

# Me And Jesus

Living In  
His Presence



Allowing God To Do Something  
Amazing In Your Life!

Burton Rager



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Living In His Presence!

*Allowing God To Do Something*

*Amazing In Your Life!*

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## **Preface**

We will conclude our time together at the end of this book with the following statement.

*God's eternal purpose for us is to become Christ like and to bring God glory in everything.*

Becoming Christ like and bringing God glory is a place of great beauty where Christian lives are designed to be lived. A place that is quite different than where most of us live out our time on earth. As we travel this road of believers we often sense that something is missing. We may decide we need to spend more time in God's Word and in prayer, or we need to trust Him or have more faith. Now the trap is set and Satan is excited because we have made our walk about doing and we have placed the total responsibility on ourselves; we are defeated before we even begin.

Our answer lives in a divine power that already lives in us if we have accepted Jesus into our lives. A power which transforms us into Christ likeness and takes us on an incredible journey one full of blessings and freedom where we shine in the glory of Our Savior.

I pray you are excited to meet the Son, the Spirit and the Father in a way that may transform your life for eternity. So let's take a journey of you, Jesus, His Spirit and God. How wonderful that we will be led by Jesus living in us as we travel.

# Introduction

**This Introduction Lays The Groundwork!**

## **An Amazing Journey**

*Why is it every time you attempt to draw nearer to God, vowing to spend more quiet time with Him, being more diligent in your prayer life and reading your Bible more you eventually end up failing? Discover how to walk intimately with Him, become more Christ like in every area of your life through His Son, His Spirit and His Grace, not by your failed efforts.*

### **You Will Learn:**

#### **Who God Is**

To know God it is important we understand who He is and to truly live we must know Him at the deepest level. We must come to know His character, such as, His holiness, His gifts to us, such as His Son and His Spirit each wrapped in His grace. We must know of His love for us and how He desires we respond to Him.

#### **The Holy Spirit**

Our God, dwells within us through the Holy Spirit. The power to change, the power to live a victorious life, the power to be like Christ and to live above life's circumstances come through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through God's Spirit is how we are led and how we hear from our Heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit teaches us and He reveals the truths and mysteries of God's Word.

#### **Jesus Christ**

Scripture says, "He is the radiance of the glory of God." His radiance is like the shining of the sun, shining God's glory in perfection throughout creation and into our lives. His radiance

also shines from within us; it is the glow on our face; it is His character within us; it is our Christ likeness that is proclaiming Him.

### **Our Heavenly Place**

It is where the Christian life should be lived. You only arrive there through Jesus Christ and by being guided by the Holy Spirit as He dwells in you. It is where you are surrendered, have faith and trust God in everything. It is where you worship and love Him with all your heart, all your soul and all your might. It is where you bring Him glory from the depth of your existence. It is where you receive every spiritual blessing.

### **God's Eternal Purpose For Believers**

God's eternal purpose for us is to become Christ like and to bring Him glory. But the goal is way too big, the responsibility too great and the dependence on me, who I am, too daunting for my humanity. It takes a divine power, a heavenly internal guide to mold us into His image.

### **Our Transformation**

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

2 Corinthians 3:18

### **As We Yield...**

As we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit we will begin to be transformed into Christ likeness, from one degree of glory to another. We will hear from God in ways we never imagined. We will begin to find our desires will change, our longing to read God's Word will grow, we will spend more time in prayer and we will worship Him from a deeper level.

### **Life Will Become Easier**

One day, we will begin to realize we are not struggling, it is like we are on auto pilot as we yield to the Holy Spirit. Life will become easier and it will have a richness we never knew existed.

### **No Other Way**

His Son, His Spirit and His Grace, there is no other way to live a life of excitement and beauty and guess what, it is through the power of the Holy Spirit; not my strength but His. Relax!



## Chapter One

# Who is God?

If you were asked who is God could you begin to describe Him with the beauty, power and majesty that would even come close to revealing our God?

We each lack the ability to describe God to his fullness but that should not prevent us from knowing about Him and having an intimate relationship with Him. I sat in a hospital waiting room with a family member who began to ask questions about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit which Christians refer to as the Trinity. After several minutes of explanation she said many of those things are difficult so I just go back to the basics. Each of us have done this in our walk but when we do, it robs us of the richness of God and the relationship we could have with Him. This life we live here on earth is quite meaningless if we do not begin to understand our God.

There are people who know me at many different levels. Some know my physical appearance such as my weight and height, some know my age. Others know of my personality and character. Some know of my works and my love of God. Very few, as I am sure it is for you, truly know me, the cries of my heart, my deepest desires.

To know God it is important we understand who He is and to truly live we must know Him at the deepest level. We must come to know His character, such as, His holiness, His gifts to us, such as His Son and His Spirit each wrapped in His grace. We must know of His love for us and how He desires we respond to Him. If one knows you but does not touch your heart in the way you desire your intimate relationship will always be hindered and fall short.

If we miss who God is and His desires for us we may begin to question who He is and we may even turn away from Him missing what He has planned for our lives. I know many individuals who have accepted Jesus as their Savior but their life is not what they had hoped. They are not alone, there are millions of Christians in their same place and that is truly sad. Know that God is waiting on you and His desire is for you to take in all of His wonderment and

His plan for your life. When we begin to truly appreciate who God is life will take on a sweetness that is hard to describe.

### **Our God is incomparable...**

*Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.*

2 Samuel 7:22

Often times we may compare someone we know to someone else because of their similarities. With God there are no similarities, there is none like Him. Have you ever heard someone say that a person is more spiritual than someone else or closer to God; God must laugh at those comments. We are all so far away from God that to compare us on any basis with Him, such as, how close or spiritual we are to Him is really quite silly. Our God is above all and there is no other God beside Him, yet, because of Jesus we can draw near to Him and walk intimately with Him.

### **Our God Simply Desires Us, Not Our Talents**

Sometimes we may think having an intimate relationship with God is about what we can give Him, such as our talents or abilities. When we begin to realize that God does not need anything we have for Himself or to accomplish His work, that He just wants us, the pressure is gone. I encourage you to relax as you go deeper in learning about this amazing God.

God does not need us in the sense that His work won't get done without us, but He does use us because we are an important part of how He's chosen to implement His plan and build His Kingdom here on earth. And being the gracious God that He is, He doesn't ask us to do something without equipping us. He chooses to use us so we can receive the blessings and experience the joy of walking with Him.

Two young women, one heading to Cambodia and one to Vietnam for three years, sat in a coffee house with me and began to share the fears they were facing. They worried they did not have the talents or skills to fulfill God's calling on their lives.

I relayed a story about a good friend of mine. Prior to his call as a pastor, he had a music ministry and traveled extensively. Today he rarely sings or leads worship in his church. I shared with the two young women that several days earlier I had been praising God for the wisdom and knowledge He had given my friend. You see, God does not need our skills and our talents. God would equip this pastor for every task that He called him to do, while putting some of his finely tuned skills on the shelf for a while. He did not need this pastor's musical ability to make him a great preacher. God provided him everything he needed.

I am also a perfect example! I preached the gospel to over one thousand Christians in a government hall in Pakistan, though I am not a trained pastor. I was simply willing to go. God did not need me but He used me and equipped me to do what He asked and He brought me closer to Him.

God wants to use each of us in His kingdom and when He calls, He will supply all we need. Scripture tells us He searches to and fro... Both young women had tears in their eyes as they began to realize that God did not need them, yet He wanted to use them for His kingdom.

There is nothing you and I have that God needs. God did not need Moses, Joshua, or any of the other people in the Bible. In addition, he did not need Billy Graham or Bill Bright but he sure used them. God did not need the pastor mentioned above, me in Pakistan, or the young women going to Cambodia and Vietnam. God knew each was simply available and that is what He wants from us, our complete trust and a surrendered heart full of love for Him.

### **Our God is Unchanging...**

*For I the Lord do not change...*

Malachi 3:6

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Not only is God unchanging but His Word is settled in Heaven, there is no adding to or taking away from the Bible.

*Forever, O Lord, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.*

Psalms 119:89

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When God does something it endures forever.

*I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.*

Ecclesiastes 3:14

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We do not have to wonder if God will change His Word or if He will change His mind or His actions for we can depend on His every word, His every thought and His every action. I love what James says when he compares God to the celestial bodies of lights that are constantly changing.

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

James 1:17

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The Bible does not present a philosophical debate for God's existence, it assumes you know that He exists. Some say there is no God and the Bible says they are foolish.

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."...*

Psalm 14:1

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God's Word simply begins in Genesis verse one:

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 1:1

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## **Our God's Grace**

It is impossible to understand God without knowing His grace. God's grace is a gift from God that is unearned and unmerited. Our efforts and God's grace are the very opposite of each other.

*But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*

*Romans 11:6*

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We most often think of God's grace in relationship to our salvation which is not something we have earned it is through our accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior and God's sovereign grace to us.

*who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,*

*2 Timothy 1:9*

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His grace is more than our salvation, it is interwoven in every fabric of our life. Mary did not deserve or earn the right to give birth to Jesus, it was through God's grace, His gift to her. We do not deserve on our own rights to possess any spiritual gifts, yet, God in His sovereignty gives each of us, who are believers, certain spiritual gifts.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards  
of God's varied grace:*

*1 Peter 4:10*

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Our very existence is by His grace. The gift of the Holy Spirit is through His grace, we certainly did not earn the right to have God the Father and God the Son living in us through The Holy Spirit. Look at what Paul said in 1 Corinthians:

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*

*1 Corinthians 15:10*

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Paul had worked hard for the Kingdom of God and he knew his work was important, yet, he realized it was through God's grace that, "I am what I am" and it was not through his efforts. Paul was humble about what had been accomplished.

