

Living in two kingdoms

Including problem solving

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Index

Introduction

The two Kingdoms

Chapter:

- 1 In a position of power
- 2 Inevitable problems
- 3 Trust and rest
- 4 Husbands and wives
- 5 More trust - the word of God
- 6 More trust - listen in because He speaks
- 7 The Lord does not test us
- 8 Good from every situation
- 9 Walking in the Spirit
- 10 Overcoming spiritual power
- 11 Joy and generosity
- 12 Bear fruit

All bible quotations are from the New King James

Introduction

It is essential to recognize that there are two kingdoms governing this world and that they are opposed to each other:

This world belongs to the Lord who entrusted it to mankind saying have dominion over everything, in Genesis 1. Mankind blew it by disobedience and satan became the ruler of this world as recognized by Jesus (John 12:31). Everyone born into this world becomes a child either of God, by being born again by the Holy Spirit and through faith, or remains a child of the devil, a child of this world, a child of disobedience and wrath. Hence the kingdom of this world is full of disobedience, evil, and particularly lies (as satan is a liar from the beginning and the father of lies), devil worship and the desires of evil men – leading to wars and many things adverse to the Lord and His children. This world, a natural kingdom infested with evil has many difficulties for righteous living.

Jesus Kingdom which will come in full dominion when He returns to rule. Meanwhile the attributes of His Kingdom are manifested on earth by born again believers through faith, through prayer, through obedience to His instructions – through the Holy Spirit, a spiritual kingdom.

The two kingdoms are totally opposed to each other hence the many tribulations that believers face in life.

Thankfully believers can overcome all the problems that come from their own flesh, from this world and from the adversary, through the Spirit.

Thus we who believe dwell in a world dominated by evil whether we like it or not, whether we recognize that or not. But by faith we, those who are born again, can overcome the trials and tribulations:

'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 5:4-5

I have referenced further booklets where the subject matter requires more explanation than there is room for in this introductory work, all of which are available as free downloads at freebiblebooklets.com or in printed form from Amazon by typing the booklet title in the books section – delivery is generally next day.

Chapter 1

In a position of power

The Lord's strategy in this situation is for the born again believers, the true church, to demonstrate His manifold wisdom to the principalities and powers in heavenly places. This is His declared eternal purpose. (See Ephesians 3:8-13.)

To accomplish this objective Jesus will baptize us with His power. John the Baptist expressed it like this, of Jesus he said, *'this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'* And Jesus said, *'for John truly baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now and you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.'* Acts 1:5 and 8 The disciples had to wait, they could not assume they had received power the moment Jesus breathed on them with the command *'Receive the Holy Spirit.'* (In the Greek 'receive right now.')

Once we are baptized with power by Jesus we are empowered to fulfil the 'the great commission,' found in Mark's gospel. *'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons they will speak with new tongues they will take up serpents and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.'*
Chapter 16:15-18

After this Jesus left and, after 10 days, the Holy Spirit came upon them in the upper room. Then the disciples went about evangelizing with works of power and the Lord confirmed the word with accompanying signs. Being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit is not automatic when we first believe.* Paul found believers in Ephesus and asked them, *'did you receive the Holy Spirit when you first believed?'* They hadn't heard of the Holy Spirit and had been baptized with John's baptism for remission of sin, nevertheless they were described as believers. Straight away they were baptized in the name of Jesus and when Paul then laid hands on them the Spirit came upon them, they prophesied and spoke in tongues. Acts 19: 1-6

These believers had to wait to be filled with Spirit as did the disciples who received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them in John 20:22 but then had to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them later in Acts 2:1-4.

We are baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body - we are part the body of Christ on earth from the moment we first believe. (See 1 Corinthians 12:13)

It is essential to understand and to receive the power of the Holy Spirit to be able to receive the abundant life promised by Jesus in this age and to be fruitful with signs following.

This is the adoption as sons.

A common misunderstanding is that we are adopted into the family, the body of Christ, whereas the adoption is into sonship - a position within the family.

Here is a quote from Vines expository dictionary (*slightly amended*) which makes the position clear: God does not adopt believers as children; we are begotten as such by His Holy Spirit *when we are born again*. 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 the position of sons *within the family of God*. Believers are God's children by re-birth not by adoption. God is 'abba Father.'

