

OK, GOD, Now WHAT?



McDougal & Associates

*Servants of Christ and Stewards of the
Mysteries of God*

DO YOU NEED ANSWERS?

- Why can't I seem to change? Why does it not change when I pray and pray? I feel so frustrated, helpless and unloved.
- How many times do I have to go to the altar to get my life changed and free from these sins, doubts and problems?
- Why do I keep worrying? How do I stop?
- How do I get a calm heart in the midst of the storms of life?
- The Bible says I am to walk in joy, yet I have so little. Why?
- I quit going to church because it didn't seem to make any difference. I did all they said, and still I'm not changed. Why?
- I go up for every altar call, for every evangelist, for every revival and still I can't get free. Why?
- I go to church because I know it's good for me, but I don't see how it fits into the rest of my life in a major way. Why?
- I want to grow in God, yet I seem to be getting nowhere. Why?
- I fast, I pray, I tithe, I give to the poor, I repent, I read the Bible daily and do good deeds, yet I see no results. What is going on?
- Why can I not hear God for myself?
- I am making progress in God, but there is so much more. How do I get it? How do I grow in knowing Jesus?
- I want to be healthy, yet I've tried all the fads and still I'm sick. Where is God in all this?
- Every sermon I hear seems to go into a vast tank, never to be remembered again. Why?
-

OK, God, Now What? gives effective Biblical answers to these questions in the light of the findings of modern science on how the brain works, combined with God's ancient secrets.

With the basic tools in this book, you can start on a program to grow in grace with God and man, and see dramatic changes in your life and in the lives of those around you, all by knowing who and what you are because of the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This book teaches you how to labor effectively to get results.

Therefore, my agape/beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

OK, GOD, Now WHAT?

**ACTIVATING HIS
ANCIENT SECRETS
To SUCCESS**

BY

DONALD C. MANN

OK, GOD, NOW WHAT?

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BIBLE BOOK ABBREVIATIONS USED

FOR OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

Gen	Genesis	Eccl	Ecclesiastes
Ex	Exodus	Song	Song of Solomon
Lev	Leviticus	Isa	Isaiah
Num	Numbers	Jer	Jeremiah
Deut	Deuteronomy	Lam	Lamentations
Josh	Joshua	Ezek	Ezekiel
Judg	Judges	Dan	Daniel
Ruth	Ruth	Hos	Hosea
1 Sam	1 Samuel	Joel	Joel
2 Sam	2 Samuel	Am	Amos
1 Kings	1 Kings	Ob	Obadiah
2 Kings	2 Kings	Jon	Jonah
1 Chron	1 Chronicles	Mic	Micah
2 Chron	2 Chronicles	Nah	Nahum
Ezra	Ezra	Hab	Habakkuk
Neh	Nehemiah	Zeph	Zephaniah
Esther	Esther	Hag	Haggai
Job	Job	Zech	Zechariah
Ps	Psalms	Mal	Malachi
Prov	Proverbs		

FOR NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

Matt	Matthew	1 Tim	1 Timothy
Mark	Mark	2 Tim	2 Timothy
Luke	Luke	Titus	Titus
John	John	Philem	Philemon
Acts	Acts	Heb	Hebrews
Rom	Romans	James	James
1 Cor	1 Corinthians	1 Pet	1 Peter
2 Cor	2 Corinthians	2 Pet	2 Peter
Gal	Galatians	1 John	1 John
Eph	Ephesians	2 John	2 John
Phil	Philippians	3 John	3 John
Col	Colossians	Jude	Jude
1 Thes	1 Thessalonians	Rev	Revelation
2 Thes	2 Thessalonians		

EXAMPLE: 2 Cor 5:17 refers to the book, 2 Corinthians and the scripture found in chapter 5, verse 17. 2 Cor 5:17-6:2 refers to the book 2 Corinthians with the passage starting at chapter 5, verse 17 and going through to chapter 6, verse 2 of that book.

ABOUT MY UNIQUE EDITORIAL STYLE

Wherever a scripture reference is underlined, any adjustments in tense, person, count or additions are italicized. This identifies what has been modified or added to the original translation's text. The original language Old or New Testament (i.e., Hebrew or Greek) words are added occasionally for emphasis in the format of *aiteo* or *aiteo/ask*.

Capitalization: Multiple scriptures after the same reference have the capitalization adjusted where there is no capitalization across verses, after commas, colons and semicolons except when the new word is either someone speaking, or a quote from another part of the Bible.

Quotation marks around scripture: Not used at the option of the author when in a prayer, affirmation, confession or a list of scriptures such as in the Affirmations section. See prayer example below. When no quotation marks are used, any added words between or after the scriptures are in italics to the end of the paragraph, as in the example below.

Additional meanings and expansions within scripture are in parentheses and in italics. Also inserted implications are in brackets and in italics. Occasionally the punctuation is changed to fit content.

For example: Heb 3:12-13. As a prayer becomes: **Father, in the name of Jesus**, work in us so that I and those I pray for Heb 3:12 Take heed, *among the brethren*, lest there be in any of us an evil heart of unbelief (*unpersuadableness, offense or lack of confidence*), in departing from *You, Father*, the *zao/living God*. 13 But *by Your grace in us* we exhort one another daily, while it is called *To day*; lest any *of us* be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin [*in corrupt thoughts, words and actions in believing that God is not your friend, helper, near or that His word cannot fail, and thus living in the mind of the carnal flesh and not the spirit by the word of God*]. Thank *You, Father*, in the name of Jesus. Thank *You!*

HOLY SPIRIT: You will notice that there is no “the” in addressing or describing Holy Spirit where written by the author. Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, and Holy Spirit is His revealed name. He is not an “it” but a person. The article “the” is not in the original Greek and, unless within the particular translation used, it is not used by the author to address Him. The King James often translates the Greek word *pneuma* as “ghost” or “spirit.” Holy Spirit is used by the author rather than Holy Ghost, recognizing that both are the same word.

INTRODUCTION

Jamie knew he needed more of God, but how? He had gone back to church and heard the preaching, but where was God? Jamie was tired of quick fixes that kept you busy but did not satisfy the empty spot in his gut. He knew the answer was God, but how? He had made a decision to get closer to the Lord, but now what was he to do?

Sarah had gotten born again two years ago, and she was excited. She had seen God give some wonderful answers to prayer, but it seemed almost like her heart was now slowing down. She was busy, but stayed empty. She had been to the altar and cried for days at a time about this, but there was no relief. She was really starting to get mad at God about why things did not seem to be working for her.

Marcia knew she needed God. It has been years since she had been in church. But no matter what she did, from parties to sex to mediation, within her heart that pull to the God of the Bible would not stop. If she got still for even a moment, she felt its tug. But where was God and how did she, as lost as she was, get back to Him? She had started out so great. It had been wonderful, but now all Marcia felt was “wrong” on the inside.

Rev. Bob had taught the Gospel for twenty years and had run out of steam. Yes, he had seen God move, but all the pat answers he was preaching every week were not working, and he knew it. They were not working for the people of his congregation, and they were not working for him. He had led revivals and seen excitement, but in three to five years, all was back to what it had been before. And now most discussions started with, “Remember when God ...” He had “held on” and “let go” so many times he felt like a yo-yo. He’d had glimpses of glory, but nothing that built a bridge or a walkway. Instead he had glimpsed spread-out islands of glory, but as much as he wanted more, he did not know how to get it.