*But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

*James 4:6*

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God is a giving God and He desires to give us His gifts.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

*Hebrews 4:16*

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Scripture tells us if we have accepted Jesus Christ we are blessed through Him with every spiritual blessing. As we journey with God and draw nearer to Him we will come to understand the truth of this verse, that we truly are blessed with every spiritual blessing through God's grace.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

*Ephesians 1:3*

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## **Our God is Love**

God's love is amazing, it is divine love and it is directed toward us. God's Word says, "He is love" and there are no more beautiful words in all of scripture. The grace of God is His love directed into our lives. Each of our blessings flow from our intimate relationship with Him and His love for us.

*Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

*1 John 4:8*

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His love is manifest in us, through His creation of us, in how He sustains us, that He sent His Son for us who He poured out his wrath on for our sins. His love is manifest in us through His Spirit, The Holy Spirit, who lives in us, guides us and is our power to live the life God desires. He also shows His love for us in how He has provided us with a new and beautiful eternal home, along with a brand new heavenly body; a home where we will have no tears or worries.

When you think of how much God loves you regardless of your sin and even though you have not trusted Him at times, are you not amazed? His love is not based on your loving Him.

*This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

*1 John 4:10*

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God's love for you is called agape love, a complete and self-sacrificing love. Look at how God describes love in 1 Corinthians:

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails .... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest is love.*

*1 Corinthians 13: 8, 13*

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Our God is the essence of love and He demonstrates it in our lives daily even in His judgment and wrath. There is no love that compares to the love He lavishes upon us. He alone loves us no matter what and that love will never change – or end. His love is a miraculous gift to us called grace. What does He ask of us?

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

*Deuteronomy 6:5*

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It is God's desire that we love Him from the depths of our souls and that our hearts be consumed with pleasing Him. Don't we all have the desire to have someone to love in that way; someone we can be intimate with and someone who is more important to us than our own life? We have the privilege to love the One who loves us the most.

### **Our God is Spirit**

John 4:24 tells us that God is spirit.

*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

*John 4:24*

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God is visible to us through His Word (the Bible) and the incarnation of His Son Jesus Christ who now lives in us through the Holy Spirit. The previous verse is saying we must worship Him in spirit, which means to worship Him inwardly from our very existence.

*“For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised...”*

*I Chronicles 16:25*

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Our greatest joy in life should be to love Him, worship Him and bring Him glory.

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my soul shall exult in my God,...*

*Isaiah 61:10*

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I once had the privilege to host a Bishop from Pakistan, who visited the United States. We traveled together for two weeks and I had never witnessed someone praise and worship God in such depth. While in Colorado, I took him to Pikes Peak, which is a little over 14,000 feet above sea level. A cog railroad took us to the very top and on the way up there were many snowcapped peaks and great beauty. To watch this Bishop praise God for the majesty of God’s creation was overwhelming. To see such pure worship and praise brought tears to my eyes. Once we reached the top, the Bishop was almost running with excitement, like a kid on Christmas morning. The smile on his face was so radiant as he shouted praise to Jesus and His Heavenly Father.

Later in the week, we visited the Capitol and the White House in Washington, DC. Do you know what the Bishop did? At both places, he raised his hands giving thanks, in a loud voice, to God for the United States.

One morning in Virginia I awoke around 3 a.m. and he was walking around our room with his hands raised in adoration of his God. He walked in a circle telling Jesus He loved Him and thanking Him for all He had done for each of us. Then he began to sing praise songs.

Several months later, I went to Pakistan and stayed in the Bishop's home. During the trip, I spoke at a large Pastor's conference, with over 500 pastors from all over Pakistan. Many traveled hundreds and hundreds of miles, some traveling for 20 to 40 hours on old trains and at great risk to be there. Almost 100 pastors spent the night on the Bishop's rooftop. Do you know the first thing they did in the morning? In a Muslim country, they held a praise service on the rooftop with bongos, dancing and great singing.

*I will praise the name of God with a song;*

*I will magnify him with thanksgiving.*

*Psalm 69:30*

*... I will sing and make melody with all my being!*

*Psalm 108:1*

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The second part of John 4:24 we looked at previously says to, "Worship Him in truth."

*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

*John 4:24*

---

Where do we discover this truth? We discover it through His Word and through His Son Jesus living in us. There is no other way to learn who God is, often I will hear individuals, many of them Christians, giving their opinions of God with no basis of truth, except their own thoughts.

Through His Word:

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

*2 Timothy 3:16*

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*Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

*2 Peter 1:20-21*

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Through His Son:

Scripture tells us that Jesus is the image of God.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

Colossians 1:15

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Jesus is the exact likeness of God the Father and He is fully God. Jesus came to earth where He was fully man and His Deity was intact so that you and I could have forgiveness of our sins and that we could draw near to God and know Him intimately.

Today Jesus lives in us through His Spirit. In the Chapter on *One God Three Persons* we will learn that there is only One God but that He exists as three Persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. After The Trinity we will look at *The Holy Spirit* and then *Jesus*, Who They are and Their impact in our lives. Our God, the Father, the Son and the Spirit are Who we need to live the life we are called to live.

Our God is loving, He is gracious and He is holy which has an impact on our lives more than most of us can grasp.

### **Our God is Holy**

God's holiness, like His glory, has such majesty that human explanations simply fall short. I know of no better scripture to reveal God's holiness than Isaiah 6. First let's just take in God's Word.

*In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”*

*And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”*

*Isaiah 6:1-5*

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This is Isaiah, who is a man of God but was now coming face to face with his Lord, speaking. The seraphim had their face and feet covered because they were in the very presence of God Almighty and the foundation shook and the house was filled with smoke.

How did Isaiah respond upon looking upon God? “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

God’s holiness which is the exact opposite of evil had revealed Isaiah’s sin in a way Isaiah had never experienced even though He was a man of God. Isaiah knew he was unworthy to look upon his Holy God because of his unclean lips.

Do we take God’s grace too casually today? Do we truly understand His hatred of our sin? Do we understand the price that was paid by the blood of Jesus?

*“Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.”*

*Isaiah 6:6*

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What happened next?

*And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”*

*Isaiah 6:7*

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Your sin, like Isaiah’s, separates you from God.

*but your iniquities have made a separation  
between you and your God,  
and your sins have hidden his face from you  
so that he does not hear.*

*Isaiah 59:2*

---

Only through God’s grace and the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ can we have an intimate walk with this amazing God that is indescribable. His Word reveals that God is everywhere, knows everything and has all power and authority. That is a lot to take in and even attempt to comprehend. In theological terms it is called omnipresent (God is everywhere), omniscient (God is all-knowing) and omnipotent (God is all-powerful).

### **Our God is Everywhere**

*Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.*

*If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.*

Psalm 139:7-12

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David, who wrote the above verses, was referring to the Holy Spirit in verse one. If we have accepted Jesus then we have the Holy Spirit living in us and we are never alone from His presence, His watching over us, His guidance and His knowing everything about us.

### **Our God Knows Everything**

*for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.*

1 John 3:20

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There is nothing our God does not know. He knows the number of hairs on our head or if we lose a single hair. God knows our every thought, the inner most things in our heart and our every word even before we speak them.

*remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,*

Isaiah 46:9-10

---

He knows every event that has ever happened or will ever happen. The above scripture tells us he remembers the former things of old and things not yet done.

*Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.*

*Psalm 147:5*

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Not only does He know everything He has complete understanding of every event in our lives: every heartache, every relationship, every medical need, every emotional issue, every financial need, there is nothing He does not know.

### **Our God is all Powerful and Mighty**

*Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,  
“Hallelujah!  
For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns.*

*Revelation 19:6*

---

God reigns with all power over all of creation. There is nothing outside of His sovereignty. There is nothing in our life that He cannot have an impact on and control. The sovereignty of God means He has control of all things, past, present and future.

*The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.*

*Psalm 103:19*

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This next verse may seem a little harsh at first or you may even say self-serving but when we begin to comprehend God's love for us and that He is sovereign it becomes a verse of great peace.

*Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*

*Psalm 115:3*

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Every event is either caused by Him or allowed by Him. That does not mean He elects to control everything about us, He gave us the ability to make our own decisions. That is how Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Our decisions, not our talents or abilities, are critical to how we will live our life. We know He desires us to live a holy life, which we can only begin to accomplish through Jesus Christ and Him living in us. We know He desires for us to worship Him and give Him praise. Let's look at a few other decisions that you and I get to make that are critical to our relationship with Him.

### **Our God's Desire is Surrender, Faith and Trust**

To trust God, to give Him control and to walk intimately with Him, we must have faith. Scripture tells us:

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

*Hebrews 11:1*

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*By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

*Hebrews 11:3*

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*By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark...*

*Hebrews 11:7*

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*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going*

*Hebrews 11:8*

---

Noah built an ark because he had faith in things he could not see, yet God had told him they would one day come into being, so he simply trusted God. Abraham went, when God sent him, though he did not know where he was going. Giving God control and trusting Him is all about believing in things not yet seen, going to places unknown, yet confident an all-loving God will only lead you to places that result in your ultimate good.

