations. Transformed Working Life will help equip you - please take time. This booklet, whilst it has all the basics, is just a taster. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grasp the truth in all its fullness – that is one of His roles.

The examples at the end are not part of the TWL course – they are there to show practical application if you want to read them.

All the booklets mentioned are available:

For free as PDF downloads from freebiblebooklets.com

Printed from Amazon.co.uk or .com or .EU – in the search box type Peter Michell or Transformed Working Life and the titles will appear.

Session 1 Inherent Power

OBJECTIVE build confidence and inner strength by full understanding of the new birth and of the adoption

Born again, you have a new Father. Take this with a literal meaning – you had to be born again in your human spirit to see the Kingdom - and God, having done this, is your new Father.

Refer to John 3:5 – *'You must be born of the Spirit.'*

Definition – meaning of receiving eternal life. (John 3:16)

One who places their personal trust in the substitutionary work of Jesus on the cross at Calvary. That is believing and trusting that my sins, which separated me from God, have been paid for and that I have been given the gift of righteousness, putting me in right standing with God.

Definition - born again (John 3:5-6)

Born of water (natural birth) and born of the Spirit – the human spirit is fathered by the Holy Spirit thus the human spirit is brought back to life. The Holy Spirit then takes up residence within.

So, yes, literally you have a new Father. Only the Lord can accomplish this miracle of the second birth because Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. Only the offering of His sinless life satisfies true judgement, making the way for complete forgiveness of sin and restoration into relationship with the Lord.

Eternity secured

Got it! Now you can't lose it. Yes it is true. Now you are saved, born again, your eternal destiny is secured.

Look up references: Ephesians 1:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 1:22 and 5:5 - note God given guarantee!

Can't sin – won't sin

Amazing - 1 John 3:9 states that whoever has been born of God cannot sin. Who has been born of God? - why my human spirit, why can't my human spirit sin? - because the Holy Spirit resides there. But.....

So far as my life on earth is concerned I have to choose to put off the old sinful nature and put on the new spiritual creation. This is a continual day by day process. It is an everyday choice to be made. (Colossians 3:9-10)

Inevitable failure –

'If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves.' (1 John 1:8)

It is not that we sometimes fail but what we do with it that counts.

John has the antidote - *'If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'* (1 John 1:9)

So we are restored – back up and running!



Adopted into position in the family. Quote from Vines Expository Dictionary – ‘God does not adopt believers as children; they are begotten as such by His Holy Spirit through faith. 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.’

Adoption is about babes in Christ becoming mature sons - able to discern the Father's will.

Further study:

Inherent Power in the TWL series. Examines in more detail and goes on to discuss the various relationships we now have with Jesus.

Stand Tall – take your position. Specifically written for ICC

Bible look up:

Romans 3:21-26 and what does 5:17 promise you?

1 John 2:2 and 4:10

Yes but! Look up Philippians 2: 12 and note this cannot refer to the salvation of your human spirit, for that is guaranteed, so it must refer to the human body and soul.

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself - have you really got it – born again and adopted – no doubts.

Session 2 Work is a 1st Class calling

OBJECTIVE make it clear that every calling in God is totally valid

We are called to 'Full time service' - definitely – worked out in whatever you do.

Wrong thinking. Thinking that everybody should be in some sort of spiritual full time ministry. Everyone is called to be working and representing Jesus full time in whatever occupation He has called them to. Danger – thinking 'I must be a pastor,' – only if God specifically calls.

How do I know my calling? Check out 1 Corinthians 7:20 for basic advice. Maybe that is not applicable in your particular case – i.e. being a student when born again. So seek the Lord for direction - in a later chapter we will deal with hearing God speak.

Basic Truth 1:

'and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.'

2 Corinthians 5:15

Basic Truth 2:

'You were bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body.'

1 Corinthians 6:20.

Basic Truth 3:

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

Ephesians 2:10

The message.

We do not belong to ourselves now. God has prepared a role for us which is special and unique. Fulfilment and fruitfulness will manifest to the maximum effect in the right calling.

Will God be with me in secular work?

Most definitely - this is His plan. He wants His witness in every walk of life.

Take a look at Exodus 31 : 1-11 to see God’s anointing – particularly verse 3 and 35: 35.

The Lord God can make you far better at your work than you can imagine. Try Daniel 1:17 and 20.

Bear in mind – you are a work in progress. The Holy Spirit will change you from one degree of glory to another. Co-operation with the process is the key. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Further study:

Work is a 1st Class Calling in the TWL series. Here you will find the ICCC motifs – Heart Management, The Two Trees, Building on the rock, The Two Dimensions, The Valley Experience.

Bible look up

2 Corinthians 3:18

Colossians 3:23

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself - do I see God’s hand with me at work? In what ways?