As sons we can follow the example of The Son by doing what we see and hear the Father doing - that is the being led by the Spirit as was Jesus - and the mark and fruit of sonship. Being baptized with the Spirit and power by Jesus enables us to do the greater works He said we would do.

Have a personal check before moving on - have I received power and do I manifest the above signs or any of them?

Many Christians are like those in Ephesus - living without the power of the Holy Spirit. By belief in Jesus they are born again and, of course, the Holy Spirit took up residence in their born again human spirit as He does for everyone who believes. But as those in Ephesus found, there is more to come - power.

You will know you have received power when some of the same signs we read of in Mark 16 follow you.

In these last days we are warned of those who have a form of godliness but deny its power. In Timothy 2 chapter 3 Paul is warning Timothy of times to come (and they are certainly here now) when men will be lovers of themselves with all sorts of unrighteousness. Unfortunately it has crept into our churches to some degree, where even people who profess Christ, and worship Him, have lost sight of the power of the Gospel, through the Spirit, to more than only change their lives – but also to empower them to works of power, to overcome the world.

'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 5:4-5

See also the booklets, 'The two ordinances of Christianity,' and 'The start of new life.'

* There are streams of Christianity that teach that the moment you are born again you receive all there is to receive. Thus denying the scriptural evidence of, for most, the later blessing of power when Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and power is received. It is noticeable that those teaching this incomplete gospel do not themselves demonstrate any evidence of power.

Baptism.

There are three baptisms available for every believer:

1 When we first believe the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13

2 We go through the waters of believers baptism – administered by the church.

3 We receive the Holy Spirit and power when we are baptized by Jesus.

Footnote:

Ephesians 4:4-5 has: *'There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.'*

Here 'one baptism' is referring to the baptism by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ – *'for by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.'* 1 Corinthians 12:13

Chapter 2

Inevitable problems

With the power of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to face the inevitable problems which come as we live on earth. Jesus put it like this, *'In this world you will have tribulation.'* John 16:33

Being born again is not the end of all problems. Quite the opposite. Paul urged the believers when he returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch – *'strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'* Acts 14:22

The Thessalonians had patience and faith though suffering persecutions and tribulations. (2 Thessalonians 1:4)

So problems are inevitable.

But we don't stop there – in everything we can overcome – back in John 16:33 when Jesus warned of tribulations He went on to say, *'but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'*

Here it is again, John teaching:
'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 5:4-5

Also, *'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.'*
1 John 4:4

As born again believers we can live in this victory – eternally it is already true.

In daily life it can also be true as we live through the Spirit- *'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

So that, *'May the God of peace sanctify you completely: and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* 2 Thessalonians 5:23

So we can be aware –when problems come, even small ones, we will be able to overcome every problem as we follow the guidance of the Spirit and are empowered by Him.

We will see more of how to live above the problems and tribulations as we go on.

See also the booklet 'Practical spiritual warfare.'

Chapter 3

Trust and rest

Placing our trust fully in the Lord Jesus Christ and in His word contained in the bible is fundamental to living victoriously in the two kingdoms. Many have lost sight of the fact that our adversary is alive and active and fulfilling his mission to rob, to kill and to destroy (John 10:10) – just accepting whatever comes against them.

Instead of even considering that the adversary may be at work there is a tendency to see our tribulations only with natural eyes and not to consider the greater picture at all – and thus we lose!

This then leads to handling our problems in our own strength and without relying on the Holy Spirit. The scripture calls us to rest from our own efforts which it describes as ‘filthy rags.’ (Hebrews 4:8-13)

Being filled with the Spirit will enable us to do all things through Him who strengthens us – including enhancing our trust and enabling us to enter His rest. See Hebrews 4 and particularly verse 11.

As we go on there will be much more on these two essentials.

See the booklets ‘Working from rest,’ and ‘Be strong in the battle.’

‘Ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.’ Matthew 7:7

Ask, seek and knock are continuous – keep asking etc.

Chapter 4

Husbands and wives

Before moving on it is important to remind ourselves of one of the most vital of relationships for most people. Unity between husband and wife is important for overcoming the world which is set more and more against marriage and family life.

For those who are single this chapter may help if you counsel those who are in long term relationships.