### **Faith Underlines Our Entire Relationship**

Faith underlines our entire relationship with Him. Without faith we have absolutely nothing. Unbelief is a sin of the greatest magnitude to God. I can think of nothing that must cause Him more hurt and anguish than our unbelief.

Faith is a confidence, it is a stillness, it is not something you boast about, it is not something you build yourself up or pump your chest about, it is not something to be prideful about.

You may say, "Only if I had enough faith!" Let's change this statement to, "Only if I had faith." Faith is not that I have more faith than someone else or a motivational speech that I have to increase my faith, it is simply you believe, nothing more nothing less

Look at verse 6 in Hebrews chapter 11.

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

*Hebrews 11:6*

---

The verse is saying you must believe that He is. Often times faith becomes a burden to us, we try to make faith something we do, something we accomplish. The only thing we need to accomplish is to believe, to have faith that He is.

If I have faith and believe can I doubt? No! You simply need to believe. You may go through periods of doubt and that is understandable but to stay in that place of doubting is unbelief. James addresses this in the following verse.

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

*James 1:6-7*

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Imagine someone is telling others how great you are, that you are this wonderful fantastic person and that you can do all these great things. Yet, you know they don't believe, they doubt you and have no faith in you. How would you look at that person? Maybe you would think they are not being very truthful and that they are a liar. Tough words, but isn't that what we are doing to God? If we lack faith in God yet pray to Him and proclaim things about Him are we being truthful? Do we not grieve God by our unbelief, our lack of faith?

You can pray and fast for 40 days proclaiming and weeping but without faith it is just clamoring. It does not matter what you do if you do not have faith you have nothing. Let me say that again, you can pray, you can proclaim God's greatness, you can evangelize the lost, you can fast, you can moan and groan all you desire but without faith you have nothing. And we wonder why God is missing in our lives.

Faith is not some supernatural event on your part, it is simply a decision you are making to believe God and to walk in faith with Him. Our faith is a gift from God; it is faith through God's grace. One of the most beautiful stories in the Bible about faith is the life of Abraham. Now Abraham was first called to go to a land God was going to show him.

*Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

*Genesis 12:1-3*

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This was an act of faith by Abraham to leave his country and follow God not knowing where he was going but trusting God's promise of great blessings. Our next story of faith, I believe, goes deeper and is one that tugs at the heart strings of any parent. Let's read the story first and then we will analyze it afterwards.

### *The Sacrifice of Isaac*

*After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He*

*said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.*

*When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.*

*Genesis 22:1-10*

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Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah and Abraham obeyed God. He took his son, a knife and the wood to build the fire to sacrifice Isaac, his son. I have often thought of God sacrificing His only Son Jesus for my sin and what I would do if it was one of my girls I had to sacrifice. Abraham is now coming face to face with this decision. Scripture tells us he loves Isaac and I know you and I love our children. A tremendous act of obedience on Abraham's part or...

Reread this part of the passage:

*Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."...*

*And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."*

Abraham was obedient to God but this is much more a story of faith than obedience. Abraham told the young men that he and Isaac would come back and he told Isaac that God would provide a lamb. Abraham had faith that God was going to provide for them yet he had the knife ready to thrust into his son Isaac.

## **When We Trust Him**

Some years ago I received an invitation to speak to a youth group on the last night of their summer retreat. Having just faced a tragedy in my life, within the past month, the timing was very difficult but I knew it was where God wanted me and the kids were very much looking forward to my arrival. I had believed that God would perform a miracle in the tragedy and as far as I could tell the miracle had not happened. Even to this day I will tell you I did not doubt.

The youth camp was a six hour drive so I asked a good friend to ride with me. Now God was preparing to do something in my life by a youth worker in his 20's who had travelled from Colorado to be the camp speaker. At the end of my talk some of the kids asked if I believed God less because He had not performed the miracle. We discussed how some events in our life rock our belief a little.

The next day I received a card from the youth speaker, and with tremendous respect he wrote, "Mr. Rager, I find in times like this God simply wants me to trust Him." Those words have affected my life like no other words outside of the Bible. So simple but so full of truth.

God desires for us to trust His promises completely, no matter the circumstances, no matter the evidence and no matter the results. Abraham had faith that God was going to provide a lamb and that he and Isaac would return to the young men. What if God had not provided another lamb would Abraham have still trusted God? What does God ask us to do?

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*Proverbs 3:5*

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## **Our God is Perfect**

God is perfect in His character, He is truthful, merciful, compassionate, just, good, righteous, irreproachable and blameless in every possible way and by every possible standard.

*You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

*Matthew 5:48*

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## **Our God is Father**

A name the New Testament and Jesus use often for God is God the Father. The name Father reveals the intimate relationship, because of the blood of Jesus, that we can have with our God.

The fatherhood of God represents three different types of fatherhood.

To the world as creator He is:

*one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

*Ephesians 4:6*

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To Jesus His fatherhood is more intimate and is exclusive to His Son.

*All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

*Matthew 11:27*

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To you and me as Christians His fatherhood is as the Father of all believers as we are adopted as children of God into His family and as heirs to His Kingdom through belief in Jesus Christ.

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

*Galatians 4:4-7*

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God the Father is our Heavenly Father, notice in the verses above that Jesus called Him "Abba Father" a term often translated as Daddy and reflecting the intimacy and the need of small

children to their father. When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane facing certain death in a few short hours, He called out to His Father, “Abba Father.” A plea to His Father yet an assurance, as the scripture reveals, He would fulfill the Father’s will.

*And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

*Mark 14:36*

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### **Our Purpose is God’s Glory**

We said at the beginning of this chapter that to know God it is important we understand who He is and to truly live we must know Him at the deepest level.

*everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”*

*Isaiah 43:7*

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Think about this, God is saying He created you so you may bring Him glory. Has bringing God glory been of utmost importance in your life? Miss this and you miss your ultimate purpose in living, which is to bring God glory in your very being and in all of your thoughts and in all of your actions.

*Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering and come before him!  
Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;*

*1 Chronicles 16:28–29*

---

Our goal here is for you to catch a glimpse of His glory and the impact it should have in your life. Like many things of God the finiteness of our mind only allows us to grasp part of Him and that is especially true when we attempt to experience the manifestation of His glory.

God's glory is displayed through creation and through His character such as His holiness and His righteousness. He displays it in His love for us and in His grace toward us. He displays it in His Son and in the Holy Spirit.

The beauty of the stars, the vastness of the galaxies, the moon and the sun are each a part of His glory. They visually display His presence in all of His creation. Have you ever marveled at a starlit night? It is magnificently shouting to you the glory of God for He created each star and gave it its beauty.

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

*Psalm 19:1*

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There is no better place to witness the glory of God but at the cross. It is where creation, holiness, righteousness, God's love and His grace merge into the greatest gift ever given to humankind.

Take in the words of the following verses from Psalm that declare the glory of God.

*O LORD, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom have you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Here is the sea, great and wide,  
which teems with creatures innumerable,  
living things both small and great.  
There go the ships,  
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.  
These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.*



*When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.  
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.  
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works,  
who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke!  
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.  
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
Praise the LORD!*

*Psalm 104:24-35*

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### **Our Heavenly Place**

What is this heavenly place we read about earlier?

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

*Ephesians 1:3*

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It is where the Christian life should be lived. You only arrive there through Jesus Christ and by being guided by the Holy Spirit as He dwells in you. It is where you are surrendered, have faith and trust God in everything. It is where you worship and love Him with all your heart, all your soul and all your might. It is where you bring Him glory from the depth of your existence. And it is where you receive every spiritual blessing from Heaven.

We have only begun to learn about our amazing God. In the next chapter we will look at the Trinity *One God Three Persons* as we continue our journey with Him.

## Chapter Two

### *The Trinity*

## One God Three Persons

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.*

*“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

*Isaiah 55:8-9*

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The awesomeness of God is pervasive throughout these words in Isaiah and they make it very clear that we will never be able to comprehend fully the ways and thoughts of God – God is God and we are not!

An aspect of God far beyond our understanding is that of the triune God which we call the Trinity – God being three, very distinct Persons, yet one God, each living in us and relating to us in very significant, personal ways. The Trinity, though not mentioned by that name in Scripture, is part of what He has chosen to reveal to us so that we might know Him better and how He is working in our lives. We cannot explain it all but we can choose, by faith, to believe it and to trust that this relationship with God in this way is part of His perfect plan for us.

Over the years I have learned to praise Him for what I do not know. It is important to guard ourselves from believing we can have God’s mind and His understanding. I have also learned that humility and knowledge are wonderful companions when discerning His Word.

Let’s continue to uncover who our God is, the Father, the Son and the Spirit by looking at the Trinity.

## **Biblical Bases of the Trinity**

The Trinity is a doctrine of every Christian denomination and is commonly expressed as “One God three Persons.” They are the foundation of our belief and our source of life. The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself, the Father, the Son and the Spirit. God’s Word will reveal that each Person of the Trinity is God and that there is only one God. We will look at the hierarchy of the Trinity and how They relate to each other. We will glimpse into the Old Testament to see the Father, Son and Spirit. We will also witness in the New Testament how the Trinity lives in us and that each One relates to us in specific ways. We will also see how They are interwoven into a beautiful “Divine Dance” leading us in a life lived in Christ.