Session 3 No one can serve two masters

OBJECTIVE focus ourselves on the main point

Best to decide it at the beginning – you cannot serve two masters.

Earlier, we established that we were bought with a price, that we do not belong to ourselves, that Jesus has every right to expect us to live for Him.

We have already seen that our own flesh would like to be master. The world will try to master us with its own ways - Go to Colossians 2:8 to see the world's methods of cheating believers.

Money

Money is not in itself evil. It is the love of money that is evil. Making money is not evil – but if you place your trust in making money that means you are serving another master not Jesus. Matthew 6:24

Making money for 'the Kingdom' or 'for God' is not a good motive. The Lord does not need our money. I have seen many businesses fail when the owner's motive becomes making money for the Kingdom. We cannot bless God with money - *'for without contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better'* Hebrews 7:7. He is the One who blesses - us with His favour.

Later we will deal with generosity and giving.

Bought with a price

Bought with a price means ownership has changed. We do not own ourselves any more - we are the possession of the Lord God.

'You were bought at a price' 1 Corinthians 6:20 and 7:23

Strictly that would mean we have no rights – but the Lord God is not a task master. His desire is that, in freewill, we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and that we follow Him in the calling, and with the anointing, He provides.

Further study

'No one can serve two masters' in the TWL series

Bible look up:

Matthew 6:22-24 and understand that here is a Jewish idiom. Good eye means generosity and bad eye means stinginess.

Ephesians 2:10

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself – What or who comes first in my life?

Session 4 Favour and Hope

OBJECTIVE really understand that God's desires towards us are very very good – creating hope.

The basis on which we have hope and enjoy the favour of God -

- 1) We are God's family. Literally born again and adopted into position in the family. (This 'adoption' is the putting into position as sons - we are not adopted as children - we are born into the family of God. We are adopted into position as sons. Galatians 4:5)
- 2) God is totally good. Look it up - James 1:17
- 3) Giver of good things. Look it up - Matthew 7:7-11.
- 4) Irrevocable – see Romans 11:29

This is a bit deeper -



Israel was favoured by God as His chosen nation. They rejected Jesus and the branches were broken off. Gentiles were grafted in. (Romans 11)

The root of the olive tree represents God's abundant favour -see verse 17

Warning verse 19-20 – don't be haughty against Israel – God has not finished with them yet!

You are grafted into the root of the abundance of God's favour!

Hope (*elpis* in the Greek) is described as 'the happy expectation of good,' or 'the certainty of future blessing.' The concept of our hope has, as its foundation, the statement '*Christ in you the hope of glory.*' Colossians 1:27

What does this mean at work?

It means expectation. God is with you. He can and will bring:

Wisdom

Advice and ideas beyond your own ability

Power

Favour with colleagues.

Favour with clients, customers.

(Later on we will deal with opposition)

Born again we have found favour with God – knowing we have favour leads to confidence:

Look up Hebrews 10:35

Further study:

Hope the certainty of future blessing in the TWL series.

Favour – enjoying the children’s bread – by the same author (not TWL)

Bible look up

1 Peter 1:3 is hope dead?

Hebrews 6:11 how much hope and until when – 3:6

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself – do I expect God to bless me, do I expect His favour?

Session 5 Faith or presumption

OBJECTIVE got to get 'faith' right! ... or it will be presumption.

Question - can we generate faith within ourselves? Answer definitely not, no matter how hard we try or how many times we quote and repeat scripture.

How then?

'Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.' Romans 10:17 (word is translated from the Greek 'rhema.')

Now we need a Greek word study.

Graphe - is writings or scriptures – it is never translated as 'word.'

Logos - is the personal name of Jesus - look up John 1:1 and 14. Jesus is the full revelation of the Godhead – see Colossians 2:9. *Logos* is translated 'word' and has the meaning of the 'full revelation' including all the parts that make it up.

Rhema – this is the key to understanding the real meaning of faith – rhema is the phrase or saying which God is saying to you now. When you receive a *rhema* word you have two choices - believe it and accept it, and it will come to pass or reject it and lose the benefit.

'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every rhema that is proceeding from the mouth of God.' Matthew 4:4

The scripture is breathed by God and is vitally important for our education in the things of God – additional to 'bread,' fundamentally essential to life. In addition, your spiritual diet should have the specific things God is saying to you on a personal basis – His message specifically to you – like 'cake' the nicest part of the diet!

Note He will never say anything that contradicts the scripture, when the scripture is rightly divided and understood.

The angel announces to Mary that she will be with child by the power of the Spirit – impossible! Then the scripture says *‘For with God nothing is impossible.’* Luke 1:37. Translated more literally the scripture says no *rhema* of God is impossible.

So it is really simple - faith comes by hearing, not by study, not by trying to work it up, not by continual repetition of scripture – ONLY by hearing God speak to you personally.