Pastor Harry was excited. He and his people had been working with the local youth league, and now fifty boys and young men were coming regularly. But he was worried. He had seen this many times before. After about a year, only a few remained. He could lead them in the sinner’s

prayer, but how do you pray to become an airline pilot or own a restaurant? The ones who wanted to “get ahead” would get busy in school and would soon stop coming to the youth meetings. That is ... unless he could find some girls who could keep the boys interested. Why was God not sufficient for them? Why did he need games, rock bands, movies and girls to keep boys involved?

What did all these people have in common?

- They had experienced, seen or felt obstacles to their success in whatever good they desired.
- They were coming to God looking for answers and sincerely wanted His answers.
- All thought, at least at one time, they had done the right things.
- They knew there had to be more from God, but they didn't know how to get it because what they were doing had not been good enough.

These are all the same issues businesspeople, government leaders, scientists and anyone who wants to improve their future needs answers to. I once sat in an auditorium and listened to an Olympic Gold medal winner tell her story. She was a national champion in swimming, but swimming is won in fractions of a second, so victory is in the details. All of the competitors knew how to swim, but how to get their bodies to maximize their potential was a different matter. Her coach said, “We barely have enough time, six months. If you are going to win, then you must scrap everything you know and relearn swimming, but this time perfectly. You are good, but if you want to maximize what you can do and fulfill your destiny as an Olympic winner, you have to start again. And we barely have enough time.” He knew what it took, and he knew that it would not be instantaneous.

She went on to tell how every day, she not only continued her physical training in excruciating detail in order to develop strength and exact precision of each and every movement, but also she had to learn to excel at the “head” game. She spent hours each day, not in the water, but in her mind, visualizing exactly correct motions, actions and decisions for each event she was competing in. She studied how the exact correct motion felt and then relived them in her imagination over and over and over, and she did this every single day.

Three fourths of the way through her training, her time started to improve. Soon she was routinely excelling over her previous times and over her other known competitors. But that was still not good enough; she knew she could do more, and she knew she had to do more. So she kept at it.

Gradually her times got better and better and more consistent, and in the end, she won. It was, she told us, not because of the physical body part, but through the training of her brain. She won the “head” game, and, as a result, she won her gold medals.

Let’s start with these basic concepts now, and then we’ll go into much more detail later. Modern man thinks of human as a two-part being, having a soul and a body. He calls the spirit and heart the *attitude* or *emotions* or *will*. God, however, calls man a three-part being. 1 Thes 5:23 “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Bible describes man as a spirit who inhabits a body and has a soul. When we are born again, receive the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus and eternal *zoe*/life, we are born again in spirit. We call this salvation. John 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

Much of our modern Christian language is not helpful. We say, “ ___ souls got saved last night.” Technically, that is not correct. Souls did not get saved; spirits did. Notice what God says: 1 Cor 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price (*redeemed, ransomed*): therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” You are born again in spirit and are guaranteed a new resurrection body, but in this life, for now, the salvation of your soul is up to you, not God.

God has sent a Helper and Teacher, Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth,

but He does not do it. Instead, He helps you as you do it. John 14:16 "And I (*Jesus*) will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (*Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby*), that He may remain with you forever" (AMP). Holy Spirit goes alongside of you and helps you as you do the work.

Although being born again brings us access to the total salvation of God, in spirit, soul and body (when we go to be with Him and get a brand new resurrection body), we do not have that body now. What does get changed or "saved" here is our spirit. Our body will be "saved" at the resurrection or the "rapture," but not before. Our soul is in the process of being saved, and this is not up to God right now. It is our job.

The New Covenant promise is that God will change our hearts and our minds. Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." This sounds just like the work of a computer programmer. A new program will be written in our hearts and our minds in such a way that the way we live will look like Jesus.

The job description for every Christian alive on the Earth today is this: James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and *lambano*/receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to *sozo*/save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

So the soul-saving process is twofold, receiving and holding on to the Word of God in Christ no matter what, and doing what that Word says. You need both, not either or. So God will write His laws on your hearts and your minds so that you will also, like Jesus, become living words of God, but you are required to participate in the process. It is more a matter of, "Do it now, or I will do it for you later; but what you don't get done now will cost you later."

This is what our Olympic champion did. She learned what was required, and then she did it physically and, even more perfectly, in her mind, using her imagination of what could be and not focusing on what now was. What she did was to train her soul along with her body. In Bible terms, she "saved" her soul in the area of swimming.

For this book, we consider the soul to consist of your heart, mind, will and emotions. Many consider the heart and the spirit to be the same

thing. We will go into that in more detail later. This debate over the heart and spirit and soul has been going on for a very long time. The process of training or “saving” the soul does not depend on the answer to this debate, but in order for the soul to be “saved,” the heart must be absolutely involved. And the heart is trainable or reprogrammable. That is the key.

The Bible calls this the “renewing of the mind.” And the result is transformation. It is a process, so the steps along the way can be seen. It is not like the new birth, in which God virtually instantaneously recreates the spirit in the new creation. You were this, and *poof*, now you are that. Renewing the mind is the process of “saving” your soul over time and then keeping it that way against the pull of the world system. Rom 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Romans 12:2 describes this mind-renewing process as one in which you are constantly fighting the pressure of the world system to conform, mold or shape you in your soul to its manner of life and not God’s. We live our life out of our soul. That is why the Greek word *psuche* is translated as “soul” or “life,” depending on the context. What you exhibit in the thoughts you allow, the words you speak and what you do, are all controlled by the soul and, thus, produce your manner of living, seen in your physical body.

The human spirit is the deep inner you and is limited to accessing the body and the world around us, except as it moves through or around the soul. A soul in agreement with your born-again spirit looks like Jesus in you, and can be seen by others. How much of Jesus or the mind of Christ is actually displayed in your body and in your manner of life is dependent upon the amount of renewing in the Word of God in your soul.

So what do Jamie, Sarah, Marcia, Rev. Bob, Pastor Harry and our Olympic champion have in common? Their primary battles are or were in renewing the mind or soul, and our Olympic champion won her battle for her time.

The title of this book, *OK, God, Now What?* answers the question “Now what?” What do we do to move into the powerful destiny God has called each of us to as Christians, so we too can become His champions in our time?

This book came about as I saw that the principles that business

people and top professional athletes were using to produce extraordinary results were the same ones I was seeing in the Scriptures. I was in a sales training class, and as the instructor described the key principles for peak performance in the face of everyday sales resistance, I started “hearing” scripture after scripture race though my mind. They were coming in multiples at almost every word the instructor uttered. He was not a godly man, but every word he said triggered the Word of God in me. Why? He was speaking the truth of God, and I was privileged to “hear” some of it.

If you read my business resume, many call me a “turn-around guy,” or a “new business” guy. What I have done most of my life is to enter impossible business and people situations and, with the same people (not a special team, but those same people that had not performed well before), lead them to extraordinary technical, financial and people results. Yet even though I did it, I did not know how I had done it. My most important secret is that I strive to pray two hours every day in tongues (see Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 12 and 14) and read the Scriptures and/or good biblically sound books for an hour a day, and the result is that I end up doing the right things.

I started asking God to explain to me how I did it, and what I learned is in this book. It answers the question, “What do you do to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth in a consistent manner?” or “OK, God, Now What?”