Wives

'Submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.' Ephesians 5:22-24

Warning for wives

When the Lord spoke to Eve, after she had given the forbidden fruit to Adam, part of what He said was: *'Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'* Genesis 3:16 part.

To understand the meaning of this statement we turn to chapter 4 verse 7. Here the Lord is speaking to Cain after he murdered his brother:

'If you do well will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.'

'desire' is the same word in both quotations and carries the meaning of 'dominion.' So we know that this 'desire' it to rule, to rule over – that is why the Lord told Eve that her husband was to rule over her.

Wives should be aware that the Lord has designed it that husbands are the head of the house and be aware that our adversary will try to upset the God given order.

This is not male superiority but ascribed roles of equal value and importance in the Kingdom.

'Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.'

Husbands

'Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.' Ephesians 4:25

'So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.' Verse 28

'This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.' Verse 33

With all the pressures of modern life and the increasing pressure of the world to upset God's order we see much breakdown of marriage and of biblical relationships between spouses.

Therefore this prayer for both partners to a marriage used frequently is very important:

'Lord, Holy Spirit fill me with abundant love for my husband/wife so that I can fulfill your righteous requirement.'

As you will be praying in line with God's desire you can be sure He will answer - He definitely does.

When husband and wife are in complete harmony they will find that their prayers are greatly empowered, an essential feature for living victoriously in the two kingdoms.

If your husband or wife is an unbeliever keep praying for them and keep demonstrating the love of Christ in your actions.

Chapter 5

More trust - the word of God

Now we can move on to more vital elements of understanding. Trust and the truth.

It will be very helpful to settle it in our minds and hearts – the New Covenant, into which we entered when we first believed, is the very word of God* for us to live by. It is essential therefore to understand it. I have found the following prayer very helpful – ‘Holy Spirit please fill me with more and more understanding of the truth.’ (It is His job – John 16:13)

* Paul, writing to Timothy, second letter, verses 16-17 – *‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God** and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.’*

** literally ‘God breathed’

Having established that the New Covenant, as recorded for us in the bible, was literally ‘God breathed’ through the various writers we now have a choice to make. Am I going to place my trust in the New Covenant? – after all Jesus said that the new covenant is in His blood. Am I going to place my trust in the power of Jesus sacrifice?

It is a very fundamental choice – trust in Jesus and all He says in the new covenant or trust in something else. Understanding the new covenant is vitally important – hence my prayer for more and more truth.

Have you got it settled in your heart and mind?
Doubting or being double minded will rob us of the practical power and blessing of the Lord. James 1:6-8:
'For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose he will receive anything from the Lord: he is a double minded man unstable in all his ways.'

Ask, ask, ask - the Holy Spirit is ours to help us - we all need it! and keep asking there is much to learn.

Prayer - 'Holy Spirit fill me with more and more truth.'

Do you doubt the scripture? - See the booklet, 'Is the bible reliable - can we trust it?'

Chapter 6

More trust – listen in because He speaks

Jesus said, *'Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds* from the mouth of God.'* Matthew 4:4

* present tense - is proceeding.

'Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the spoken word of God.' Romans 10:17

So what is the Lord saying? We get much from the bible. There is more - when He speaks something personal just for me or just for you. When He speaks it is, of course, in and from His spiritual kingdom whilst we are living and working in the natural realm. It is no surprise then that there is a process of learning to listen and to recognize His voice and His other ways of speaking. Bear in mind His ways are not our ways so His word to us may be counter intuitive.

To cover the whole subject is beyond the scope of this booklet.

Please see the booklets, 'Hearing God Speak,' or 'And God spoke.'

In this chapter and the previous chapter we have spoken of the truth. Now we ask the question – do you believe and do you put all your trust in what Jesus has accomplished – the truth of the new covenant?

Do you hear Him leading you through the Holy Spirit?

Chapter 7

The Lord does not test us

There is a very common failing amongst believers – a problem strikes and we say, ‘the Lord is testing me.’ If we say that then how can we pray for the problem to be dealt with, how can we pray for guidance, how can we expect to overcome? Thus we suffer loss or persecution of some sort.