For much more see ***‘Faith or presumption’ in the TWL series.***

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself – when did I last hear God speak to me and did I do what He said?

Session 6 Hearing God Speak

OBJECTIVE developing the ability to hear God such that works of faith may follow.

We are going to need an ear to hear – so here is how it works:

- 1) **God's audible or strong voice.** Sometimes God speaks to us and we absolutely know it for sure. Maybe it's audible or maybe just so strong that we have no doubt. A bit like Paul's experience in Acts 9. Don't worry if that's not your experience; it's not the 'usual' way God speaks.
- 2) **The gentle voice of God.** Read 1 Kings 19 – see God speaking in a still small voice. Most often it comes from within – from deep in our innermost being. That is where the Holy Spirit dwells and He is tasked by Jesus - another look up - John 16:13-15.
- 3) **Through scripture.** You are reading and something 'jumps out' at you. Or we would say, 'is quickened to you by the Holy Spirit.' This is God using what is written to bring a particular and personal message - His message to you is not bound by the context when He speaks in this way.
- 4) **Prophecy** – we are not to despise prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:20) but we need to be discerning. Where a prophecy confirms something God has already spoken to you, it's safe to acknowledge it comes from God. If not, then seek God for a second witness. Above all look within yourself - does this witness inside me or am I disquieted, my spirit disturbed – in which case it is unlikely to be from the Lord.
- 5) **Vision and dreams** - occasionally almost like watching a film but usually like looking through a haze. A vision can be like a picture in the mind. This is not us visualising what we want – that is an occult practice.
- 6) **Other media** - God can speak through all sorts of media – look for the witness of your spirit.

7) **Other people** - either bringing you a 'word' or subconsciously speaking God's message to you.

Don't rely on circumstances. Other people, the world and the devil can control circumstances – which might have the appearance of light, but without the word from God can lead you astray.

Use the golden rule - 'Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.'

NO PEACE - NO DO!

Colossians 3:15

Don't be afraid to ask God for the confirmation of two or three witnesses. He sets this principle in scripture in human matters.

Much more with examples in ***'Hearing God Speak' in the TWL series.***

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself – is my relationship with the Lord such that I frequently hear His voice? Do I understand the witness of the Spirit?



Session 7

Renewing the mind

OBJECTIVE learn the first lesson of spiritual warfare

The mind is like – a vacuum cleaner ...

..... it will suck up everything going. The the big question is – what do we do with all these thoughts?

Key passages:

Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Your mind is vitally important and what you allow it to think and to dwell on is of the greatest importance and will determine how you act. Sin starts as an ungodly or unholy desire (or 'lust' as scripture relates it). If the strong desire is allowed to take hold, then it will give birth to sin; and if the sin is allowed to fully mature it will bring forth death. (James 1:15)

Therefore the ungodly, unholy strong desire has to be taken captive (as a prisoner of war) and the mind renewed.

YOU HAVE CONTROL - do not allow your mind or your emotions to rob you of close fellowship with the Lord. You can chose what to think.

Warfare

Be aware this is spiritual warfare – the enemies will try to rob you.

Your own body, Satan and the world will all try to feed you with wrong thinking – trying to move you into wrong actions.

Further study:

Much more – *'Renewing the mind' in the TWL series.*

Bible look up - Matthew 5:6 Colossians 2:8 John 10:10

Bible enlightenment:

'Little children, keep yourselves from idols.' 1 John 5:21

..... Doesn't seem to apply to most of us until we realise that the translators chose 'idols' rather than 'phantom' or 'image in the mind.'

Beware of fantasising over ungodly things! Keep your mind clean.

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself - what do I allow in my mind?

Session 8



Frazzled - then learn
about

working from rest

OBJECTIVE learn practical application of living and walking with Jesus

The modern world is so pressured, so busy, so frantic and so hectic it's a wonder that anyone can go through life in easy peace.

Nevertheless - this is our calling – in the midst of it all work from rest.

What did Jesus say? - Matthew 11:28-30.

Key passage – Hebrews 4

Entering rest is:

Verse 1 'since a remains

Verse 9 available now.

Verse 11 so we need to be? So that we don't fall into disobedience.

What does working from rest look like?

Well we have acknowledged our own limitations - though, of course in the world's terms we may be well qualified.

We have understood that God's anointing and grace are available to us even in secular work. (More coming in a later chapter)

We have learnt to hear God speak to us. We have confidence that God is with us and we have learnt to ask for His help in times of need – see Hebrews 4:16 and Romans 5:17

We will have learned to take authority over the works of the enemy. (Coming in the next chapter)

Then we find things go well – God is with us. We find we do not need to strive, rather there seems to be a following wind. Actually it's seen in the book of Zechariah - chapter 4 second half of verse 6 and last part of verse 7.