### **Is Each Person of the Trinity God?**

We certainly know that God the Father is God and most of us comprehend that Jesus is God. Some years ago I was visiting an elderly aunt who was beginning to have some mental difficulties as she aged. While talking and catching up with each other her television was broadcasting a Christian program. They were proclaiming Jesus and after some minutes she blurted out, “What is all this Jesus stuff, is there not a God?” I could hear The Holy Spirit telling me to respond slowly and with love.

I have thought about that statement over the many years since she blurted out those words. I have witnessed way too many people where Jesus is not the Lord of their life and I have also witnessed way too many people living without The Holy Spirit, guiding them and giving them the power to live in Christ. I wondered if she ever knew that:

*“God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are Who we need to live the life God has called us to live in Christ.”*

I have great news for my elderly aunt, Jesus is God, God the Son. When He came to earth, He was completely human and completely God. Jesus was the very nature of God.

*In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word (Jesus) was God.*

*John 1:1*

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It is very clear that Jesus is God, there is no ambiguity.

*The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*

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The above verses tell us that the invisible God became visible through Jesus' incarnation (becoming flesh) and made His dwelling among us. Was He still God when He came to earth?

*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*

*Colossians 2:9*

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Jesus was fully man and He had the complete fullness of deity.

### **The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is God sent to dwell in the lives of those who believe in Jesus. Peter tells Ananias that when he lied to the Holy Spirit he had not lied to man but to God.

*But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to man but to God."*

*Acts 5:3-4*

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Peter knew and the scriptures reveal that the Holy Spirit is God.

## There is Only One God

Believing in one God is called monotheism; mono being defined as single and theism as belief in God. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is one of the greatest doctrinal statements in the Bible. This is where Jesus quoted from when He gave us the greatest commandment of all, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

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It is a statement that validates Christian beliefs of monotheism, clearly stating there is only one God; God is one.

We are going to look at the first verse in a little more detail to discover how the word one also allows for the Trinity. It is translated from the Hebrew word *echad* which means oneness with plurality or stated another way a compound unity. We see this word used in Genesis 2:24 concerning marriage.

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

*Genesis 2:24*

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*Echad* or one can imply more than one person, “...and they shall become one flesh” yet, there is only one marriage. In our previous Deuteronomy text *echad* allows for multiple persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and yet, only one God.

There is something else quite interesting in our Deuteronomy scripture. Lord means Yahweh or Jehovah, names of God we have all heard. So the verse above would read, “*Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God, Jehovah is echad.*”

One of the Hebrew words used for God is *El* or *Elohim* which is the plural for *El*. In our above text the word God is translated from the Hebrew word *Elohim*. *Elohim*, the plural form of God, is used over 2,000 times in the Old Testament.

If we substitute the original Hebrew words for Lord, God and one our scripture would now read.

*“Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our Elohim, Jehovah is echad.*

Our God is One and He exists in three Persons. Let’s look at a few more scriptures to show evidence that there is only one God.

*Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.*

*Galatians 3:20*

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*Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”*

*1 Corinthians 8:4*

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When looking at the entirety of scripture it is very obvious there is only one God.

Next, let’s look at a few scriptures where God uses the word *our* or *us* that points to more than one Person.

In Genesis 1:26 God says, “Let us make man in our image...” God’s use of the words *Let us* and *our image* imply more than one.

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”*

*Genesis 1:26*

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In Genesis 3:22 God says, “Behold, the man has become like one of us...” God once again is using the word *us* which implies more than one individual.

*Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil...”*

*Genesis 3:22*

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As we journey through scripture you will see more evidence that within the Trinity there is one God and three Persons.

### **The Trinity in Old Testament Time**

Has the Trinity always existed? As we have touched on earlier in the chapter on Who is God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are each eternal. There was no beginning and there will be no end.

Grasping the doctrine of the Trinity often becomes easier for many people when they begin to realize that all three were present during creation. If we are a believer in God we certainly understand that God the Father was a part of creation.

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Genesis 1:1*

---

Some fail to comprehend that Jesus was not created during the New Testament time but that He has existed, just like God the Father, for eternity. If He has existed for eternity would we not expect to see Him at creation? We have already seen Biblical proof in previous verses that He was present.



*In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word (Jesus) was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*John 1:1-3*

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This passage reveals that Jesus was in the beginning, that He was God and that all things were made through Him. Notice that the verses in John do not eliminate God the Father or God the Holy Spirit from having created everything or being present.

Next is the Holy Spirit. We learn very early in Genesis that the Holy Spirit was also part of creation. The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. The fullness of God, the Father, the Son and the Spirit were present.

*The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*Genesis 1:2*

---

The Trinity will become more visible and obvious in the New Testament, in Their existence, Their relationship to each other and how They interact in our individual lives.

## **The Trinity in New Testament Time**

The Father who sits on the throne sent Jesus to die on the cross. After His resurrection, Jesus now sits at the right hand of God the Father. God sent Him not only to be my Savior but the Lord of my life. After Jesus went to be with His Heavenly Father, God the Father sent us the Holy Spirit, God the Father and Jesus living in us.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, all three were present.

*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form,*

*like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

*Luke 3:21-22*

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Jesus' baptism took place just prior to His ministry on earth beginning. Not just baptism with water but He was also being baptized with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. Then God spoke, "You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased." God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were all present and operating in complete unity, as One God three Persons.

Let's first show proof They live in us before we reveal more of the amazing interworking of the Trinity in our lives that has been revealed to us in the New Testament.

### **They Live in You**

The Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit live in each of us if we have asked Jesus into our lives.

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

*John 14:16-17*

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*Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

*John 14:23*

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*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

*1 John 4: 12-13*

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*What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,*

*“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.*

*2 Corinthians 6:16*

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*To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

*Colossians 1:27*

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Later we will look at some of these verses in greater depth but for now let's summarize the evidence that They live in us:

*“...he dwells with you and will be in you.”*

*“...we will come to him and make our home...”*

*“...we abide in him and he in us.”*

*“For we are the temple of the living God...”*

I pray, no matter how long we have known and believed in Jesus, no matter how long He has been our Lord and Savior that we will refresh our minds that the Holy Spirit lives in us to guide us to give us the power to live in Christ. The Holy Spirit illuminates Christ in our lives for us to see Him and for others to see Christ in us.

## **How Do We Have The Trinity Living in Us?**

*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

*Ephesians 1:13–14*

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The previous verses reveal that if you believe in Him (Jesus) you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. It says you heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation and that you believed the truth and you believed in Jesus. Then you were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

We have the Holy Spirit living in us, it is here that some individuals have significant differing beliefs. These beliefs deal with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and a belief that it is a separate event from receiving the Spirit. Others believe they are the same event and baptism of the Spirit does not occur at a subsequent time, it did at Pentecost and shortly thereafter, but that was to groups who were already Christians before Pentecost and the receiving of the Holy Spirit by all believers. Remember we said earlier that humility is a wonderful companion when discerning God's Word. Well this is a good place to honor our statement because scripture can be used to defend either position. The basic is that we do receive the Holy Spirit when we believe in Jesus. Accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior is the only way to have the Trinity living in us, God the Father, God the Son through God the Holy Spirit. We will delve further into the baptism of the Spirit in the chapter on The Holy Spirit.

## **The Divine Dance**

In the verses below from John, Jesus is speaking to His disciples and promising them that when the Spirit comes He will reveal the truth about God the Son. The truth the Holy Spirit will reveal is from God the Father. The three, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are perfectly interwoven, separate but each being God and each having their separate roles to perform. In theological circles it is known as the "Divine Dance." It is derived from the Greek

work “perichoresi” which describes the relationship within the Trinity and Their indwelling in each of us. It shows the intimacy that the Trinity brings to each Other and to Believers.

Unexplainable by our finite minds but so beautiful and intimate in Their perfect harmony with each other and through Their power and guidance in our lives.

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

*John 16:13-15*

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What a beautiful verse using God’s glory to display the Divine Dance of the Trinity. All three are impacting our lives and all three will be glorified for there is nothing that separates God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit from each other or their indwelling in our lives.

The verse in 2 Corinthians 13:14 below further demonstrates how They operate as three distinct Persons yet, in complete unison with each other and as one God.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

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### **The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ**

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ*, the forgiveness of all our sins, past, present and future, is available by believing in Him. It is a gift, complete grace. It is nothing we earned yet it is readily available. All three, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were present at Jesus’ execution but only Jesus died on the cross for our sin. That was one of His roles to perform in our life.

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

*Ephesians 1:7*

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*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

*Ephesians 2:8*

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### **The Love of God the Father**

The love of God the Father, He loves you so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for you. There is no greater love than God's love.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

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### **The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

The verse in 2 Corinthians above says, "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all," God the Father and God the Son living in you through God the Holy Spirit who is guiding you and giving you divine power to live this life in the heavenly places and to grow in Christ. So many of us miss this part of our journey.

If we desire to know who God is we can only know Him through the Son and if we desire the Son be illuminated we can only arrive there by the Spirit.

### **Hierarchy of the Trinity**

Within the Trinity there is a hierarchy or subordination that exist between the Father, the Son and the Spirit and it's exactly as you would think. God the Son is subordinate to the Father and brings Him glory in everything.

*saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."*

*Luke 22:42*

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Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane only hours from facing death on the cross and he ask His Father to remove the cup from Him, yet, Jesus wanted it removed only if it was His Father's will.