This is not a book based on a few scriptures. The breadth of scripture on this topic is large, so I have included many scriptures so you can see much of what God has to say about this without the need to keep your Bible open before you. But please, go back to your Bible, and read each reference in context of one or two chapters before and after each reference, and become personally persuaded about what God is saying to us by His unchangeable written Word. That persuasion process is part of renewing the mind.

So set back, start reading, and let the Word of God wash you. If you want to accelerate progress, go to Part II: The Affirmations, and say them for at least one half hour a day while you read the book. It would be better to do all of them every day, but a half hour will get you started.

*Donald C. Mann
Landenberg, Pennsylvania*

GETTING STARTED

Modern society is addicted to easy answers. Sound bites rule the day, and success is sought in slogans. After all (or so goes the modern wisdom), every problem in the world can be solved in a half-hour- or hour-long television show, and if really big, it might take a two-to-four-hour special. “Take this pill,” “eat this for a week,” “do this for six weeks,” etc., and if that doesn’t work, just wait; there will be another instant solution in a week or so, and you can try that. Unfortunately, human life is like a baby: under most conditions, it takes nine months to produce a new life. If born in less than nine months, the baby may not survive without much intervention. If born too early, it will only survive with major effort. And depending on the society, that baby is not ready for adult life until after twelve to twenty-five more years of development. Is growing in Christ any different?

In the New Testament, to grow in Christ, we Christians are commanded to renew our minds, the way we think about ourselves and our behavior. Eph 4:22 “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,” and, to make our faith walk effective, actually see the results of God in our Christian life, we are to obey Philem 6: “That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” The question is, “How do we stand on the shoulders of the original apostles so that God can move in us more now?”

The incarnation of Jesus, as God in the flesh, is the great work, or the mighty Arm of God. Isa 53:1 “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is **the arm of the LORD** revealed?” This book is designed to help Christians in the process of “acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus,” and thus achieving the calling or mission assigned us in this wonder of wonders, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” This “Christ in you the hope of glory” is one of the main fruits of the mighty Arm of God, Jesus, the Christ of God.

Following this introduction, there is a section on salvation so that you can accurately understand how to receive the wonderful gift of God on His

terms. Next is a description of the various aspects of God's wisdom hidden in plain sight for thousands of years in the Bible, integrated with modern science's recent findings on how the human mind works. After this groundwork is laid, then we have a series of affirmations of who and what we are in Christ. The last half of these affirmations or confessions deals with how to meet our financial and life needs, to confirm God's covenant of abundance. The final section of the book is a short glossary, as many of the key words and concepts used here may be unfamiliar to the reader. In the Glossary, they are explained in detail, and you may actually want to read that material first, to help you better understand what the scriptures are saying.

The primary purpose of this book is to identify the biblical principles for renewing the mind in proclamation, prayer, and affirmations. To that end, we provide scriptural ideas and God's Word as prayer, in the assurance that these are His will, so the one who prays and makes affirmations (a form of prayer) may have confidence that God will hear them and will respond, as they remain in faith, as promised in 1 John 5:14 "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we *aiteo*/ask (*keep on asking, by demanding, or requiring as due by covenant promise*) any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we *aiteo*/ask (*demand, require and expect as due by covenant promise, knowing Jesus has met all the requirements*), we know that we have the petitions that we *aiteo*/desired (*demanded, required, and expected as due by covenant promise*) of him (*Father God*)."

[NOTE: the original Old and New Testament words, such as *aiteo*, are added for emphasis. (For more detail, please see the Glossary for an explanation of each word.)]

But before we proceed, we must ask the question: **What is an affirmation?** According to dictionary.com, an affirmation is "an assertion that something exists or is true; a statement or proposition that is declared to be true; a confirmation or ratification of the truth or validity of a prior judgment or decision." Today champion athletes, entrepreneurs and other high-performing people are using affirmations to direct their subconscious mind to help them achieve their goals. And it works!

The Bible contains many promises for correct affirmations. For instance, Job 22:26 "For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. 27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. 28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light (*of God's ways and truth*)

shall shine upon thy ways." When you decree a thing which is of God for the Earth, you are declaring it to be true and expecting, as did Job, for God to bring it to pass.

Christian affirmation can be defined in the words of Philem 6 "...acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Jesus Christ." You may not walk in it yet, but you mature by faith, meaning that you proclaim you have it before you see it done. As we make affirmations about what God says in the Scriptures that we are or can have, those affirmations become your saying of faith in God, for Him to perform. Mark 11:22 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God (*or the faith of God*). 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye *aiteo*/desire (*demand as due by His Bible promises*), when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Learning what the word *aiteo* means and its implications is a mind-renewing event all by itself. The word is so powerful and so opposite to what many teach about prayer that it is a major revelation of what Jesus was talking about. (Please see the Glossary for more details on this subject.)

All of God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus. 2 Cor 1:20 "For all the promises of God in him (*Jesus*) are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." So as you speak to yourself or your life (or someone else's) anything that needs to be like Jesus (or Heaven on Earth) and see yourself with that thing or characteristic, you are obeying 2 Cor 3:18: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (*mirror, in the imagination or vision of your mind*) the glory of the Lord (*Jesus operating in our lives*) are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

As you speak and visualize what possession of God's promise of Jesus will be like in you, unto thanksgiving and joy, you are operating in faith, and Holy Spirit will transform you into that vision and speaking. So Jesus and Heaven are the blueprint, and Holy Spirit and you are the construction crew.

Thus, affirmations of what we have and are in Christ can become one of the prayer tools by which Holy Spirit matures us into Jesus and brings Heaven to Earth. In the process, you build a new mental image of who and what you are, and your attitudes and heart are changed, and, thus,

your mind is renewed or restored into God's truth in the work of His mighty Arm, Jesus of Nazareth.

As an example, here is one of the great biblical affirmations penned some three thousand years ago, for God to perform in this life, as we put it on our lips: Ps 23:1 "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and *chesed*/mercy shall follow (*pursue and overtake*) me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Hallelujah! Thank You, Father!

As we make such affirmations of God's truth to us, we are overcoming the enemy of our souls and our bodies. Rev 12:10 "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come *soteria*/salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." The effect of righteous scripture and scriptural affirmations is that you attack the lies of the devil and ultimately bring healing and Heaven to Earth in every part of your life. Thus, increased answers to right prayer and the love of God displayed in His power become a larger and larger part of your daily reality.

Ancient Technology: One of my startling recent conclusions is that, in the ancient world of all the writers of the Bible, people understood how to renew or reprogram the human mind to serve God more fully. Therefore the command to renew the mind was not hidden technology to them, as it has been to us. The knowledge they possessed has been lost to our modern world until now, and it is only recently that a variety of writers began a serious discussion of various aspects of this wonderful skill. (For a key understanding on this please see the definition of the Greek word *zoe* in the Glossary.)

Let us begin by first laying that proper foundation of understanding, and then we can move on to the affirmations in Christ.

PART I

**GAINING
AN
UNDERSTANDING**



CHAPTER 1

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR NEW ATTITUDES

If your problem is a devil, then the cure is rather fast, as Jesus demonstrated in all His miracles. Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed (*under the active dominion, reign or lordship*) of the devil; for God was with him.” But if it is a matter of the heart—as when the disciples could not believe when Jesus came back from the dead—then the cure may take much longer. This cure is described as a renewed mind or a pure, Christ-like heart. 1 Tim 1:5 “Now the end of the commandment (*instruction, doctrine*) is *agape*/charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.”