We can be our biggest enemy – our 'flesh' (that is our human soul and body) lust against the spirit. **We** like to achieve **ourselves** instead of walking with God in the Spirit. It's self justification - totally unnecessary, and it is missing the mark (sin), as we are justified by Christ. Refer Galatians 5:17

Further study:

'Working from rest ' in the TWL series.

Space for notes and thoughts:

What did you learn from Hebrews 4:16 and Romans 5:17?

Applying it?

Session 9 Be strong in the battle

OBJECTIVE become aware of enemy activity and learn to withstand

Watch out – there is an enemy about.

'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.' 1 Peter 5:8-9

Is there really a battle?

Look up: John 10:10, Acts 20:29 and 1 John 5:19

Yes, certainly and it takes various forms.

You have been given authority – check it out at Luke 10:19 and particularly note 'all.'

You have been given armour - listed in Ephesians 6:10-18.

Special Note:

The Ephesians are urged by Paul to gird their waist with truth. Truth is rock, as opposed to sand, and the only safe thing to make a stand on. Truth cannot be 'assumed' it has to be diligently learned from scripture. The Holy Spirit is here to help – *'He will guide you into all truth.'*

My regular prayer, 'Holy Spirit guide me into more and more truth.'

Why? – it's His role and it's the only safe place.

Bible look up

2 Timothy 2:15

Authority is to be exercised. When adverse things arise seek the Lord for discernment. Is this problem human or satanic? What is the strategy?

Where satanic or demonic take authority over it and dismiss it.

We are often very slow to discern what is going on. We have been warned – our enemy is seeking to devour, seeking to rob. We do have the authority to stop him. Discernment is essential. Ask and you will receive.

If it's human opposition, and don't be too surprised if it comes from other believers, then bless them, do anything the Lord tells you to do, and then leave them to the Lord to deal with.

See the parable of the persistent widow at Luke 18 to understand that we must be persistent in exercising authority against and resisting the works of the enemy – see the explanation of the parable in 'Be strong in the battle' in the TWL series.

Pre-emptive action

Why not take authority over the works of the enemy before the event? Going into a meeting or quoting a job and so on I frequently command the enemy not to interfere with the people or the process.

Further study:

'Be strong in the battle' in the TWL series and understand the parable of the persistent widow.

Space for notes and thoughts:

Don't be afraid *'greater is He within you than he that is in the world.'*

Are you acting on 2 Timothy 2:15?

Question: Are there any thought patterns or practical activities over which you need to take authority?

Session 10 Generosity and fruitfulness.

OBJECTIVE time to consider the outcome

It is the Lord's intention that we bear fruit - that means being like Jesus on the earth. *'As He is so are we in this world.'* 1 John 4:17

'I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.' John 15:5

'Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use it will be measured back to you.' Luke 6:38

Fruitfulness of character.

We are destined to become like Jesus and the Holy Spirit is working with us to that goal. Look up 2 Corinthians 3:18 and ask yourself 'Am I co-operating or resisting?'



Essential – Look up 1 John 1:5-7 and Ephesians 5:8-14

Whilst in Ephesians - chapter 5 : 1-7 walk in love; 15-21 walk in wisdom and chapter 4: 1-6 walk in unity, putting on the new man.

Bearing much fruit.

When Jesus was present on earth He did so much more than is recorded for us in the bible - see John 21:25.

Now, when we consider ourselves we can consider this - 'there is always much, much more that we can do – as the Holy Spirit leads us.'

Expect more.

Generosity.

Here's a difficult passage – *'The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.'* Matthew 6:22-23.

Jesus is using a Jewish proverb – go to Proverbs 22:9 to find the meaning*.

Bible look up Luke 6:38 What is the Lord's response to generosity?
Galatians 5:22-23 2 Peter 1:1-11 – how are you doing?

Further study:

There is much more on this topic in ***'Fruitfulness – the goal of our faith' in the TWL series.***

* Just in case your translation puts it differently -the Jewish proverb is about generosity – 'if your eye is good' represents 'if you are generous' and 'if your eye is bad' represents 'if you are stingy.'

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself - How is your spiritual eye?

Session 11 Anointing - the application of grace.

OBJECTIVE recognise the anointing to be humble and avoid pride

Now we come to a very special and unique place.

Statement by the International Board:

'There is an anointing available for those with eyes to see and ears to hear the call of the times. For that purpose ICCC has been formed it is an aiding instrument for instruction and inspiration, to experience release into a new dimension in which corporate (and personal) goals, strategies and plans become the outward manifestation of an inward walk of faith.'



what is anointing.

'And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship --- He has filled them with skill --- and every gifted artisan in whom the Lord has put wisdom and understanding to know how to do all manner of work.' (Extracts from Exodus 35:30 to 36:1)

Anointing is that extra level of expertise over and above our natural abilities.