In John 5:36 Jesus reveals He was sent by His Father and He is doing the work His Father gave Him.

*But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.*

*John 5:36*

---

Jesus was subordinate to His Father in every way and in John 17:4 Jesus tells us He glorified His Father.

*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*

*John 17:4*

---

Notice that Jesus is speaking in the future for He had not been to the cross yet but He knew it was at hand and that His work on earth would be finished. Jesus exalted His Father by bringing glory to Him.

In everything the Holy Spirit does, He exalts Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. He brings glory to Jesus when He guides us, when He speaks to us and when He witnesses to the world about Jesus.

He glorifies the Son:

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

*John 16:13–14*

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The Holy Spirit bears witness of the Son:

*“But when the Helper (The Holy Spirit) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.*

*John 15:26*

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### **Is The Holy Spirit Guiding You?**

The Holy Spirit can be living in you but the larger question is, “Have you yielded to Him, is He filling you?” Do not lose the power in your life that God has given you through His Son and through the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, you cannot have an intimate relationship with God the Father or Jesus nor will His words have meaning in your life.

In my walk, I have seen people who read God’s Word, who pray, and who serve God faithfully, yet, it appears they are simply going through the motions. There is no joy or peace, in fact, they seem bound in misery. They certainly are not enjoying freedom and are not living a life in the heavenly places. Chances are Jesus is not truly the Lord of their life and they are neglecting to live by guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit.



## **Chapter Three**

# **The Holy Spirit**

### **God Living in You!**

We have looked at *Who is God* and *One God Three Persons*. There is a Paraclete, comforter, advocate, helper, counselor that God sent to reside in us, God the Holy Spirit. Many do not grasp the enormity of His guidance and power.

Our God, dwells within us through The Holy Spirit. The power to change, the power to live a victorious life, the power to be like Christ and to live above life's circumstances come through the power of the Holy Spirit. If God, through the Holy Spirit were not living in you, working to make you more like Christ as you yield to His power, the only way change would happen would be through external force. That change would then depend on you and your ability to "do the right thing," "believe the right way." Without the Holy Spirit living inside of you, there is no power to be transformed and all joy and peace would have to be based on external circumstances because it would not be coming from within through the power of the Spirit.

Before we discover the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives today let's look at Him in Old Testament times.

### **In Old Testament Times**

The Holy Spirit was active in Old Testament times before God sent His Son Jesus to earth. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, unlike today, was sent to particular individuals to accomplish specific things for Him. God was selective as to where and when He sent the Holy Spirit to do His work.

An example of the activity of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament is when Saul received the Spirit.

## **The Spirit Came Upon Saul**

The Holy Spirit, sent by God, came upon Saul to accomplish God's purpose. As a result, Scripture tells us that Saul became a different person. He was still Saul, yet he was radically changed by God's power in him through the Holy Spirit.

*Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.*

*1 Samuel 10:6-7*

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Saul was now equipped to accomplish God's work through the Spirit living in him.

## **The Holy Spirit Left Saul**

God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell in Saul for God's purpose. Notice the verses below say an evil spirit tormented Saul after the Holy Spirit left. Why did God send an evil spirit? Scripture tells us that Saul's pride grew. Could this be the reason? Is this something of importance? Did Saul truly realize it was the Holy Spirit, God in Saul, accomplishing His purposes and not Saul doing it himself? It was God's power in Saul and the glory should have gone to God. Instead, Saul became prideful, as if he had done something on his own. Saul would have been wise to remember his strength and his power did not come from himself but from God.

*Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.*

*1 Samuel 16:14*

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Remember this was Saul of the Old Testament and God sent the Holy Spirit for His purpose to accomplish His will. Today, we have the Holy Spirit and He never leaves us.

## **The New Testament Time**

At the beginning of New Testament time prior to Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was still being sent into certain people's lives for God's specific purpose. There is no better example than the Incarnation of Jesus.

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.*

*Matthew 1:18*

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Jesus was not conceived by Mary and Joseph but by The Holy Spirit. The Incarnation of Jesus means He became flesh. He was conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit.

God's Word is a progressive revelation and that is true with the Holy Spirit. As we know, the Holy Spirit has always existed but God's Word will allow us to see Him with more clarity and He will become active in all believers lives.

## **Jesus and the Holy Spirit**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*

*John 14:16*

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*Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you...*

*John 16:7*

---

Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure because He knew in hours He would die on the cross and in days return to His Heavenly Father.

The Holy Spirit played a significant part in Jesus' life. Jesus' baptism was by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit led Him throughout His ministry, He was full of the Spirit and He drove out demons by the Spirit.

While Jesus lived here on this earth, He fulfilled all that God had for Him to accomplish. He healed the sick, caused the blind to see and the lame to walk. Jesus was the power of God on this earth and by that power He transformed lives. However, when He returned to Heaven, it was not God's desire to leave His people alone and powerless, so He sent His Spirit, His Holy Spirit, to dwell in all those who believed.

God's Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to do His will and fulfill His ministry while here on earth and He has sent His Holy Spirit to do the very same for us.

Even though the disciples were upset Jesus was leaving, Jesus knew God's perfect plan and that it was to the disciples and our advantage for Him to go away and the Spirit to come dwell in us.

## **Pentecost-the Beginning of the Church**

Pentecost, recorded in Acts, is the beginning of the church and the time when the Holy Spirit came upon all who believed in Jesus.

*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*Acts 2:1-4*

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The very second the Holy Spirit came the church began and every believer would soon possess the Spirit. Scripture says the coming of the Holy Spirit sounded like a mighty wind. Have you ever heard a tornado, it sounds like a mighty freight train coming and if you are in it's path you hear the roar that sounds like hundreds of freight trains. Can you imagine being one of the believers standing there, the mighty sound, the appearance of fire and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is a significant event in every believer's life.

### **Being Filled With the Holy Spirit**

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*

*Ephesians 5:18*

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In this verse Paul is not speaking of the Holy Spirit's indwelling for as believer's we already possess the Holy Spirit.

*You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

*Romans 8:9*

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And He is not speaking of baptism of the Spirit because we were baptized by the Spirit at our time of salvation.

*For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

*1 Corinthians 12:13*

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Scripture is telling us to be filled, which means allowing the Spirit to encompass and possess all of us. Living continually under the Spirit's influence. Who does the filling? The verse in

Ephesians 5:18 is written in a passive voice that denotes the Holy Spirit does the filling. Our role is simply to surrender to Him.

## **The Infilling of the Holy Spirit in Your Life**

We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to be under His influence. How can we have the filling of the Holy Spirit in our life every moment of every day? First, we must deal with any unconfessed sin in our life.

Galatians, tells us that if we live by the Spirit, we will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. The sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit. If we allow the Holy Spirit to be in control, if we surrender to Him, we are given the power for victory over sin. Though that power may at times be interrupted by sin, if quickly confessed the Holy Spirit will remain active and powerful in our life.

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

*Galatians 5:16-17*

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The struggle goes to where are the desires of our heart and mind. Is our heart set on things of the flesh or things of the Spirit? Look at what Paul says in Romans.

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*

*Romans 8:5*

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In Acts 13 Scripture tells us that while they were worshiping the Lord, fasting and praying the Holy Spirit spoke to them. By worshiping, fasting and praying we are setting our mind on

the Spirit and we are being surrendered to God and allowing the Holy Spirit to be active in our life and to have the infilling of Him.

## **Are You Yielding to the Holy Spirit?**

Calling on the Spirit and yielding to Him for His filling is not a difficult or a complicated “religious” practice. He is always with you and His power is always available to you as you yield to Him. The trouble comes when we take back control of our lives and start living it in our own power. When that happens, we are not filled with the Spirit to the degree that we insist on our own control.

## **Listen to The Spirit**

There is no doubt God does speak and lead through the Holy Spirit. How does he do it? Any way He desires. I hear people ask, “Well if God spoke to you what did He sound like?” Thinking perhaps that it is really your own voice you are hearing. You may at times mistake your own thoughts or voice for God. However, I have discovered when God speaks to me, there is often an overwhelming unmistakable sense of His presence that accompanies His speaking.

One night after leaving a prayer time for international ministries called Global Impact, I was headed to the World Prayer Center for a time of personal prayer. Instead, a powerful feeling came over me to head toward home. So, I started that way and decided to pull into a 7-11 for a cup of coffee. As I got out and went inside, I noticed there was a rough looking individual standing by the front counter talking on the store’s telephone. I looked straight into His eyes and knew he needed help. After getting a cup of coffee, I headed back out. As I walked past him, I looked back two times.

As I drove off, I knew that I had to go back. I drove a short distance more and the feeling became stronger and stronger where I literally felt I had no choice. Of course, I reminded God this fellow did not look very safe. I knew it was God, through the Holy Spirit, leading me back. As I drove back into the parking lot, he was now outside. I pulled up beside him, rolled down my window, and asked him if he needed help. His response was very certain, “Yes, I need help, I

need a ride!” He had worked late at his job, beyond the bus hours, and he needed to get back to the halfway house. I offered him a ride and as we rode he explained if he were not back by 10:00 p.m., he would have broken probation and would be put in jail. His release from the halfway house was less than a month away. I asked him if he believed in God and he said, “Yes sir.” “Do you know God sent me?” His reply was, “I know.” As we rode further, we talked about Jesus and he said he had accepted and believed in Jesus some years ago.