An amazing discovery, at least for me, is that modern athletes and their coaches are using these same mind-renewing concepts described in the ancient pages of the Bible to turn themselves into world-class athletes and to become champions in their desired sport. They are demonstrating

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around the world that these techniques work in any culture of excellence. While these concepts and practices have been hidden in the plain pages of the Bible, we are now discovering the power of them for athletics and even in the biological and psychiatric sciences for all people everywhere.

We have always understood that power is in a changed or controlled attitude, yet we are only recently discovering how critical to human success a right attitude is. Most have known that life goes better if you fake good emotions, even when you do not feel like it. You do the behavior, even if you don't want to. You can even stir yourself up into right emotions when desired. We dress our bodies to fit the occasion, with the proper clothes, and we dress our souls with the proper behaviors in our bodies until we get the right feelings. Now, however, science has proven that this has not only the same effects as "real" good emotions, but that these effects are very beneficial in many ways. For success in God, to become a champion in Christ, it is no different.

Let us start with a fundamental work Jesus accomplished through the cross. God summarized the born-again, new creation obtained by Jesus this way. 2 Cor 5:16 "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (*a new kind of being*): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God (*God is spirit, so He deals in spirit first*), who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 6:1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of *soteria*/salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of *soteria*/salvation)" and Gal 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on

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a tree: 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Attitudes, self-images and prejudices are the filters, positions, dispositions, orientations and feelings by which you view every aspect of life, those which you actually experience and those that occur in your thoughts, intents and imaginations. Wrong attitudes prevent you from hearing, seeing, understanding and doing right. Even if Jesus were to talk directly to you, if you had the wrong attitudes, you could not “hear” Him. This happened to the leaders of His day, and even to His disciples. So when you have the wrong attitudes and expectations you cannot hear God, even when He speaks directly to you.

Now the overriding attitude of every part of your life, once you are born again and in Christ, is to develop right attitudes in God, such as:

- a) You are forever changed in the new creation. Rom 11:29 “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” Gal 6:15 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”
- b) Sin is no longer an issue with God because He paid for all sin with the body, blood and life of Jesus for you. 1 Tim 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” Heb 10:10 “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
- c) God is not at war with you, but aggressively looking for ways, not only to answer your prayers, but to bless you with “Heaven on earth,” abundance in every part of life (the meaning of reconciled): 2 Cor 5:16-6:2.
- d) Based on the work of Jesus, and not yours, God has made you His righteousness in Jesus; and now you are as right with God as He is with Himself in Jesus. As you are made the righteousness of God in Jesus, all the covenant promises of God are yours by faith, because of the holiness of Jesus, and not your works: Rom 3, 4 and 5.
- e) In every situation of life, God begs you to know you are reconciled to Him, and He is there for you in Jesus: 2 Cor 5:20-2 Cor 6:2.
- f) You are sent to overcome all the works of the devil by the salvation of God in Jesus: Rom 16:20 “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan

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under your feet shortly *as shattered glass*. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you (*to know, be, will and do this*). Amen."

- g) You now have death-destroying *zoe*/life in you: Gal 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I *zao*/live; yet not I, but Christ *zao*/liveth in me: and the life which I now *zao*/live in the flesh I *zao*/live by the faith of the Son of God, who *agape*/loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."
- h) You are to know you have the *zoe*/life of God in you and are to use the name of Jesus to do good. 1 John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal *zoe*/life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we *aiteo*/ask (*keep on asking*) any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we *aiteo*/ask (*demand as due by His covenant promises*), we know that we have the petitions that we *aiteo*/desired (*demanded, required, and expected as due by covenant promise*) of him." John 14:13 "And whatsoever ye shall *aiteo*/ask (*demand, require, and expect as due by covenant promise*) in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall *aiteo*/ask (*demand as due by Bible promise*) any thing in my name, I will do it."
- i) When you think your behavior (or feelings) determines your relationship with God, you have fallen from grace. Gal 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."
- j) You are to obey Jesus: Matt 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt *agape*/love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt *agape*/love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
- k) You *agape*/love God by *agape*/loving your neighbor just as Jesus did. Rom 13:10 "*Agape*/love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore *agape*/love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our *soteria*/salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the

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day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

- l) You are to obey gladly. 2 Cor 13:5 "Examine yourselves *continually*, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates (*useless, like garbage*)?"
- m) You have to keep yourself stirred up in God to freely operate and cooperate with Holy Spirit. 2 Tim 1:6 "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God ... 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of *dunamis*/power (*supernatural ability*), and of *agape*/love, and of a sound mind (*to think, speak and act like Jesus would*)."
- n) This is the same spirit that God gave Jesus and for the same purpose. John 20:21 "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." John 17:18 "As thou (*Father God*) hast sent me (*Jesus*) into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive *dunamis*/power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed (*under the active dominion, reign or lordship*) of the devil; for God was with him." Rom 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your *current* mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Gal 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba (*Daddy*), Father." Same spirit, same job.
- o) I am sent by God to do the works of Jesus, as a believer: Mark 16:17 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In *Jesus'* name *I, as a believer*, cast out devils; *I, as a believer*, speak with new tongues; 18. *I, as a believer*, take up serpents; and if *I, as a believer*, drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt *me*; *I, as a believer*, lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover *totally right then*." For I constantly walk in the absolute certainty, and Luke 10:19 "Behold *that I* have power to tread

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on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt *me*. 20 Notwithstanding in this *I* rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto *me*; but rather *I* rejoice, because *my name* is written in heaven." I am equipped and commanded to walk as Jesus walked. 1 John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the *agape*/love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." I am to follow/imitate God as Jesus did. Eph 5:1 "Be ye therefore followers (*imitators*) of God, as *agapetos*/dear (*loved*) children; 2 and walk in *agape*/love, as Christ also hath *agape*/loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." 1 Cor 2:4 "And my speech and my preaching *are* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 that *our* faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God 12 Now *I* have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that *I* might know the things that are freely given to us of God." I am made for and get *zoe*/life for anyone in any sin or any effect of sin, including sickness or disease, for 1 John 5:16 "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall *aiteo*/ask (*by requiring, demanding, expecting as due by covenant promise*), and Father God shall give him *zoe*/life for them" By the grace of God, I do not let sin, sickness or disease rule in me or others. Rom 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." I am to *zao*/live for God to serve others. 2 Cor 5:15 "And that he died for all, that they which *zao*/live should not henceforth *zao*/live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

p) I, myself, now that I am born again in Jesus, am *sozo*/saved, but my works in this life will be judged, and that which God does not approve will be thoroughly destroyed. 1 Cor 3:11 "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall

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be *sozo*/saved; yet so as by fire. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

- q) This is the Day of Salvation and not Judgment from God upon men, but rather the judgment of God against the devil and his works, so you can trust Him in all things for healing, restoration, and wholeness against the works of the devil, into the glorious abundance of "Heaven on Earth." John 16:11 "About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged and condemned and sentence already is passed upon him" (AMP). Rom 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of *zoe*/life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity (*wrong thinking and desires*), and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zeal of (*doing*) good works." Titus 3:1 "Keep continually in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, 2 to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. 3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and *agape*/love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he *sozo*/saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal *zoe*/life. 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. 9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."
- r) Jude 20 "But ye, *agape*/beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 keep yourselves in the *agape*/love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal *zoe*/life. 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 and others *sozo*/save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating

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even the garment spotted by the flesh. 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

- s) 1 John 4:17 "... because as *He* is, so are we in this world." We are to change and continually re-affirm our self identity from the old, natural man to the new-creation man, the born-again man in Christ. This is the "word of Christ." Rom 13:10 "*Agape*/love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore *agape*/love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our *soteria*/salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ (*in your self-image and behaviors*), and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." Rom 6:8 "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also *zao*/live with him: 9 knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he *zao*/liveth, he *zao*/liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but *zao*/alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Eph 4:20 "But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind (*in your self-image*); 24 and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Col 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 and have put on the new man, which is renewed (*made real in this life*) in *epignosis*/knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and *agape*/beloved, bowels of mer-

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cies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on *agape*/charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

- t) You take the Lord’s Supper, knowing your healing is in His broken body, by the bread (“by His stripes you were healed”), and by the cup, your sins purged by His blood, and you are made one with Him in the New Covenant of His blood. You judge all your sickness, failures, and sins to be upon Jesus and are healed by His resurrection, according to Isaiah 53, 1 Corinthians 11:24-32 and Romans 4:25.

These make up a basic “starter set” of new-creation attitudes for beginning a walk in Christian maturity. There are many more, and if we were doing a basic Christianity program we would also follow next with: Heb 6:1 “... the principles of the doctrine of Christ [*which includes Christ in you the hope of glory*], let us go on unto perfection (*completeness or Christian maturity*); ... laying ... the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

These are not studied just to answer test questions in Sunday School or a Bible study or a seminary program. These are to become your deep inner understandings and attitudes by which you approach every issue of life, knowing that you must constantly renew your mind throughout the day, to keep this attitude successfully, to the glory of God, with right thoughts, words, and actions. 2 Pet 3:14 “Wherefore, *agape*/beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent** that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

Remember, while it is the Father’s good pleasure and delight to give you His kingdom, it is not without a fight, and part of the battleground is your heart. Luke 12:28 “If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day

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in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? 29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. 30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. 31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. 32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. 34 **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**" Matt 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Luke 16:15 "And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; **but God knoweth your hearts:** for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. 16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." It takes much effort to "win" and preserve your heart for God against the pull of the world.

In the new creation, your spirit is recreated, made new. John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." 1 Cor 6:17 "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." Heb 12:9 "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and *zao/live*?" Rom 8:9 "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is *zoe/life* because of righteousness." John 1:13 "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Your body may or may not get healed when you are recreated in God. You may have a partial change of attitude, but, in general, you still have all your old memories. So your mind (and therefore your soul) did not get made new or recreated. It is your spirit that is recreated (born again) in God in the new creation. But walking in this new creation is the challenge of our day, and this requires a change in deep attitude of heart. We can start with getting rid of fundamentally wrong attitudes that limit our ability to hear God and obey Him in gladness.

PART III

THE GLOSSARY

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR NEW ATTITUDES

A major attitude of our times is that those who are close to God are special called-out ones. There is an element of truth and an element of lie in that statement. Here is a contrary declaration from God for all men: James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" This statement says if you want more of God you draw nigh to Him, and He will come to you. He has already made His move, so if you want more of Him, the next move is yours.

If someone you see has more of God in them than you, then they have spent more effective time "drawing nigh" to Him than you have. Gal 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap *zoe*/life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

There are very few people of "natural" talents. Most of those we consider to have natural talents are those who have put so many years into their art and craft that they make it look easy when you see them. That kid who can throw a ball or draw a picture has spent years not doing other things, but rather spending countless hours perfecting what you see done so easily. With growth in God it is the same. Heb 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Diligence means hard work, when it is easier to give up. If you want God, get His Word into you and get to know Him through His Word, and this will take hard work. To that end, pray Ps 119 and Eph 1:16-23 often.

Another seemingly standard affirmation of our modern times is that "No one can be like God or Jesus Christ." This modern deception totally ignores the clear call of Jesus and the New Testament. Jesus commanded: Matt 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." And Paul made clear what is the goal of the Christian life: Eph 4:11 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**: 14 that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men,

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and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 but speaking the truth in *agape/love*, **may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, even Christ." When the work of the gifts of God, "some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers," is done, then we know we, as a group, will have met His goal for each person Jesus died to save, and for whom God raised Jesus from the dead. If that goal in this life is to "grow up into Him in all things," then it must be possible.

Sin is missing the mark of expected thinking and behavior. Sin, to God, is missing the mark or target set by Him. The definition of sin is given this way, with God's answer for those with any sin: Rom 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 being justified (*made in perfect right standing just like Jesus*) freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Notice the all-encompassing definition of sin as anything that is not like God's best and greatest (the definition of glory), and the solution for failure to meet this awesome standard is in His Son, Jesus Christ, who was once a carpenter from Nazareth and now carries the title of King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We can debate on how well one meets the target, but if you do not even aim at the right target, you surely cannot expect to hit it. And not hitting the target is sin. Paul summarized the journey to the target this way: Phil 3:13 "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." This calling is worthy of the price Jesus paid to earn it. What calling required the death of God's own Son so that you could have a purpose or calling in life? Only a calling worthy of the God of all creation. Gal 3:26 "For ye are all the children (*sons*) of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." So if this is the calling, how do we walk in it?

To that end, Holy Spirit prayed through Paul: Eph 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in *agape/love*, 18 may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 and to know the *agape/love* of Christ, which passeth

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knowledge, that ye might be filled **with all the fulness of God**. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we *aiteo*/ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Notice that the new creation is instant, but it takes prayer and continued effort to mature the heart to all the fullness of God.

The mind-renewing process to enter into this calling requires you to do the work. Rom 13:14 "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ (*in the attitude of your mind and heart as your new nature is just like His*), and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof (*measure and reject any thoughts that Jesus would not think or do*)." Eph 4:20 "But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that ye put off (*no longer identify in your self-image*) concerning the former conversation (*lifestyle reflected in thought, words and deeds*) the old man (*in the mind of the flesh, carnality, devil, a mere human*), which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 and that ye put on the new man (*in your self-image of who and what you now are in Christ Jesus*), which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Col 3:8 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 and have put on the new man (*in your self-image*), which is renewed (*transformed/made effective*) in knowledge (*deep understanding with experiential superior results*) after the image of him that created him: 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." Rom 6:8 "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also *zao*/live with him: 9 knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he *zao*/liveth, he *zao*/liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon (*count in spite of the evidence of your sin and failures and inadequacies*) ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but *zao*/alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 John 4:17 "... because as He is, so are we in this world."

God gives a stern warning and a command to Christians: Rom 12:2 "And be not conformed (*continually shaped and molded*) to this world: but be ye transformed (*into what He has called you to be*) by the renewing of

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your mind" This is not instantaneous, but a gradual molding or refining process, from faith to faith and glory to glory. To the Bible writers, this was a well understood technology.

This is related to another message of transformation for the Christian. 2 Cor 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (*mirror*) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Combined, these scriptures show that your job is to renew your mind and grow into Jesus in your thoughts, imaginations, words and actions, by seeing the glory of Jesus in every part of your life, in faith. As you see and call those things that appear not as if they were, visualizing yourself as doing or having them anyway, Holy Spirit will change you into the image you have of yourself in Jesus.