'The anointing you have received abides within you' 1 John 2:27

Please study 'Anointing' in the TWL series – it covers much more ground.

What is grace?

Grace is unmerited favour – so you do not deserve it and cannot earn it.

It is another level of blessing from the Lord – as a result of the anointing. It is another level of expertise brought by special action of the Holy Spirit – often by a *rhema* word.

When the Lord tells you something, applicable to your job or role or activity, that you have not learnt but it comes by revelation - that is grace.

When you find yourself strengthened through a difficult situation – that too is grace.

Grace is like the wind in your sails

Grace is epitomised in the scripture:

‘and we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.’ Romans 8:28

God has called you into His kingdom, that is His purpose. (He would that all are saved.) Now, as you belong to Him, you can expect all the blessing and grace of being a child of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Further study – specially written for ICCC.

Powered by grace

Works of power - now is the time

Stand Tall – take your position

Space for notes and thoughts:

Ask yourself - *Is there evidence of anointing in my life?*

Added insight – Mystery

We have stated that truth is vitally important and the only safe place – you can check that out at Matthew 7:24-29 where every ‘saying’ of Jesus is *logos*, it is part of the full revelation of truth. And note what comes ... winds, rains and storms.

There is a mystery – a mystery is something not previously revealed.

‘Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and according to the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began.’ Romans 16:25

Rightly dividing the word - we have to know what the scripture teaches for the period of time in which we live.

Colossians 1:26 -27 *‘the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the gentiles: which is **Christ in you the hope of glory.**’*

So what was not revealed in the Old Testament –

There was no power over the works of the enemy in the Old Testament. There was no indwelling Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

The mystery now revealed has immense power and love based on Christ in you, not on works of the Law (or on works of any sort.)

Bible look up -

2 Timothy 2:15 - rightly divide

Ephesians 1:15 to 23 and 3:14:21 - power and love

What for?

Ephesians 3:8-12. – i.e to demonstrate the manifest wisdom of God to principalities and powers.

It's instructive to compare the mystery and its purpose to what the New Testament tells us about the Law:

It is a ministry of death 2 Corinthians 3:7

It is a ministry of condemnation 2 Corinthians 3:9

It stirs up sin Romans 7:5

It is a tutor pointing to Christ Galatians 3:24

It cannot justify Romans 3:19-20

We are:

Not under law Romans 6:14

Dead to the Law and married to another Romans 7:1-6

Dead in Christ is dead to the Law Galatians 2:19

The Law is now:

Passing away 2 Corinthians 3:11

Made obsolete Hebrews 8:13

Annulled Hebrews 7:18 (Note Jesus could not be our High Priest if the Law was still in operation for us)

Brings barrenness Galatians 3:10 (text states *'for as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse'* here *katara* in the Greek has been rendered curse but more fully means 'doomed to barrenness.')

We are called to walk by the Spirit, demonstrating God's manifold wisdom as we travel through life. We are not called to keep the law – we render ourselves unfruitful if we try to do so.

Examples

TWL teachers are encouraged to liberally give examples from their own lives to demonstrate the truth of the TWL teaching. These are not part of the teaching course but here if you want to see how things have worked for me and my family.

Everyone's experience will be unique to them. These few examples from my life and the life of my family are just that - examples. They are not methods but the outworking of faith which may encourage greater hope and greater expectation. I should explain that my working life consisted mainly of running an accountancy practice as a sole trader with about 150 clients. The business charged professional fees and for some of the time received commission for financial advice.

These examples will show how 'reigning in life through the abundance of grace' (Romans 5:17) has worked for us in various situations. Underlying it all is the love of the Lord and the strong expectation that He knows the answer and is willing to intervene – it's called 'hope.'

Business strategy

- 1) We faced a period of time when the commissions for financial advice had almost completely stopped. Should we continue or close this part of the business as it involved ongoing costs? Time to pray and ask for wisdom. Marion (my wife) received a vision. In the vision she saw some fish swimming around. Every now and then they jumped out of the water and caught a fly.
Interpretation: Just keep 'swimming about' and when a fly comes along take it.
Action: None - just relax and wait and see.
Result: Commission income rose from almost zero to around £40,000 in 12 months.

- 2) One of the commissions received was a substantial £12,000. This came about because I was asked to find a bond suitable for a 90 year old that would pay commission and a small death benefit. My client, a good Christian brother, had sought the Lord and felt the Lord say I was the one to approach. I could not find any such product and reported that back. He insisted I must have missed it. I searched again and indeed found a company that did offer such a bond. The agreement was a 50:50 split of the commission earned and £12,000 was my share. The old lady died a few months later and her estate received the death benefit.

Lesson learned: Listen to your brothers and sisters!

- 3) One day walking across the yard to the office the Lord spoke to me, 'Satan is trying to rob part of your business.' This related to a historic part of my activity where I supplied a plastic product (which I had helped design) to one client. He called and said he could get the product 16% cheaper.