Instead we should take note of the new covenant as recorded for us in the bible and particularly the letter of James – *‘Let no one say when he is tempted or tested, ‘I am tempted or tested by God:’ for God cannot be tempted or be tested by evil, nor does He Himself tempt or test anyone. But each one is tempted or tested when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.’* James 1:12-14

You will note that I have added ‘test’ and ‘tested’ in the quotation – this is for understanding. The Greek word ‘*pierazo*’ verb and the noun ‘*pieramos*’ has the meaning to try, to test, to tempt. See Matthew 4:1-7 where satan is testing or tempting Jesus in the wilderness.

On the contrary, James goes on to say

‘Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.’ Verse 17

Our adversary would want us to think it is God who is testing or tempting us so that he can get away scot free with his wiles, instead of being resisted by us, as Jesus did in the wilderness.

Let us be aware that God's ways are not our ways - So for example:

A friend of ours was being persecuted by 3 unruly young men - yobs. As he explained his problem it was clear that this persecution has been continuing for some months and was getting him down. We advised him to pray blessing over the young offenders. He found this very difficult to accept but nevertheless did so. Within a few days we got the report back - the persecution had stopped.

This principle is so important and difficult to accept so here is another example - the brother of one of the members of the same fellowship was falsely accused and under police investigation which was continuing for an extended period. Hearing our advice above, and seeing the result, she advised her brother to pray blessing over his accusers and the authorities investigating. He readily accepted and acted on the advice. Another good report a few days later the case against her brother had been dropped - end of problem.

So when problems of any sort arise we immediately resist our adversary and consider how the new covenant advises us to deal with it and listen for specific instruction. We have overcome many difficulties over the years and so we enjoy 'Every good and every perfect gift that comes down from above' just as stated by James.

See the booklets, 'Practical Spiritual Warfare,' and 'The testing and stretching of our faith.'

Chapter 8

Good from every situation

There are three very important things said to always remain – *'and now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.'* 1 Corinthians 13:13

Now we will examine 'hope' - so we need a definition. The Greek word is 'elpis' which means, 'favourable and confident expectation or certainty of future blessing;' which is rather different from our English meaning of 'hope' which is usually uncertain and wishful.

Now our biblical foundation for having this confident expectation, this certainty of future blessing:

First - The first thing Paul says to Timothy (1st letter, 1st chapter, 1st verse) *The Lord Jesus Christ our hope.* Everything to do with our favourable and confident expectation of future blessing is centered on Jesus and His victorious resurrection.

Second - the eternal promise. Peter saying that we have a *'living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.'*

And Jesus saying that He has gone to prepare a place for us in His Father's house - John 14 1-3.

Our eternity is guaranteed by the scripture because we are kept by the power of God. (1Peter 1:3-4)

Third - the promise for today. *'we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to the will of God.'* Romans 8:28

Young's literal translation puts it like this, *'and we have known that to those loving God all things do work together for good.'*

This promise of good from all things follows on from the statement that the Spirit Himself is making intercession for us - so it cannot fail to be true.

Jesus said He came to give us life more abundantly (John 10:10).

So we are building up a picture of our Lord God who is very good and who loves us such that He will bring good out every situation we live through. This is confirmed in other scriptures such as the statement that we are being changed from one degree of glory to another - into the glory of Christ.

This compares to the worldly kingdom ruled by the father of lies who comes to rob, to kill and to destroy.

I know which kingdom I want to dwell and abide in!

Chapter 9

Walking in the Spirit

Abiding and dwelling in the kingdom of the Lord God whilst we are still here, earthbound, requires that we follow all the of biblical principles of the New Covenant. The principal of which is walking in the Spirit.

In chapter 1 we saw the baptism with power that comes from Jesus Himself. Some churches know, believe and teach it but many do not. So there are many Christians who believe in Jesus for salvation, thus are born again, who may or may not have been baptized in water, yet have not received power from the Lord as evidenced by signs following and speaking in tongues.

The scripture tells us that we work out our own salvation (deliverance from danger) with fear and trembling – we need power from on high to be able to do that. (Philippians 2:12). As our human spirit is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who never leaves nor forsakes us, it is clear that Paul is referring to working out our own deliverance from danger of body and soul.

We will turn to Paul's letter to the Ephesians where He gives guidance to how to effectively walk in the Spirit.