I have no doubt God wanted me to help this fellow. What if I had not listened to an overwhelming feeling from God through the Holy Spirit that night? God wanted to use me, if I would listen.

### **Fruits of the Spirit**

This is how we are to live and function in our daily walk with Him. The primary fruit is love and through your love there is joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

A few years ago a pastor said this privately about his congregation, “There are few here who speak in the Spirit.” What he was saying is their words did not reflect the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit when they spoke. Our words and actions should always reflect the Holy Spirit living in us and we becoming Christ like.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

*Galatians 5:22-23*

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Besides fruits of the Spirit there are gifts of the Spirit and they are important in our walk and in His Kingdom.



## Gifts of the Spirit

The gifts of the Spirit are given to by the Holy Spirit at His discretion, as He wills. They are not gifts we select for ourselves, they are given to us.

*All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

*1 Corinthians 12:11*

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Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 13 known as the love chapter in conjunction with the gifts of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts were present in the church at Corinth but they led to infighting and pride within the members. Paul wanted them to know that the greatest thing of all is love. This chapter is critical to any study of the gifts of the Spirit.

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in*

*part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

*1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

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Paul's letter was in response to the difficulties in the Corinth church and I am afraid we see many of these same difficulties today. When they are present in our own life we are not walking by the Spirit or being transformed into Christ likeness.

In Corinthians 12:4-10 Paul presents a partial list of the gifts of the Spirit. These gifts may or may not be some of our natural gifts but as a gift of the Spirit they are given supernaturally and at the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit. We as believers are given different gifts for His manifestation.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-10*

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Paul states in Romans 12:6-8 that we have different gifts, unearned and unmerited, according to the grace and faith given us for that gift. Our gift is not something we do on our own but only through the Holy Spirit.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to His faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him*

*teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently, if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

*Romans 12:6-8*

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It is my desire to have all of Him, I do not want to miss anything He desires me to possess. An area in which I have discovered the awesome power of the Holy Spirit is in my prayer life.

### **Prayer and the Holy Spirit**

Have you ever felt inadequate or maybe a lack of knowledge to pray for someone or for a certain situation? God has given us the privilege to call on the Holy Spirit to pray for us. So many of us simply miss this in our prayer life, I know I have way too many times.

How powerful, the Holy Spirit praying and Jesus sitting at the right hand of God being our advocate.

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*

*Romans 8: 26*

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### **Witness for God**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

*Acts 1:8*

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Jesus was speaking to His apostles and telling them they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They were to spread the gospel not only throughout their own

community but to the ends of the earth. This is the commission of every Christian to be His witness.

When you travel to other countries, such as Pakistan, you see Christians who are so thankful that a missionary, that is you and me, spread the gospel to their country and to their parent or grandparent. You see a glow in their face that is so evident of their Christ likeness because someone was a witness.

### **Spirit Reveals the Things of God**

*these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*

*1 Corinthians 2:10-12*

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We learn of the things of God through His Word and through the Holy Spirit who illuminates Who God is into our lives. The above scripture says, "For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." There are certain things in God's Word that we can understand by just reading, other things, such as, history by studying and other things only through the Holy Spirit.

*Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.*

*Luke 24:45*

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Look what Jesus said in John 16:4:

*He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

*John 16:4*

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The Spirit is teaching and illuminating Christ in our lives and bringing Him glory.

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you*

*John 14:26*

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### **Who Can Understand**

*And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.*

*1 Corinthians 2:13*

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The Spirit teaches us and interprets spiritual truths for those who have accepted Jesus. When we read and study the Bible it is through the Holy Spirit that we learn the things of God.

### **The Natural Person**

*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

*1 Corinthians 2:14*

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Have you ever sat and talked of the things of God with someone who does not have the Spirit living in them? How did it go, probably not very well?

Recently I sat with a fellow who has not accepted Jesus as His Savior. He made a rather derogatory statement and I will alter the last word and insert a little kinder word. "I think your beliefs are *stupid!*" Now I had not shared anything at this point but he knew of me. What surprised him the most was I did not get angry or retaliate. I was calm and assured of my beliefs and told him I understood his statement. You see, I knew he could not understand, scripture tells

me that the natural person does not accept the things of God. You could see him almost step back and begin to think, He did not get the response he expected. I shared what Jesus meant to me, not bringing my friend into the story, simply sharing my life. Several weeks later I heard that he had attended church and I can only assume it was from the nudging of the Holy Spirit.

### **Transformation of Believers**

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

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As Christians our ultimate purpose in life is to bring God glory in all we do, as we saw in *Who is God*; and the goal for our life is to become Christ like. We cannot bring God glory without growing in Jesus and becoming like Him.

How do we live this life? Today we have unveiled faces, we can draw near, we have God's Word and we have the Holy Spirit.

*But I say, walk by the Spirit,...*

*Galatians 5:16*

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We become more Christ like, by walking by the Spirit, it is the only way, anything else will end in frustration and failure.

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

*Galatians 5:25*

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We walk step by step, it is a learning process, through God's Word and yielding and listening to His Spirit. Will we trip from time to time, of course we will, but the Spirit never leaves us and we will be transformed into Christ likeness, from one degree of glory to another?

### **Finishing God's Work in You**

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 1:6*

---

God has brought you to this very moment in life and He has you reading this very scripture. Paul is saying that your Heavenly Father who started a good work in you will finish His work in you, on this earth. When is Paul saying your work will be completed? When you meet Jesus in Heaven. How is it completed? Through your Heavenly Father and Jesus living in you through Their Spirit.

### **The Sovereignty of the Spirit**

*The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*

*John 3:8*

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You cannot manipulate the Holy Spirit or attempt to usurp His sovereignty. I can remember being on a rooftop in a dangerous country praying with a group of pastors before speaking to their congregations. In my prayer, I was bold and demanding the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself in a mighty way. God immediately convicted me of my pride in demanding the Holy Spirit to do anything.

The Holy Spirit is God's gracious gift to us because we believe in Jesus.

## **Do Not Put out the Spirit's Fire**

Many make this Christian walk difficult by not yielding to the Holy Spirit. Paul told the church not to put out the fire of the Spirit. He was telling the church and the believers not to quench the Holy Spirit in their lives. He gives us the power to live a Christ like life. We are to use the Holy Spirit in every area of our lives.

*Do not put out the spirits fire.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:19*

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I pray God has impacted your life, as He has mine, through our first three chapters and that you are ready to meet Jesus in a new light through the illumination of the Holy Spirit. It is the only way to see Him in all of His glory and majesty.



## Chapter Four

# Jesus Christ

I pray that after reading *Who is God, One God Three Persons* and *The Holy Spirit* that you are now ready to set your heart and mind on Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior.

In the next chapter we conclude our time together with this statement, “*God’s eternal purpose for us is to become Christ like and to bring Him glory.*” Miss this and you miss life itself, its meaning and its purpose.

We have seen that Jesus was in the beginning, He was with God, He is God and through Him, all things were made. We know He lives in us through the Holy Spirit who guides us and gives us the power to live a Christ like life and to bring glory to God.

### Who is Jesus

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

*Hebrews 1:1-3*

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As we know, God’s Word is His revelations of the things that He desires we know. In the Old Testament He spoke through prophets but in these days He has spoken to us by His Son.

These verses are showing us who Jesus Christ is and they are deep theologically. We call upon the Holy Spirit to lead us in an understanding and to reveal the things of Jesus.

*Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.*

*Luke 24:45*

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*He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

*John 16:4*

---

Hebrews tells us that God appointed Jesus, His Son, to be heir of all things, the earth, you and me, every galaxy that exists. There is nothing that is not His or under His authority. He is the sovereign ruler and all power in Heaven and earth has been given to Him.

Scripture says, “He is the radiance of the glory of God.” His radiance is like the shining of the sun, shining God’s glory in perfection throughout creation and into our lives. His radiance also shines from within us; it is the glow on our face; it is His character within us; it is our Christ likeness that is proclaiming Him. It is His radiance within us that shows we are His.

Our passage also tells us that He is the exact imprint of God. Jesus is, righteous, good, holy, faithful, true, sinless, humble, merciful, compassionate, loving, forgiving, everlasting... He is perfect like His Father in every possible way and by every possible standard and His perfection lives in us.

These passages also tell us He upholds the universe by the word of His power. We often think of power as physical strength but here God is telling us that it is Jesus’ very word that holds the universe together. God spoke the heavens and earth into existence and Jesus has the power to speak them out of existence.

The verses above say that God chose Jesus to be the purification of our sins and today He is sitting at the right hand of His Father in Heaven. These are such beautiful words that we will look at in a deeper way within this chapter.

In our individual lives where else is there to go except to our Lord and Savior? Who would we substitute for Him? There is none higher or more supreme? He is our Savior and He desires to be the Lord of our life.

Jesus willingly left His Heavenly home to come to earth to be our ransom for our transgressions. He humbled Himself out of obedience to His Father's will and His love for us.

## **The Incarnation of Jesus**

Then, at a specific time in history, He came to earth, completely human and completely God. He became flesh and God revealed His very Self through His Son Jesus.

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*

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Jesus was born as flesh not by man but conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit. His birth could only come through the virgin birth for He is not of the blood of man but of the deity of God.

*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*

*Colossians 2:9*

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Jesus in the flesh is the complete fullness of God. There is nothing missing in His deity or His humanity. Scripture could not put it any clearer; God became flesh yet His deity is perfect.