Action: a) When warned I took authority over this work of Satan by speaking out loud to him and demanding that he did not rob me. (See 'Be strong in the Battle' in the TWL series)

b) I then left it in my clients hands to either continue buying from me or not as he chose. (I knew the 'problem' had been dealt with.)

Result: The business continued for many years until my client retired and sold his business.

- 4) Client company has major cash flow problem. I was doing monthly management accounts and had to advise the two partners of a looming £300,000 cash deficit. The company was already fully borrowed and stretching suppliers way beyond reasonable limits. There was no way out. Standing in an open office with the two partners and a couple of secretaries the word of the Lord came to me and I spoke out, 'I will pray and the Lord will send £300,000.' (This word came by welling up

inside me [See John 7:38]) After a short period a new customer approached my client wanting a job done for £225,000 in about 6 months time, but insisting on paying right now. A little later another new customer approached wanting a £150,000 job done. The terms for this type of work were 50% upfront! The Lord came good to His word. [£225,000 plus £75,000 = £300,000]

Result: Business saved. This was some years ago and this company is still quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

Lesson: When the Lord moves be bold and speak out or miss it!

- 5) Ministering at an ICCC meeting in Ghana. The meeting was coming to an end with no move of the Spirit. I sought the Lord for a word of knowledge and immediately received 'Tyres'. I gave out the word and a man from the back of the meeting ran down for prayer. Some months later I heard what happened - his business was on the point of collapse and very soon after the meeting he sold 2 very large tractor tyres which saved the day.

Lesson learned: Sometimes a word of knowledge may seem odd and it is easy to dismiss it. (Fear of looking silly arises!) Be bold and behold the glory of the Lord.

- 6) Insolvent business in East Africa. After an ICCC meeting I was approached and asked to look at a balance sheet for a business which arranged delivery on an international basis. The business was quite badly insolvent and losing money on every transaction. As I sought the Lord on what to say I felt the message was this – 'It is not too difficult for the Lord,' and shared that with the owner. (Although to human eyes it was impossible)

Action: Prayer of agreement with the Lord.

Result: The company had been trading through the London office of its franchise. They decided to write off the debt (now solvent) and to transfer the franchise operation to the South

Africa office which meant lower prices. (Can now make a profit on every transaction.)

- 7) Gambling machines. I couldn't understand why I was asked to undertake monthly accounts for a company that hired out slot machines and one arm bandits! In fact I was minded to refuse! But as we (Marion and I) prayed we felt it was right. There were two partners in this business. They vaguely knew I went to church through their cousin who made the introduction. I had not spoken to them of Christianity at all but just got on with the job. After a few months, one day I was happily accounting. One of the partners was sitting in the same room. He suddenly thumped the desk and said, 'What have you got that I haven't got?' He then accepted an invitation to a FGBMFI dinner where he was saved and delivered.

Lesson learned: Don't be quick to judge but listen to the Lord.

Further result: A little later his partner was also saved in most unusual circumstances and they disposed of the business.

- 8) Volvo garage. A friend of mine worked at the local Volvo garage. They faced a problem – Volvo had decided to reduce the number of franchises – so three fairly local garages had to bid for the one franchise that would replace them. The requirement was to prepare and present a business plan - the best plan would win. The Directors struggled and struggled and were getting nowhere. Time was running out. They asked Matt to help – he was just a car salesman but he had done the full TWL teaching course - so he knew what to do. Matt prayed and received from the Lord the outline of a business plan. The Directors liked it and instructed Matt to produce the full plan - this he did very prayerfully – he was way out of his depth! The plan was duly presented to Volvo and it won the day - it also won the accolade of being the best plan in the whole country! Of course! We know who was behind it.

Lesson: The Lord can come through in very difficult situations and can give skill and instruction way beyond one's learning when we seek Him and trust.

- 9) Client wanted to delay his retirement date. He had a number of pension plans and it seemed the way forward was to amalgamate into one. This was put to the various companies but was declared unlawful. The problem was a technical one. The Lord gave a word of knowledge – 'Vote him a retrospective bonus.' Looking at the figures this meant going back and voting a bonus for a year ending 4 years ago. All my training said this is impossible - the accounts are finished, the HMRC (tax office) have them and they are lodged at Companies House. Should I trust my accountancy training or the wisdom of God?

Action: His company voted him a retrospective bonus. The new position was put to the pension companies who again declared it unlawful and referred the matter to the Pension Supervisory Office. This seemed to be the end of the road as the transaction had to be done within 2 weeks or fail. Miracle - the Office responded straight away - yes it is fine, carry on. One satisfied client and one happy recipient of a significant amount of commission.