Foundational – you are filled with exceedingly great power – chapter 1:15-23. You are rooted and grounded in love – chapter 3:14-21.

With that established:

There is one body of Christ and one Spirit therefore endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Chapter 4:1-6

So put off the old ways of lying, cheating, wrath, bitterness, anger, quarreling, evil speaking and malice and focus instead on kindness imparting grace forgiving one another.

Walk in love.

Walk in light -that is the truth.

Walk circumspectly - that is carefully and in all wisdom

These are the hall marks of walking in the Spirit summed up by Paul, *'therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.'* Chapter 5:17

Understanding the will of the Lord has two levels - understand your calling in life*, - what has the Lord appointed for you to do whilst on this earth? And following day by day the direction of the Spirit.

* Ephesians 2:10 tells us that the Lord has prepared good works for us to walk in. 1 Corinthians 7 has the principle of staying in the calling one was in when he/she first believed.

Refer to the booklets 'Hearing God Speak,' or 'And God spoke.'

Chapter 10

Overcoming spiritual power.

Jesus had an adversary – satan over whom He won complete victory. However until all is fulfilled the same adversary, satan, continues to work against us His people.

Paul, still in Ephesians:

'Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God that you may stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.'

Chapter 6:10-12

Many seem to have lost sight of the fact that there are these numerous spiritual powers, not flesh and blood (though they may and do work through other people), arrayed against us. If one has lost sight of, or cares to ignore, their existence then no standing, no opposition is rendered and all the pitfalls and irritations of life are put down to purely 'normal' things and the losses and problems are just continually suffered.

As a lot of the wiles of the devil are worked out through other people we need to understand how to overcome. Our fight is not against the people, not against flesh and blood, but against the powers behind them. Now we will term this as 'persecution' with a small 'p'.

The word of God is powerful indeed, though our natural mind may balk at the truth, and we may seek to overcome problems in our own strength.

When we are persecuted in any way our natural reactions do not include this blessing:

'Bless those who persecute you and do not curse.'

Romans 12:14

The testimonies in chapter 7 will illustrate the point. Two different people applied this principle, of blessing those who curse you, to long running problems. The power of God's word when applied resulted in very quick results.

Once we recognize that there are powers working against us we can start to learn how to stand and how to overcome, knowing that we have the strength to do that.

'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.'

1 John 4:4

In Ephesians we read that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against a host of spiritual powers. Jesus called satan the 'prince of the air' (Ephesians 2:2) and the 'father of lies' (John 8:44) so it is no surprise that most of satan's activity against us comes against our minds, directly or through other people. A problem for us is that because it comes into our minds we easily fall into the trap of assuming it to be true.

Renewing the mind is an essential part of our daily walk. Every thought is to be taken captive (literally prisoner of war) unto Jesus:

'For though we walk in the flesh, we do war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.' 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 see also Romans 12:1-2

The things that come from our adversary into our minds will be negative and demeaning – all lies.

The more we are saturated in the truth the more easily we will discern between truth and lie. Paul strongly urges us to take every thought captive unto Jesus by the renewing of our minds – references above.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to recognize lies and to deal with them as Paul instructs.

Please refer to the booklets 'Be strong in the battle,' 'Practical spiritual warfare,' 'The persistent widow,' 'Renewing the mind,' 'Demolishing strongholds,'

Anxiety is an enemy. We are told *'be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God ; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.'* Philippians 4:6-7
Keep your mind on the positive, on the goodness of God and His promises.

Please refer to the booklet, 'Anxiety – keys to leaving anxiety behind.'

Chapter 11

Joy and generosity

Living in the Kingdom of God will increasingly manifest joy – because the more we live in the Spirit the more we see and experience His victory and the more we recognize both His goodness and His promises.

As we have already seen there are things arrayed against us which seek to rob away our joy – our adversary, this world and its occupants and our own flesh.

Every day will be a challenge to walk in the Spirit – Jesus told us – *‘Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.’* Matthew 6:34
Today (and every day) we can choose to walk by the Spirit – we can choose joy.

We may wake up not feeling any joy but the path to joy is always there – it is the path of praise. As we praise, proclaim Jesus as Lord and King, and pray in our mother tongue and in other tongues joy will build within us. Jesus said we will have troubles in the world but take heart for I have overcome the world.