In order to become a human champion, make your self-image the best that mere mortals are capable of, but in order to grow in God, make your self-image what Champion God says you have been made into, so you can now walk in it—Jesus, the fullness of God in the flesh. Being born again is instant; maturity takes time, from glory to glory or faith to faith. And, thus, it is a process or a journey. Spirit is instant, but the soul is a process.

So how do attitudes get developed? They are in your heart. We write into our heart in three basic ways:

1. You do the same thing again and again, either on purpose or because of your environment,
2. You relive a thing in your imagination and memory again and again, or
3. Others recall or remind you again and again.

Each method works, whether by one path or in combination, by multiple means. So whether it is the minister at church, the news on radio, the music in the background, nightmares, the boys on the basketball team, reading a book, remembering things said and done in the past, daydreams or visualizations of today, or military boot camp, the effect is the same. Memories and attitudes are written in your heart. As we experience a great variety of life, these memories are then integrated with other memories and become "attitudes," or automatic responses and dispositions to the situations of life. This is a moment-by-moment activity, whether you

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are aware of it or not. So the key issue is to control, to the maximum extent possible, what is being written in your heart and make it what you want.

This is why God says to the Christian who does not yet walk like Jesus: Rom 13:11 "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep (*living in the lower standard of mere humans and the vain traditions inherited from the "normal" world*): for now is our *soteria*/salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness (*cast out with violence anything not just like Jesus*), and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ (*in your mental image of who and what you are, what you think, speak and do*), and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." (See the Glossary for an explanation of the phrase The Wrath of God and the ten-step process shown there for renewing your mind when you have sinned.)

Instead, we are to make provision to obey: Col 3:3 "For ye are dead, and your *zoe*/life is hid with Christ in God." John 15:4 "Abide in me (*because of the promises of the word of God you know you are now in Christ Jesus, even when you sin*), and I in you (*and because of the promises of the Word of God you know Jesus now dwells in you by His Spirit, so now agree this is true, even if you fail and still sin*). As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me (*so make your confession the truth of Rom 6:11, 13:14, Eph 4:24 and Col 3:10*). 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall *aiteo*/ask (*demanding, requesting or expecting as due by covenant promise*) what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath *agape*/loved me, so have I *agape*/loved you: continue ye in my *agape*/love." 1 John 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in Jesus ought himself also so to walk, even as Jesus walked." 1 John 4:17 "... because as he (*Jesus*) is, so are we in this world." 1 John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

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This abiding is not the process of “Christ consciousness” as practiced by some, independently of the reality of Jesus Christ dwelling in you by Holy Spirit because of the goodness of God through Jesus Christ. This kind of practice focuses on the standard of Jesus as the best way to live. While valid, this is much lower than the reality of the new creation in Christ Jesus, with the indwelling Holy Spirit. This is not “moral Christ consciousness,” but Christ presence and relationship, and an essential element of effective Christian life. 2 Cor 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates (*useless, like garbage, ineffective, impotent, worthy to be thrown away*)?”

God’s answer is always through a Person. The Gospel is never independent of the person of Jesus Himself. Col 1:25 “Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**: 28 whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” 1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is **he that is in you**, than he that is in the world.” 2 Cor 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that **Jesus Christ is in you**, except ye be reprobates?” *Reprobate* means “useless, ineffective, counted only as garbage.” You can have any opinion you want, but only some are useful in God, and only the ones He approves will survive the Day of Judgment.

I invite you to join with me in going for the target assigned by God to us all. Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

Included in this word *repent* is the meaning “to change the way you think, so you change the way you live.” You are to start by acknowledg-

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ing the Jesus of the Bible as the absolute Lord of All, and one day He will decide what is right and what is wrong by the words of the Bible, and your opinion on that Day will not matter one bit. Matt 12:36 "But I say unto you, That every idle (*useless, will-not-survive-the-Day-of-Judgment*) word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." John 12:47 "And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to *sozo/save* the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is *zoe/life* everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."

The Jews understood the process of repentance. It was to obey Proverbs chapters 1-9, and pray Psalm 119 and many other things a righteous Jew would do. No one expected it to be an instantaneous process, but rather a work of focused faith that translated to long-term right behaviors, a process counted in months and not days. This is why Jesus answered Peter: Matt 18:21 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

Part of the repentance process, for a Jew, was to go back and, not only emphasize religious observances, but also rehearse the entire Old Testament, judge their life by its requirements, start to agree with what needed changing and then work to bring about that change, while maintaining a time of constant prayer to the Lord. Ps 119:10 "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. 12 Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes."

This process was also known as working with the Lord to unite your heart to His ways. Notice that the process includes prayer, thanksgiving and praise to God. Ps 86:10 "For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone. 11 Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. 12 I will praise thee, O Lord

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my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. 13 For great is thy *chesed*/mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell."

One of the meanings of the word *Torah* is "the path." Another meaning is "the way to reach a goal or objective." These are the ways of thinking and acting that release God into the earth, so you can have all of Him in your life to maximize His goodness in the earth. Man is the chosen vessel, through right thought and action, to bring God to the earth. Your thoughts and actions control how much of God is in your life and how much of His blessing is manifested in the earth.

No process with the Scriptures was ever expected to be purely academic, but men and women were to translate the academic instruction of the Scriptures into right behaviors in every part of their lives, so that God could inhabit or dwell in those right thoughts and actions. Where God is, there is blessing.

A typical Jew had memorized the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, by the age of fourteen and, by the age of thirty, most of the rest of the Old Testament. This included a heart exam with God for any sin or wrong desires. Ps 139:23 "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Jer 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Ps 26:2 "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." Jer 4:1 "If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove. 2 And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory. 3 For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. 4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings." Hos 10:12 "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. 13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the

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fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men." Hos 8:6 "For from Israel was it also: the workman made it; therefore it is not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces. 7 For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up." Ps 105:4 "Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. 5 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; 6 O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. 7 He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. 8 He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."

The Greek converts or proselytes to the Jewish faith (like Cornelius in Acts 10) basically did the same for repentance, which was to go back and renew their initial conversion experience in which their first actions were to memorize the Torah and then the rest of the Old Testament in a three-to-seven-year process and re-emphasize a daily prayer life (see Matt 5-7). 2 Tim 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity (*wicked thoughts that lead to wicked words and actions*). 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." We are to do the purging.

For Christians (since the New Testament was not written until later), repentance also meant continually staying in right Christian teaching. 2 Tim 2:21 "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, *agape*/charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." So the Christian minister works on his or her own purity and pa-

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tiently teaches Christ to others, as long as they keep coming back. The job of the one seeking revelation toward repentance was to keep coming back to right teachers in a mind-renewing process that gives freedom from the devil's control and, thus, to walk more like Christ.

This basic requirement to cleanse ourselves by actively working with Holy Spirit and the Scriptures is repeated again as part of the righteous attitude for expecting the Lord's great return. 1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of *agape*/love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 *Agape*/beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." Your real acceptance of the Gospel of "Christ in you the hope of glory" is demonstrated by how well you work with Holy Spirit to obey: 1 John 3:3 "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." This is the main message of Psalm 119. Ps 119:5 "O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! 6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. 7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments." A Christian life without the Scriptures unto right thoughts and action is not *zao*/life and does not release this *zoe* into the earth. It may be in you, but it does not get out to accomplish good.