The verse we just looked at in John reveals He dwelt among us, he walked with us and He lived with us. This is his humanity, in the flesh, He took on the likeness of humans and He took on the struggles of this life. Look at this verse from Paul in Philippians:

*but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

*Philippians 2:7*

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For a brief time in history Jesus took on the likeness of man and He emptied Himself of the privileges of being God. Some say He emptied Himself of the deity of God but that is simply not scriptural as we have seen. John 17:5 reveals what Jesus gave up by coming to earth when he asked His Father, shortly before leaving this earth and returning to His Heavenly Father, to restore His glory.

*And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

*John 17:5*

---

When Jesus came to earth He did not walk among the people with a glorified glow, His glory. He emptied Himself of His glory and the privileges of being God while He was on earth, yet, He was still God. If He had not His Transfiguration gives us a glimpse of what Jesus would have looked like here on earth.

*And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their*

*faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.*

*Matthew 17:1-8*

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Jesus was changed, as Peter, James and John witnessed, into His divine glory and it radiated from Him. His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as light. In Mark it says, *"And his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them."* His glory is beyond our description. Jesus did not travel among the people in His glory but as one of them.

### **His Humanity**

Jesus certainly had emotions and He wept.

*And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,*

*Luke 19:41*

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He did not have boundless energy while He was on earth; He would become tired and He required sleep.

*Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

*John 4:6*

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*And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.*

*Matthew 8:24*

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Like you and I he became hungry and He needed water to quench His thirst.

*In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry.*

*Matthew 21:18*

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*A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."*

*John 4:7*

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Jesus certainly suffered while on earth. Shortly we will see a picture of His great suffering revealed through words.

*And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

*Luke 22:44*

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Jesus just as we are was tempted to do wrong.

*For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

*Hebrews 2:18*

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And as you and I are growing in our knowledge of Him and in His likeness scripture tells us:

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*

*Luke 2:52*

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In asking us to have compassion for others He set the example through His own compassion for people.

*And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."*

*Luke 7:13*

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Through His humanity He spoke to us, He showed us how to live and He revealed God in magnificent ways. Yet His main purpose of coming to earth was for the propitiation of our sins.

*Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

*Hebrews 2:17*

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A high priest was representative of his people and Jesus became their high priest because He was human, He became their seat of mercy and He was their atonement for their sins.

*And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

*Philippians 2:8*

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Jesus willingly left His Father and Heaven and of His own free will humbled Himself to become human. At anytime, Jesus could have said no because He is God. He could have said no to coming to earth or no to His death. He gave up His privileges of being God so we could become spiritually rich through Him.

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor; so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

*2 Corinthians 8:9*

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He became poor, being born in a dirty place, living in a poor city and living as every other poor child. God the Son did it all through His grace, His eternal gift to us.

### **His Deity on Earth**

While our Lord was human He was also God on earth. A great place to see His deity is through His miracles while He was ministering to His people.

His very first miracle on earth was turning the water into wine at a wedding ceremony. It is only recorded in the book of John whose theme is the deity of Christ.

*Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*

*John 2:6-11*

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Jesus created the wine from water by adding no other ingredients. Only God can perform this miracle. It shows Jesus' divine power; it manifest His glory for all to see He was God.

It is not only important that Jesus was human but it is important that He was God while on earth. Over the years we have seen many false prophets who make many claims but the proof is always lacking for they are not deity. Through His miracles Jesus proved beyond a doubt He was God in the flesh and His disciples believed.

*Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

*John 11:38-44*

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Only God could have the power over death and Jesus displayed His deity in a magnificent way by raising Lazarus from the dead. Why did Jesus perform this miracle? The scripture says, *"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."*

Jesus performed many miracles while He was on earth. He healed, He fed the 5,000, He caught fish, He cleansed the lepers, He made the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, He walked on water, stilled the sea, He cast out demons, rid diseases, He ascended, He was

resurrected... As sure as He was human He was God and He came to pay the price for our disobedience to God.

Only God could pay such a price and only man can die by shedding His blood. Jesus had to be God to be able to pay the infinite cost and He had to be man to shed His blood and die for the atonement of our sins.

## **His Death**

It is believed He may have died the most painful execution ever contrived by mankind. Jesus had the sin of the world poured on Him even though He was sinless.

The night before His death on the cross, just after the Last Supper and just prior to His arrest Jesus took Peter, James and John to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. They were at the foot of the Mount of Olives just outside of Jerusalem.

Jesus was approaching His death on the cross; He had just finished His Last Supper with His disciples where He told them:

*And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*Luke 22:19*

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He was telling His disciples to remember what He is about to do, the shedding of His blood to pay the debt of their sin.

As Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane He was in agony and He was sweating drops of blood.

*And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

*Luke 22:44*

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It is believed that His stress was so great that tiny blood vessels were rupturing in His sweat glands and causing large drops of blood to fall to the ground. This is known as hematidrosis where because of the great stress it causes the blood vessels to rupture and the blood then flows into the sweat glands and then out the pores of the skin.

These were the first drops of blood that Jesus was shedding as He was taking on the evil of the entire world. Every sin which had ever been committed or was to be committed was falling on Him. Why? So that you and I could have a way to have our sin forgiven, to be considered holy by God through the blood of Jesus.

Jesus was now losing tremendous amounts of fluid and was becoming dehydrated and exhausted. His ordeal was just beginning because soon he would be mocked, spit upon and sentenced to death. He would be scourged by Roman soldiers. The whips they would use had a wooden handle and strips of leather and at the end of the leather strips were tiny fragments, often times bone fragments were used, that would tear into the skin of the victim. By Roman law you could not strike forty times for it was believed that forty lashes would lead to death. They were ordered to stop at the count of thirty-nine. The soldier would swing the whip with tremendous force and the fragments would tear into the skin and then the soldier would rapidly pull the whip back causing a tearing of the flesh. This would be repeated over and over until the thirty-ninth thrashing. The back would become strips of skin, often hanging loosely from the body with a dramatic loss of blood. By now His thirst and dehydration would have progressed to a point of complete exhaustion.

Jesus was also wearing a crown of thorns which were not just laid on his head but forced or pushed into his scalp. The thorns most likely were hitting nerves causing severe pain to travel throughout His head and body.

To the Roman guards the crown of thorns, the staff they placed in His hand and their knelling to Him while saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" was used for mockery but to you and I they show He is King of Kings and He is paying the price for the atonement of our unrighteousness.

Next Jesus was led to His place of execution carrying the beam of His own cross. In ancient times the cross meant death.

He was laid on the cross where large nails or spikes were driven into Him. It is believed the spikes placed into His hands were not in His palm but in the wrist area which was considered part of the hand. More than likely the median nerve was pierced and there would have been a burning pain that would have traveled up the arm, through the neck area and into His spinal cord. If you have ever experienced severe back pain where the pain is hot and shoots down your leg causing you to jump or cringe because of the tremendous pain you have a perspective of His pain caused by the spikes rubbing against the nerve. It is also believed the nail in His feet would have ruptured His plantar nerve which would have sent the same severe pain up his legs.

Jesus is dehydrated, exhausted, experiencing severe pain and now would begin a period of not being able to inhale or to catch a breath of air. His body would have been in a slumped position and to breathe would require a raising of the body causing the spikes to rub against the nerves that had been pierced and exposed. A continuous battle to inhale one more breath of air would continue for nine hours with every attempt causing excruciating pain added to a body that was dehydrated and completely exhausted.

Isaiah told us in the Old Testament that Jesus would be disfigured beyond that of any human and beyond human likeness.

*As many were astonished at you—  
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—*

*Isaiah 52:14*

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And through all of this His greatest pain was to come during the sixth to ninth hour where the world went completely dark. Have you ever faced complete darkness, or abandonment? While Jesus hung on the cross, Scripture says complete darkness came over the whole land.

*Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema*

*sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

*Matthew 27:45-46*

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During those three hours from the sixth hour until the ninth hour He endured separation from His Heavenly Father because of our sin. Can you imagine what hell will be like, the total darkness, the total separation from God? Jesus knows exactly what that is like. He experienced total darkness and total separation from His Heavenly Father so that we could spend eternity with Him and God. There has never been such a sacrifice. God the Father showed His love for us by sending His Son to die on the cross. God the Son willingly gave up His Heavenly home to come to earth to die for you and me!

*And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*

*Mark 15:37-38*

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When the Temple curtain tore in two from top to bottom it revealed the Holy of Holies. The Most Holy Place, representing God the Father, was now accessible.

Under the old covenant, prior to Jesus' death on the cross, the forgiveness of sins was by animal sacrifice. There was a room in the Temple called the Holy of Holies. The high priest would enter once a year on the Day of Atonement to offer a sacrifice for the sins of the nation. A large curtain that represented the separation of God from you and me separated the Most Holy Room. Because of the shed blood of Jesus, you can now draw near to God and have an intimate relationship with Him.

Jesus was sinless and He did not deserve to suffer. Because he was divine, He was God, He could have stopped the sweating of blood, the scourging, the nails being driven into Him and the hanging on the cross at any time. Yet he loves His Father and is obedient to Him and He loves you and me so beyond our understanding that He would suffer every ounce of pain so that we could have forgiveness of our sins through His blood.