It is Jesus desire that we experience His joy for the joy of the Lord is our strength. The more we walk in the Spirit the more will be our experience of His joy – making our joy complete.

As the Spirit changes us from one degree of glory to another, and as we walk in the Spirit, we become more and more generous people. Generous with our attitude to others, with our time, and with our possessions.

Having a generous way of life is the way of love – it is His Kingdom way. Jesus was ultimately generous in denying Himself and giving Himself for us thus demonstrating the way of the Kingdom.

To walk in generosity we avoid all legalism. So we can choose to be cheerful givers:

'So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly, not of necessity (under compulsion); for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.'
2 Corinthians 9:7-8

So there we have aspects of living in God's Kingdom – much praise and worship will engender (give rise to) joy and being full of joy will engender generosity.

Chapter 12

Bear fruit

'If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.' John 15:7-8

Abiding in Jesus is the same as abiding in the Father's Kingdom, that is Jesus Kingdom – where He rules as King of Kings. Currently Jesus is with the Father in heaven where the spiritual Kingdom is fully manifest. Whilst we are on earth, where the natural kingdom is ruled by the devil, Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit who comes to dwell in our human spirit the moment we believe in Him and are born again. In addition Jesus baptizes us with the Spirit and power as we saw in chapter 2.

Jesus said of the Holy Spirit that *'He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said He will take of Mine and declare it you.'*
John 16:13-15

When we are abiding in Jesus we are abiding in the spiritual Kingdom. Then we hear what Jesus is saying, through the Spirit, and we align our desires to His accordingly – then we ask what we want and it is done for us.

That is how we bear maximum fruit.

Fruit will show in our character as it is changed from glory to glory by the Spirit. And in our actions as we have the signs of Mark 16 following as we live guided day by day by the Spirit.

Jesus said, *'No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.'* Luke 16:13

As for me and my house we will serve to Lord.

To serve to Lord is to live by the Spirit.

These two prayers given freely and regularly will help:

'Holy Spirit fill me with more and more truth.'

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

..and this one naturally follows:

'Holy Spirit fill me with more love for the brethren.'

May your experience of Jesus and His Kingdom be peace and joy and the abundant life He came to give.

Other titles:

The ICCC – Transformed Working Life series:

Inherent Power

Work is a 1st class calling

No one can serve two masters

Hope - the certainty of future blessing

Faith or presumption

Hearing God speak

Working from rest

Renewing the mind

Be strong in the battle

Anointing

Fruitfulness

Other booklets written for ICCC

Powered by grace

Works of power - now is the time

Stand tall - take your position

Transformed Working Life - quick view

Inspiration from Word for the week - volumes 1-4

Other publications

Will the church be caught away?

Explaining the future.

Rightly dividing the word of truth.

So that's what it's all about (overview of the bible account)

*Daniel (introductory level)

*Revelation (introductory level)

Ostrich Christianity

Israel and the church not in competition

Favour - enjoying the children's bread.

What should we do with money?

Going for Gold – the testing and stretching of our faith

After Brexit – the nature of the battle ahead
Last Orders
Wisdom
The King is coming
Health and Healing
The sign of Jonah – solved
Understanding the parable of the 10 virgins
The Kingdom Way
The Persistent Widow
Can I lose my salvation?
Meet the Teacher
Love, 153 fish and seven signs
Paul's thorn in the flesh - its message for today
Deception and how to avoid it
Chosen and Choice
The end is not quite yet
Amazing numbers
Blood – the blood of the New Covenant
Building spiritual strength
Grace and judgement
The believer's authority
God's eternal purpose
And God spoke - hearing God speak today
Understanding Hebrews
Reigning in life
Inspiration from Word for the week
Jesus said Watch
Creation? Evolution? Difficult to choose.
Made in God's image – why and what does it
mean
Grace and peace from the seven spirits
Jesus and the feasts
Practical spiritual warfare

Sons, children, servants
Qumran 7
Parables
Oil and wine
James and the meaning of faith
Demolishing strongholds
Is the bible reliable?
The story of time
The way of the moon and the way of the sun
The fear of God and the love of God
Anxiety - keys to leaving anxiety behind
Jesus pathway through life
The two ordinances of Christianity
Matthew 24 - bible study

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