For New Testament Christians, the basic process above is to be followed when we find ourselves in sin (see the ten-step process for recovery from sin in the Glossary under the heading The Wrath of God), and to focus on the revelation of the new creation revealed only in the New Testament, specifically as given to Paul and repeated by Peter. Col 1:25 "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 **even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations**, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**: 28 whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (*mature*) in Christ Jesus." Eph 3:1 "For this cause I Paul,

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the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2 if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3 **how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;** (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 **which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;** 6 **that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:** 7 whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the **Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;** 9 **and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,** which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." 1 Pet 1:9 "Receiving the end of your faith, even the *soteria*/salvation of your souls. 10 Of which *soteria*/salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 **Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you** with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." 2 Pet 1:1 "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 **according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto *zoe*/life and godliness,** through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: **that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Gal 5:24 "**And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.** 25 **If we *zao*/live in the Spirit,** let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another *to evil*, envying one another." 2 Pet 3:14 "Wherefore, *agape*/beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent

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that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is *soteria*/salvation; even as our *agape*/beloved brother Paul also **according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you**; 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, *agape*/beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 **But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

If you want rules to live by, law, the New Testament has some one thousand and fifty commands versus the six hundred and thirteen of the Torah. Christ in you the hope of glory is one way to state the core Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the unique message of the New Testament and Christianity. It is not found in the Old Testament, and must become a foundational part of the successful Christian's life. 2 Cor 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates (*useless, worthy of garbage, impotent and ineffective*)?" 1 Cor 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of *agape*/love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 *Agape*/beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." Philem 6 "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." Eph 4:23 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Col 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." Rom 13:14 "... put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." 2 Pet 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the *deep experiential* knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by

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walking just like Jesus. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

How important is it to learn to walk in this new attitude God requires? Consider the amazing history of Israel, the history of miracles beyond imagination among a small sect in the ancient desert. Here God has revealed His ways for success and the consequences of ignorance and disobedience. Ezek 18:30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.”

If this passage is heard the agony of a loving God, trying to stop people from killing themselves, and the message is clear: change, not just your behavior, but your attitudes that drive that behavior. This is not a vengeful cry; it is the cry that says, “If you don’t stop, I cannot stop the consequences.” In Christ, God gives us a new spirit, and next we need a new or refreshed-into-the-truth-of-God heart.

To fulfill the purpose God has you for in this life and to survive and thrive in that final Day, He invites us to enter into His wonderful, beyond-imagination salvation through His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, and the Christ of God. Rom 1:6 “Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the *total and permanent covenantal* fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” Gal 1:6 “... him (*Father God*) that called you into the grace of Christ”





CHAPTER 2

UNDERSTANDING THE SALVATION GOD OFFERS

Here is the basic Gospel: You can only be right with the God of all creation through Jesus Christ. John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the *zoe*/life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him."

If you want to know what Father God is really like, just look at Jesus. Col 1:13 "... his *agape*/dear Son: 14 in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 who is the image (*exact likeness*) of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature." To know God, study Jesus in all He said, did and still does.

Rom 4:24 "But for us also, to whom *righteousness* shall be imputed (*counted as valid in spite of conflicting facts*), if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification (*being made just as if you had never sinned or will sin again, to right standing, as a joint heir with Jesus, as a son of God*)."



CHAPTER 14

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO AVOID HYPOCRISY

The word *hypocrite* is often used without understanding. The word translated *hypocrite* in the Old Testament means “soiled with sin, impious, or wicked and not in the normal state, as defined by God’s expectations.” In the New Testament, it means “actor.” A hypocrite is not behaving as he really is, or does not speak truth. He is acting, to fit a mask, and not his real self. This fits with what Jesus taught: Matt 7:4 “Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou **hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” Here the word means that you are applying a standard to others that you do not apply to yourself, and, therefore, you are acting out of character to what you are called to be, a living example of God’s truth.

But let’s look at God’s principle. We are to judge, and we do judge all the time things that we consider right and good, or bad and evil. It is what we are made for. Our basic responsibility, according to Genesis 2, is

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to “subdue and establish dominion” for God in the Earth. We must judge what needs subduing and what needs more dominion. Our subconscious, if trained properly, is designed to keep a mental image of what it should be, so that we can judge what is right or wrong, good or bad. Then we judge, so we can overcome or subdue whatever is necessary to make that internal image a reality in the earth. This brings Heaven on Earth. So all men judge all the time, to determine what needs to be subdued and what needs to be kept in dominion, to match that inner vision. The issue is not that we judge, but that we judge rightly, by the right vision, and in the right way. Jesus was not saying that we should not exercise judgment, because, for that to be true, we would have to be dead.

To judge can also mean to make a decision for or against. In this scripture, the word *judge* does not mean to make a decision; it means to make a decision against or to punish. Listen to what Jesus said: Matt 7:1 “Judge not (*against or to punish*), that ye be not judged (*against or to be punished*). 2 For with what judgment (*against others*) ye judge (*for punishment*), ye shall be judged (*against or for punishment*): and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” You are to exercise enlightened self-interest as you judge against others, knowing how you judge to punish others is exactly the same way you will be judged, for your own punishment. So, instead of judging against others, find a way to judge for them.

This was the same concept spoken by a devil, as Jesus judged against him by casting him out. Mark 5:7 “And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not (*do not judge against me*). 8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.” Here the devil equates judging against or punishment as torment, when Jesus commanded him to go.

Here is a similar scripture in context, in which Jesus said the same thing: Luke 6:31 “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye *agape/love* them which *agape/love* you, what thank have ye? for sinners also *agape/love* those that *agape/love* them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But *agape/love* ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children (*imitators*) of the Highest: for he is kind unto the

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unthankful and to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. [Matt 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."] 37 Judge not (*against or for punishment*), and ye shall not be judged (*against or for punishment*): condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: 38 give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Notice that the secret to being blessed by others is to give to others the blessing of living judgment. The enlightened self-interest part is knowing that how you judge is how you will be judged. The principle is without variation, as described in verse 38: "... For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." If you want help, give help; if you want people to work well with you, work well with them. According to verse 31, the principle of enlightened self-interest: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Why? Because the way you treat others—men, women and children—is how you will be treated. The laws of the universe, as designed by God, make it so. Gal 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap *zoe*/life everlasting."

In Luke 6:37, we see that forgiveness is related to the process of judging negatively or against or to punish others. God does not judge against the wicked people in this, the Day of Salvation. He is merciful to people but relentless against devils. But if you do not hear His Word, you will reap what you sow. Prov 12:13 "The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble." Prov 1:31 "Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. 32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. 33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Prov 5:21 "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings. 22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. 23 He shall die without instruction; and

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For those struggling with the Old Testament versus the New, every New Testament verse referencing the Scriptures meant only the Old Testament, as the New Testament was codified or established much later after all the gospels and letters were written. 2 Tim 3:14 "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto *soteria*/salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." Matt 22:29 "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." Rom 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." This includes the psalms. Eph 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Notice that Peter considered Paul's writing as being equivalent to scripture. 2 Pet 3:16 "As also in all his (*Paul's*) epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

Use the affirmations and the psalms as prayer tools to acquire an ear that can hear to glad obedience, physical healing and godly prosperity in every part of life!



PART II

**THE
AFFIRMATIONS**

Make the following affirmations in Christ with emotion and, while you are doing it, see or imagine yourself doing or receiving what you are speaking by grace. Making the affirmations slowly is better than fast. Don't rush through it.