## His Resurrection

Jesus was buried and then on the third day he was resurrected from the dead. These are such simple words but they are so life changing. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians:

*that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

*1 Corinthians 15:5-9*

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The scripture above gives irrefutable evidence from God's Word of Jesus' resurrection. Think of this, God revealed more proof to you and me of Jesus' arising from the dead than any jury would ever need to reach a conclusion that our Lord and Savior has risen. Individuals have been convicted of murder on far less evidence and yet some refuse to believe.

Paul said he was undeserving to meet Jesus because he was the least of the apostles and that he had persecuted the church of God. Yet, Jesus, after His resurrection, met Saul, whose name was later changed to Paul, on the road to Damascus and radically transformed his life.

*But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus,*

*whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”*

*Acts 9:1-8*

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Paul said, “suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.” He was encountering Jesus in a very personal and dramatic way and the impact would change his life forever.

Paul went from persecutor of the church to spreading the news of Jesus and writing fourteen books of the Bible. Today he is considered one of the greatest Christians to have ever lived.

Jesus’s death on the cross was only the beginning of His ministry in our lives. Because He arose from the grave He lives in us today through the Holy Spirit. He is sitting at the right hand of God the Father as our advocator and He is preparing our eternal home, called Heaven.

There is nothing in this world that should have a greater impact on how we live life than our Lord and Savior.

For forty days, after His resurrection, Jesus revealed himself to Paul and others and He spent time with his disciples, teaching them, telling them of things to come and giving instructions of how to go forward.

Jesus visited with His disciples just before ascending into the clouds to return to His Heavenly Father. They were at Mount Olivet near Jerusalem

*Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”*

*Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending*

*the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*

*Luke 24:44-49*

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These are His last human words and instructions to His disciples. He is telling them He has fulfilled all He came to do for His Father, that they are now to spread the gospel; to be His witness to others.

Then He tells them He is sending the promise of His Father which is the Holy Spirit and that they are to stay in the city of Jerusalem until they receive the power from on high.

Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit will come on believers, is now only ten days away.

### **His Ascension**

*Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.*

*Luke 24:50-53*

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While Jesus was blessing His disciples He parted them and was carried up into the heavens. Acts says:

*And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

*Acts 1:9*

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The cloud taking Jesus out of sight shows His glory was being restored. Remember Philippians 2:7 said that Jesus emptied Himself which was His privileges as God and His Glory and in John 17:5 that Jesus had asked the Father to restore his glory. The disciples are witnessing the bodily return of Jesus and the cloud blocks their view of His glory being restored. Jesus has fulfilled every prophecy and had finished His work on earth and is now returning to His Heavenly Father.

Look at the next words in scripture.

*And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

*Acts 1:10-11*

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One day our Jesus will return in the clouds to the Mount of Olives just like He ascended. He's coming back for us and we will each reside in our true home called Heaven with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

## **Jesus Our Lord and Savior**

Today our Jesus sits at the right hand of God.

*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

*Hebrews 1:3*

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Romans tells us He is interceding with God the Father for us.

*...Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

*Romans 8:34*

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1 John says He is our Advocate with the Father.

*...if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

*1 John 2:1*

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There is no more beautiful verse to show where you and I are today in Christ than John 14:18-19.

*“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”*

*John 14:18-19*

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Jesus is telling us we will not be orphans; we will not be without Him for we will live in Him and Him in us through the Holy Spirit. These are profound words and they came true at Pentecost for those who believe.

## Chapter Five

# God's Eternal Purpose For Believers

*God's eternal purpose for us is to become Christ like and to bring God glory in everything.*

Our goal is to become Christ like. Sometimes we may fool ourselves into believing we are like Him but deep in our heart we know better. Here is the trap most of us fall into, we know we are not where God desires us to be and that we are not living life to our fullest potential.

So this is what many of us begin saying to ourselves:

I will read my Bible every day

I will spend quiet time with Him daily

I will be more diligent in my prayer life

I will go to church and small group

I will tithe

I will help those less fortunate

I will work on my attitude

I will not gossip

I will be a better spouse

I will be careful with my language

I will control my emotions

I will...

*"I will"* does not bring us into Christ likeness, it never has and it never will. The goal is way too big, the responsibility too great and the dependence on me, who I am, too daunting for my

humanity. Paul could not and in our lives we cannot become Christ like by utilizing our own abilities. It takes a divine power, a heavenly internal guide to mold us into the image of Christ.

If our heart's desire is to become more Christ like then there are a few decisions we need to make.

Our first decision is one that most of us who are reading this book have probably already made and that is to accept Jesus as our Savior.

Secondly, we need to ask ourselves if we really believe God is who He says He is, or do we only half-heartedly believe this. In the chapter *Who is God* we looked at faith. I encourage you to reread those words about truly believing God.

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

*Hebrews 11:6*

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Thirdly, do we truly trust Him in everything? The following quote is from the chapter *Who is God*.

*"God desires for us to trust His promises completely, no matter the circumstances, no matter the evidence and no matter the results."*

Scripture says,

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*Proverbs 3:5*

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The above decisions automatically lead to a Divine intervention in our life through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. If we refuse to believe and trust, which God allows us to do, we will never see the amazing power and intervention of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

This is where most Christians are today. They either have never made the personal choices required or they are attempting to live Christ like on their own “*I will*” basis.

There is one more decision to be made and that is yielding to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. You cannot transform yourself into Christ likeness any more than you could reproduce the music of Wolfgang Mozart or Ludwig Van Beethoven or reproduce Michelangelo’s paintings on the ceilings and walls of the Sistine Chapel. Only the one who produced those works of art can produce them and there is only One who can transform us into Christ likeness.

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

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This verse is one of the most beautiful to me in all of scripture and it is one of my lifetime verses. It reminds me daily that I must live in the Spirit to be transformed into Christ likeness.

As we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit we will begin to be transformed into Christ likeness, from one degree of glory to another.

We will begin to find our desires will change, our longing to read God’s Word will grow, we will spend more time in prayer, we will worship Him from a deeper level than we ever realized possible. We will discover a love for Jesus and a desire to be Christ like that is supernatural. We will begin to feel we are not of this world and what once was pleasing will become unpleasing and almost pungent to us because it dishonors our God.

One day, we will begin to realize we are not struggling, it is like we are on auto pilot as we yield to the Holy Spirit. Life will become easier and it will have a richness we never knew existed in this world.

We will begin to comprehend what it means to live in heavenly places because living in the Spirit is where earth meets Heaven deep in our soul.

We will begin to find a respect from others we never knew. They may not conform to our way of life but we will begin to witness changed lives not by our preaching to them but how we

live; the words of life and grace spoken from our mouths and the love displayed in our actions toward them.

When we mess up, which we will, the Holy Spirit will kindly remind us and convict us of our behavior and we will sincerely ask for forgiveness. Over time we will become a little more Christ like.

Imagine the transformation in our life, our families' lives, and our churches' life as more people come to live in the Spirit on their journey to becoming more Christ like. Think of the love, the lack of gossip, the volunteers helping the less advantaged, reduction in counseling needed, every one giving to God of their time and finances, and God wonderfully multiplying our blessings.

In 1 John it tells us:

*...that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

*1 John 3:2*

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We cannot help but bring glory to God when we are becoming Christ like in our lives.

# Appendix 1

## Have You Asked Jesus Into Your Life?

Is the Holy Spirit urging you to accept Jesus? He is waiting with open arms to shower His grace upon us, forgive our transgressions and welcome us into the family of God.

The verses that follow will explain the process of why we need God, His forgiveness and how to receive it. If we repent of our sins (tell God we are sorry for living a life of rebellion against Him and acknowledge we need forgiveness) and then confess that Jesus is Lord, God will forgive us and we'll be on our way down a new path.

Read the verses below very carefully, and ask God to speak to you.

### Jesus is the Only Way to God

*Jesus said to them, "I am the way and the truth and the life No one comes to the Father except through me (Jesus).*

*John 14:6*

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There is no other way according to God's Word. This verse is very straightforward. Jesus says, "No one comes to the Father except through me."

### We Have All Sinned

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of the God.*

*Romans 3:23*

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We are not without sin and our sin separates us from a Holy God.

## **The Result of Your Sin is Spiritual Death**

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 6:23*

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This verse speaks of a spiritual death one that separates us from God. Even so, Jesus has rescued us from that spiritual death if we will believe in Him.

## **If We Confess Our Sins**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*1John 1:9*

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God loves us and He desires for us to come to Him and confess our sins, which is why Jesus died on the cross.

## **Confess That Jesus is Lord**

*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*Romans 10:9*

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All we have to do is confess, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe that God raised Him from the dead. This is a gift from God. A gift that is unearned and unmerited.





## **About The Author**

Being an author is a rather new title for Burton Rager. For years he has impacted many people, teenagers and adults alike, through his speaking and as a teacher of God's Word. He also has traveled to dangerous parts of the world where he had opportunities to preach and teach the Word of God. However, writing was not something he felt led to do. It wasn't until he faced some of the most difficult experiences of his life that Burton felt a real transformational move of God in his heart and mind. As a result, writing is what God is calling him to do in this new season of his life. In recent years, Burton states, "As I experienced some of the most traumatic events in my life, God was transforming my heart and mind. He has now given me a message to deliver and this time it is through writing."

Burton has been humbled by the response of readers and he encourages all who read his books to do so carefully and prayerfully, being open to all that God has to say to them, especially through God's Word.