Lesson: The Lord knows your area of expertise better than you and better than any expert. (A little later I told this story at a lunch meeting at PWC (well known to Jan!). Their pension expert happened to be there and came up to me at the end - 'thanks,' he said, 'I did not know that was possible.')

- 10) I was approached to undertake a liquidation. The Lord spoke and said, 'You won't get paid.'

Action: I insisted the client write undertaking to pay.

Result: Didn't get paid regardless of trying hard! The Lord was right - I missed it.

11) I was approached by a chap who wanted to start a business specifically to finance a Christian school. On the face of things this would seem to be a good motive. But I knew from previous experience that unless the Lord was in it then it would fail. So I asked the chap whether he was following the Lord in it or not. He said he was. But I was not convinced and probed deeper. 'How did the Lord tell you to do this – give me some details.' There was nothing. So I counselled him accordingly – i.e. unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain who build it. He could not accept my counsel. A couple of years later I heard his business had failed.

Lesson: We are not supposed to either do our own thing or to do something 'for the Lord.' Rather we are to walk in the works He has prepared for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

Normal Life events

a) Corinne (eldest daughter) is sent home from the hospital where she was undertaking her nursing training with glandular fever.

Action 1: Marion, Corinne and myself gather in the kitchen where we pray and seek the Lord for His strategy, which was to take authority over the sickness, and, speaking out loud, in the name of Jesus, we demand it to go.

Result: Within 24 hours she is 50% better.

Action 2: Gather again in the kitchen with thanks to the Lord for the improvement and ask - is there anything else to do, whereupon the Lord says 'Anoint her with oil.'

Result: Instantly, fully healed. (Later blood test confirms complete healing.)

b) Kerry (youngest daughter) was in her last year at university and just a few weeks away from her finals. She developed severe migraine headaches. She came home.

Action 1: Marion received a word of knowledge - 'Give her garlic capsules.' Headaches cease and she returns to university. A few days later - headaches are back and worse.

Action 2: Marion and I seek the Lord and receive information that we could not have known. In the house 70 miles away where Kerry stayed she had the ground floor room. Next door in the adjoining house the family used the equivalent room for prayer to Mecca 5 times a day. We were led to take authority over that situation demanding from our enemy that those prayers were to have no effect on Kerry from that moment on. (By speaking out loud against the enemy)

Result: Problem immediately ceased and Kerry went on to graduate.

Lesson: From a) and b) we need to be aware that the enemy will try to rob our families and take appropriate action as the Lord reveals His strategy.

- c) Wallpaper horror. A good friend and client was engaged to redecorate our bedroom with wall paper. It was terrible - the paper was a mass of bubbles. I was all for calling him back to redo the whole job but Marion said let me pray first. The Lord told Marion to go round the room and lay hands on the walls here and there.

Action: Though it seemed 'silly' Marion did exactly that.

Result: Amazingly not a bubble was to be seen.

Lesson: The Lord is interested to bless us even in small matters. This is probably the most unusual miracle we have witnessed – stunning.

- d) We moved house and need to sign up on a Doctor's register. We prayed and the Lord said 'You will meet your Doctor tomorrow.' First visit to the local church we were to join and 'Lo and Behold' we met our Doctor. The Lord knows!

- e) Even your pet can be blessed. Our 1 year old labrador could not stand up due to hip dysplasia. We prayed reminding ourselves of the promise in scripture that your livestock would be blessed and how Jesus responded when 'challenged' with 'even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the table.' The medical analysis gave the dog a maximum life of 4 years on medication. He lived for 14 years with no medication after our prayer request.
- Lesson:** You don't get it if you don't ask. (James 4:2)

Job related

- i) Four of the men of the fellowship were meeting for breakfast. Gordon worked for a large international credit card company but was not well paid. We started to pray for him. Welling up from inside came the prayer asking the Lord for 'a pay rise, no a double pay rise, no a triple pay rise.'
- Result:** Same day he was called into the Manager's office and given a 5% pay rise - as he went to leave the office the manager called him back and said, 'no we can do better than that' and doubled it to 10%, - now his employment record had 2 pay rises on the same day. Later he was called to see the manager of another department who wanted to transfer him. 'I see you have had 2 pay rises already and promptly gave him a third.'
- Lesson:** When you pray in the Spirit - that is - you have not in any way thought up the prayer but it has come forth from deep within, then it will surely come to pass.
- ii) First thing in my office one of the staff announced she was leaving to take another job - she was very apologetic worrying about how I would manage. Then as usual, I listened to my ansaphone messages. It was a small open office so everyone could hear. The first message, 'I hear

you are looking for a new person ...' The lady who was leaving was absolutely stunned – as was I! When this new person came for an interview she gave her life to the Lord.
Lesson: Sometimes the Lord clearly goes before you.