CHAPTER 18

AFFIRMATIONS IN CHRIST

RELEASING GOD'S POWER

A. Father, in the name of Jesus, use these confessions and affirmations to help me understand You and Your great work in Jesus better. I am Your son/ daughter. Jesus is my Lord. Jesus uses me to save myself and others. He uses my hands, my mouth, my mind, even my entire life to bring His salvation to the earth. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for working in me and through me. The same Holy Spirit that dwells in Jesus dwells in me. Any doubt, lie, fear, sin or unbelief in me I command to hear and obey the voice of the Word of God through me and **to go now, in the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, my Lord, and to be replaced with truth, faith, hope, power, *agape*/love and a sound mind. Mind, you operate in the mind of Christ. Heart, receive only God's truth. Mind of the flesh, you are dead in Christ and have no authority over me. Body, you are whole and right in every way. Do your job. I put on Jesus Christ, I put on His righteousness, I put on His holiness, and I put**

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CHAPTER 19

A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following are expanded working definitions for everyday use. For more academic definitions I suggest that you start with *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. Also our publications, *The Prayer Cards* and *The Mind Renewing Battle Prayer* both have extensive discussions and scripture references for these key words.

Agape: (Strong's NT 24 & 25, pronounced: ag-ah'pay)

Agape is a Greek word (*agape*/noun, *agapao*/verb) which in the KJV is translated as *love* and *charity*, i.e. caring in action, and has within its meaning an aggressive working for another's benefit and total good, at your own expense and with no expectation of recognition, appreciation, reciprocation or honor, plus a desire to always be with the one loved. The definition of charity, love or *agape* in 1 Corinthians 13 describes the basic nature of God and the true nature of Christians, as born-again ones, what Holy Spirit fills our hearts with,

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and what we are to walk in. *Agape* always is ever-ready and seeking a way to help or do the one loved good. Because *agape* has an emotional content, it is much like the best of a perfect father's and/or a perfect mother's love. John 3:16 "For God so *agape*/loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting *zoe*/life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be *sozo*/saved." *Agape* does not mean without trouble, but One who is with you in all trouble to get or help you out of that trouble. *Agape* is related to the Old Testament word *racham*.

Aiteo: (Strong's NT 154, pronounced: ahee-teh'-o)

Aiteo is the Greek word translated "ask" or "desire" in many New Testament scriptures related to prayer. It means to ask or demand of one in authority because that one made a promise based on requirements, and now the requirements have been met, so the person is now to give the desired promise. It also includes an intensity or focus in your desire to see the request fulfilled. For example: you are working on a task, and you had promised your little daughter that you would take her for an ice cream cone or some other treat when you were done. You are now done, and your daughter *aiteo*/demands by saying, "You are finished. You said you would take me when you were done. You are done; please take me now." Or, in a legal sense, such as in a situation where you fell behind in your property taxes and, as authorities come to kick you out, you get the money and pay the taxes. Then you wave your paid-up receipt and *aiteo*/say, "I paid my taxes; take your people and go now!" Or you pawned an item, and now you have the money to redeem it. You *aiteo*/say, as you wave the ticket, "Here is the money; give it back – now!" Even if the pawn shop owner had a better offer for it, he must give it back to you. *Aiteo* is not a quiet or polite word in that sense.

In the Scriptures, we base our prayer on the covenant promises of God. This is what God has said He will do. Ps 138:2 "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy *chesed*/lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." God's name is our access to Him, and we are to use His name to release

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His covenant promises, His Word, on the Earth. The general principle is to find a promise of God in the Scriptures and *aiteo* Him to perform it, and, for whatever is resisting it, to *aiteo/go*, and the situation to become as you *aiteo* it, all in Jesus' name.

Those great prayer scriptures in John 14-16 all use this word *aiteo* for "ask." Here is just one. John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13 And whatsoever ye shall *aiteo/ask* (*require, demand and expect as due by covenant promise*) in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." As you see, in this case, wherever the Greek word is *aiteo*, I added in a version of the phrase, "*require, demand and expect as due by covenant promise*" behind the translated word.

Notice, in a cruel example of the use of the word *aiteo*, that once King Herod made a promise, and even if he did not want to keep it, he had to perform upon the *aiteo/asking* because he had made the promise. Mark 6:22 "And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, *Aiteo/ask* (*require, demand and expect as due by promise, knowing all the requirements have been met*) of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. 23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt *aiteo/ask* (*require, demand and expect as due by promise, knowing all the requirements have been met*) of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. 24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I *aiteo/ask* (*require, demand and expect as due by promise, knowing all the requirements have been met*)? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. 25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and *aiteo/asked* (*required, demanded and expected as due by promise, knowing that all the requirements had been met*), saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. 26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 and brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother." This is the power of the word *aiteo* and how it is used.

Part of the word *aiteo* is to know that the requirements for the one in authority or control to fulfill the promise has been met. All the require-

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ments for God to fulfill any scripture promise we require of Him have been fully met in Jesus. 2 Cor 1:19 "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. 20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

So a more complete Christian phrase in prayer, where *aiteo* is used, would be, "require, demand and expect as due by covenant promise, knowing that Jesus has fulfilled all the requirements, and there is no reason not to do it, because the time of God's salvation in any form is now." Your faith is believing God will fulfill His Word as you *aiteo*.

Another key in prayer is the statement by God in Isa 45:11 "Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask (*require*) me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me." This culminates in the statements Heb 4:14 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore **come boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Rom 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba (*Daddy*), Father." Eph 3:11 "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 in whom we have **boldness and access** with confidence by the faith of him." Heb 10:19 "Having therefore, brethren, **boldness to enter** into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and *zao*/living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh," Heb 13:6 "So that **we may boldly say**, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Jesus said our joy will include many victories in His name. John 16:24 "Hitherto have ye *aiteo*/asked (*by demanding as due by covenant promise*) nothing in my name: *aiteo*/ask (*by demanding as due by covenant promise*), and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. 25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. 26 At that day ye shall *aiteo*/ask (*by demanding as due by covenant promise*)

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in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: 27 for the Father himself *agape*/loveth you, because ye have *agape*/loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. 28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." The proof He will is your believing He will do it.

So we use the intensity of the word *aiteo* in intercession with the Father or in commanding the devil to release a captive or oppressed one, or a sick or broken body to hear and obey and be healed or made whole, in the name of Jesus, knowing all the requirements have been met in Jesus. Faith is believing God will do what He said He will do.

Here is how Jesus met the requirements. Isa 53:4 "Surely he hath borne our griefs (*infirmities*), and carried our sorrows (*sicknesses*): yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." This word *justify* in verse 11 is the basis for all the New Testament scriptures on justification, or made-as-if-you-had-never-sinned-or-will-ever-sin-again-and-all-things-healed-to-Father-God's-standard-forever righteousness. The issue for today is not that it is done, but how to speed up the timing, so it is delivered now, and not at some future heavenly state.

Notice there is a speaking to the problem in this kind of *aiteo* prayer that is a key understanding. Mark 11:22 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall **say unto this mountain**, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye *aiteo*/desire (*require, demand and expect as due by covenant promise, knowing all requirements have been met in Jesus*), when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Our focus is for the end result with the problem gone, and we speak to the problem, the mountain, and command it to move fully, expecting God to empower that word to the end result.

We speak to Father God as our superior, with promises to make good,

MINISTRY PAGE

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