- iii) Corinne was taking the final part of her Mental Health Nursing qualification which involved a number of practical assignments. She had passed all the assignments so far with flying colours. She came to the last assignment which was with a community health officer. She was given a very bad report indeed. We prayed taking authority over any evil or incorrect matters. She was called in to see her supervisor who could not understand the report –how could she do so well and then so badly? So with Corinne present the supervisor phoned the community health officer for more details. The community health officer broke into tears over the phone and confessed to making a false report – the reason, 'Corinne would be more highly qualified than me if I gave her a good report.'
Lesson: We need to be sensitive. It would have been easy just to say take that module again. We have authority and are expected to use it. (Ephesians 3:10)
Result: The bad report was withdrawn and substituted with the proper report and Corinne passed.
(Later we had a similar experience with her husband who was taking a test to be a bus driver. The test could only be taken a maximum of 3 times and he was failed twice. When we prayed and sought the Lord about it (he was actually an excellent driver) we understood that there was a personal issue with the tester. So when it came to the 3rd test we prayed, taking authority over any wrong action by the test official. He passed.)
- iv) In a period of transition I was taken on by a Life Insurance company to sell life insurance. There was some trouble at

the branch and the company General Manager came from head office to interview me, a brand new recruit, and to deal with other matters. His analysis – he told me I didn't stand a chance of success in the business. (In natural thinking he was correct - I am not suited to selling life insurance.) But, I believed it was a God given opportunity, so I said to the General Manager, 'Jesus is with me – watch and see.' In my first year I came in the top 25 out of all the sales people in the whole country and he had to award me a number of achievement awards -that usually takes salesmen a number of years to attain.

Lesson: When we acknowledge the Lord He acknowledges us. I stayed with that company for a number of years whilst an accountancy practice developed.

- v) At an ICCC meeting in Belfast a chap came forward for prayer. I did not let him speak but sought the Lord for a word for him. I 'saw' a large V which went into the distance like a furrow. So I said, 'I see a large V going into the distance like a furrow and the Lord wanting you to stay in the furrow and go along it.' He burst into tears. He had been very uncertain about his job. Did the Lord want him to do something different? He was a farmer!

Lesson: Ministry can be much more effective when we know nothing – then for the recipient it is clearly the Lord speaking.

- vi) There came a point in time when around 50% of the practice income came from one client. (We did all the book-keeping and accounting) The company was taken over and the new owners wanted the work done 'in house' so they offered me a full time job. But I was uneasy about that. When Marion and I prayed we decided to reject the offer. That was relayed to the new owners who then asked me to consider a 4 day week. We prayed again and felt

completely at peace. I could service the other clients on day 5 and 6 if necessary. So the Financial Director of the new owners came to our house for a formal interview. It went like this: What salary would you like? What car would you like? What holiday entitlement would you like? All agreed. Then last question, 'Is there any other way we can help you?'

Action: 'Arrow' prayer to the Lord - 'arrow' answer. 'Yes, under UK tax law this change will mean two tax charges in the same year which will cost me about £12,000.'

Result: 'As an inducement to you to take the role we will pay that for you.'

Lesson: Abundantly more than you think or ask! (Ephesians 3:20)

Reality check

When one hears of or reads a number of testimonies like this one can get the idea it's all plain sailing. It is not. We are told to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, Philippians 2:12 (referring to the deliverance from danger of our bodies and souls).

We learn from our mistakes - such as the time I declared, by supposed faith, that my eyesight had been healed. My daughter rejoiced as she smashed up my glasses. For about a year I stood in supposed faith until reality broke through and I went to the optician and got new glasses. What went wrong? It wasn't faith it was presumption - how do I know that - at no time did God say I have or I will heal your eyesight - I was making a 'faith' stand. But faith is not faith at all unless God speaks to you. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the *rhema* word of God. **Lesson learned.**

Essential fundamental - come into an intimate love relationship with Jesus. That is not natural! But the Holy Spirit responds when we pray, 'Fill me with love for Jesus.' That is my favourite and very regular prayer.

Accept God's sovereignty. The Lord God is sovereign. He calls the tune. Sometimes that leaves questions unanswered. For example many years ago I spoke at an FGBMFI dinner. A lady came forward for prayer - she was deaf in one ear – the hearing nerve was severed. This is incurable. But I was led to pray against an evil spirit and her hearing was there and then restored – wonderful! Some years later my wife was diagnosed with an acoustic neuroma which was surgically removed. It meant she lost the hearing in one ear and the hearing nerve had to be severed in the operation. She still has no hearing in that ear -after lots of prayer and requestes to the Lord but no word from Him. It remains an enigma.

Result

Love the Lord with all your heart. Seek the Lord always. Expect answers. Listen and do what He tells you. God is abundantly good towards us. Let patience also play its part.

For me and my family - we would not have it any other way. We will love and seek the Lord always.